Committee Activities

Beatrice Chang Ohta
I. Subcommittee on Technical Processing

The annual meeting of the Subcommittee on Technical Processing was held in Room La Galerie 5 of the New Orleans Marriott Hotel on April 11, 1991 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The meeting began with a report on the reorganization taking place in technical services. Boksoon Hahn (Yale University) spoke of Yale's establishment of self-managing teams, an organizational change motivated by the introduction of a local online system and a need to involve the staff in self-management. The objective was to improve quality as well as quantity of work. Changes began in October 1987 with the founding of a reorganization task force. The formal reorganization plan was proposed in June 1988 and Day One of the reorganization began April 1, 1989. Under the plan, processing services consists of twelve teams and the data base management department has two teams. Each team has four to twelve members, made up of both librarians and support staff. Team members received training in management skills and team work. The benefits have been a greater awareness of the library system as a whole, the staff at all levels are involved in making decisions, there is high morale and high productivity. Beatrice Ohta (Library of Congress) outlined the move to Whole Book Cataloging at the Library of Congress (LC). The current Descriptive Cataloging Division, Shared Cataloging Division, and Subject Cataloging Division will merge. New management techniques will be introduced with team work and library-wide consultations. The Cataloging Director will coordinate a Cataloging Policy Office, Decimal Cataloging Division, Enhanced Cataloging Division, Cataloging-in-Print Division, Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) Editorial Division, and five cataloging divisions. These divisions will be organized by subject and by language. Chinese-Japanese-Korean (CJK) efforts will be part of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division. There will be Japanese I and II teams and a Chinese I and Chinese/Korean II team. The Library of Congress is still in the planning stage but may begin some new procedures by the end of the year.

Karen Smith-Yoshimura (Research Libraries Group, Inc.) spoke next on "Character Set Standards: Potential Impact on the East Asian Library Community." She described how character sets for CJK characters in both the Online Computer Library Center and the Research Libraries Information Network follow the same standards developed ten years ago. When the American national standard meets character sets of another standard, a translation must be made so that transmission can be sent and received without distortion. On an international level, there is an attempt to develop one super standard set for CJK characters. Therefore, a unicode of characters common to Chinese, Japanese, and Korean has been developed by major computer software manufacturers and the Research Libraries Group. Unicode has also included expanded characters from each language group. The hope is to be able to add characters to unicode-type products in the near future and, indeed, some large vendors are implementing unicode products already.

William McCloy (University of Washington) next described the Western Library Network (WLN) which serves 550 libraries in the Northwest. He concentrated on WLN's unique link to an authorities system. There are two authority files: the Library of Congress NAF/SAF files and the WLN authority file linked to bibliographic records. An incoming record is compared with the authority file. If there is no match in the authority file, a new heading is automatically made. Global changes
are carried out in one step. There is a capacity to find linked items and to review and check for quality control. WLN CJK records are in roman form only with parallel vernacular fields stripped out of the tapes, but the MARC Record Service, which provides service to non-WLN members including authority control service, will keep the CJK parallel fields in the full MARC tapes.

The first half of the meeting ended with a discussion of cataloging practices from the public services point of view.

Richard Howard (Library of Congress) began with a historical review. Prior to 1958, CJK cataloging was largely done on handwritten cards with title-subject access and no universal standards. From 1958 on, CJK cataloging came into the mainstream by requiring standard library cataloging practice. This brought about a need for new subject headings to accommodate East Asian topics. The Far Eastern Language Catalog at the Library of Congress was kept up to 1984 and is still the principal tool to access the CJK collection. 1984 saw the advent of complete MARC CJK records which resulted in greater manipulation of search procedures when compared with the card or book catalogs. The automated catalog, however, has little appeal to users who shun the terminals in favor of book catalogs and staff help. Howard suggested that the reference staff needs to know how to manipulate the MARC record better since a critical control of subject headings and LC classification is the basis of intellectual control of information. Another problem is that Library of Congress Subject Headings become dated or change. The Library will thus convene a national congress to discuss improved subject access. The final point was the observation that the LC cataloging practice of separating multivolume sets by subject is a problem to the user who would prefer that sets be cataloged under one classification number.

Karl Kahler (University of Pennsylvania) discussed recent studies that show an increasing searching sophistication on the part of the user in the online environment. He suggested that the present methods for romanizing CJK works and the ways of searching by CJK scripts, however, is very user unfriendly. Librarians, therefore, must rethink retrieval strategies. The switch to pinyin romanization of Chinese will be an improvement for most users, but there is still the need to develop new combinations of CJK and romanized searching methods. Kahler seconded Howard's call for a change in LC practice in handling multivolume sets so that the set would be shelved as one unit. Beatrice Ohta asked for a response from the audience. Since the overwhelming consensus was for the proposed change, Ohta will discuss this with appropriate persons at the Library of Congress.

After a short break, three speakers discussed cataloging from a cataloger's point of view.

Mengfen Su (Harvard University) examined ways of romanizing Chinese works published in Korea or Japan and suggested that the practice should be romanization for the primary intended audience with alternative romanization included in added entries. She also discussed problems of editions and of series numbering. Mariko Shimomura (Princeton University) presented some questions and answers about Japanese cataloging. She discussed ways of describing the statement of responsibility, transcription of the title proper, romanization practice changes, and the handling of texts with commentaries. She called for a new guide to cataloging CJK rare books since the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd Edition* rules for rare books are so western oriented. She pointed out sources to use when cataloging Japanese rare books, and suggested rules when cataloging kanbun texts. Joy Kim (University
of Southern California) presented some problems of subject headings for Korean literature, especially for works in Chinese by Korean writers. (See her article on this subject above in this issue of the *CEAL Bulletin*, pages 3-10.) She reviewed LC's general practice for Korean literature written in Chinese. She recommended a change in LC's practice of seeing Chinese works written by nationals in other parts of East Asia as being a part of Chinese local literature. Instead, it should be viewed as a part of the particular country's literature.

Beatrice Ohta next outlined LC's decision to change from Wade-Giles to the pinyin romanization of Chinese. She distributed the draft of a proposal for pinyin word division and asked for responses by July 30, 1991.

Karl Lo (University of California, San Diego) briefly discussed his computer program that will convert Wade-Giles to pinyin through the use of a Microsoft Window. He suggested that this alternative would be a cost-effective way to bring about the switch to pinyin.

(Beatrice Chang Ohta)