10-1-1982

What's New in Technical Processing

Thomas H. Lee

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

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, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
1. Report on ALA/CCAAM annual meetings

The ALA Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials (ALA/CCAAM) held two meetings during the 1982 ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. At the July 12 meeting, the Committee heard the LC report on developments in technical processing of Asian and African materials, reviewed LC's up-to-the-hour proposal for revising the Japanese romanization and word division, studied the report made by the Committee's Task Force on Uniform Titles for Asian and African constitutions, etc.

The major item in the LC report on processing Asian and African Materials, given by Frances Morton, an ALA/CCAAM member from LC, for Lucia J. Rather, LC Director for Cataloging, was the announcement that LC will be on schedule to start cataloging on-line its Chinese, Japanese, and Korean materials into the RLG/RLIN system for a pilot project in the spring of 1983, using special terminals which can accommodate East Asian scripts. For the pilot project, LC will have eight RLG/Sinoterm terminals, made by Transtech International Corporation of Natick, Massachusetts, which will provide cataloging entry in the vernacular characters of the East Asian languages. From its on-line East Asian cataloging, LC will be able to produce two kinds of records: one in entirely romanization and one with the body of entry in the vernacular and usual access points in romanization. LC will use the romanized records in its own automated system, which cannot handle the vernacular characters, and install in areas within the Library of Congress special terminals to enable searching by East Asian vernacular characters.

With the prospect of East Asian on-line cataloging comes the question whether LC will continue its service of providing printed East Asian catalog cards in the vernacular to the nation's research libraries with East Asian collections as it has been doing for the past 30 years or so, once the CJK project starts. LC is considering the question and is surveying the ARL (Association of Research Libraries) members for input. ALA/CCAAM immediately responded to this question by calling upon LC to continue its printed card service. A letter from ALA/CCAAM Chair Thomas H. Lee to Joseph Howard, Assistant Librarian of LC for Processing Services, was drafted at a follow-up meeting on July 13 and sent out on the same day to bring the Committee's position on this matter formally to LC. (The full text of this letter appeared in the last issue (No. 68) of the CEAL Bulletin on p. 45-46.)

Reporting on Japanese romanization, Ayako Hayashi, Head of the Japanese Language Section, LC Shared Cataloging Division, brought to the meeting a newer revised draft which incorporated all suggestions made heretofore, and requested the Committee's approval for a three-month trial run of the newer draft to test its validity. Recognizing the effort of Ms. Hayashi and the cautious way LC was handling the revision, the Committee granted her request and passed unanimously a resolution to the following effect:
"The ALA Resources and Technical Services Division, Cataloging and Classification Section, Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials tentatively approves the May 1982 draft of the Japanese romanization table (incorporating the July 1982 revisions), welcomes the Library of Congress proposal to test the draft in a three-month pilot project, and will give its final decision on receipt of the final version."

The three-month trial period will be from August 2 to November 2, 1982. Originally, Ms. Hayashi was prepared to distribute the newer (or the third) version of the draft on which a pilot project could be based while both LC and other institutions gained experience in the application of its provisions. However, LC regulations require the text of the rules be published first in the Cataloging Service Bulletin before they can undertake the pilot study and have the new practices in Japanese romanization appear on their printed cards. Therefore, the newer version for Japanese romanization will be published in the fall issue or no. 18 of the LC Cataloging Service Bulletin. During the trial period, further comments related to this published version can still be made, and any future corrections by LC as a result of the trial experience or further suggestions by other institutions can be treated and announced as revisions of the published version.

2. Romanized only CJK reports in NUC considered unsatisfactory

On August 17, 1982, a letter from LC Assistant Librarian for Processing Services Joseph Howard went to research libraries to (1) announce that LC will include only romanized cataloging records for JACKPHY (Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Hebrew, and Yiddish) language materials in the new National Union Catalog (NUC) when the NUC appears in 1983 in a new computer output microform (COM) format, and (2) survey, with an attached questionnaire, the opinions of the research libraries on whether they would be willing to romanize their CJK reports which represent original cataloging and send them to the NUC, and also on whether they would purchase the LC planned multi-year (1975-82) cumulation of the Chinese Cooperative Catalog (CCC) after CCC ceases publication at the end of 1982.

The LC letter surprised the nation's research libraries, particularly those with East Asian collections, by throwing out in front of them LC's unilateral decision to include only romanized records for the JACKPHY language materials in the new NUC. Surprising because the decision is in sharp contrast with past LC announcements and with the LC reports and general deliberations at recent ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences on treating nonroman records in catalogs and in the future automated NUC. As one of our colleagues put it, in response to the LC letter:

"While the treatment of roman alphabet cataloging in the new NUC will be an improvement over the present situation, the planned treatment of JACKPHY script materials is a great disappointment which will have a profound effect on our cataloging operations. This is particularly disappointing since the plan is considerably different from that announced in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin of January 16, 1981, and at numerous ALA conferences for at least the last five years. LC's earlier announced plan for handling nonroman script..."
materials involved mounting and photographing nonroman script cards in a separate section of the register (similar to what is now done with the Chinese Cooperative Catalog, but in random order) and keying roman script access points for the computerized indexes. Although the nonroman script portion of the register could not be on COM, it could be on microfiche as is the Chinese Cooperative Catalog. This earlier plan was quite correctly touted as having the advantages of broadening the scope of the NUC (allowing non-LC reports for languages never before included or never before included in the vernacular) while gaining the advantages of cumulating indexes from all roman script access points."

"The plan that LC is now putting forward goes against the spirit of national opinion in the library world. The reason there is such a category as 'JACKPHY' is that the bibliographic and scholarly communities representing those materials voted against the concept of romanized cataloging for them!" (Quoted from Sally Voth's letter to Joseph Howard, dated September 29, 1982. Ms. Voth is Associate Dean of Libraries for Technical Services of Indiana University.)

Several East Asian libraries contacted by CEAL/STP (CEAL Subcommittee on Technical Processing) consider the LC decision to include only romanized records for CJK language materials regrettable and unsatisfactory and have submitted negative responses to LC, requesting reconsideration of the format of the East Asian reports in the new NUC, in addition to indicating that they could not romanize their reports for the NUC. Based on the general wish of East Asian libraries, CEAL/STP decided to send to LC its own response in a letter written by CEAL/STP Chair Thomas H. Lee to Joseph Howard on September 10, 1982. The major portion of the letter runs as follows:

"On behalf of CEAL Subcommittee on Technical Processing, I wish to respond to your letter of August 17, 1982 addressed to ARL member libraries. In that letter, you revealed that the new NUC in 1983 will contain JACKPHY language records in their romanized form and added very thoughtfully, that it is important to you that the new NUC meets the needs of East Asian librarians. We wish to respond to this by saying that East Asian scripts, as you know, are indispensable to CJK cataloging records and that if the new NUC includes only romanized records for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean publications, it would fail to meet the needs of East Asian librarians and their patrons. We therefore urge the Library of Congress to work out ways to include CJK cataloging records in the new NUC in the vernacular form (with the usual romanized access points) as an essential service to the nation's East Asian libraries."