Meetings and Conferences

Hisako Kotaka

Edward Martinique

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"Strengthening the U.S.-Japan Library Partnership in the Global Information Flow" was the theme of the fourth Japan-U.S. Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education held in Racine, Wis., October 3-6.

The conference was organized by a subcommittee of the International Relations Committee of the American Library Association chaired by Theodore F. Welch of Northern Illinois University, and by a subcommittee of the Japanese University Libraries International Relations Committee, chaired by Haruo Kuroda of the University of Tokyo Library. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the Johnson Foundation. Seventy-two librarians representing university and research libraries of the United States and Japan participated. The Library of Congress was represented by Henriette D. Avram, assistant librarian for processing services; Warren M. Tsuneishi, acting assistant librarian for research services; and Hisao Matsumoto, head, Japanese Section of the Asian Division.

The delegates arrived at a consensus on a number of recommendations, including that a fifth binational conference be held in Japan in order to continue the dialogue and strengthen cooperative relationships between university libraries in the two countries. Topics for further cooperative attention included internationally accepted standards for Chinese-Japanese-Korean (CJK) bibliographic data, use of alkaline papers and deacidification technologies, network development, mutual assistance in collection development, copyright protection, and promotion of the mutual use of bibliographic data bases, including the special libraries context.

Objectives of the conference included: to discuss the state of the art of computer applications in libraries and the technology of preserving library materials; to report on progress on the adaptation of an ideographic language to the requirements of computerized bibliographic networks and data base development; and to investigate and lay the foundation for binational cooperative projects that will benefit libraries in both countries.

In the first general session, John Haeger, of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), presented his paper, "Unfinished Business: Computers, Libraries and East Asian Studies," in which he reported on the progress made in East Asian script processing for bibliographic data by computers in the United States over the past ten years. He noted that RLG is "still handicapped by the immaturity of the computer revolution in many parts of East Asia and the absence of industry-wide standards for codes and fonts."

Tohru Sugawara of Waseda University Library, on the other hand, presented a paper, "Japanese Bibliographic Data File," and briefly explained that "the concept of the CJK data file does not exist in Japan."

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On the American side, Patricia Battin, of the Commission on Preservation and Access, presented "The Preservation of Knowledge: Strategies for a Global Society," in which she detailed the objectives and functions of the commission and emphasized the need for executing an unprecedented national strategy for the preservation of knowledge in the United States.

In the second general session, Jun Adachi of the National Center for Science and Information System (NACSIS) presented an overview of his organization's activities and its data base formation and services in Japan. Eiichi Kurahashi, of the University of Tokyo Library system, presented a paper titled, "Database Construction for Union Cataloging in Japan: Present Conditions and Problems."

Henriette Avram presented "Issues Surrounding Database Development in the United States," and discussed formats and character sets of the machine-readable bibliographic records created by different countries, and the need for international cooperation in order to bring to fruition the concept of Universal Bibliographic Control.


Following each general session, working group sessions met to discuss problems, solutions, and recommendations for action.

The proceedings of the conference, including the papers, progress reports, recommendations of the working groups, and the final communiqué (the conference resolutions), are scheduled for publication in August 1989. Proceedings of the previous three bina­tional conferences have also been published and provide a thorough record of the bina­tional meetings held since 1969.

Members of CEAL who, as Japan specialist librarians, attended the conference were Teruko Kyuma Chin, University of Washington; Hideo Kaneko, Yale University; Yasuko Makino, University of Illinois; Masato Matsui, University of Hawaii; Hisao Matsumoto, LC; Emiko Mashiko Moffitt, Hoover Institution; Warren Tsuneishi, LC; and Eiji, Yutani, University of California, San Diego.

Andrew H. Wang, Director of the OCLC Online Computer Library Center Asian/Pacific Services, opened the meeting in the Lombard Room, San Francisco Hilton Hotel and Towers, on March 26 a few minutes after 8:00 p.m. Copies of the agenda and an updated list of users of the OCLC CJK350 system were distributed while the attendees introduced themselves.

Wang then summarized the history of CJK350 system implementation in the OCLC Online System and the growth of the user group and CJK data base in the OCLC Online Union Catalog (OLUC). He emphasized that OCLC CJK350 users were no longer confined to libraries in the United States but were spreading to other countries such as Taiwan and, hopefully, to Australia in the very near future. He said that, within less than one and a half years since the CJK350 system became available in January 1987, the number of unique CJK records in the OCLC data base had increased to 240,000, of which about 95,000 records (forty percent) contained vernacular information.

He reported on his plan to develop an international CJK bibliographic data base by incorporating records of Chinese MARC and Japan/MARC into the OLUC. He said that OCLC had already received a sample tape of Chinese MARC records from the National Central Library, Taiwan, and was investigating loading procedures. Once the routine of tape-loading is established, about 70,000 Chinese records will be loaded into the OLUC.

Next, he reported on the Japan/MARC conversion software program developed by Yuzo Ito, Head of Library Automation, Osaka University Library, during his six-month internship at OCLC in 1987. Although it has the capability of converting and loading Japan/MARC records now, OCLC would not proceed with this activity, he said, because the Library of Congress (LC) is also developing a similar program. At LC's request, OCLC will send the software and documentation to LC for the benefit of all the CJK users in North America, he explained.

Reiko Yoshimura, Ohio State University, asked if the converted records from Japan/MARC tapes would have the main entry as defined in AACR2. Wang said the final form of the converted records is still unknown because OCLC had not received any specifications from LC.

As for CJK serial records, Wang reported LC's recent decision to adopt the OCLC CJK350 system for its CONSER operation. OCLC and LC are negotiating an agreement to install two units of the OCLC CJK350 system at LC for this purpose.

Moo-Jae Pak, OCLC, made a brief report on current enhancement projects. OCLC has developed CJK asynchronous online communication software for dial access users; the preliminary software version for the asynchronous mode was sent to overseas users. In addition, OCLC has also enhanced the CJK350 word processor to run on a PC/AT model. Pak said he would prioritize the various enhancement requests he had received from CJK350 users.

Hisako Kotaka, OCLC, made reports relating to CJK data base quality control and other technical issues. She said that she was monitoring the effectiveness of user training and CJK bibliographic record quality. As a method of quality control, she said she
would use random checking of bibliographic records through the record extraction program. She would review original input records from time to time and send comments to the inputting institutions.

Mihoko Miki, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), asked if it was necessary for UCLA to report to OCLC any change UCLA made to a member-input record while working in the enhanced mode. Kotaka said that was unnecessary.

Kotaka then explained the situation of duplicates in the OLU: In principle, OCLC maintains one master record in the OLUC and does not allow duplicates except under certain situations. Should users find a member-input I-level (full) record duplicating an LC minimal level record in the OCLC database, Kotaka asked users to send a duplicate deletion request to her. OCLC would merge the holdings and delete the LC minimal level record.

Frank Shulman, University of Maryland at College Park, asked if there was any possibility of merging bibliographic records in the case where a member-input record was fuller than an LC-input full level record. With the current system, an LC full level record would bump the much fuller member record which contained information that would be of value to users. Kotaka responded that such a feature was desirable and further system investigations and an agreement between OCLC and LC would be necessary.

Kotaka made a brief status report on enhancement of LC romanized records. During the year of 1987, she said, OCLC received over 1,700 change requests, the largest group being for Chinese records, followed by Japanese and then Korean records. The CJK staff enhanced 1,000 plus records while over 600 records were still in the backlog. Recently, two Chinese librarians from Tamkang University, Taiwan, participating in the OCLC International Librarian Internship Program, started working on adding vernacular characters to the records. Pak commented that, thus, the number of Chinese record change requests would be reduced.

Kotaka asked if the user institutions had received copies of the CJK User Guide, Part 2. Katsuko Hotelling, University of Oregon, said she had received it and read it through. She pointed out a mistake in the guide and requested a correction regarding the first indicator for the member-input second 050 field in the LC minimal level record (CJK User Guide, Part 2, p. 2). Kotaka acknowledged the correction request and announced that the indicator should be a "blank" instead of a "zero". Since Kotaka noticed that not many librarians had had a chance to look at the new issue, she asked them to send her their questions and comments after they had.

Regarded the enhancement of the CJK character input code dictionary, Kotaka suggested a working group be organized in order to compile a supplemental list of alternate Tsang-chieh input codes or alternate phonetic input codes for characters that lack a primary phonetic input code. She asked for users' feedback on this issue.

Kotaka disclosed that US MARC format had incorporated the new source codes for subject-added entries (600-651 fields) to be used with the second indicator 7 and subfield 2. The new codes are nibish and jishish representing Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Kenmei hyomokuhyo and Kihon kenmei hyomokuhyo, respectively. The news should be officially released in the upcoming issue of Bits and Pieces (OCLC Network and Library Services) and of Technical Bulletin (Documentation Department). She explained that the establishment of these source codes meant that OCLC CJK350 system users in Japan could add their established native subject headings to the original records and...
that the subject headings used in the Japan/MARC records would be transported into the converted records. This was part of the preparation of Japan/MARC conversion into the US MARC format and OCLC users would be informed more as the project progressed.

After the presentation by the OCLC staff, Wang chaired an open discussion and question-and-answer session.

James Cheng, UCLA, asked about the frequency of downloading LC CJK tapes into OLOC. Wang answered that tapes had been loaded monthly. Cheng asked about the status of CJK record exchange practice between OCLC and the Research Libraries Group (RLG). Wang said that OCLC had sent the first tape of OCLC CJK records to LC for exchange purposes. RLG has agreed to send RLIN member-input CJK records to LC for exchange, beginning in September 1988.

Donald Shively, University of California, Berkeley, asked what OCLC could do to assist CJK users in displaying OCLC CJK records in their local systems. Wang said that use of the new asynchronous mode of the OCLC CJK350 software could be a solution.

Karl Lo, University of Washington, raised the same question and expressed his concern about interfacing CJK records from the online bibliographic network system to his local library system (Geac) to perform total online library services. He said the Geac system and other various local systems were using individually different components of hardware and software and that the OCLC asynchronous mode connection software that he received was not working on Geac. Lo encouraged users to get familiar with their own local systems and with computer terminology, and to discuss these problems with system vendors and system engineers in their institutions as well. He invited all attendees to join the CEAL subcommittee meeting on library technology to be convened the next morning.

Cheng proposed that OCLC disclose the detailed statistical report of CJK-related transactions. Wang answered that OCLC had the statistics, but was not sure if such reports were appropriate and necessary. Lo commented that disclosure of detailed statistical figures by institution to the public could be sensitive and he opposed Cheng's proposal. Kotaka explained that the annual summary report of CJK records by format and language was included in the CJK User Guide because she thought that was sufficient for public information. If needed, the monthly increment by language could be added. She requested users' feedback about this.

Cheng also proposed the formation of working groups among OCLC CJK users to promote various programs similar to the RLG's East Asian Program Committee's programs. He suggested that OCLC take the leadership role for such activities because the mission of CJK libraries was not only CJK cataloging but also acquisitions, preservation, etc. Maureen Donovan, Ohio State University, expressed her concern that the diversity of the OCLC CJK350 users could create very different views in the working groups.

Lo asked about the OCLC CJK retrospective conversion program. Wang said the Asian Pacific Services staff at OCLC was doing technical processing services for two institutions and was negotiating a retrospective conversion project with St. John's University. Daphne Wang, University of Oregon, asked about the number of CJK staff in OCLC, how quality control there is maintained, and what the policy making process is. Wang emphasized the volume of work the staff had handled. He explained that the group of CJK users in OCLC was not an isolated one. Policy discussions are based on
decisions made for the entire OCLC membership. The Research Library Advisory Committee also influenced the direction of policy concerning CJK users.

When Ju-yen Teng, University of Arizona, and Thomas C. Kuo, University of Pittsburgh, expressed the desire that OCLC should provide leadership for the user groups, Wang said he would take a coordinator’s position, but leadership should come from among the users themselves. Wang stressed that he would work cooperatively with an individual institution whenever the institution needed OCLC’s assistance.

The OCLC CJK350 User Meeting continued until 10:00 p.m. as scheduled, and Wang adjourned the meeting with his thanks to all the attendees.

(Hisako Kotaka)

EDITOR’S NOTE

A serious error occurs in CEAL Bulletin no. 85 (October 1988) on page 27 in the last paragraph of “Summer Institute on East Asian Librarianship (Seattle: 1988).” At the end of the list of participants of the Institute, the following information, "Agnes C. Wen, Technical Services Librarian, East Asian Library at Columbia University," should instead read: "Agnes C. Wen, Technical Services Librarian, East Asia Collection Library at the University of Pittsburgh; Charles C. Wu, Head of Technical Services, C. V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University;..." My apologies to Ms. Wen and Mr. Wu and to all our readers.

(Edward Martinique)