Meetings and Conferences

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National Planning for Japanese Libraries Conference (Stanford: November 7-9, 1991)

The following is a letter addressed to interested persons from Emiko Mashiko Moffitt and Ramon H. Myers discussing the conference and its goals.

November 13, 1991

Dear Colleague:

On November 7-9, 1991 a conference on national planning for Japanese libraries was held at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. This conference was funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, with supplementary funding from the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation. The conference was organized by Ms. Emiko Moffitt, with the assistance of Dr. Ramon H. Myers and other library curators such as Dr. Donald Shively and Mr. Hideo Kaneko.

The conference was attended by twenty-eight Japanese librarians, roughly half from large academic libraries and the remainder from medium-sized and small libraries.

Because we were unable to invite more Japanese library representatives, we wish to provide you with a brief summary of the conference and its achievements. We need your cooperation and participation, and we want you to be informed of what the participant libraries propose to do. Our planning efforts must have your support, and we believe that you share our interests because they represent yours.

The first two days of the conference were devoted to reports and the exchange of information related to how collection acquisitions are being shared within the regions of the Western, Midwestern, and Eastern United States as well as major issues involved in collection development in support of Japanese studies in the U.S. Other issues included surveying the needs of library users, bibliographic control and access to catalog records, linkage with Japanese agencies, interlibrary relations, and librarian training and recruitment.

Not only were these sessions fruitful in the exchange of information and discussion of how far regional cooperation has already developed, but the problems confronting medium-sized and small Japanese collections were thoroughly discussed. This interaction among librarians from first-tier and second-tier Japanese collections was conducted in a new spirit eager for national cooperation and planning.

On the third and final day of the conference, after discussing possible solutions to major problems, participants agreed to form a new Japanese library planning team that would
establish and supervise the activities of nine task forces. The planning team comprised six persons:

1. Mr. Hideo Kaneko (Yale), chairperson
2. Dr. Kristina Troost (Duke)
3. Ms. Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan)
4. Ms. Sachiko Morrell (Washington, St. Louis)
5. Mr. Hisayuki Ishimatsu (UC, Berkeley)
6. Ms. Sharon Domier (Oregon)

The nine task forces to be formed and led by members of the above planning teams are as follows:

1. Regional documentation sharing: led by Mr. Kenji Niki (Columbia)
2. Sharing of Japanese multivolume sets: led by Mr. Hisayuki Ishimatsu (UC, Berkeley)
3. Sharing of current serials: led by Mr. Hideo Kaneko (Yale)
5. Exploring future areas of Japanese cooperative collection development: led by Ms. Sachiko Morrell (Washington, St. Louis)
6. Retrospective conversion: led by Ms. Yasuko Makino (Columbia)
7. User access to collections and materials (including those of Japanese Documentation Center): led by Dr. Kristina Troost (Duke)
8. Access to Japanese data bases: led by Dr. Satoshi Akiba (Cornell)
9. Training and recruitment of Japanese librarians: led by Ms. Sharon Domier (Oregon)

The planning team committee is charged with the task of preparing a report by January 31, 1992 on its efforts to establish some minimal rules for Japanese collection sharing throughout the three regions and to provide guidelines for drafting a plan under which the Japanese library system can develop, deal with its problems, and improve its service to users. Associated with this new plan will be one or more funding projects to be submitted to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and any other relevant funding agencies by March 1, 1992.

The purpose of this six-person planning team is to consult with all libraries in the United States to obtain their ideas, support and concurrence—where possible—on new sharing mechanisms and responsibilities.

This six-person planning team will attempt, if time permits, to organize one or more sessions at the April 1992 Association for Asian Studies meeting to seek counsel on what future activities, if any, our regional libraries should undertake.
We hope this new plan and its contingent rules for cooperative sharing, etc. will have your input and ultimate support. Without your cooperation, we will not be able to advance very far.

A notable spirit of cooperation and a new will were demonstrated at this conference by all Japanese library representatives present, as well as a consensus that it offered a unique opportunity to organize our three regional Japanese library consortia to produce a national plan that will make sense for all of us, embody our libraries’ interests, and address our urgent funding needs.

If you have any further questions, please fax or telephone Ms. Emiko Moffitt, Dr. Donald Shively, or Mr. Hideo Kaneko.

Sincerely yours,

Ramon H. Myers  Emiko Mashiko Moffitt

Lists of the planning team and task force members are below.

The National Planning Team for Academic Japanese Libraries

Hideo Kaneko (Yale), East, chair
Sharon Domier (Oregon), West
Hisayuki Ishimatsu (UC, Berkeley), West
Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan), Midwest
Sachiko Morrell (Washington, St. Louis), Midwest
Kristina Troost (Duke), East

Task Forces

1. Regional Documentation Sharing
   - Kenji Niki (Columbia), chair
   - Mitsuko Ichinose (Yale)
   - Masato Matsui (Hawaii)
   - Eizaburo Okuizumi (Chicago)
   - Hisayuki Ishimatsu (UC Berkeley), liaison

2. Sharing of Multi-volume Sets
   - Hisayuki Ishimatsu (UC Berkeley), chair
   - Toshiyuki Aoki (Harvard)
   - Teruko Chin/Frederick Kotas (Washington)
   - Soowon Kim (Princeton)
   - Hideyuki Morimoto (Iowa)
   - Eiji Yutani (UCSD)
3. Sharing of Current Serials
   Hideo Kaneko (Yale), chair
   Karl Kahler (Pennsylvania)
   Mihoko Miki (UCLA)
   Eiji Yutani (UCSD)

4. Sharing of Newspaper Backfiles
   Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan), chair
   Toshiyuki Aoki (Harvard)
   Sung-in Ch’oe (UC Santa Barbara)

5. Exploring Future Areas of Cooperative Collection Development
   Sachiko Morrell (Washington, St. Louis), chair
   Emiko Moffitt (Hoover)
   George Soete (UCSD)

6. Retrospective Conversion
   Yasuko Makino (Columbia), chair
   Boksoon Hahn (Yale)
   Hisako Kotaka (OCLC)
   Kevin Lin (Texas)
   Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan)
   Karen Smith-Yoshimura (RLG)
   Sharon Domier (Oregon), liaison

7. User Access to Materials (including Japan Documentation Center)
   Kristina Troost (Duke), chair
   Maureen Donovan (Ohio State)
   Amy Heinrich (Columbia)
   Shizuko Radbill (Arizona)
   Warren Tsuneishi (LC)

8. Access to Japanese Data Bases
   Satoshi Akiba (Cornell), chair
   Hideyuki Morimoto (Iowa)
   Sachie Noguchi (Pittsburgh)
   Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan), liaison

9. Training and Recruitment
   Sharon Domier (Oregon), chair
   Eugene Carvalho (Kansas)
   Mihoko Miki (UCLA)
   Eizaburo Okuizumi (Chicago)
   George Soete (UCSD)
   Chester Wang (Wisconsin)

Resource Persons

Hisako Kotaka (OCLC)
Ramon Myers (Hoover)
Donald Shively (UC Berkeley)
Karen Smith-Yoshimura (RLG)
George Soete (UCSD)
Warren Tsuneishi (LC)