Meetings and Conferences

Maureen H. Donovan
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Inaugural Meeting of the OCLC CJK350 Users' Group (New Orleans: April 10, 1991)

The inaugural meeting of the OCLC CJK350 Users' Group was held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Maurepas Room of the Meridien Hotel on Wednesday, April 10, 1991. Andrew Wang (OCLC) welcomed everyone and asked the group to decide who should preside over the meeting, noting that a users' group should not be organized by OCLC itself. Those present elected Eugene Wu (Harvard-Yenching Library) to preside. Karl Lo (UC-San Diego) proposed a motion for the adoption of the revised version of the OCLC-CJK350 GROUP BYLAWS (which had been distributed to primary contact persons at OCLC CJK350 libraries) as the official bylaws of the group. The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for discussion.

The following issues were raised for discussion:

- Should OCLC staff be involved in planning agendas for the group? It was pointed out that the meetings planned and run by OCLC up to now would continue to be held each year and that these would be called "OCLC CJK350 Updates." Additionally, OCLC will arrange the meeting place for this group and provide logistical support for its work (thus obviating the need for dues). However, this group should remain separate from OCLC so as to provide an open forum for discussion of issues regarding the OCLC CJK350 system, cooperative projects initiatives, etc. Thus, while close contacts with OCLC are essential, OCLC staff should not be involved in setting the group's agenda.

- What should the group be called? There was a lengthy discussion of the group's name which did not result in a consensus. Since "CJK" has been registered as a trademark by RLG, OCLC's lawyers advise against using "CJK" alone (without "350"). However, the term "CJK350" refers to a piece of equipment which is not likely to be used very much longer. Several other suggestions were made, but it was finally decided to vote to refer the issue of the name to the Executive Board of the Group as their first item of business once they have been elected.

- Who should be considered members? Since mailings about the inaugural meeting went to "primary contact persons," they did not necessarily reach people who would be likely to attend the AAS/CEAL meeting. However, if membership is left wide open, people from libraries who do not use the OCLC CJK350 system might join. Would that be a good or bad thing? Various opinions were expressed, with many favoring leaving the membership open as open as possible. There could be two types of membership (individual and institutional), with one person designated to represent the institution's view on policy matters, while individuals could discuss general issues. It was decided to leave the question of membership to the new Executive Board.

- Should the group publish its own newsletter or use the CEAL Bulletin to communicate with members? This matter was also recommended to the new Executive Board.
What about communication/coordination with the Library of Congress? A motion was made to amend Article II, section A to add the phrase "between members of the group and the Library of Congress" to promote communication and coordination with LC. A vote was taken and this amendment to the original motion was carried.

How do the purposes of the two groups (i.e., the meetings planned and run by OCLC, "OCLC CJK350 Updates" and the OCLC CJK350 Users' Group) differ? The OCLC CJK350 Updates will be convened annually by OCLC to communicate with users of this system. They will concentrate on technical matters, details of cataloging, system problems and refinements, etc. The Users' Group will discuss larger issues. It will attempt to enhance what OCLC is doing for libraries and will nudge OCLC to do more. Also, it will be available to initiate cooperative projects, etc.

After discussion was completed, a vote was taken on Karl Lo's motion as amended by vote. The motion carried with thirty-one votes in favor and none opposed (the remaining members abstained from voting). The OCLC CJK350 Users' Group thus officially came into existence.

As the first item of business, the group elected Eugene Wu as its chair. In his acceptance remarks, Wu said that the OCLC CJK350 Users' Group can only succeed with lots of help from the members, so he invited everyone to become active in the group's work. Accepting nominations and volunteers from the floor for the Nominating Committee, he appointed Maureen Donovan (Ohio State University), Karl Lo (UC-San Diego), and Taemin Park (Indiana University) to work with him to draw up a slate for election. Once the membership form is designed, he will send it out for wide distribution and then will mail ballots to the members after the nomination process is completed.

Before concluding the meeting, the members present introduced themselves so that everyone could get to know each other better.

(Maureen Donovan)