Committee Activities

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

I. Annual Report of the CEAL Chairperson

After the pinyin crisis of 1979-80, a relative calm prevailed over the East Asian library community during the period under review. Perhaps the two areas in the field where most significant developments took place are automation and cooperative collection development.

Toward automated bibliographic control of East Asian materials, we began a giant stride forward in the form of the East Asian character support enhancement project of the Research Libraries Group (RLG). Having received most of its funding, RLG started last fall the project aimed at developing the capability to enter, manage, store, transmit, and output new bibliographic records containing East Asian scripts in machine-readable form. As reported in the last annual report, on November 30, 1979, RLG entered into an agreement with the Library of Congress (LC) whereby LC will cooperate in the project and, when the system is developed, LC plans to catalog East Asian vernacular titles on-line into the RLG data base. All the inputted records will be in the public domain and will be made available to all users. Currently, two LC staff are members of the RLG CJK Task Force and are actively participating in the project. Another non-RLG member of the task force is Karl Lo, Chairperson of the CEAL Task Force on Automation and National Union Catalog.

During the year, another giant step forward was taken when the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) announced its expanded East Asian acquisitions program, to begin in fiscal 1981-82. The program is funded by a five-year $250,000 grant from the Ford Foundation and an allocation of CRL's own funds up to $65,000 annually. Planning for the program has started, and we should like to see that CRL collect the kinds of materials most useful for us to have at a central depository such as CRL. CRL, which will make its expanded holdings of East Asian materials freely available to libraries, either directly or through photocopy, forms a very important link in our national network of collection development coordination; and the CEAL subcommittees on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean materials look forward to working with CRL.

Turning to the CEAL housekeeping items, I am pleased to report that the first popular election of CEAL officers is now proceeding smoothly and in orderly fashion. In accordance with the CEAL Procedures, which were revised at the last annual meeting held in Washington, D.C., we are electing five subcommittee chairpersons for the three year term of 1981-84. Next year, we are to elect the CEAL Chairperson and four Executive Group members, also for a three year term. The eligible voters are CEAL members in good standing and with voting rights: members of the Association for Asian Studies, Inc. who are also individual subscribers of the CEAL Bulletin.

Reports of subcommittee and task force chairpersons will follow this report, but I should like to comment on a few of their activities.
After four years of dedicated service, Richard Howard retired as Chairperson of Subcommittee on Publications and Editor of the CEAL Bulletin with the issue Number 61. We are deeply indebted to him for the superb job he has done. We are also extremely fortunate in having Edwin G. Beal, Jr. agree to take over the subcommittee chair and editorship of the Bulletin with the Number 62. He has done a marvelous job in editing and has also introduced several promising innovations. The first of these was the introduction of advertising, as had been suggested by former Chairpersons Eugene W. Wu, and (earlier) James S.K. Tung. As a result, Bulletin Number 63 carried two pages of advertisement; as of this writing, Number 64 will have seven pages of advertisement. Since we no longer receive any grants from the AAS or its Regional Councils to partially defray the cost of publishing the Bulletin, we simply cannot over-stress the importance of such advertising income. Another project into which Dr. Beal has put much effort is to have Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China distribute a questionnaire to American scholars receiving grants from the Committee for research in China. These scholars are being asked, working in cooperation with their Chinese counterparts when appropriate, to assemble information, for possible publication in the Bulletin, on the resource materials which they use in China and their availability. The letter of request and accompanying suggested list of questions have been distributed to those who are in PRC, to those who are going to the PRC, as well as to those who have recently returned from China. The forms have started to come back from the scholars; and we expect to see valuable information published in the future issues of the Bulletin.

Certainly, a very important event in the American library scene is the recent implementation of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, second edition (AACR2), by the Library of Congress and most other libraries. This change wrought largely in preparation for full scale automation of cataloging will no doubt have a great impact on cataloging practice, catalog maintenance, initial adjustment for the change-over, etc. The Subcommittee on Technical Processing has been preparing an AACR2 Workbook for East Asian Catalogers, not only to help smooth out the transition, but also to deal with special problems in applying AACR2 to East Asian materials. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor in the near future.

The Directory of East Asian Collections in North American Libraries, 1980-81 edition, was issued in January of this year. Complimentary copies of the Directory were sent to all subscribers of the CEAL Bulletin as well as to all those institutions which supplied information for this edition. Additional copies are available at $4.00 per copy from the Committee on East Asian Libraries at its New Haven address. Two new features introduced in this edition are inclusion of clerical and technical assistants for all the institutions and a roster of retired members of the East Asian library community. They are in tribute to a now relatively stable corp of clerical and technical assistants, who are assuming increasingly more responsible roles in the library, and those who have contributed long years of service to the profession and may be available for consultation and for their wise counsel.

(Hideo Kaneko)
II. Reports of CEAL Subcommittees and Task Forces

Subcommittee on Chinese Materials

During the period of April 1980 to March 1981, the membership of the Subcommittee has consisted of C.P. Chen, California (Berkeley); Tao-tai Haia, Library of Congress; Antony Marr, Yale; Chester Wang, Wisconsin; and Weiying Wan, Michigan. The appointment of this Subcommittee was for one year. The nominations for membership were approved by the Executive Group.

The open meeting of the Subcommittee held last year was to a large extent devoted to the exchange of information and to discussion of the exchange of publications with Chinese libraries. Minutes of that meeting were kept and were later distributed to all those who attended. One of the topics discussed at the meeting was the elusive and often short-lived periodicals of political activism. Mr. P.Y. Chang, Chinese Bibliographer at the East Asiatic Library, University of California (Berkeley), has now completed A Union List of Suspended Periodicals Published in Taiwan on Contemporary Taiwan Issues, 1970-1980, which includes the detailed holdings of nineteen collections.

The Subcommittee has continued to collect and report information on the Chinese publishing industry and Chinese publications as well as Chinese libraries and library science.

The Subcommittee has provided consultation to the ACLS Committee on the Study of Chinese Civilization, regarding archival materials and photo-reproduction; to the East Asia Subcommittee of the CRL (Center for Research Libraries) Committee on Centralized Acquisitions for Cooperative Use in Support of International Studies, regarding the collection of Chinese materials; and to the CEAL Chairperson, regarding the solicitation of reports on research materials and facilities in China from those scholars who have conducted research in China under the sponsorship of the Committee on Scholarly Communications with the PRC.

(Weiying Wan, Chairperson)

Subcommittee on Japanese Materials

The themes of continuity and concern have characterized the activities of the Subcommittee during the year 1980, since the time of its meeting in Washington, D.C., in March. Attention and consideration have been given primarily to the implementation of some previously initiated programs, while only a few new proposals have been made by concerned librarians. The dearth of new concrete proposals may be accounted for by such factors as the interim status of the current Subcommittee, the Chair's reluctance to take an initiative, or the members' realization of the limits of the current Subcommittee's capacity for action. It should be noted, however, that the same common concern and mention of problems calling for joint solutions at the national level have been frequently conveyed to the Chair by members and other fellow librarians.
Let me summarize the activities and projects of our organization in several major areas. First, the Executive Group of CEAL approved the Chair's nomination of the same seven Subcommittee members for the interim period of 1980-81. Second, the following two programs are currently being implemented, and a report of progress on them will be submitted at the forthcoming Annual Meeting in March: (1) A survey of librarians' views on the second National Workshop and (2) improving interlibrary loan services, through CEAL action, to non-major Japanese collections. Third, I am pleased to report that several Subcommittee members have recently submitted for publication in the CEAL Bulletin accounts of recent and notable Japanese acquisitions by their libraries. Fourth, while a proposal for compiling supplements to the Fukuda bibliography of Japanese reference works is still pending, some Subcommittee members have organized excellent librarians' panels during recent months at regional AAS meetings in the Washington, New York, and Pacific/West Coast areas. Lastly, of some new proposals voluntarily communicated to the Chair by individual librarians, I would like to call your attention to that of gathering up-to-date information on potential candidates available at library schools and elsewhere for vacant positions in libraries with Japanese collections. This topic, along with others, may be presented for discussion at the March 1981 Subcommittee meeting in Toronto.

(Eiji Yutani, Chairperson)

Subcommittee on Korean Materials

This report focuses not on what the Subcommittee planned and achieved during the past year, but rather on what is still in the planning stage.

When I accepted appointment to the post of interim Chairperson of the Subcommittee, my primary objective was to initiate planning for the following two projects. First, to survey the holdings of local Korean newspapers (mostly vernacular newspapers published in the United States and Canada) and to reduce them to microfilm. At present, the Harvard-Yenching Library is subscribing to eight such newspapers, and several others are sent to us as gifts. When each subscription was begun, we specifically asked the publisher whether he was willing to lend us for microfilming the entire file from the first issue. So far, we have received two affirmative responses but have yet to receive replies from the other publishers. Because the complete file of each newspaper is small, the Subcommittee, with the cooperation of other East Asian libraries, could microfilm them and share the expense. Alternately, we could ask the Center for Research Libraries to do the microfilming, since that Center is planning to expand its East Asian collection, particularly the serials section.

Secondly, I propose the compilation and publication of a union list of Korean serials held in major research institutions in the United States, including the Library of Congress. To compile such a holdings list for Korean serials would not be so costly as for comparable lists of Chinese and Japanese serials. We are aware that Mr. Karl Lo of the University of Washington is pioneering a machine-readable database of serials in East Asian libraries, but this database will not have the capacity to process vernacular script,
such as Chinese characters. This will limit the intelligibility of titles and other items of bibliographical description, and thus will be inconvenient for users. There appears to be a good likelihood that, depending upon the outcome of negotiations, we may receive a grant from a foundation in Korea, once the compilation of such a list is complete, which would make it possible to publish the list in Korea, making full use of the vernacular script.

(Sungha Kim, Chairperson)

Subcommittee on Publications

In the past year this Subcommittee has organized for reproduction and publication two issues of the CEAL Bulletin (nos. 62 and 63), and had nearly completed the material for no. 64, of which the manuscript was being typed in final form at the time this report was written (early February 1981). The Chairperson of CEAL, Mr. Hideo Kaneko, has collected material for, and has supervised the publication of, the annual Directory of East Asian Collections in American Libraries.

The Subcommittee has undertaken two other projects of which the results were becoming apparent when this report was written. The first of these was an attempt to assure the future of the CEAL Bulletin by soliciting advertising, as had been suggested by former Chairpersons Eugene W. Wu and James S. K. Tung. A letter of solicitation was drafted for the signature of the Chairperson; it was translated into Chinese by Mrs. Effie Y. H. Chen and into Japanese by Miss Ryoko Toyama. It was then sent to 31 book dealers and publishers in the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Taipei. By the time this report was written, advertisements had been received from the University Press of Hawaii; from M.E. Sharpe, Inc., of White Plains, New York; from the Chinese Materials Center Inc., of Taipei and San Francisco; from the Japan Publications Trading Corporation of Tokyo, Japan; from the Panmun Book Company, Ltd., of Seoul, Korea; from the Universal Book Company of Hong Kong; and from Far Eastern Publications, Yale University. Most of these companies have agreed to advertise in three consecutive issues of the Bulletin.

The Subcommittee also drafted for the signature of the Chairperson a letter to be presented to grantees of the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, asking that they describe, for possible publication in the Bulletin on a continuing basis, the resource material which they use during their period of research in China, and that they recount their experiences with libraries, archives, and other research sources. This letter, accompanied by a brief questionnaire drafted by Dr. Ramon H. Myers and translated into Chinese by Mr. Antony Marr, together with an endorsement from Mr. Halsey L. Beemer, representing the CSCPRC, was presented to the grantees who were being briefed on November 10, 1980. Mr. Beemer has also informed us that he is taking copies of the letter and questionnaire to China with him to distribute to the grantees who are already there. A similar letter, with appropriate changes, was drafted for distribution to the grantees who have already returned from China.
With the purpose of facilitating both editing and Manuscript Preparation for the Bulletin, I propose that certain simple guidelines be drawn up regarding the preparation of items which are to be submitted for publication. These guidelines, which would prescribe procedures to be followed in such matters as spacing, numbering of headings, underlining, and several other matters of this type, would produce a greater uniformity of format in the material sent in for publication. A draft of such guidelines should appear in the Bulletin in the near future.

(Edwin G. Beal, Jr., Chairperson)

Subcommittee on Technical Processing

This Subcommittee called a special meeting during the 1980 CEAL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., to study the impact of AACR 2 (the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules) on East Asian cataloging. Sixty-one librarians attended the meeting to hear the reports of three speakers invited by the Subcommittee. These were Beatrice Chang Ohta, Head of the Chinese and Korean Section of LC's Descriptive Cataloging Division; Ayako Hayashi, Head of the Japanese Language Section of the LC Shared Cataloging Division; and Choo-un Chang, Head of the Asian Materials Section of the LC Subject Cataloging Division. (These reports were published in CEAL Bulletin, Number 62 (June 1980), pp. 54-68.)

During the remainder of the past year, members of the Subcommittee were working on an AACR 2 Workbook for East Asian catalogers. The aim of this project is to provide clear and timely examples for the use of the major AACR 2 rules for East Asian publications. Preparatory work for this project included sending one of the Subcommittee members to the ALA/LC AACR 2 Institute held August 21-23, 1980, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. If everything goes smoothly, a first and preliminary draft of the workbook may be ready for public examination by the middle of March 1981, when CEAL has its Annual Meeting in Toronto.

As in previous years, the Subcommittee continues to edit the column "What's New In Technical Processing" for each issue of the CEAL Bulletin. This column seeks to cover major issues and new events in East Asian cataloging and to report on the Subcommittee's activities.

(Thomas H. Lee, Chairperson)

Task Force on Automation and National Union Catalog

The major event of the year is the announcement by the Research Libraries Group, Inc., that they have started the necessary planning and development to put East Asian scripts into their "bibliographic utilities," especially the Research Libraries Information Network. "In addition," quoting from the Research Libraries Group News, no.2 "RLG has entered into an agreement with the Library of Congress whereby the two organizations will cooperate in the developmental phase of the project, and when it has been successfully concluded, LC will begin cataloging all Chinese, Japanese, and Korean
vernacular material on-line into RLG's Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) data base." This, of course, is predicated on the assumption that at that time the required financial resources and other necessary facilities are available to the Library of Congress. It is hoped that at least such script capability will be developed in 1983. The Library of Congress has also announced that it plans to put into machine-readable form—wholly romanized—cataloging information for those East Asian publications which are assigned "minimal level" cataloging. LC hopes to begin this in 1981.

On the union catalog front, the University of Washington has begun a year-long project funded by the Ford Foundation to put its East Asian serials records with holdings, in romanized form, into the Washington Library Network. In addition to the on-line database, the Project will also produce COM (Computer Output Microform) for the serial records, as well as provide archival magnetic tapes to other networks that wish to load this MARC-format tape. They can also be used by other networks to attach their holdings to this database. Thus, a union catalog of serials could emerge.

The Task Force did make some effort to produce a standardized glossary of terms on East Asian language automation; but owing to the relatively small number of writings in English on the subject, it is difficult for the members to define precisely the terminology for practical usage. A few members have indicated their conviction that such standardization of terminology should be an objective of the Task Force, because a clear definition of terminology could stimulate and facilitate active discussions of the subject.

Members of the Task Force at different occasions traveled to East Asia and observed the progress of automation there. The progress in technology among computer manufacturers took a dramatic leap in development during the year. Several Japanese companies have developed new terminals and software that in many respects surpass the technology of data-processing in America, while manufacturers in Taiwan have begun to offer several Chinese character systems on the open market.

Many Japanese systems have been developed, of which the following are the most notable, and are those which perhaps will have the most significant impact on the future of library operations in America. The Japanese National Diet Library has revised the Japan-MARC to make it more compatible with UNI-MARC. Taiwan, at the time this report was written (January 1981) was about to announce a Chinese MARC and a set of communication codes for some 5,000 Chinese characters. The first commercial on-line information database in Japanese was made available for use in Japan. In Taiwan a database on Chinese education is also available. Additional products resulting from major technological breakthroughs may be expected to appear on the commercial market in 1981.

Internationally, library automation of East Asian scripts seems to be imminent. CEAL must step up its efforts to consolidate its activities and coordinate the activities of its members for the new era.

(Karl K. Lo, Chairperson)
Task Force on Library Resources and Access

This Task Force, which is a successor to the former Subcommittee on Resources and Development, but is of a more temporary nature, was formally appointed in September 1980, with the immediate assignment of conducting the 1980 survey of East Asian library resources and scholars' access to collections in North America. In order to expedite the process, this Task Force was composed of only three members: James K. M. Cheng (Chicago), Naomi Fukuda (Michigan - ret.), and Thomas C. Kuo – Chairperson (Pittsburgh), with Professors Tsuen-hsün Tsien and William L. Parish of the University of Chicago as Honorary Consultants.

Since the 1975 survey conducted by Professor Tsuen-hsün Tsien was most comprehensive, we decided that the new study would solicit only up-dated information on resources, processing, unit costs, fiscal support, staffing, circulation, and access. In designing the questionnaire, we consulted as many colleagues as we could. We are particularly grateful to John W. Haeger, Hideo Kaneko, Karl Lo, Warren Tsuneishi, Weiying Wan, and Eugene Wu for their valuable suggestions. The questionnaire was distributed on November 26, 1980, to some 110 East Asian collections in North American libraries. Despite the fact that we had tried our best to simplify it, our colleagues still have had to take time to answer the questions. We deeply appreciate those who have cooperated in this important undertaking.

At this writing, many copies of the questionnaire have been returned to us. We hope that the remainder will arrive soon. We shall then tabulate the result and give a report at the CEAL Annual Meeting in March. The final publication will be at a much later date.

I would like to take this opportunity to make one suggestion for consideration at the next Annual Meeting, namely, the compilation of a handbook on library resources on East Asia. Professor T. H. Tsien first proposed this project at the CEAL Annual Meeting in 1975. Ever since the Subcommittee on Resources and Development was organized in 1974, Professor Tsien had been Chairperson of that Subcommittee. Its primary function was to plan a national program for the future development of East Asian libraries. At the Pittsburgh Conference of November 8, 1974, members of the said Subcommittee (T.H. Tsien - Chairperson, Warren Tsuneishi, Eugene Wu, and Thomas C. Kuo - ex officio) developed a national program for resources development, bibliographic control, access, and training, which was the basis for the work of the ACLS Steering Committee for a Study of the Problems of the East Asian Libraries, whose work is being continued by the East Asian Library Program under the direction of Dr. John Haeger, with the support of several foundations. Also, under the chairmanship of Professor Tsien, the said Subcommittee conducted a comprehensive survey of the then status of East Asian libraries, which was published in 1976. However, the compilation of the aforesaid handbook, which is urgently needed for resource-sharing among libraries, has not yet been accomplished. Therefore, I hope that a more concrete plan for this project will be proposed and discussed at the forthcoming Annual Meeting.

(Thomas C. Kuo, Chairperson)