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What's New in Technical Processing

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I had an opportunity to report briefly on the recently published *Library of Congress Subject Headings Related to Korea and East Asia in General* (Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, Inc., Committee on East Asian Libraries, Subcommittee on Technical Processing, 1989) at the Subcommittee on Technical Processing meeting of the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) conference in March 1989. At the same conference, I shared some personal observations about these headings at the Subcommittee on Korean Materials meeting. The Editor of the *CEAL Bulletin* asked me to combine the two presentations into one article for publication. They are included here as parts I and II. Part I is a slightly modified reprint of the "Foreword" to the *Library of Congress Subject Headings Related to Korea and East Asia in General*. This will introduce and provide a basis for the discussions in part II. I am grateful to my colleagues at the University of Southern California, Laura Loring and Kathy Glennan, for their editorial help in creating this article.

### I. Foreword

This compilation brings together all Library of Congress (LC) subject headings related to Korea. Also contained in this work are general East Asian headings related to the region as a whole, but not to any specific country or countries. This list is a result of the East Asian Subject Headings Compilation Project of the CEAL Subcommittee on Technical Processing. The first work completed under this project in 1987 was the *List of Library of Congress Subject Headings Related to Japan* compiled by Yasuko Makino. Headings related to China were published concurrently with this Korean list.

The headings were selected from the eleventh edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)* and the *Weekly Lists* through November 16, 1988, using the following selection criteria:

1. Include all headings that have the words *Korea* or *Korean* in them.
2. Include all romanized Korean headings.
3. Include all headings with geographic subdivision *Korea*, *Korea (North)*, or *Korea (South)*, whether or not they are further subdivided by period, have class numbers, or cross references to or from other headings.
4. Include all headings related to East Asia as a whole.
5. Include all headings which have cross references to or from the headings selected in accordance with the guidelines above.
These guidelines are more inclusive than the ones used by Ms. Makino for the Japanese headings. The reason is quite simple: since Korean headings are considerably smaller in number, I felt it to be better to include as many headings as possible than to exclude certain types of headings.

Also included in the list are all pertinent cross references and scope notes. I personally feel that the cross references are an integral part of LCSH; they often provide information on the scope of the headings used, as well as variations of a given heading. Without these helpful guides, the compilation would have only very limited reference value.

This list cannot be used in place of the full LCSH for obvious reasons. Other than handy, quick referencing, this work does have a couple of noteworthy advantages over the three-volume set, however. One is currency. All newly established headings have been added from the Weekly Lists through most of 1988, and the forms and period subdivisions have been upgraded to the latest practice. With the release of the twelfth edition of LCSH, however, currency is less of an issue. The full set is only two months behind this compilation. This Korean list also provides a convenient context for future research of Korean subject headings. Since all Korean headings are isolated from other headings and brought together in a compact size, it will be much easier to scrutinize their coverage of subjects, hierarchy, syndetic structure, and vocabulary control. As a result of this project, I personally have become acutely aware of the need for research in this lesser known area.

It is my hope that the three separate East Asian lists eventually will be integrated into one. It is with this vision that I included all general East Asia headings which do not, strictly speaking, belong to any of the three language-specific works. If supplemented by other essential information on subject cataloging, such as the class numbers or the most commonly used free floaters and pattern headings in East Asian cataloging, the integrated list will prove to be a convenient and useful cataloging manual. It will also serve as a basis for comparative study of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean subject headings.

II. Observations

In the course of compiling the Library of Congress Subject Headings Related to Korea and East Asia in General, I had the rare opportunity to review all existing headings related to Korea in LCSH. As compiler I merely identified the relevant headings and did not study them from a critical point of view. In reviewing the completed list, however, I noticed some idiosyncrasies about these headings. I will share my thoughts briefly using selective examples in the following areas:

1. Cross References
2. Vocabulary Selection/Control
3. Period Subdivisions
   a. Incompleteness
   b. Gaps
4. Korea and Korea (South)
   a. As Political Entities
   b. As Geographical Subdivisions

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1. Cross References

The Library of Congress has been very consistent in its practice of employing English terms over vernacular terms when establishing headings concerning the events of East Asian (and, perhaps, all foreign) history. While I do not argue against this practice, it makes LCSH very difficult to use effectively because of the lack of cross references from the vernacular equivalents. For example, I think that very few individuals with a Korean education will be able to easily identify the famous "Imjin Waran" from the English term Korea--History--Japanese invasions, 1592-1598. Other examples found under Korea--History or Korea (South)--History:

- April Revolution, 1960, for Sainku (4.19) Hyongmyon
- May Revolution, 1961, for Oillyuk (5.16) Hyongmyon
- Korean Resistance Movement, 1919, for Samil (3.1) Undong
- Korean War, 1950-1953, for Yugio (6.25) Sabyon

Examples from elsewhere within LCSH include: Trial of communists, Seoul, Korea, 1968, (Tongbaengnim Sakon); Chinese-Japanese War, 1894-1895 (Ch'ong-II Chonjaeng, or the corresponding Chinese and Japanese names), etc.

I was pleasantly surprised to note in one of the recent (1988) revisions of LCSH that LC in fact added vernacular terms to one heading. Two cross references, "Chongmyo Horan, Korea, 1627" and "Pyongja Horan, Korea, 1636-1637" were newly added to the existing heading, Korea--History--Manchu Invasions, 1627-1637. It is my hope that LC will continue this practice, adding vernacular equivalents to all existing and new headings. It should be kept in mind that, as the same event may be referred to differently in each country, all three East Asian language terms should be covered in cross references whenever appropriate.

Another issue in addressing cross references is the question of romanization. It is heartening to note that LC consistently applies the McCune-Reischauer (MCR) romanization system for romanized headings with only a few exceptions. I noticed, however, that variations of romanization and word division are not covered in the cross references in a comprehensive manner. Although the Korean government recently adopted the MCR romanization system, most Koreans are not yet familiar with its complex rules. For this reason, among others, I suggest that the variations in romanization and word division be covered comprehensively in the cross references.

2. Vocabulary Control/Selection

Related to the issues of cross referencing and romanization is the question of vocabulary control and vocabulary selection. I asked the forty attendees of the Korean Materials Subcommittee meeting at the CEAL conference in March 1989 who among them knew the meaning of "p'illyul". No one raised his/her hand. I then asked if anyone knew what "p'iri" was. Many people (and, I suspect, all Koreans) are familiar with the Korean woodwind instrument. Surprisingly, Pillyul is the authorized heading for Piri, given in LCSH as a cross reference.

Weekly list no. 43 (October 19, 1988) introduced the following entry:

Korean-American poetry
UF American poetry (Korean)
UF Korean poetry--American authors
This heading contrasts interestingly with the conventional (and controversial) heading:

**Chinese literature--Korean authors**
UF Korean literature (Chinese)

One is further puzzled to find that the same characters " Hyundai", used as a proper noun for the popular Excel car maker, are romanized in two different ways.

**Hyundai Group**
BT Conglomerate corporations, Korea (South)

**Hyundai automobile**
UF Hyunday automobile
BT Automobiles

I fully understand that these related headings may not necessarily have been established from the same work. Further, the existing division of work within LC between descriptive and subject cataloging may make coordination more difficult. However, it is sad to think of the difficulties the users of our catalogs subsequently have to face.

3. Period Subdivisions

Let's examine the following examples:

**Korean language**
-- To 935
  -- Middle Korean, 935-1500

**Korean literature**
-- To 1900
  -- Koryo period, 935-1392
  -- Middle Korean, 935-1500
  -- 1598-1800
  -- 19th century
  -- 1894-1919
  -- 20th century

**Korean poetry**
-- Middle Korean, 935-1500
  -- 1894-1919
  -- 20th century

The physical gaps in the above examples illustrate the logical gaps discussed in the following points. These types of gaps are also found frequently in other headings. There is also a little overlap in the coverage of early 20th-century materials.
a. Incompleteness

In the term **Korean language**, the years after 1500 are not established at all and this contrasts with my observations as a cataloger that more works are being written on this later period than on the earlier years.

b. Gaps

There is a 98-year gap between 1500 and 1598 in **Korean literature** and nearly a 400-year gap between 1500 and 1894 in **Korean poetry**.

In addition, I myself experience difficulty in dealing with period subdivisions that are too broad which are found in numerous other headings. But, since this may not be a concern for other Korean collections, I will not discuss it here.

4. Korea vs. Korea (South)

a. As Political Entities

Another aspect of the period subdivision issue is related to the political division of Korea.

**Korea**

-- Economic conditions
-- Foreign relations
-- History
-- Industries
-- Social conditions

All the headings under Korea listed above share the period subdivision "1945-". Theoretically speaking, there is no such country as "Korea" since 1948 when the country was divided into North and South Korea. The above examples illustrate the practice of using **Korea** interchangeably in a loose manner with **Korea (South)**.

I suggest that we use the three headings **Korea**, **Korea (North)**, and **Korea (South)** distinctively, whenever appropriate, to represent the different geographical parts and periods of Korean history. (Of course, there are some subjects in which the political or geographical divisions have little meaning. In these cases, **Korea** will be sufficient.) If the three-year period, 1945-1948, is significant enough to be represented for any given headings, it could be closed by adding 1948 (to read 1945-1948). Then the same subheadings could be established under North or South Korea as necessary. If there is no need for a separate subdivision for the three years, the existing period subdivision could be adjusted to include this short period (e.g., the single period 1910-1948, rather than the current 1910-1945 and 1945-). Corresponding headings could be made under South and North Korea to cover the subsequent years. Unless we use the three headings distinctively and in a consistent manner, they will have little meaning or purpose in our catalogs.
b. As Geographical Subdivisions

Another example of confusion between Korea and Korea (South) is found in geographical subdivisions.

Fortification

--- Korea
  NT Samnyŏn Sansŏng (Poŭn-gun, Korea)

--- Korea (South)
  NT Kanghwasŏng (Kanghwa-gun, Korea)
  Kongsansŏng (Kongju-up, Korea)
  Namhan Sansŏng (Kwangju-gun, Korea)

Mountains

--- Korea
  NT Halla Mountain (Korea)

--- Korea (South)
  NT Chiri Mountain (Korea)
  Chuwang Mountain (Korea)
  [etc.]

In the above examples, Samnyŏn Sansŏng and Halla Mountain, both listed as NT under Korea, are in fact located in South Korea and should have been brought together with other fortifications and mountains under Korea (South).

Numerous factors can explain the state of affairs described above. LCSH is the product of a one-hundred-year history (according to the Introduction in the twelfth edition of LCSH) and there was no single individual to control and oversee the quality of headings in a given subject field throughout this long period of time. Furthermore, LC establishes headings based on the materials in hand for the Library's own collection and not for the rest of the libraries in the nation. For this reason, other collections' needs obviously are not reflected in LCSH.

Speakers for the Library of Congress remind us that the Library "welcomes the cooperative efforts of others in order to build a subject authority file that will be useful to other libraries receiving materials not acquired by LC or cataloging items at a depth not practiced by the Library of Congress." ("Establishing Subject Headings for the Library of Congress," Cataloging Service Bulletin no. 41, p. 83.)

There have been cooperative efforts in various forms and levels in terms of collection development and shared cataloging among East Asian libraries. Many East Asian libraries are contributing East Asian names to the National Coordinated Cataloging Operations (NACO) project. Is it time, perhaps, for us to aspire to cooperation in this difficult area of subject authority as well? While individuals are not prohibited from submitting new headings to LC, organized cooperative efforts will be much more effective. In fact, the amount of work required for the enormous documentation leave cooperation as the only practical means.
Report on Library of Congress Cataloging Policies

The following updates on Library of Congress (LC) cataloging related to East Asian materials were reported at the American Library Association (ALA) Resources and Technical Services Division Cataloging and Classification Section Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials meeting which was held during the ALA Annual Conference in Dallas, June 25 and 26 this year.

John Byrum, Chief, Descriptive Cataloging and Subject Cataloging Divisions at LC, reported first on the reorganization at the Library. "Whole book" cataloging will mean the end of separate Descriptive and Subject Cataloging Divisions. One possible outcome will have a Director for Cataloging to oversee the following: English Language Cataloging Division, European Cataloging Division, East Asian Cataloging Division, Decimal Classification Division, Cataloging in Publication Division, and PREMARC Division.

To deplete the considerable arrearage, the emphasis is on simplified cataloging. New cataloging priorities are also assigned. Instead of the previous five levels, there will be four, with the fourth level for Minimal Level Cataloging (MLC). English-language publications will no longer receive automatic high priority. Materials will be judged by their research value. Materials which have been in the arrearage for four or more years will be assigned MLC. MLC materials will now have some subject access in the form of keywords in the 500 field. In the case of East Asian materials, the keywords can be translated from the title or table of contents. LC hopes to transfer the keywords eventually from the 500 field to the 653 field.

To avoid treating all the older materials at the MLC level, LC started in mid-June to catalog some 7,000 Japanese titles and 5,000 Chinese and Korean titles at "full" level, but with fewer subject headings and using more general, instead of specific, subject headings. After six months, any uncataloged titles will be assigned for MLC.

This year 8,000 full and 5,500 MLC Chinese records, 8,800 full and 3,200 MLC Japanese records, and 3,300 full Korean records were produced. Current arrearage is mainly in subject cataloging: 7,100 Japanese titles, 2,000 Chinese titles, and 1,600 Korean titles. Four-hundred Chinese, 230 Japanese, and 89 Korean serials were also cataloged. LC will hire an additional Japanese Cataloger.

Mary Kay Pietris, Chief, Office for Subject Cataloging Policy at LC, also talked about simplification. For example, double headings will be replaced by cross references, "Biography" will be assigned only when the book is at least 50 percent biographical (previously, 20 percent was sufficient), and translations will have a "translated into" heading only and the corresponding "translated from" will be dropped. The distinction between literary and non-literary authors may also be dropped.

After four years on the Committee, Tai-loi Ma rotated off. Ms. Alice Chan of the University of Alberta will represent East Asian interests for the next two years.

(Tai-loi Ma)