



9-1-1987

## Special Report

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### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Yutani, Eiji (1987) "Special Report," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1987 : No. 82 , Article 14.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1987/iss82/14>

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## SPECIAL REPORT

### Keeping the Torch Lit A Report on the Library Panel at the ASPAC '86 Meeting

"Notable Japanese Collections on the Pacific Coast: Their Evaluations and Use," was the topic of the library panel at the 1986 annual meeting of the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC), a regional conference of the Association for Asian Studies, which was held at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, on June 21, 1986.

The chairperson of the panel was Eiji Yutani, University of California, Berkeley, and the discussant, Teruko K. Chin, University of Washington, Seattle. The panelists consisted of seven librarians and two faculty members. The panelists and their papers are listed below:

- 1) "An Overview of the Japanese Collections in Western North America: A Quantitative Review"  
Emiko M. Moffitt, and Michiko Banman  
Hoover Institution
- 2) "Special Features of the Japanese Collections: Bibliographies and Compilations"  
Masato Matsui  
University of Hawaii
- 3) "The Unique Japanese Collections in Humanities and Social Sciences at UBC"  
Tsuncharu Gonnami  
University of British Columbia
- 4) "Edo and Modern Literature Collections at UCB and Columbia: A Comparative User Analysis"  
Van Gessel  
University of California, Berkeley
- 5) "Thirty-eight Years of Research at the Hoover Institution Library Based on Japanese Materials in the Social Sciences and Modern History"  
Harris I. Martin  
San Jose State University
- 6) "The Buddhist Collection at UCLA: A Librarian's Approach"  
Mihoko Miki  
University of California, Los Angeles

Several features marked this year's panels. All major Japanese collections on the Pacific Coast were represented at the meeting. Several librarians took part in this annual event, and focussed their reports on their unique and notable individual collections, with one paper delineating overall regional collection strengths based on statistical data. The two faculty members from northern California presented their papers from users' perspectives.

In addition, a separate library panel devoted to Chinese collections, entitled "Regional Resources on China," organized and chaired by Julia Tung, Hoover Institution, was also held on June 20, indicating an expanded librarians' participation in regional, professional and academic activities. The library panels were among the best attended according to the Program Chair, Professor Edward Olsen of the sponsoring institution. As in the past, the conference again provided librarians and users alike with a valuable opportunity to exchange information and ideas, share

common concerns and renew partnerships. The panels were instrumental in generating discussions among librarians regarding ongoing cooperative programs and future network conferences. In view of favorable audience responses, participants in the Japanese panel have agreed to revise and publish their papers. It is expected that a collection of the six papers with a preface, an introduction and comments will be issued by the University of Hawaii in the near future.

These 1986 library panels represent an important chapter in present organizational activities--the librarians' commitment to follow in the footsteps of their former leaders who initiated the active involvement of librarians in regional academic organizations in the late 1970s. A library representative has served on the Standing Committee of the ASPAC, taking part in the executive sessions every year, and thus East Asian librarians have kept their mentors' torch lit.

Whenever the ASPAC's yearly meetings have taken place in the recent past--in Honolulu, Santa Cruz, Fairbank (Alaska), Eugene (Oregon) and Monterey (California), librarians have organized their own panels and provided scholars with the latest information on regional research materials and various library issues. In June 1987 we librarians plan to meet at the ASPAC conference in Oregon, continuing our commitment to professional service and education. Again, we will carry a torch from the scenic site of the Monterey Peninsula in the Golden State up to the Evergreen State in the Northwest.

(Eiji Yutani)