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Committee on East Asian Libraries

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DISCUSSION OF PAPERS ON BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

After the panel papers were read, Professor Lynn Struve (Indiana University) touched upon several themes she found in the participants' offerings. Some of these were the continuing existence of political "national bibliographic control" in East Asian countries, the problems of building effective control systems, and the underdevelopment of Korean-language collections in the United States. Dr. Struve questioned the suitability of attempting to cover current imprints to the detriment of making available the older materials already acquired but inadequately described. A bond between scholar and librarian, she suggested, that produced guides to the best materials available might provide an answer.

Dr. Eugene Wu (Harvard-Yenching) then pointed out several problem areas of East Asian bibliographic control that needed to be emphasized. The as yet unsatisfactory system of book supply in China and Korea, the "internal distribution only" phenomenon in China, the overwhelming task of collecting Japanese government publications were a few areas Dr. Wu expatiated upon. To thwart the dwindling of our East Asian collections caused by the expansion of book production, the inflationary costs of operations, and decreases in funding, Dr. Wu suggested more rigorous cooperation in more areas among existing East Asian collections.