Cooperative Library Activities in East Asian Studies Between Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Wen-chouh Lin
Edward Martinique

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The cooperation which at present exists between the East Asian Librarians at Duke University and those at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (hereafter abbreviated: UNC-CH, which is the commonly-used acronym for the latter institution, even though the official union catalog symbol is NcU) is limited almost exclusively to the purchase of books. This contrasts with the many-phased cooperation which now exists between the East Asian Collection of Stanford University and the East Asiatic Library of the University of California at Berkeley. But even our limited program of cooperative action in our North Carolina institutions derives from agreement between librarians at a high level of authority in our two libraries. It has been through larger cooperative activities in other fields between our libraries that the cooperative acquisition of East Asian language materials has developed and operates at the present time.

Cooperation between the Duke and the UNC-CH libraries, which are situated only ten miles apart, began over 45 years ago, when the Joint Committee on Intellectual Development, created by the administrators of both universities and composed of members of both university faculties, suggested that the two libraries exchange catalog cards, provide public service for each other's patrons (which included creating a system of transportation that would facilitate interlibrary loans), and venture into cooperative acquisitions. The exchange of catalogs of the holdings of the two libraries, made possible by funds donated by the General Education Board of New York, afforded the libraries the opportunity to coordinate the development of the collections of both libraries.

The libraries decided to build suitable concentrations of material for use in graduate studies and research work. In specific sections of general fields of knowledge where members of the faculty of one of the universities declared an interest, their library developed the book collection in that section. In the many cases in which faculty interest in both universities converged in one subject area, the subject was subdivided and each library assumed the responsibility of building a collection in that subdivision. Another division was made of the files of expensive serials and journals, public documents, and learned society publications. While one library completed the file of an expensive journal in a particular subject field, the other library used its funds to acquire a different journal in that
subject field instead of duplicating the first journal. What duplication there is in such an arrangement is confined to books for undergraduate instruction and works needed for use in the professional schools. By sticking to this cooperative program for over forty years, the two libraries have brought their combined resources to the point at which the libraries can be ranked among the first ten great libraries of the United States.¹

The Duke - UNC-CH cooperative library program was the earliest to be undertaken in the Southeastern United States and one of the earliest attempted in the entire country. The impetus to cooperate gained momentum when the General Education Board of New York again in December, 1935, granted the two libraries $50,000 to purchase materials cooperatively. None of the titles purchased, which were in the fields of the biological, physical, and social sciences, and in English literature, were duplicated.² In 1940 a cooperative venture between Duke, UNC-CH, and Tulane University began in Latin American studies, financed by a $25,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1954 North Carolina State University (NcRS) at Raleigh and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro*(NcGU) joined the cooperative program initiated by Duke - UNC-CH. Finally, under the stimulus of Federal Government funds allocated through the Joint National Defense Education Act, both of the original partner libraries began in the middle 1960s to build collections of East Asian materials.

At the UNC-CH library Ms. Regina Szu-lin Ro began buying Chinese-language materials late in 1964 to aid the research and teaching programs offered by Professors Robert Rupen and Lawrence Kessler in the Departments of Political Science and of History. In 1967 Duke University made the decision not to go into Chinese studies, but to build up a collection of materials in Japanese studies. This was decided despite the existence of the James A. Thomas collection on China at Duke, a gift of books from a businessman in the tobacco industry in China. The building of the Japanese collection at Duke was begun by Professor Bernard S. Silberman of the Department of History.

As soon as both libraries had committed themselves to their separate areas of interest in East Asia, they began buying expensive materials together, these materials being housed in the most appropriate library. Several of the G. K. Hall book catalogs of East Asian collections were purchased in this manner. The catalog of the Asia Library of the University of Michigan was purchased jointly; the Japanese language volumes went to Duke and the volumes of the Chinese collection to UNC-CH. The library catalog of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London is housed in Duke's library; the volumes of the catalog of the East Asiatic Library of the University of California at Berkeley are housed in the library at UNC-CH.

These exercises in cooperative buying were carried out long before any written statement was made describing the extent and processes of the cooperation. As the number of courses of study in East Asian subjects grew, especially in the 1970s, the interests of the faculty members and graduate students at both universities crossed over into the areas of the collection responsibilities of the partner library. In such circumstances it was agreed that the library responsible for an area would purchase material
dealing with that area if requested by a patron from the other campus. This verbal agreement has operated successfully since 1975 and is the foundation upon which is based the present activity of cooperation in acquisitions.

It was only in November, 1979, that a written policy statement was produced. Titled "Duke - UNC-Ch Cooperative Acquisitions Program: East Asian Area Collection Development Policy Statement," it sets down Duke University's responsibility for the collection of resources dealing with Japanese history and culture, and UNC-Ch's similar responsibility for collecting in Chinese history and culture. Within these broad subject areas, more definite emphases in collecting have developed in each library and these are listed in an appendix to the policy statement. The Japanese collection at Duke stresses Japanese history of the Meiji period, post World War II politics and government, documents on Japanese foreign policy, the social and economic conditions of modern Japan, the study and teaching of the Japanese language, collections of Japanese literature, collections of the arts in Japan, Buddhism and the religions of Japanese origin, general and subject bibliographies of Japanese studies, and academic journals in the sciences produced in Japan.

The library at UNC-Ch in its East Asian collection development program emphasizes Chinese history from 1644 to the present, classical and modern Chinese literature, modern East Asian economic and political history, Chinese language studies, and Chinese religion. It collects representatively works in the Chinese humanities. Besides these areas, it acquires materials in two special areas of interest: Christian missionary enterprise in China and the writings of travelers in 20th century China.

This division of labor between the two libraries has lessened the possibility of duplication of their collections. Another hedge against buying duplicate titles is the act of notifying the East Asian librarian in the partner library that one intends to buy an expensive book in the partner's area of responsibility. This situation arises when a member of the faculty of one institution needs material which he must use closely in his research but which is ordinarily acquired by the other library. Exchanges of this kind of information between the two libraries are important aids in building the collections and avoiding expensive duplication. Indeed, there is at the present time discussion of the possibility of trying to eliminate all duplication in the collections of the two libraries except for reference works.

This is the current extent of library cooperation in the field of East Asian studies between Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. One other minor activity belongs to this cooperative project. The UNC-Ch library receives the Library of Congress' printed catalog cards for works in the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages. Those Japanese catalog cards that do not go into the East Asian Biblio-Center's name authority reference file are passed on to Duke's East Asian language cataloger, who uses them for his cataloging. This procedure was put into practice without a hitch because the cooperative acquisitions project was running so smoothly and the librarians involved kept in such close communication.

That this cooperation will continue to grow and to widen seems evident when we consider current endeavors in the larger arena of library cooperation among
the three universities of the North Carolina Triangle Area. The Triangle Universities Library Cooperative Committee (TULCC), made up of librarians from Duke, UNC-CH, and the North Carolina State University at Raleigh (NCRS) has an active subcommittee working in cooperative collection development. Collection development in East Asian studies is one part of the larger cooperative program and its implementation is being reviewed by the subcommittee. Many new factors will have to be considered in the review. For example, the creation of the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke in 1980, made possible by an exceedingly generous grant from a Japanese businessman, has as part of its plan an improvement of the Japanese collection there. In July of the same year the North Carolina Japan Center, located on the campus of the North Carolina State University at Raleigh, was opened. It is a state agency that has been created to promote educational and business interest in Japan. It will develop Japanese language competency in faculty members in the university's departments whose specializations are as unlike as textile marketing and theater. The Center's programs are bound to have an effect on the library collection at the North Carolina State University. At UNC-CH in Chapel Hill the Japanese language courses have been increased and will be made part of the East Asian Studies Curriculum in the fall semester, 1981. The need for materials these new enterprises will create at all three institutions will undoubtedly alter the present cooperative arrangements.

A prospective bus system to operate between the three universities will lessen the desire to add material that belongs in one of the other libraries to the library where a faculty member might desire such material. The increased facility with which interlibrary loans between the three campuses can be transacted is a further advantage of the proposed bus service. Indeed, one of the most persistent blocks to an efficient and continuing cooperative program has been the lack of transportation. This daily bus system will have an extremely pronounced effect on cooperation between the Triangle Area universities.

At this point in time, the librarians involved in cooperative acquisitions of East Asian materials at Duke University and UNC-CH can look back to an active six or seven years of cooperation and forward to many more years of increased mutually beneficial projects. The combination of the present collections of Japanese at Duke, Chinese at UNC-CH, and English-language East Asian technology, commerce, and agriculture at North Carolina State University creates in the North Carolina Triangle Area an outstanding East Asian research center, a large part of which was built by interlibrary cooperation.

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