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Libraries and Institutions

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The University of Iowa Libraries Receives Grants for Chinese Studies Materials

The University of Iowa Libraries has recently received two grants totalling $101,149 from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Foreign Periodicals Program. The Libraries received a $56,214 grant from the DOE to purchase Chinese and African health and medical journals, government publications, and conference and seminar reports. With this funding, the University of Iowa Libraries will focus on the purchase of important, but not commonly held, Chinese medical journals and periodicals published in limited runs on a variety of health issues in China.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Education Center for International Education has renewed a grant which the University of Iowa Libraries obtained last year, with a renewed total of $44,935 for the fiscal year 1993-1994. The renewed grant will enable the University Libraries to continue to add to its collection important Chinese periodicals in the humanities and social sciences.

The DOE Foreign Periodicals Program is intended to provide a framework for strengthening specialized library collections dealing with foreign area studies and world affairs. The grants that the University of Iowa received will contribute to this effort to develop such national resources which can be shared by researchers and scholars across the nation.

(Peter Xinping Zhou)

British Library Oriental and India Office Collections Look to the Future: OIOC at St. Pancras

Most users of the Oriental and India Office Collections (OIOC) will be aware that the British Library is preparing to move into its new building on Euston Road near St. Pancras railway station over the next few years. Although construction is not yet close enough to completion for the Library to be able to announce an opening date, it is possible to provide some general information on how the move will affect OIOC.

The new building is being constructed in two phases. The first phase contains the public areas, four book storage basement floors and five reading rooms: three for science, one for general humanities, and one for rare books and music. These areas will come into use while construction of the second phase, scheduled for completion in 1996, is still in progress. The second phase will include six further reading rooms, for science, general humanities, manuscripts, maps, and OIOC. Altogether, the eleven reading rooms will provide seats for 1,176 readers. Most of the storage will be in the basements, but western manuscripts and much of OIOC material will be above ground. The provision of controlled environmental conditions in all storage areas will help substantially to arrest the rapid deterioration in the
condition of much of the stock. Over 300 linear kilometers of shelving are being provided
to house the eleven million volumes that will be assembled from eighteen different sites in
London. In addition to the reading rooms there will be extensive exhibition galleries,
refreshment facilities, a bookshop, and a fully-equipped 250-seat auditorium, since an
important function of the Library will be to serve a wider public than those needing to use
the collections.

The OIOC reading room is situated on the third floor in the northeastern corner of the
building (that is, on the Midland Road side) with high-level natural lighting on the two sides
embracing the reading area. The catalog consultation area will be nearest to the entrance
and the reading area beyond, with the service counter sited centrally so as to be easily
accessible to readers in both areas. There will be seventy-eight seats for readers, including
eight at flat-top tables for consultation of maps, scrolls, and other large documents. Each
desk will have an individual reading lamp, a light to indicate when ordered material is ready
for collection, and electrical outlets. There will also be ten enclosed carrels, each large
enough for two people, for the use of personal computers, dictation machines, ultraviolet
lamps, and audio equipment. As in the present reading room, there will be shelving
adjacent to the reading area containing bibliographies and other reference works. The
appearance of the room will be enhanced by a display of large paintings from the former
India Office collection. The graphic collections will be used, as now, in a separate Prints
and Drawings room, which will be next door to the main reading room. It is envisaged that
the OIOC reading room, in common with all the others, will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00
p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, a considerable
advance on the present arrangements in Orbit House.

The principal means of access to the printed collections will be the Online Public Access
Catalog (OPAC), which will provide a much more flexible approach to searching than the
existing range of bound, card, and computer output on microfiche catalogs. The OPAC will
contain the pre-1975 British Library catalog, the current humanities and science catalogs,
and the catalogs of printed music and maps. It will include all OIOC's holdings of western-
language printed books and serials, and recently acquired volumes in many other languages,
but, partly because of the complexities of automating nonroman scripts, and partly because
of the sheer scale of the task, the retrospective conversion of the oriental language printed
book catalogs for inclusion in the OPAC will not be carried out before OIOC moves to St.
Pancras. The same applies to the catalogs of oriental and European manuscripts and the
listings of the India Office Records. In all these cases readers will continue to use the
existing catalogs.

However, the Automated Book Request System (ABRS) will be used to requisition all
material, irrespective of the catalog in which it is recorded. The system will help readers
to enter the necessary details at a terminal, including the particular reading room and the
seat number where the material requested is to be read. In the case of an item included
in the OPAC, the reader will then immediately be informed if it is not available (in use,
missing, at binding . . . ). Requests will be electronically transmitted to the appropriate
storage area. After collection from the shelves, books will normally be despatched to the reading rooms via the Mechanical Book Handling System (MBHS), which, through a network of conveyor belts and risers, will automatically route bar-coded containers to their correct destinations. Material which is too large or fragile to travel the MBHS – and this will include much of the OIOC stock – will be delivered by hand.

Unfortunately, outhousing of parts of the collection will continue to be necessary, probably at the British Library's Boston Spa site, but a twenty-four hour turnaround of requests is planned.

One of the major benefits of the new building is that it allows the British Library to bring together all the main London collections except for the Newspaper Library and the National Sound Archive. This will be a particular advantage to users of OIOC, many of whom are obliged at present to shuttle between Orbit House and Bloomsbury because relevant material is housed in both places. At St. Pancras the Library will positively encourage readers to treat the whole range of collections as a single resource, both by providing access to catalogs on OPAC throughout the building and by delivering material from any collection to any reading room, as far as is consistent with its proper care; for instance, OIOC's holdings on agriculture, meteorology, etc., will be available for use in the science reading rooms. However, it is expected that most users of OIOC material will choose to work in the OIOC reading room, where they will find all the nonautomated catalogs and lists, the relevant reference works will be on the open-access shelves in a new unified Dewey-based arrangement, the counter staff will be able to give informed assistance, and the specialist curators will be close at hand. Therefore the OIOC storage areas are located on the lower floors of the superstructure and in the basements directly below the OIOC reading room in order to provide the most direct delivery route.

The move of the collections and reader services from Orbit House to St. Pancras will not take place for several years yet, since construction of the second phase of the building, which will house OIOC, is not scheduled for completion until 1996. The exact timing will depend on a variety of factors, such as the actual completion date of the construction, the time required for fitting out, and the general sequence of moves, of which OIOC's is only one. However, users will be affected by changes before the move.

The first change which OIOC readers are likely to notice is the new-style British Library pass, which began to be issued earlier this year to new readers and to those renewing existing passes. These passes are generated by the newly automated reader admissions system which, at St. Pancras, will link up with both OPAC and ABRS. The reader will use his or her pass to operate the automatic gates controlling access to the reading rooms, while the number on it will function as a password when items are ordered through the request system. It will therefore be in the interests of regular OIOC users who do not have a British Library pass to apply for one before OIOC moves to St. Pancras. Further guidance will be given nearer the time. Issue of passes will be governed by a new admissions policy introduced this summer, which is based on need to use British Library collections, but, while
OIOC remains at Orbit House, day passes will continue to be available at the front hall reception desk without formality.

The move of printed books from the British Museum building to St. Pancras will begin before the new reading rooms open and continue after the opening; the Round Reading Room will remain in use until occupation of the completed building at St. Pancras. As stock increasingly moves to St. Pancras, OIOC readers needing access to the Library's main printed books collection are likely to use the new building as well as, or in preference to, Bloomsbury, since rare books will not be returned to Bloomsbury for use once they have been moved. Full up-to-date details of the book moves, and of the location and availability of the various pressmark ranges, will be provided throughout the operation.

When the time comes for OIOC to move, there will inevitably be inconvenience and disruption for a period of some months. Every effort will be made to keep this to the minimum, and the experience gained from the move out of Store Street in 1990/91 will be valuable. Regrettably, it will not be possible to maintain reader services throughout the duration of the move, and there will have to be a temporary closure of the reading room at some stage. Notice of the dates and durations of the closure will be given as far in advance as possible, but it will certainly not be earlier that 1996. As planning develops and dates become firmer, readers will be kept fully informed through OIOC Newsletter and information leaflets, and through presentations at Orbit House. There will also be opportunities for visits to the new building specifically geared to the interests and concerns of OIOC users.

Transferring to the new building will mean changes for both readers and staff. One thing which will not change is the traditionally close relationship between OIOC staff and readers, which we believe is valued and which we are determined to maintain.

(John Sims, British Library OIOC Newsletter, nos. 48-49 (Autumn 1993): 1-3)

Harvard Acquires OCLC CJK Systems

The Harvard-Yenching Library of Harvard University, an OCLC CJK user since 1988, has acquired five OCLC CJK Plus systems.

With 800,000 titles in its collection, Harvard has the largest collection of East Asian materials of any university outside Asia.

The CJK Plus system is the second generation of the CJK350 system, an automated library system of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) characters for on-line shared cataloging and resource sharing of East Asian materials. The CJK Plus system displays machine-readable cataloging (MARC) records with author, title, and other fields written in both the transliterated roman characters and in the language's actual characters.
"We are very excited about the emergence of the OCLC CJK Plus system," said Eugene Wu, Librarian of the Harvard-Yenching Library. "By adopting Microsoft Windows and state-of-the-art technology, the new system has drastically reduced our staff's learning time and increased our productivity."

"The development of the CJK Plus system illustrates OCLC's full commitment to serving the East Asian library community by providing the information in the form they require," said Andrew H. Wang, Director, Asia Pacific and CJK Services Division, OCLC. "As we rush on the journey to the twenty-first century, we intend to expand our services worldwide."

(OCLC Asia Pacific Services news release dated November 24, 1993.)

**Harvard-Yenching Library to Use OCLC for Retrospective Conversion of Korean Titles**

Harvard-Yenching Library has signed a contract with OCLC for the retrospective conversion of 17,000 Korean-language titles in its East Asian collections. The Library's Korean materials constitute the largest Korean collection in any university in the United States.

OCLC CJK RETROCON service staff will convert to machine-readable form titles cataloged between 1977 and 1989. All of the records will contain Korean vernacular characters. OCLC will also upgrade or correct subject headings, personal and corporate name headings, and series titles.

"Harvard-Yenching's Korean recon project will be applauded, as it greatly facilitates the East Asian research community's access to our large and important Korean collection," said Eugene Wu. "We chose OCLC for this project because of its proven record in providing quality CJK retrospective conversion service."

"OCLC offers the CJK RETROCON service to interested libraries, not only to help them convert their card catalogs into machine-readable records, but also to enrich the OCLC Online Union Catalog with East Asian materials for resource sharing," said Andrew H. Wang.

The project began in November 1993 and will be completed in fifteen months. OCLC has also undertaken CJK retrospective conversion projects for St. John's University in Jamaica, New York; the University of Washington in Seattle; the University of California, Los Angeles; and Washington University at St. Louis.

(OCLC Asia Pacific Services news release dated November 24, 1993.)

**Australian National CJK Project Moves Forward**

For the Australian Chinese-Japanese-Korean (CJK) Project, a shortlist of two library system vendors was decided upon on 20 December 1993. Vendor presentations were given in
Canberra on 18-20 January 1994 and site visits were made to installations of these systems in Hong Kong and Taipei at the end of January. The site visit team consisted of Bick-har Yeung (East Asian Librarian, University of Melbourne), Kerry Webb (Director, Systems Branch, National Library of Australia), and Linda Groom (National CJK Project Manager, National Library of Australia).

The vendor presentations and the site visits were extremely useful. As well as gathering information on the library systems, the team gathered much useful information on the third party input software on which these systems rely. We visited the Join and the ETen headquarters in Taipei and brought back software that was loaded at the National Library for evaluation. We also looked at several brands of handwriting recognition devices.

The decision to adopt the preferred library system was due to be made on 24 February but has been postponed, probably until late March, while we gather further information on the two systems and the various input options. We are, however, still aiming for installation of the system in July 1994 and a fully operational network around October 1994.

(From a posting to eastlib from Linda Groom dated 2 February 1994.)

Korean Cooperative Acquisitions Program Proposal Approved by the Korea Foundation

Six Korean collections in the United States formed the acquisitions program in June 1993 and submitted a proposal to develop Korean-language collections to the Korea Foundation for funding. In its letter of January 21, 1994, the Foundation notified the program members that it had approved their proposal and would provide each library an annual award of $20,000 for five years to support the acquisition of Korean materials.

The subjects to be developed by the six libraries in the next five years are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Korea Foundation Grant</th>
<th>University's Own Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Kyonggi-do, Popular Culture, Performing Arts, Fine Arts</td>
<td>Books and materials on Korea published in the Greater New York area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>Chungchong-namdo/pukto, Business History, Law</td>
<td>Books and materials on Korea published in the Greater Boston Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>Kangwon-do, Government Publications, English Language Materials, Transportation and Traffic</td>
<td>Books and materials on Korea published in the Bay Area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
All libraries interested in participating in this project should recommend titles they would like to see included in each of the six collections. Suggested titles should be sent directly to the library responsible for the areas.

Those materials acquired with funds from the Korea Foundation will be cataloged on-line, on either OCLC Online Computer Library Center Online Union Catalog or the Research Libraries Information Network, and made available free of charge to other Korean studies users through the interlibrary loan service. More information will be available at the meeting of the CEAL Subcommittee on Korean Materials in the Boston Marriott Hotel on March 24, 1994.

(Adapted from a posting to eastlib by Yoon-whan Choe dated 2 February 1994.)

Instituts d'Extrême-Orient Library Derives Records from J-BISC CD-ROMs

The Japanese section of the Instituts d'Extrême-Orient Library in Paris has been exploring since the second half of 1993 the possibility of deriving cataloging records from the National Diet Library's (NDL) CD-ROMs (J-BISC) and it might be of interest to know that this offline facility works very satisfactorily. Beside deriving records for creating catalog records, this medium offers an any-time, free access for researchers to millions of bibliographic records and a lesser amount of grey literature and contents of periodicals. These CD-ROMs (two of which are retrospective and one current) begin in 1968, but the summer of 1994 will see a forthcoming addendum of all postwar bibliographic data; this while further retrospective projects are in progress.

Records are downloaded with a database application developed here called "Asia", which produces and processes records in UniMarc format with both transcription and vernacular fields (tag 880 duplicate fields designed for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean vernacular). During an experimental trial, a little more than 3,000 records of our Japanese catalog have
already been input automatically by a part-timer sitting one hour a day for three months. These have been simultaneously converted by "Asia" from JapanMarc to UniMarc (all the fields are recoverable, but katakana fields are not considered) and from kunrei (the official transcription of the NDL for the romanized JapanMarc fields) to heibon, with their acquisition and shelf numbers added in the process. Prospects of an average 5,000 to 10,000 derived records a year are quite reasonable, even in these conditions.

The hardware configuration consists of a western standard compatible PC and its CD-ROM driver. The software is a bilingual IBM DOS 5/V (which cost slightly more than US$100 and with the existence of versions for Compaq and Digital) and J-BISC indexing software to run the CD-ROM in its DOS 5/V version. The creation of a Macintosh version also seems to be in progress.

Coupled with the records of the Library of Congress (LCMarc) and similar products coming in the foreseeable future for Chinese and Korean records, these CD-ROMs provide oriental libraries with a very powerful and dependable tool for research and record creation.

A presentation of another Japanese records processing experiment has been done earlier (see CEAL Bulletin, no. 100 (October 1993), pp. 66-67) by my colleague, David Helliwell from Oxford, dealing with the downloading of NACSIS data on-line to the Bodleian Library. Some information complementary to this experiment comes from the NACSIS Newsletter, no. 9 (December 1993) in which NACSIS proposes to institutions "participating in its Cataloging Information Service" a CD-ROM listing of their own holdings, corresponding to the bibliography which they have downloaded on-line from Japan so far.

As for the pros and cons of on- and off-line choices, discussion has been prolonged; choice depends primarily on the conditions of availability of the products and on the possibilities of library personnel to handle the products; I do not venture to reopen this discussion here, but simply to stress a few advantages of the solution we have adopted here at the Instituts' Library in Paris.

- Once the J-BISC CD-ROMs which cost about US$6,000 are purchased, they may be used all the time, without the costs of satellite communication. There is no need to be part of the lucky and happy few (very few) under contract with NACSIS.

- The operator does not need to be a professional bibliographer or a communications specialist. A good level of knowledge of the Japanese language seems to be enough to search through various J-BISC index possibilities and retrieve the titles mentioned on the acquisitions registers. The very powerful Japanese dictionary of DOS 5/V enables a large number of automatic kana/kanji conversions if necessary; it also enables one to run western made applications under a Japanese front-end processor.

- There is no need to import a Japanese laptop to perform search and download operations; a single ordinary PC operated by a DOS 5/V can handle both J-BISC processing
and the management of our library system application. Incidentally, there is no need to import a Japanese printer as well (like Japanese laptops, they may not be able to be maintained by local hardware suppliers) if you install on your PC a Japanese version of Windows 3.1 (costing less than US$200), which processes very clear kana/kanji/romaji TrueTypefonts for printing catalog lists and cards.

For further details, please contact the Japan Library Association, 1-1-10, Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154, or the Instituts d’Extrême-Orient, 52 rue du Cardinal-Lemoine, Paris 75005 (e-mail: Delahaye@oiti2.fr; FAX: (1)42271854).

(Hubert Delahaye, through a facsimile sent by Maureen Donovan, Feb. 16, 1994.)

Harvard-Yenching Library Renews Travel Grant Program

The Harvard-Yenching Library is pleased to announce the renewal of its travel grant program for 1994, to assist visiting scholars from outside the metropolitan Boston area in their use of the Japanese Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library. There will be ten grants of up to $200 each (depending on expenses incurred) to be awarded on a merit basis to scholars and advanced graduate students in Japanese studies; special consideration will be given to those residing in areas where no major Japanese collection is available. Each grantee will also be provided with free photocopying privileges of up to 100 photocopied pages.

Applications for the grant, including a brief description of research topic and estimated budget, should be submitted to:

Eugene W. Wu
Librarian
Harvard-Yenching Library
2 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

(Eugene W. Wu)