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**MEETING SUMMARY NORTH AMERICAN COORDINATING COUNCIL
ON JAPANESE LIBRARY RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CONFERENCE ROOM C205
OCTOBER 23-24, 2009**

*Electronic versions of reports listed in **Bold Italics** are available on the NCC Website at URL:
http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/minutes09october/minutes_09_march.html*

Present: Tokiko Yamamoto Bazzell, NCC Chair; Keiko Yokota-Carter, NCC Chair-elect; Victoria Lyon Bestor, NCC Executive Director; council members Maureen Donovan, Ohio State University; Hitoshi Kamada, University of Arizona (meeting host); Dawn Lawson, New York University; Robin LeBlanc, Washington and Lee University; Laura Miller, Loyola University of Chicago, (NEAC representative); Haruko Nakamura, Yale University (Council on East Asian Libraries representative); Chiaki Sakai, University of Iowa; and Peter Young, Chief of the Asian Division Library of Congress (LC representative). Absent council members: Michael Bourdaghs, University of Chicago and Akio Yasue, Gakushuin University (Japan Liaison). Observers: Michael Brewer, University of Arizona Libraries; Ian Finnesey, Rapporteur, University of Arizona; Michiko Ito, University of Kansas; Lars Leon, University of Kansas; Margaret Mihori, Japan-US Friendship Commission; Tomoka Miyamoto, University of Arizona; and June Tateno, NetAdvance/JapanKnowledge.

Tokiko Bazzell welcomed the group and Hitoshi Kamada introduced his colleague Michael Brewer, who spoke briefly about University of Arizona Libraries strategies for ***“Staying Relevant in the 21st century.”***

Reports from Funding Agencies:

Margaret Mihori gave the Japan-United States Friendship Commission report. Materials were distributed at the meeting. She noted that interest rates remain low and funding sources are increasingly feeling the impact of the economic downturn and high unemployment. The Commission has gone to one grant-making session, each September, with an August 1st deadline. The next CULCON plenary meeting will be June 10, 2010 at Library of Congress. The agenda is being drafted with a focus on Arts and Culture, and Education. A number of issues were discussed to bring to CULCON’s attention. An important problem noted is the extremely high costs of licenses for Japanese digital resources and the extent to which Japan is rapidly falling behind information providers from Korea and China, both of which are making their digital information cheaply and readily available to users abroad.

NCC noted that access to Japanese databases is very limited for scholars at smaller institutions and providing better access to Japanese information for those who are teaching undergraduates and training the next generation of Japan scholars seems to be in CULCON’s interest.

Japan Foundation no longer sends a representative or staff member to NCC meetings. All agreed that this creates problems with dissemination of information within the field.

It was mentioned that Japan Foundation would support a conference at Berkeley with directors of major centers (essentially the Tanaka Ten institutions). Given Japan Foundation's past assertion that they want to support the field more broadly especially in the South and Middle West it seems odd that they are meeting only with the major institutions. Scholars at smaller institutions fear this may only increase disparities in the field. Despite cutbacks the major institutions still have the strength and solvency to act independently and do not feel the need to collaborate with smaller institutions in their region or to participate in regional seminars, which are often the only professional venues for those at small institutions.

It was noted that NCC will have no Japan Foundation support during 2010-11. Japan Foundation explained to NCC that in the most recent preliminary round there were 59 applications for funding, 42 were not asked to apply in the final round (NCC among them). NCC was told to definitely reapply in the future and it was reiterated that JF knows NCC is doing important work. As evidence of that Japan Foundation advised all the 42 rejected applicant institutions to look to NCC for support because we are such a useful resource to the field.

Council members reviewed programs cuts already made; the number of NCC meetings has been cut to one per year, the administrative budget has been cut, more programs are piggybacked with others to optimize time and travel costs. During 2010-11, without JF funding, NCC will have to struggle to support its one meeting a year. One member suggested that perhaps NCC may have to hold its meetings in an airport hotel rather than on campus to conserve on travel and lodging expenses. That would eliminate on campus programs and the presence of faculty and student observers, and would reduce chances for NCC to get direct faculty feedback; therefore such a strategy should be a last resort.

Attendees also expressed concern about Japan Foundation's future in the new Japanese government, and the major reviews of many government-funded projects through *Jigyo Shiwake*.

Reports of Representatives to NCC from Collaborating Organizations and Constituencies:

Peter Young gave the *Library of Congress (LC)* report. He was happy to report that LC has a budget this year rather than operating on a continuing appropriations basis, as has been the case in recent past. He noted that LC's 2010 budget is secure, unlike many other libraries. A major problem is space. LC has offsite storage at Fort Meade, which will be sufficient for only another 3-5 years.

Given the declines in staffing among many other libraries it was asked if LC could provide more service offsite. Offsite access is not in LC's core mission and any changes in LC policy must come via Congress, Library of Congress does not make such decisions alone. However the copyright office's requirement that electronic copies be available for onsite access may create opportunities for offsite access for open source material.

Peter Young noted that LC attends NCC so they can use information for collection development purposes. Therefore NCC is a forum that provides input from the field to help LC in determining their collection development policy. It was noted that the Asian Division acquired

the complete works of Osamu Tezuka (via a used book dealer), which is an important contribution to popular culture. However current publishing of manga is not happening in print, rather in born digital form. How will we in North America deal with digital pop culture? It is important for all parties to work together and there is need for a more systematic feedback loop for what is demanded by users.

The ***Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)*** report was given by Haruko Nakamura. Future directions being considered by CEAL include a forum on library open access and organizational challenges and, possibly, a survey on collaboration for collection development.

A question was raised about how CEAL uses its funds and how in the future CEAL and NCC might collaborate more efficiently. There is discussion about possibly holding joint meetings at the 2011 CEAL meetings in Honolulu (NCC, CJM, CKM). NCC is unique because of its good communication with and representation of faculty on NCC. Therefore NCC plays an important role for CEAL in keeping faculty needs in the forefront. CEAL used to have faculty members and used to meet during AAS. That has become impossible due to tight AAS scheduling and competing faculty interests.

It was suggested that NCC organize another AAS panel for 2011, both because that timing makes NCC programs more available to scholars and the room expenses associated with programs on the formal AAS program are supported by the AAS budget.

Japan Liaison's Report - (written report from Akio Yasue). Because of other commitments Akio Yasue, NCC's Japan Liaison was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Tokiko Bazzell led the discussion of his report.

A major topic of discussion was the new law, "Management of Government Documents," enacted in July 2009, to be implemented during the next two years. Major changes in the management of Japanese government documents and Japan's archival system will result. NDL has responsibility to collect government documents through a depository system. The new law covers all levels of government from the national to the local level and gives NDL authority to do web archiving of documents without permission.

In addition, Japanese Copyright Law was also modified to allow NDL to digitize any Japanese publications for the purposes of preservation without permission of the copyright holder.

Masaya Takayama, named the director of National Archives, is a scholar and library professional who truly understands Archives. It is expected that under Mr. Takayama the Archive's outreach role will be expanded, putting many more resources on the web. There were questions about the responsibilities and lines of reporting between NDL and the National Archives of Japan. NDL is under the Diet, the Archives under the Prime Minister's office. Issues of the division of labor remain and thus far there has been little collaboration between NDL and the National Archives. It is hoped that this new leadership will improve the potential for collaboration.

Laura Miller, the NEAC representative, offered the report for the ***Northeast Asia Council of AAS***

(2 documents). She reminded members that NEAC is part of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) and manages a distinguished lecture series, as well as the John Whitney Hall Book Prize, which must be nominated by publishers. Better publicity is needed to encourage more presses to submit books for the Hall Prize. NEAC also administers grant funds for Japanese studies and is trying to clarify its grant guidelines to tighten application criteria. This round NEAC received 52 proposals for short term travel to Japan, 14 were funded. Short term grants are intended for brief trips for completing a project, and are not for starting new research.

To reiterate criteria for applications to NEAC she noted that applicants must be AAS members. NEAC plans to use Japan Foundation's 2 month limit to define "short term" grants. NEAC's definition of Japan-related research does not include Japanese-American studies. Grants are made in the form of reimbursement only. All expenses must be fully incurred upfront, original receipts must be submitted, and recipients should document other funding that matches that received from NEAC.

Recently proposed topics include Literature in Buddhism, teacher education, house building, writings on Christianity in Japan, political activism among women, the importance of liberal arts education, advertising, the sale and consumption of tobacco, Zainichi films, and the war crimes trials.

Other issues that have come up include proposals from people in other fields who need interpreters (asking grants to pay such fees); those that want to pay for human subjects (ethically problematic); providing more support to expand social science participation at AAS, especially political science and economics. With cuts being seen in faculty and staff funding to attend professional meetings it was noted that in such fields AAS is not the principal venue in which jobs are advertised and interviews done. Many younger scholars are attending disciplinary professional meetings and if they must make a choice may not be able to attend AAS. Increasingly it seems the core of Asian Studies is centering on history, literature and cultural studies.

NCC Council members thanked NEAC for funding travel of faculty and graduate students to attend the January 2009 Faculty Forum at Princeton. It was noted that, with declining travel funds for faculty, NEAC money made a dramatic difference in the number of those who could attend.

NCC Committee and Task Force Reports:

ILL/DD Committee co-chair Chiaki Sakai introduced Michiko Ito & Lars Leon of University of Kansas. Together they will succeed Chiaki and Amy Paulus as ILL/DD co-chairs in January 2010. The Council discussed strategies for expanding GIF and developing better ways to interface with the North American ILL community. Lars gave a brief summary of the "Rapid" inter-lending system. The committee is also committed to making better communications between OCLC and NII and to promote their meeting face-to-face.

In the absence of MVS Co-chair Michael Bourdaghs, Vicky Bestor reported on the **MVS Committee**. The MVS written report by Michael Bourdaghs and Sanae Isozumi was reviewed.

With the end of Japan Foundation Library Support Grants, MVS is the only program that makes grants for Japanese studies collections. MVS is a model for distributed circulation of materials and annually accounts for more than \$100,000 in collection development purchases. MVS now has a new fully online application process using PDF and word documents.

With the new decade, it is time for another periodic review of MVS. Previous recommendations included the searchable database and has led to expanded formats being included in MVS. The key question the MVS Committee asked the Council to discuss was whether MVS should do more to support smaller institutions or if NCC should consider re-allocating some or all MVS funding in light of growing needs for digital resources nationally. The 3-D Conference will provide further chances to evaluate MVS, and any change must be approved by the JUSFC.

This discussion was carried directly into the report by the *Digital Resources Committee*, given by Chair Dawn Lawson. Following up on themes discussed in the MVS discussion, a key focus of DRC discussion was on future strategies for dissemination of resources.

The Korean Collections Consortium's (KCC) digital resources licensing project with the support of the Korea Foundation was an important example reviewed. It offers a huge package of resources via ekoreanstudies.com, containing virtually all major Korean databases in one package. The KCC was originally modeled after the NCC and has developed excellent collaboration with the Korea Foundation. The KCC project was begun with the vendors going to librarians find out how much libraries could pay and then negotiating on a yearly basis. The project has a tier pricing structure ranging from Group A – National Libraries – \$17,000 per year, Group B – large programs consortia, Group C those with a full time Korean librarians, Group D with part time Korean librarians, down to Group E – those with just one Asian studies librarian, \$5,800 year. The Korea Foundation covers 40% of licensing costs up to \$5,800 per year. For example, NYU in Group E pays \$3,000 for virtually every Korean publication, 11 databases, 5,000 ebook, well-referenced classic texts. There are 23 schools currently in the project. Reportedly Korea saw this effort as a public information opportunity of international import.

Members discussed how to encourage Japan to see the value of such a resource distribution strategy. Comments and questions included:

Is Japan guilty of “information hoarding?”

Is Japan losing an important public information race with China and Korea?

Japan is so strong in popular culture that's where soft power comes from. Don't they realize that further dissemination of resources is a cheap way to keep Americans aware of Japan's important role as a chief ally? This is especially important in undergraduate education. The new US ambassador to Japan is interested in software and the internet. How can the ambassador be engaged in these efforts?

Perhaps there should be an NCC white paper looking at the Korean model, perhaps with a title like “what if we did this with Japan?” Vendors need to know how many isolated

students there are. One member commented that it is surprising that Japanese publishers have not analyzed the market to this degree. Shouldn't they have anticipated the extent to which this need is unmet?

It was noted that Japan's publishing culture is still very conservative, often privately held, and still very print-oriented. That is why Japanese newspapers have not been more openly available to the US market. The major firms are the most conservative. Asahi needs to stop being so complacent about their position and realize that scholars are citing Yomiuri. Is there a way to quantify how much recent scholarship was driven by the fact that Yomiuri offered a free subscription for a week? Japanese newspapers need to be broadly available through consolidators like LexisNexis.

As a further part of the Digital Resources Committee's discussion Dawn Lawson demonstrated some of the LibGuides she has developed. Coordinating the development of such vehicles may be a way for NCC to help create and promote a comprehensive series of online instructional materials to be contained or linked from the NCC Website. Such formats could offer a menu of options for licenses. It was pointed out that to be fully available to all potential users materials must be user-friendly, especially by those without specialist librarians. There may be a useful role for NCC in coordinating such a project, which will also avoid duplication of efforts and the promote the creation of comprehensive materials.

Hitoshi Kamada briefly reported on the *Librarian Professional Development Committee (LPDC)*. In this economic environment there is little money for professional development, therefore the LPDC is creating a list of available training options and publishing it on the NCC website. LPDC is also starting a blog for junior Japan studies librarians to exchange training opinions. Also available online is Sachie Noguchi's *Report on Tenri Workshops* completed June 2009, as well as links to websites developed in relation to the Tenri Workshops. The LPDC will also host links to the Tenri trainee's site known as OJAMASG, <http://www.jlgweb.org.uk/ojamasg/introduction.html>.

The written reports of the *Japan Art Catalog Project (JAC)* were reviewed. It was noted that Mariko Shiratori reported that the Freer Gallery might want to limit the catalogs it received to contemporary art. This may provide the opportunity for creating a third JAC collection in the US focused on pre-contemporary Asian Art. The Council discussed what procedures it should undertake to solicit proposals from institutions that might want to hold that collection. First it must be determined what Freer regards as "contemporary" and also whether Freer wants to continue to hold its pre-contemporary catalogs or would they want to send them to the new location for a pre-contemporary collection. Vickey will speak with Reiko Yoshimura, Curator of the JAC Asian Collection, and find out Freer's specific goals and further discuss things with NACT.

Friday, October 23, 2009, 2009: Afternoon Session (1:00 to 4:30)

Professor Philip Gabriel, Director of East Asian program at University of Arizona, welcomed the NCC and apologized for being unable to attend due to other obligations in connection with the Western Conference on Asian Studies (WCAAS).

NCC Reports on Major Recent Projects

In the absence of Akio Yasue, the IUP Co-Chair the report on the IUP project was given jointly by Tokiko Bazzell and Victoria Bestor. The Image Use Protocol Website, completed in April 2009, has become a very popular and well-used site.

The first of a series of IUP Workshops was given at the 2009 AAS to a capacity audience. Subsequently workshops have been given at University of Maryland in April 2009 in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the Gordon W. Prange Collection. International IUP Workshops were also given in Sydney, Australia at the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA, July 2009) and at the European Association of Japanese Resources Specialists at the Sainsbury Institute of Japanese Culture in Norwich, England (EAJRS, September 2009). Future workshops are planned for Toronto (January 2010) and in Hawaii in the spring.

Tokiko Bazzell also discussed the creation of an IUP Workshop tool kit which incorporates Powerpoint slides and outlines how individual workshops can be tailored to an institution's needs. Written reports on IUP from *Eiko Sakaguchi on JSAA, Izumi Koide on EARJS and on 2009-10 Workshops Planned*, are on the NCC Website.

NCC Administrative Reports:

Tokiko Bazzell made her final report as NCC Chair. Funding is NCC's continuous challenge and takes up an increasing amount of staff time, further limiting that which can be spent on program activities. There is some hope for new sources in Japan. Perhaps there will be future opportunities presented by the National Archives of Japan and the recently founded Toshokan Shinko Zaidan, which especially aims to develop foreign training opportunities for Japanese librarians. Unfortunately their funding profile does not exactly fit what NCC currently does. NCC was encouraged to apply, and did apply for funds to bring people from Japan for 3D conference, but that request was not funded.

NCC must also continue to work on deepening relationships with organizations with larger funding including new Zaidan and private funders (Kodansha, etc.), as well as the Nippon Foundation.

Tokiko Bazzell and Keiko Yokota-Carter reported briefly on the recent electronic elections of NCC Council members. Those elected were Michiko Ito to be ILL/DD Co-chair beginning January 1, 2010, and Fabiano Rocha and Setsuko Noguchi, whose terms begin July 1, 2010.

Given the timing of the upcoming NCC 3-D Conference in March 2010, it was agreed that publication of Annual Newsletter # 23 would be delayed and new formats will be explored. Online publication may become the primary means of dissemination, with only a small paper print run in the future.

Vickey Bestor gave the Executive Director's Administrative Reports, including that on the close of FY 2008-09, and projections for the coming year. During 2008-09 NCC received excellent support for the IUP project and Conference, and for 2009-10 generous support has been

received for 3-D. However for the 2010-11 fiscal year the budget will be extremely tight and additional measure will need to be taken to hold NCC's now once-yearly Council meeting. Suggestions included requiring all members to use double occupancy rooms and possibly to hold meetings in an airport hotel. Chief support was acknowledged from the Japan US Friendship Commission. The Japan Foundation was the second largest funder of 2008-09 followed by Toshiba International Foundation, the Reischauer Institute at Harvard, University of Toronto Libraries and others. During 2009-10 JUSFC continues to be the lead funder with both general program support and principal support for the 3-D Conference. Japan Foundation will complete its IUP funding in 2009-10 and no JF funding will be received in 2010-11. Other 2009-10 support comes from Toshiba International Foundation, Northeast Asian Council of the AAS, and the University of Pennsylvania Library and Center for East Asian Studies.

Special Planning Session on 3-D Conference (in two parts),

The discussion began with a effort to clearly articulate the goals of 3-D and to fully understanding the product(s) which must come from 3-D. A list of action items needs to be produced, with a clear timeline coming out of the conference, related both to the development of funding proposals and program implementation over the next few years. Decisions about future directions of the NCC must be informed by recommendations made at 3-D.

Key questions that the Council must reflect upon include:

- What is/are NCC's distinctive competence(s) at the end of its first 20 years?
- What happens if we reinvent NCC?
- How do we focus on keeping things manageable?
- How do we do the most in a time of scarcity?

3-D is an important opportunity for NCC to market its services. It is vital to involve more faculty and international participants. NCC is the repository of a massive amount of highly specialized knowledge that faculty need. 3-D has the opportunity to generate the very high energy, positive climate that the IUP Workshop at AAS had. Faculty should go home saying, "Man those librarians really know what they're doing." Council members noted the important model of the IUP Conference in Tokyo, which was an occasion for open and frank discussion in which the group came to realized the depth of miscommunication that exists. More must be done to help people realize the outreach and communications potential of the NCC, and the IUP example must be kept in mind.

Peter Young's role as facilitator will be to lead a discussion that takes the products of the break out discussions and synthesizes them into concrete recommendations that constitute an action agenda. From these activities, recommendations for actions must be made as concretely as possible. Concluding discussions on 3-D were deferred until Saturday morning.

The day ended with discussion of recommendations for the new Japan Liaison position to replace Akio Yasue when his term concludes in June 2010. Qualifications were discussed: it must be someone who knows the Japanese library world well and who speaks excellent English to be able to fully participate and report. The recommendations received from previous Japan

liaisons were discussed. The Council discussed the range of possible candidates to succeed Akio Yasue and approved a ranked short list. Final discussions with candidates will be delegated to Mr. Yasue and Keiko Yokota-Carter during her trip to Japan. The next Japan Liaison takes office on July 1, 2010 and it would be ideal if that candidate could attend the 3-D Conference.

Saturday Morning Session, 9-1 pm.

Discussion of the content and format of the 3-D Conference continued. It was agreed that 75% of the program should be breakout sessions. Those should include both "propositions" with action questions to be discussed and "best practices" sessions, which will offer specific training or examples of best practices that can be "taken away" by participants.

It was agreed that the program should begin with a session with a range of faculty by rank, discipline, and institutional size. It is very important for more faculty to attend 3-D, but many will not have the funds. A grant to support such travel is before NEAC (and was subsequently funded).

A session with National Librarians (Makoto Nagao and Deanna Marcum) moderated by Patricia Steinhoff was also planned for the first morning.

The remaining 75% of the conference will be focused around six sessions, which reflect critical issues that NCC must address and important trends in the field that require the review or update of relevant "best practices." These must include sessions that focus on additional ways to deepen librarian-faculty collaborations that make use of the continued growth of interdisciplinary resources for undergraduates. New technologies both for preserving and revealing collections, and for social networking were also identified as critical areas.

The 3-D planning group and members of the NCC Executive Committee will formulate the final program over the coming weeks.

New Business, Future Meetings, Projects and Discussion Items:

A brief discussion was held about the Second Faculty Forum in connection with the Western Conference of the AAS. Programs in conjunction with regional AAS meetings simply do not attract many people. Trying to piggyback NCC's meeting onto a regional AAS meeting was suggested by the Japan Foundation. However, faculty attending the conference were unable to attend a program before the WCAS began because of teaching, and during the conference they were committed to attending other programs. It was suggested that NCC propose programs for the AAS 2011 program (for which the deadline is early August 2010). One topic that was suggested was something on licensing coming out of the 3-D Conference.

Discussion of location, dates and agenda planning for the Fall 2010 Council Meeting took place. The NCC is looking at the University of Chicago. Members advised against a summer meeting because libraries are increasingly requiring librarians to take their full vacations at that time and there may be additional furloughs added at that time. Further email discussions will decide

the date.

Retiring Chair Tokiko Y. Bazzell made comments and reflected on her term.

Tokiko noted that her predecessor, Toshie Marra, challenged NCC to continue to increase fund-raise to support NCC services. Toshie advised that it would get more challenging, and she has been right. NCC has worked hard to cultivate other funding sources and to investigate new funding organizations during the past three years. NCC has met with success in supporting the IUP project, in funding the 3-D Conference, and in beginning to cultivate new donors.

However, to continue to succeed it is necessary for NCC to cement its operational infrastructure. There are two main issues that must be resolved; one is to determine what primary focus of the Executive Director's work should be: Should the number one focus be programmatic or administrative (including fund-raising)? If it is programmatic, how can administrative needs be handled? If it is administrative, how and by whom will NCC programs be managed?

Tokiko also spoke of the essential support that a chair must receive from their home institution. When she became chair UH gave her a 15 hour-per-week assistant. Most of her work for NCC was done on nights and weekends. The role of the chair is a big one and continues to expand with NCC programs.

Similarly, the Executive Director's duties have expanded far beyond the half-time position currently funded. NCC and Japanese studies have benefited from the Executive Director's extra work, which has made it possible for NCC to accomplish more goals, faster. NCC has also benefitted from that institutional continuity for more than a decade now. The status quo, however, is unfair to the executive director, and is not sustainable. This must change in the future. At the 3-D Conference no doubt important and ambitious projects will be identified. NCC can continue to lead in those projects only if its infrastructure is secured and its personnel expanded.

On behalf of NCC council members Chair-elect Keiko Yokota Carter thanked Tokiko for her great leadership during a term with two major conferences: one to solve the problem of online newspapers and the other on Image Use. Tokiko was presented with a small token of appreciation from the NCC for her dedication, a pin selected especially for her by Keiko Yokota Carter.

University of Arizona Libraries and the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona hosted these meetings.

Travel and accommodations for Council Members are supported by grants from The Japan US Friendship Commission and the Japan Foundation (*observers listed in italics*)

Electronic versions of reports listed in ***Bold Italics*** are available on the NCC Website at URL: http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/minutes09october/minutes_09_march.html