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Libraries and Institutions

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Freer Gallery Library Joins RLG

The Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library in Washington D.C. has joined the Research Libraries Group (RLG) as a Special member to participate in the Art and Architecture Program (AAP).

Head Librarian, Lily C. J. Kecskes, said: "We are very pleased to have been accepted as a Special member of RLG and have already experienced the benefits of working with the huge RLIN database both in cataloging and in being able to respond to our readers. We are happy to contribute our best capabilities to the AAP."

The Library serves the galleries, both of which are part of the Smithsonian Institution, as a primary source for research by the staff, scholarly community, and general public. It contains over 45,000 volumes of monographs and serials, about half of which are in Chinese or Japanese. These holdings relate to subject areas represented in the gallery collections—the art and culture of East Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and the Near East—as well as books on turn-of-the-century American painting. The Library is using RLG's Chinese, Japanese, Korean capability to catalog in the vernacular much of its materials.

Nancy Allen, Librarian of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Chair of RLG’s Art and Architecture Program, comments: "We are delighted to have the Freer Library join us. Its unique strengths in East Asian language art materials in particular, which are so poorly represented in any national database at this point, will be a strong addition to those materials already represented in RLIN. We are also particularly pleased to welcome a library representing part of the Smithsonian Institution.

The RLG Art and Architecture Program now has forty-seven participants including both museum and academic libraries plus a liaison from the Library of Congress.

(From a Research Libraries Group press release dated July 1, 1988.)

Rare Autographed Copy to Asian Library

The Asian Library at the University of Illinois Library in Urbana-Champaign has recently received an autographed copy of the three-volume series entitled T'ai-wan nung yeh ching chi lun wen chi (Agricultural and Economic Development in Taiwan) published by Ta-Kung Printing Company, Taichung City, Taiwan, in January 1983. The author, Dr. Teng-hui Lee who is currently President of the Republic of China, is a distinguished agricultural economist. Consisting of 100 essays in approximately 2000 pages, the series is written in Chinese (volume 1) and in English (volumes 2 and 3). Along with many other autographed books by famous Chinese writers, this unusual gift from the government of the Republic of China will be added to the Asian Library's special collections.

(Carolyn Gunter)
Next Meeting of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians to be Held in Toronto, Canada in 1990

Founded in 1967, the International Association of Orientalist Librarians (IAOL) is dedicated to providing a communication link among librarians and scholars throughout the world working with Asian and Middle Eastern language and subject library materials. It seeks to fulfill its mission by publishing the \textit{IAOL Bulletin} (two issues a year) and by organizing library panels for the periodic conferences of the International Congress for Asian and African Studies (ICANAS).

The next meeting of IAOL will be held in conjunction with 33 ICANAS which will be convened at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, August 19-25, 1990.

The IAOL Constitution requires that membership dues be set at membership meetings. The current rates are $10.00 for personal and $12.00 for institutional membership annually.

Any librarian or scholar wishing to organize or participate in library panels should write to the Secretariat, 33rd International Congress for Asian and African Studies, c/o Professor Julia Ching, Victoria College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7, Canada.

For information on membership and dues, please contact Dr. William S. Wong, IAOL Secretary/Treasurer, c/o Asian Library, University of Illinois Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801 U. S. A.

(Warren Tsuneishi)

Chinese Books Donated to Ohio University

The National Central Library in Taiwan, Republic of China, presented a major gift of 430 books from Taiwan to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. The books, a selection of the best of recent publications from Taiwan, were displayed at the 107th Annual Conference of the American Library Association held in New Orleans in July.

The National Central Library actively seeks to promote international cooperation and understanding by donating the selected volumes that it exhibits to libraries in the United States. This is the third gift of selected publications from the Republic of China to Ohio University since 1982. Past gifts were made under a cooperative agreement in which the National Central Library has bartered significant Chinese publications for training of its staff at Ohio University under the latter's international internship program.

Ms. Teresa Wang Chang, Head of the Bureau of International Exchange of Publications at the National Central Library and Mr. Kung Huang of the Cultural Division of the Republic of China Coordination Council for North American Affairs made the presentation in a brief ceremony at the conclusion of the Conference on July 12. Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, Director of Libraries at Ohio University, received the gift on behalf of Ohio University.
Harvard-Yenching Library Installs Compact Shelving System

At the end of July 1988, the Harvard-Yenching Library finished construction of a new compact shelving system in the basement of its bookstack wing. Originally scheduled for completion in February, this large and complex project suffered many delays and greatly disrupted the library, both physically and functionally. It was with a sigh of relief that we put it behind us.

The new installation has doubled the shelf space in the basement and increased our total capacity by twenty percent. Aside from alleviating the severe crowding in the stacks and allowing us to shelve books that have long been stored elsewhere or piled on the floor, it leaves us with space for three to four years of collection growth at the present rate. Unfortunately our building cannot support compact shelving on the upper floors without structural modification.

As librarians are aware, compact shelving systems increase density by mounting rows of bookstacks on carriages on rails, so that they can close up together, leaving only one aisle for every ten or twelve rows, instead of one for each row as with fixed shelving. The basement at Harvard-Yenching had forty-six fixed rows of stacks, twelve and eighteen feet long, arranged on either side of a central aisle dividing a space 112 by 36 feet, or about 4,000 square feet. The ceiling is over nine feet high but is obstructed by pipes and ducts. Into this space we had managed to fit 11,200 linear feet of shelves. We now have 104 mobile rows, of the same lengths and
arrangement, divided into nine modules of nine to thirteen carriages each. This configuration yields about 22,500 linear feet, with the possibility of squeezing in more when needed.

The carriages operate by electric push buttons, and weight-sensitive switches in the floors prevent the shelves from moving when someone is standing in an aisle. Sixty percent of the shelving is of the cantilevered type: the shelves hang by hooked tabs from slotted uprights. The other forty percent is of the "bookcase" type: each shelf is supported by two horizontal bars, and vertical sections of bookstack are separated by narrow panels that conceal the framework. Shelves of the latter type present a neater appearance, but librarians should be warned that they are extremely cumbersome to adjust.

The rails, carriages, motors, and floors were manufactured by Spacesaver Corporation and installed by their local contractor. The frames and shelves are from Wilson. The cost of the equipment, installation, and one year's service under warranty, plus some related electrical and cosmetic work, was about $357,000.

In our brief experience with the system, some disadvantages that we expected, such as loss of the joys of leisurely browsing, have been confirmed; and some requirements that we did not fully foresee, such as the need to educate our patrons in its use, have become apparent. But the luxury of adequate shelf space far outweighs any inconvenience, and staff and patrons alike are well satisfied. Anyone who desires further information, or advice, may write to:

Timothy Connor
Public Services Librarian
Harvard-Yenching Library
2 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

(C Timothy Connor)

Columbia University: C. V. Starr East Asian Library

The Research Libraries Group has been awarded one million dollars by the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the Great Collections Microfilming Project. Among the 27,000 volumes that will be filmed are some 1,800 volumes of Chinese history held in the Starr East Asian Library. The Great Collections Project features distinguished collections to which the participating institutions have a long-term commitment for both building and maintaining.

(Adapted from a press release dated August 9, 1988 from the Research Libraries Group, Inc.)

Harvard-Yenching Library

The Harvard-Yenching Library is pleased to announce the renewal of its travel grant program for the fiscal year 1988-1989, to assist visiting scholars from outside the metropolitan Boston area in their use of the Japanese Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library. There will be eight grants of up to $200 each (depending on expenses incurred) to be awarded on a merit basis to scholars and advanced graduate students in Japanese studies; special consideration will be given to those residing in areas where no major Japanese collection is available. Each grantee will also be provided with free photocopying privileges of up to 100 photocopied pages.
Applications for the grant, including a brief description of research topic and estimated budget, should be submitted to:

Eugene W. Wu
Librarian
Harvard-Yenching Library
2 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

RLG Celebrates Fifth Anniversary of CJK

Five years ago this month (September 1988), the Research Libraries Group (RLG) unveiled the world's first online, networked-based, library processing and information retrieval system for East Asian materials. These "CJK"—Chinese, Japanese, and Korean—enhancements to the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) enabled users to enter and search for bibliographic records containing the characters used in all three languages, in combination with the roman alphabet.

"The implementation of CJK," said RLG Vice President John W. Haeger, "marked the beginning of a new era for East Asian libraries, and brought their materials into the bibliographic mainstream." The capability has been hailed by librarians and scholars as a dramatic advance in managing and gaining access to vernacular materials.

The first CJK record was entered into RLIN by a Library of Congress cataloger on September 12, 1983; today, the number of CJK records in the data base has grown to more than 400,000, and LC uses RLIN CJK to process all of its East Asian monographs. Henriette Avram, LC's Assistant Librarian for Processing Services, was present at CJK's inauguration. Avram said: "We were very proud of the project and we still are. It has set the standard for North America that others have followed, and has the potential to someday achieve the international exchange of information that we all dream about."

Three events occurring simultaneously with CJK's "fifth birthday" contributed to the spirit of celebration at RLG: the East Asian character code that underpins CJK was approved, unanimously, by the National Information Standards Organization; CJK® became a registered trade mark of the Research Libraries Group; and RLG released its new multiscript workstation (MSW). This PC-based workstation, which replaces the older RLIN CJK terminals, can process materials in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Cyrillic, and Hebrew as well as in roman script.

A description of LC activity with the RLG/CJK enhancement five years ago occurs in the LC Information Bulletin 42, no. 51 (December 19, 1983): 449: "Preparation for the active portion of the Library's participation in the Research Libraries Group's East Asian Project (or RLG/CJK) continued in the latter half of the fiscal year. The RLIN System became available for vernacular input on August 12. On September 12, the Library became the first of 16 library participants in the country to create a cataloging record in the RLIN data base using both the romanized and the Chinese vernacular script. The first RLIN tape of LC/CJK records was received from RLIN on September 30. Planning continued for the implementation of the CJK Pilot Project which is scheduled to begin at the first of the new fiscal year. On June 28, the first record processed under the additional procedures to enable a machine-readable version of catalog records for monographs acquired in Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Hebrew, and Yiddish appeared on file. Subsequently, the descriptive catalogers have generated 5,910 additional JACKPHY/MARC records available for JACKPHY languages complete with added entries, subject headings, and so on. The MARC records will be available in addition to the familiar mixed vernacular and romanized printed Library of Congress catalog cards."
Grants for Research in Japanese Sources at Princeton

During the 1988-89 academic year, the Princeton University Program in East Asian Studies will make available a limited number of travel grants to assist scholars in utilizing the Japanese resources at Princeton’s Gest Oriental Library and East Asian Collections. The grants, which will not exceed $250 each, are to support travel only. Brief proposals for the grants should indicate the reasons why the applicant wishes to use the Princeton collection. Submit proposals to:

D. E. Perushek
Gest Oriental Library
and East Asian Collections
317 Palmer Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

Library of Congress Receives Complete Set of Chinese Standards

The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) has donated a complete set of standards (approximately 10,000 pieces) of the China State Bureau of Standardization (CSBS), People’s Republic of China, to the Library of Congress. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) along with NBS have also agreed to donate continuing updates to this collection. The Library’s Science and Technology Division now has the only complete set of hard copy Chinese Standards publicly available in the United States.

The NBS donation also contains the CSBS Yearbook, which is a three-volume index in English of the entire Chinese standards collection, and which is accessible by broad subject and standard number. The index also chronicles the development of the Chinese standards system since the foundation of the People’s Republic of China. The acquisition of such a unique collection should be of great interest to academic researchers and the business community alike.

The China State Bureau of Standardization is the functional department of the government in charge of standardization throughout China. The CSBS sets principles and policies, administers the work of standardization, and is responsible for product quality as well as international exchange and foreign affairs activities in the field of standardization.

In the Library of Congress the Chinese standards are serviced through the Science and Technology Division, Technical Reports Section, on the fourth floor of the Adams Building. The section’s collection numbers more than 310,000 standards, which in addition to military and Federal standards, include the standards of the American National Standards Institute, the International Organization for Standardization, the International Electrotechnical Commission, the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee, International Commission of Rules for Approval of Electrical Equipment, and those of more than seventy United States standards-producing organizations that are members of the ANSI Federation and whose standards have not yet been adopted by ANSI.
Questions on the CSBS standards or any other part of the Library's standards collection should be directed to the Science and Technology Division, Technical Reports Section; telephone (202) 287-5655.