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What's New in Technical Processing

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I. AACR 2 Workbook for East Asian catalogers

The AACR 2 Workbook for East Asian Publications, a 116-page cataloging manual prepared by the Subcommittee on Technical Processing of the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL/STP) and edited by Thomas H. Lee of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Beatrice C. Ohta of the Library of Congress, was completed and published in March 1983 by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Over one hundred complimentary copies from the first printing were distributed at the Annual Meetings of CEAL held March 23-25, 1983, in San Francisco; and the publication was greeted by the recipients with great enthusiasm and appreciation. At the request of many CEAL members who anticipated a greater demand for the workbook by libraries not only in this country and Canada, but also in Asia, Australia, and Europe, the workbook is now available for purchase at $3.00 per copy. A special order form is provided at the end of this section of the Bulletin, for use by anyone who wishes to purchase a copy.

The compilation of the workbook was a committee project. Since 1980, CEAL/STP has been working on it. The goal has been to select and put together important rules in AACR 2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition), provide them with explanations including the LC rule interpretations, and illustrate them with examples in the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages, so as to facilitate the use of the rules by East Asian catalogers. Preparation of the workbook has been carried out in two stages: First, drafts of the individual chapters to be included in the workbook were drawn up. Then the drafts were reviewed, edited, and in some cases rewritten, by the editors for the final text. Most of the work in the second stage was done on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, as were the final printing and publication. The support and assistance of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries to the publication and distribution of the workbook won great appreciation from East Asian librarians at the CEAL Annual Meetings.

II. LC/RLG CJK project

A topic of lively interest at the CEAL Annual Meetings in San Francisco this spring was LC's involvement in the RLG/RLIN East Asian automated system. From various reports heard at the meetings, the situation can be summarized as follows:

LC is proceeding vigorously with preparations to input its catalog records into the RLG/RLIN CJK automated system. Catalogers of the Chinese/Korean/Japanese sections, including the heads of the sections, are being trained on RLIN terminals (training started early this year) to familiarize them with tagging, and the nature and function of the terminals. At the present time they are being trained on the regular RLIN
terminals used for western languages, because the CJK terminals have not yet been installed. By the first week of May, the special CJK terminals are expected to be at LC ready for use. Special training (how to use the script formation on the terminals, etc.) will start for LC personnel in the latter half of May. An RLG library coordinator will be on hand to train staff in the use of the terminals. If no delay occurs, LC will start to input its cataloging through these terminals in June. LC is giving very high priority to implement its participation in the RLG program.

Recruiting of Chinese and Japanese catalogers is under way to strengthen the manpower for LC's work with this and other related projects.

LC anticipates that when its CJK records are keyed into the RLIN database, full bibliographic records will be keyed both in vernacular characters and in full romanization. These records will greatly improve both the quality and the retrievability of LC's CJK titles. The RLG/CJK project will significantly alter current manual cataloging operations for CJK titles at LC. At present, the bibliographic records are produced in the familiar mixed romanization and vernacular format with printed cards produced for LC in Tokyo. Once LC begins to input CJK titles in RLIN, full dual (romanized plus vernacular) versions will be keyed by LC CJK staff. Tapes of these CJK records will be returned to LC from RLIN. At this point, it is planned that LC will strip out the vernacular data and load the remaining romanized records into LC's internal system for local use. These romanized records would then be available for searching and retrieval in LC's system and for MARC distribution.

III. LC CJK printed cards and the new NUC

Other developments at LC related to East Asian cataloging are:

1. LC will continue to make printed CJK catalog cards available to East Asian libraries, in addition to the full romanized records to be distributed through the MARC distribution.

2. The Chinese Cooperative Catalog (begun in 1975) has been discontinued, and LC will incorporate all nonroman catalog records into the new COM (computer-output-microform) format NUC (National Union Catalog) in romanized form only.

CEAL and CEAL/STP have expressed concern about future East Asian cataloging reports being included in the NUC in romanized form only and have written to LC to request reconsideration of this decision and continued representation of these records in the NUC in the vernacular form. LC's response, contained in a recent letter from Henriette Avram, Acting Associate Librarian for Processing Services, to CEAL/STP Chair Thomas H. Lee, was that it was not economically feasible at this time to prepare a separate register of manually mounted printed cards in the vernacular for titles in Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Hebrew, and Yiddish (the so-called JACKPHY languages). However, LC is now in communication with the National Central Library (Taiwan), the National Diet Library (Japan) and two
commercial firms in the United States which are developing the technology to produce nonroman scripts from machine-readable records. "If these efforts are successful and we have sufficient funding, the Library will eventually be able to include non-roman scripts in the National Union Catalog."

While these investigations are being pursued, LC has devised an interim solution which, according to Ms. Avram, will provide East Asian libraries with the following services:

1) LC will continue to publish Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) cards in nonroman scripts;

2) East Asian libraries which have standing orders for the purchase of these cards will receive all LC cards with nonroman scripts;

3) Libraries which do not receive these cards can search the new NUC using its multi-access points and order the printed cards they need.

Although the NUC does not at this time contain reports in nonroman scripts, it does, as Ms. Avram pointed out, contain many features which should be of interest to East Asian librarians. The new NUC includes:

1) reports of all romanized CJK records sent to the NUC by participating libraries (thirty-three libraries have indicated their willingness to report in romanized form as compared to the nine who were reporting to the Chinese Cooperative Catalog);

2) romanized access to all LC cards printed in nonroman scripts;

3) the NUC in its register/index format will provide multiple access points to all these romanized records (LC and NUC); and

4) continued access to additional locations through the NUC Register of Additional Locations.

Ms. Avram concluded her letter by saying that "we are aware of the need and understand the desire of libraries with East Asian collections to include nonroman scripts in the NUC... Please do not equate our present inability to publish nonroman scripts in the NUC with an unwillingness to do so. I ask your patience while we continue to seek ways in which nonroman scripts can be included in the National Union Catalog."

(Note: The following page contains a reduced-size reproduction of the cover of the AACR 2 Workbook for East Asian Publications and instructions for ordering copies.)
AACR 2 Workbook for East Asian Publications

(order form)

Price: $3.00 per copy (postage included)

To order: Please make checks payable to the University of Wisconsin Library, and send orders to Acquisitions Department, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. (Payment must accompany all orders).

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