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THE SECOND JAPAN FOUNDATION SENIOR JAPANESE STUDIES
LIBRARIANS WORKSHOP:
ISSUES, IMPACTS, AND IMPRESSIONS*

Eizaburo Okuizumi
The University of Chicago

The Second Japan Foundation Senior Japanese Studies Librarians Training Workshop was held from January 18 to February 7, 1998. The purpose of this workshop was to provide information on new Japanese area studies materials, including electronic and digitized resources, and the most effective and timely means for accessing such information and materials. The broader intent of workshop was (1) to promote and encourage the exchange of knowledge among Japanese and foreign professionals in the field of Japanese studies librarianship world wide, and (2) to assist in the development of international goodwill through the medium of distinguished libraries and institutions in Japan.

The workshop sessions were conducted in large part by the National Diet Library (NDL) staff, so that the workshop might rightly be called the NDL Workshop. In this respect, we cannot praise the NDL too highly. The program worked us harder than we anticipated, but we also learned a great deal more than we could have imagined. There were twelve participants, one person each from Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Korea, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland, and the USA.

Mr. Robert Britt of the University of Washington at Seattle and Mrs. Yasuko Makino of Columbia University took part in the first workshop last year so I was the third person to attend such a workshop from the United States. The National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) was in charge of nominating a candidate to the Japan Foundation in the case of the United States, but the selection procedures were completely different in the other countries. Only in the United States was there such an organized, efficient procedure for the selection of participants.

At the workshop, I became acquainted and renewed friendships with many Japanese librarians and staff from such institutions as the Japan Foundation, the NDL, the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS), and many others. We second workshop participants are constantly receiving useful information from the previous workshop participants. As a result we have a strong, cooperative, and unified human networking of all participants to date, totaling 23 people.

I should like to begin my report by first mentioning the recent developments at the NDL which were presented at our workshop. As part of the regular staff transfer policy, Mr.

Shin'ichiro Ogata is now the Librarian of the NDL and Mr. Mineo Miyawaki recently became Deputy Librarian. Mr. Fumihisa Nakagawa succeeded Mr. Kunihiko Shimada as the Director of the Library Cooperation Department. Under Mr. Nakagawa, Mr. Akira Kado serves as the chief of the International Cooperation Division of the Library Cooperation Department, succeeding Mr. Takao Murayama. Also the director of the Institute of Library and Information Science (also subsidiary of the Library Cooperation Department) is Mr. Takao Shimamura. Mr. Yukio Yokoyama, who also contributed greatly to the workshop, is Head of the Section for Inservice Training in the Institute.

The NDL, which was established in 1948, was modeled on the U.S. Library of Congress. Around that year there were three distinguished American librarians and benefactors, namely the late Mr. Verner W. Clapp (then Assistant Librarian of the U.S. Library of Congress), Dr. Charles H. Brown (then the Chairman of the Oriental Committee, American Library Association), and Dr. Robert B. Downs (then Director of the University of Illinois Library). The basic structure and the spirit of the various services of the NDL of Japan owe much to their suggestions, memorandums, and recommendations.

This year the NDL celebrates their fiftieth anniversary. To commemorate this occasion, the NDL has been promoting the establishment of the Kansai-kan and the International

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<th>G7 Electronic Library Project</th>
<th>Japan and France are playing active roles in this project as leading countries.</th>
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<td>MeetingG7 Electronic Library Project Organization</td>
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<td>Electronic Library Projects in Japan</td>
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NDL: the National Diet Library
MOE: the Ministry of Education
MITI: the Ministry of International Trade and Industry
MPT: the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications
Children's Library [Kokusai Kodomo Toshokan] projects. These are marvelous projects which will utilize the latest and tremendous information technologies to their maximum. The Kansai-kan, which will be organizationally a part of the National Diet Library and/or the Diet of Japan, as one of the legislative bodies, will have at least two major compound functions. One function is to serve as a supply center for documents requested by both domestic and international users. The second function is to be a resource center for information on Asia and related issues. Already sixteen years have passed since the Kansai-kan project was first conceived and this new library, so-called as a National Digital Library, is scheduled to be completed in the year 2002. We hope that the Japanese government will continue its efforts to ensure that the Kansai-kan components become a reality.

Secondly, because reports already exist on other substantive issues—such as Japanese government publications, the National Diet Library's acquisition of domestic and international resources on Japan, coming virtual libraries, and international cooperation services between libraries—raised during the two workshops, I should now like to convey our group's gratitude toward our host institutions and also relay our suggestions and requests for future workshops. These suggestions, recommendations, and requests, which we compiled into a four-page list in Japanese typed form, were submitted at the last session of our workshop. The major points are the following:

1. The need for improving the capabilities of the National Diet Library's International Cooperation Division to provide reference services through fax, e-mail, internet, etc. We impatiently wait for these changes to come.

2. The need for better utilizing computer technologies to enable greater international electronic access to available information on Japan regardless of languages and formats, for example, by improving, enriching, and enlarging the National Diet Library's internet homepage.

3. The need for further cooperation between the National Diet Library and other major libraries in Japan, whether in the private or public sector, to allow for more timely services to libraries outside Japan.

4. The continued willingness of workshop participants to further assist and cooperate with the National Diet Library's International Cooperation Division. In this context, we are making every effort to meet the NDL's wishes.

The above points relate to the National Diet Library. Other comments relate to different but equally important issues:

5. The need to speed up the computerization of the Japan Foundation Library in order that the resources of the Library's Tokyo, Urawa, and Kansai branches are available world-wide.
6. The need to create an internet forum for participants of past and future workshops to exchange ideas and information. Our group proposed that the forum be coordinated by the International House of Japan Library, with the approval of the International House and the financial support of the Japan Foundation. This may require, at least, the installation of an additional computer in the International House Library as soon as possible.

7. The many merits of having workshop participants reside at the International House during the workshop, not only for the benefit of the participants themselves, but also for general members of the International House of Japan.

NOTES

1. The NCC is a standing committee which represents the community of Japanese librarians and scholars in North America.


3. The U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON) is active in the bilateral relationship in this field. CULCON consists of representatives from the Japanese and U.S. governments and from the business and academic spheres of life, plus others. Recently the U.S. Working Group/CULCON reported the following: 1) A subcommittee has been formed of the ARL/AAU Japan project to improve international document delivery of ILL services; 2) A program to train U.S. librarians in the use of NACSIS databases has been established with the support of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

4. The NDL has decided to establish the International Library of Children’s Literature in the Ueno branch library. This digital library has four systems: 1) Information retrieval system of children’s books, which links to the digitized texts, 2) Let’s enjoy multilingual picture books!, 3) Woods of Books (a navigation system for children), 4) voice interactive information retrieval system.

5. The system covers Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Thai, Turkish, Osmanli, Hindi, Persian, Vietnamese, and Burmese. The NDL catalog cards were digitally scanned into TIFE monochrome bit-mapped images and stored in the high-speed disk array. Chinese and Korean monographs can be retrieved by Japanese readings of the titles, authors, etc.
**Supplement**

The Senior Japanese Studies Librarians Training Workshops\(^1\)
(NDL), the National Center for Science Information System (NACSIS), and the International House of Japan (I-House), with the cooperation of various other organizations below.

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<td><strong>Participants</strong></td>
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\(^1\) Two attendees from Australia, England, and the USA.

** No participants from Brazil and Italy and the newcomers from Canada, Korea, Switzerland, New Zealand, and the Netherlands.

[ ] = options or sub-groupings to visit each institution and company.
Government Data Research Center  
_of Japan/Seifu Shiryo-to Fukyu_  
_Chosakai_  

Sessions (NDL & NACSIS)  
Japanese academic publications  
Government publications  
Preservation  
Classical materials  
[Gray literature]  
[Preservation]  
Japanese reference books  
Books on Japan in foreign languages  
Digital and electronic information & resources /NDL  
Acquisitions of Japanese language publications  
Networking activities of overseas Japanese studies libraries  
LC Japan Documentation Center and its Tokyo Acquisitions Facility  
International services of the NDL at NACSIS  
NACSIS and NACSIS-CAT  
NACSIS-IR  
J-BISC  
Others  
Networking/reports from representative participants  
Preservation  
[Classical materials]  
Japanese reference books  
Books on Japan in foreign languages/acquisitions  
Domestic publications/acquisitions  
Digital and electronic information & resources/services & acquisitions/NDL  
International library cooperation/NDL  
J-BISC, etc  
_Periodical Index_ (CD-ROM)/NDL  
NACSIS and NACSIS-CAT  
NACSIS-IR/IR/ILS, etc  
Processing of Japanese books/NDL  
Government publications-I  
Government publications-II  
Statistical publications-I  
Statistical publications-II  
Others  

References  


"The Japan Foundation senior librarian training program," *NCC News*, no.9 (Fall 1997). [p.1]


Makino, Yasuko. See Britt, Robert R.


Takagaki, Masako, "Second Training Programs for Senior Japanese Studies Librarians, 1998 (Tokyo, Japan)." [Unpublished. 6p.]

**Selective List of Texts** (Only the titles prepared for and delivered exclusively to the workshop participants with the exception of the published ones publicly. These are available through Okuizumi or the other concerned people for your own studies)

January 20, 1998 <NDL>.

NDL no Denshi Toshokan Keikaku to Nihon Joho eno Access Services [NDL's Electronic Library Projects and Access Services to Information on Japan at NDL]. 2 sheets. By Mr. Yasue and Mr. Uetsuki. <For more information on these topics, see NDL's internet homepage-Okuizumi>.

Nichi-Bei Bunka Koryu Kaigi no Joho Access WG no Teigen [Joint Statement of CULCON 18th meeting at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on May 8 and 9, 1997. Both chairs of the CULCON Access to the Information Highway Working Groups presented action items, etc.]


Tokan ni okeru CD-ROM Shiryo no Riyo Taisei [CD-ROMs Services at NDL] By Ms. Matsutani. 4 sheets. <List of holdings; Electronic Media Room opened on August 1, 1997. 1 server, 4 work stations, and 1 CD-ROM changer (changeable 500 CD-ROMs to date-Okuizumi>.

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan ni okeru Denshi Shuppanbutsu no Shushu [Acquisitions of Electronic Materials at NDL]. By Mr. Utsu. 2 sheets.


[Nihon no Shuyo Tokei Shiryo] [Japanese major Statistical Books and Resources]. 7 sheets. <Missing pages ?-Okuizumi>.

January 26, 1998 <NDL>.

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshukan ni okeru Kancho Shiryo [Government publications at NDL]. By Yanagisawa-san. 7 sheets.


Kyozai Risuto [List of Text on Japanese Reference Books]  
Jinbutsu Joho [Who's Who & Who was Who]  
Bijutsu Kankei Joho [Information on Japanese Arts]  
Yomi o shiraberu [Japanese Pronunciation of Chinese characters]  
Kotenseki no Sagashikata [How to find out the Japanese classics in the NDL]  
Kaisha-shi & Keizai Dantai-shi [Japanese Companies & Economic Organizations History Books]  
Kakushu no Meibo [Japanese Directories]  
Nihon o shiraberu tameno Sanko Tosho[Reference books for Japanese Studies] 31 pages in all.


Kokunai Shuppanbutsu no Shushu Gyomu [Processings of Domestic Materials at Acquisitions Division/Acquisitions Dept./NDL]. 7 sheets [<plus 17 proof pages (forthcoming as a commercial based publication /April 1998) written by Mr. Shigeji Jin-Okuizumi>.

Chikujikankobutsu Seiri Sagyo [Processing of Japanese Serials at NDL]. 7 sheets.


January 30, 1998 <NDL>.

Zasshi Kiji Sakuin to Zasshi Kiji Sakuin CD-ROM-ban [Japanese Periodicals Index and Its CD-ROMs Version]. 2 sheets. <Frequency of the current CD-ROM version will be changed from 4 times to 6 times annually starting from 1998. CD-ROM for 1975 - 1984 will be available soon; Entire coverage since 1948 to date will also be available within a few years-Okuizumi>.

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Sakusei no Database ni tsuite [Databases produced at NDL]. 9 sheets including supplements.

February 4, 1998 <NDL>

Kotenseki Shiryo [Japanese Classics and Rare Books]. 5 sheets.

Shiryo no Hozon Shufuku [Preservation and Restoration at NDL]. 3 sheets.