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THE ASIAN SERIALS ONLINE CHECK-IN PROJECT OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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The Asian collections of the Library of Congress are rich in research materials on Asian studies in about 185 Asian languages. In previous articles in the *Journal of East Asian Libraries* my Library of Congress colleagues and I have discussed these rich resources by language, subject or format. In this article, I would like to introduce our comprehensive East Asian active serial collection and describe how their holding records, being attached to the bibliographic records, were converted into online check-in system in 2007-2008. The online system now provides holding information for all of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean active serials to East Asian studies researchers in every corner of the globe, and allows them to make more efficient plans for coming to the Library of Congress to carry out research.

Background of Project

In 1995 when the Library launched a major project of converting its Western language serial collection to an online check-in system, the Asian serials were deliberately left out of this project because the Library's in-house automated system, Voyager, lacked the capability of handling Asian scripts. In subsequent years, after Asian scripts became available on Voyager, the Asian Division consistently sent in annual budget requests for converting the Asian serials. Eleven years later, the Associate Librarian, Dr. Deanna Marcum, identified a sum of \$250,000 left un-spent in FY06. She assigned these funds to the Asian Division at the end of September 2006. The Asian Division then identified the Stanley Company, who had previous library contracts with LC, to take on this conversion.

In 2006, the number of East Asian serials in the Asian Division was 12,054 titles active serials and 26,050 inactive titles. The sum of \$250,000 provided to the Asian Division was insufficient to convert all of these titles to the online system. Hence, we decided to select for conversion all of the active CJK titles, as well as frequently used and high in research value inactive titles.

The language and subject breakdown of these titles is as follows:

Chinese titles 6,256 titles

Science and technology	20%
Social science	20%
Language/literature	15%
Philosophy	10%
Military	5%
Education	5%
Various subject	25%
• Fine art	
• Psychology	
• Religion	
• History	
• Music	
• Agriculture	
• Medical	
• Geography	
• Political	

Japanese titles 6,228 titles

Language & Literature	25%
Social Sciences	20%
Statistics	
Economics	
Finance	
Science & Technology	20%
Education	5%
Military	5%
Philosophy	5%
Various subject	20%
• Fine art	
• Psychology	
• Religion	
• History	
• Music	
• Agriculture	
• Medical	
• Geography	
• Political	

Korean titles 1,234 titles

Social science	20%
Language/literature	20%
North Korean	15%
Religion	10%
Philosophy	10%
Military	5%
Education	5%
Various subject	15%
• Fine art	
• Psychology	
• History	
• Music	
• Agriculture	
• Science and technology	
• Geography	
• Political	

Total 13,660 titles

At the end of February 2008, the serial online check-in project was successfully completed. The successes of this project enabled the Asian Division to make history at the Library of Congress in the following areas:

- Established serial check-in records for all current active serial titles in Chinese, Japanese and Korean.
- Ended the history of the Asian Division performing manual check-in of CJK serial titles in cardboard visible files in this information technology era.
- Converted existing serial holdings online for active and inactive serial titles from visible files.

History-making Project

The completion of this project is the most important accomplishment of the Asian Division in recent years. Being able to view Asian serials online and learn their holdings not only excited the scholarly Asian Studies community, it also has improved the workflow of library services among several divisions at LC. These divisions include Serial Records Division, Asian Division and several Asian Acquisitions units. Most importantly, it greatly reduces Asian Division's not-on-shelf (NOS) retrieval rate for serial titles; and it also enables the Asian Division to increase productivity while ensuring accuracy and quality of the operation.

Impact on the East Asian Studies Community

Having available online the collection holding information for active CJK serials pleased the entire East Asian studies community even before the completion of the project. Many anecdotes were heard about how researchers found their long-sought serial issues in the LC's online public catalog. Many users expressed their approval and praise to LC and the Asian Division through email and verbal conversations. For example, a scholar in Australia expressed his appreciation that he could sit at his home leisurely planning his research subjects from studies of Chinese women of the 1920s to the state-of-the-art scientific development of Japan by searching LC's CJK online serial holdings. We feel that our efforts in placing CJK serial holdings online have been rewarded.