Meetings and Conferences

Emiko Mashiko Moffitt
Weiying Wan
Miwa Kai

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1982/iss68/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu.
I. Western and Pacific States Library Conference

The Conference on a Japanese Libraries Network in the Western and Pacific States was held on January 14-15, 1982, at the Hoover Institution, Stanford, California. It was funded by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission on the basis of a proposal submitted jointly by the East Asiatic Library, University of California (Berkeley), and the East Asian Collection, Hoover Institution. Twenty-five persons, representing twelve East Asian libraries (two universities were not represented), the Research Library Group, the faculties of UC (Berkeley) and Stanford University, and the Stanford-Berkeley Joint East Asian National Resource Center, attended the conference.

The conference first discussed the current state of cooperative activity, such as that of the Southern California East Asian Libraries Group, that of Stanford and Berkeley, the University of Washington's computer-based record of serials, and the East Asian program at RLG/RLIN. The group then turned its attention to various problems of library cooperation such as resource sharing, access to materials, and bibliographic control. During the discussions many issues faced by the participant libraries emerged as important problems for consideration. All libraries are currently suffering from budgetary constraints, either by cutbacks or inflation, space difficulties, insufficient staff to process materials and serve patrons, and limited access to other libraries' resources. The gap of more than ten years since publication of the printed catalogs of Berkeley and Hoover—the two largest collections of the group—was another concern expressed; the body of materials these libraries have acquired during the past decade includes important research resources, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

In order to keep abreast of current library developments and serve scholarly research effectively, it is necessary to address three fundamental problems: Collection development, collection management, and enhanced access to other Japanese collections. The general agreement was that these problems could be solved to some extent if Japanese libraries could cooperate as a library system and improve their access to each other's holdings. Questions were raised and discussed extensively concerning cooperative systems, such as the strain on the lending libraries in the consortium, the independent development of each library in meeting local needs, and various means of access to other libraries' holdings.

The East Asia program of RLG/RLIN was given much attention. Its obvious advantages would be easy access to other libraries' records; identifying the location of needed materials, not necessarily in the large libraries but also in medium-size collections nearby; and avoiding unnecessary duplication of materials as well as of processing work. At the same time many participants were much concerned about financing the hardware and operating cost, and about
the length of time necessary to amortize the initial investment. It was
evident, nevertheless, that library cooperation could be much enhanced and
some problems could be solved by linking institutions together through the
RLIN computer system, which is at present the only computer utility in
North America engaged in developing the capability of handling all three
East Asian scripts.

It was proposed that each library should seek ways to finance participation
in the RLIN system; should produce more checklists and bibliographies to help
in acquisitions and access to materials; and should continue efforts, however
small they may be, to assist each other in all areas of library operation,
particularly in establishing linkage with neighboring institutions.

In conclusion, general agreement was reached for future cooperation by all
librarians at the conference. Quoting from the final report prepared for
the funding agency, "In the future, Japanese and other East Asian language
material collecting should increasingly be done within a library system
instead of by an individual library as in the past. The dictum of 'indepen­
dence and development through cooperation' should be the rule we ought to
follow. Each library will continue to preserve its integrity and autonomy
but develop as part of a library system by realizing the advantages that
group cooperation now can produce."

* * * * *

In Chicago, at the AAS-CEAL meeting, a followup to the conference was held
on April 2, 1982, with twelve librarians present. The group discussed possi­
bilities for immediate action on some concrete programs. The improvement of
interlibrary loans, the production of checklists and guides, and a union list
of periodicals were identified as the most desirable areas for the group to
begin cooperative work. Efforts are under way to address these issues.

(Emiko M. Moffitt)

II. Midwest Asian Library Conference

Under the sponsorship of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, the
Midwest Asian Library Conference was held at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 27-28.
Representatives from the Center for Research Libraries, the Library of Congress,
the ten Asian libraries in the Midwest, (Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,
Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio State, Washington at St. Louis, Wisconsin),
and Texas (Austin) met for two days to assess regional library resources,
regional needs for materials, regional needs for services, and present programs;
the impact of technology, networking, and national programs; and to develop
future plans. To facilitate discussion, the conference was organized in six
sessions with pertinent information prepared and distributed and special reports
presented. The Conference was hosted jointly by the Far Eastern Library
(University of Chicago) and the Asia Library (University of Michigan).
Dr. Jane G. Flener, Associate Director of the University of Michigan Libraries, greeted the participants. Weiying Wan, in his opening remarks, pointed out that the ten libraries in the Midwest region, each with a collection of over 10,000 volumes in Japanese, had a combined annual book budget of $300,000 and a combined annual increase of more than 20,000 volumes of Japanese materials. While this combined capacity could cover a substantial portion of the annual output of the Japanese publishing industry, no individual library of this area, acting alone, had been able to acquire more than 10 percent of the publications. It was of great importance that the resources and needs be evaluated on a regional basis with consideration given to national resources and programs.

The first session, chaired by Mr. Masaei Saito (Michigan), was devoted to evaluating existing library resources in the Midwest. Information on holdings, acquisition statistics, serial subscriptions, personnel, and acquisition policies had been gathered and was distributed in tabular form. Each participating library presented a concise report on the strengths and weaknesses of its collection and its acquisitions policy. There was also a great deal of discussion on library statistics as management information, the lack of comprehensive Korean collections in the region, and the role CRL could play in filling the gap for needed materials no library was actively collecting.

Mrs. Keiko Alphs (Chicago) was the Chair for the second session, which was focused on the regional needs for materials. From the discussion, it became evident that many libraries found it difficult to cope with prohibitive costs for newspaper subscriptions; to accommodate the demands for scientific, technical, and business data that were generated by community business interests, rather than the primary clientele on the campus; and to meet adequately the needs for government publications and social sciences source materials in general. A number of feasible solutions were offered for consideration, which included active solicitation of gift subscriptions from both private and corporate sources, the coordinated division of collecting responsibilities, and the practice of referring some of the demands to appropriate agencies or libraries.

"Regional Library Needs--Services" was the theme of the third session. In his opening discussion on this topic, Dr. William Wong (Illinois) noted that in comparing CEAL statistics with those of the AAS membership distribution, he was impressed by the regional differences. These can be tabulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East coast</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>West coast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total holdings (mil. vol.)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of volumes per AAS member</td>
<td>1,556</td>
<td>1,028</td>
<td>1,530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 39 -
Attention was brought to the problem of non-academic, especially corporate, users of Asian libraries and the problem of dealing with information brokers. A number of suggestions were discussed, and some referral programs were described. There was also an expression of concern over the restrictions on outside users imposed because of the financial constraints experienced by the various libraries, and over the potential impact of these restrictions on smaller collections. The participants agreed that libraries would continue to help one another whenever possible, while recognizing the necessity of a program to respond to this situation and to help overburdened Asian libraries.

Budget issues, interlibrary loan programs, and cooperative agreements between libraries were the three focal points of the fourth session, chaired by Dr. Shizue Matsuda (Indiana). It was pointed out that postage constituted 11 percent of total cost for Japanese publications and 20 percent for Chinese books. The cost of binding in Hong Kong was stated to be now the same as in the United States. Loan policies and programs at CRL, Chicago, and Michigan were described and discussed. The participants emphasized the importance of the published catalogs and acquisitions lists of the larger collections. For library cooperative programs, especially for collection development, reports were given on Indiana-Ohio State cooperation and on the Chicago-Michigan consortium for Japanese materials.

Mr. Eugene Calvalho (Kansas) chaired the fifth session, which was devoted to assessing the impact of technology, networking, and national programs. Mr. Ray Boylan described the CRL program with special emphasis on the newly created East Asian program. Dr. Richard Howard followed with a discussion of networking and technology from the point of view of the Library of Congress and its cooperation in OCLC and RLG programs. This discussion was followed by questions and expressions of interest concerning the continuation of Library of Congress printed cards for East Asian vernacular publications. Maureen Donovan (Ohio State) presented a discussion on the OCLC and reported that the issue of East Asian scripts would not be decided for at least another year. Dr. Richard Wang (Minnesota) discussed major developments in the East Asian program of RLG.

The sixth and last session was chaired by James Cheng (Chicago). After a summary of the previous sessions and some additional discussion, the participants agreed that the Midwest Conference of Asian Libraries should be continued, that the Library of Congress should be urged to continue its printed card program, that the Committee on East Asian Libraries should be informed of the burden created by "outside" users, that the CRL should be encouraged to collect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional staff per collection</th>
<th>3.8</th>
<th>3.1</th>
<th>4.75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of staff to AAS members</td>
<td>1:32</td>
<td>1:36</td>
<td>1:19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
more materials on East Asian science and technology, and that the libraries in the Midwest should continue and improve the exchange of information, acquisitions lists, and consultation with one another.

(Weiying Wan)

III. Eastern States Library Conference

The Eastern States Library Conference, organized by the Eastern Consortium of East Asian Libraries under the sponsorship of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, took place at Columbia University, June 14-16, 1982. The Planning Subcommittee was made up of the four members of the Eastern Consortium, Miwa Kai (Columbia University), Eugene Wu (Harvard University), Diane Perushek (Princeton University), and Hideo Kaneko (Yale University), plus Richard Howard (Library of Congress) and Frank Shulman (University of Maryland). Miwa Kai served as interim chair for the Conference.

Of the thirty librarians invited, twenty-two accepted, representing seventeen institutions dispersed in nine states. The following institutions were represented: Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, the Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions, the Library of Congress (Asian Division), the University of Maryland, the University of Massachusetts, the New York Public Library, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Princeton University, Rutgers University, St. John's University, and Yale University.

Other institutions which were invited but not represented: Dartmouth College, Florida State University, the Library of Congress (Far Eastern Law Division), the National Library of Medicine, the University of North Carolina, the University of Rochester, Seton Hall University, and the University of Virginia.

One of the principal purposes of the Conference was to obtain first-hand information regarding libraries heretofore unfamiliar to most of the membership. Another prime objective was to improve mutually beneficial services through a better understanding of the problems and difficulties faced by each institution and to facilitate the establishment of an effective communication system.

The agenda was structured to allow formal presentations by representatives of the lesser known and smaller libraries, followed by discussion periods. Institutions represented on the agenda were the following.

1. Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions.
   Reported by Lena Lee Yang. Chair: Miwa Kai.
2. Brown University.
   Reported by I-min Chiang. Chair: Hideo Kaneko.
3. Duke University.
   Reported by Wen-chouh Lin. Chair: Hideo Kaneko.
In advance of the Conference, a questionnaire was distributed to all participating members in order to obtain a general description of the respective libraries, their operational framework, statistical and other pertinent data. Responses to this questionnaire were reproduced and distributed to each participant to be used for quick reference during the presentations and discussions.

The discussion periods brought out a number of problems common to all institutions regardless of size. Through a lively exchange of ideas and suggestions from the floor, matters deemed soluble within the group were singled out for immediate consideration and action. A mechanism to foster mutual assistance on a short- or long-term basis is expected to be put into operation without delay.

In addition to the questionnaire mentioned above, the majority of the representatives, upon request, submitted Reading Lists or Syllabi of the courses being offered at their respective institutions in the field of Japanese studies. These, when assembled, resulted in a hefty tome of some 400 pages and were made available at the Conference as a guide to the special direction and needs of specific institutions. Since these materials were collected for the sole purpose of serving as a reference tool for this particular Conference with the understanding that distribution would be limited to the four members of the Eastern Consortium, no general distribution or further reproduction will be made.

A regional activities report was presented by Frank Shulman, University of Maryland, who had organized, prior to the Conference, a Dinner/Seminar of Japan Librarians of the Washington, D. C. area for the purpose of stimulating suggestions and views to be shared at the Conference. This prompted the idea, presently under consideration, of conducting similar regional meetings in other areas at more or less frequent intervals.

As the discussions progressed, it became increasingly clear that the immediate implementation of a focused and forceful method of cooperative endeavor was imperative if improved services among the libraries and to all users were to be achieved. The four members of the Eastern Consortium will give high priority to exploring ways for effecting a rapid means of communication and services in bibliographic and reference assistance and providing a flexible medium for the exchange of information to meet the pressing needs as they arise. To this end, several suggestions were made. One was to encourage more informal, direct communications between consortium libraries and those libraries which are not part of the consortium; telephone calls and informal notes concerning biblio-
graphic information or ILL requests, for example, would fit into this category. The second was a proposed word-processor-generated list of duplicates held by a consortium library which are available for sale; the list could be distributed to other East Coast libraries and updated easily on the word processor. A third suggestion was to establish a "cluster structure" which would group the East Coast libraries according to a rough geographic distribution, with one consortium library assigned to each cluster as a first contact and facilitator of information interchange among all libraries concerned. Finally, the idea of librarians from Japanese collections meeting at the time of the AAS regional conferences was discussed as a possible point around which to organize future meetings.

As an added feature, Ryoko Toyama demonstrated an on-line search procedure on the recently installed RLG 90 terminal, and explained its various features and capabilities. (Part of the above paragraph was contributed by Diane Perushek).

The Consortium members and the participants of the Conference take this opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation their indebtedness to the Executive Director of the Commission for having provided funds to conduct this Conference. The principal objectives were enthusiastically supported and the dedication of the participants and their sense of commitment may be expected to yield positive results in the very near future.

One of the events of the Conference took the form of a welcome dinner held at the Faculty House. Special guest members present on this occasion—all of Columbia University—were Mrs. Patricia Battin, Vice President and University Librarian; Professor Gari K. Ledyard, Chairman of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; Professor James W. Morley, Director of the East Asian Institute; and Miss Paula Kaufman, Acting Librarian of the East Asian Library.

(Miwa Kai)