Committee Activities

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

I. Subcommittee on Korean Materials

Summary Proceedings of the Korean Materials Subcommittee Meeting
Annual Association for Asian Studies Meeting in Washington, D.C.

1. Patterns of technical processing of Korean materials

There are various patterns for the processing of Korean materials due to different staffing patterns and budget situations.

A collection without a Korean librarian needs to seek linguistic assistance from outside the library for the acquisition and description of Korean materials. Non-Korean librarians create records on the basis of the data supplied by their linguistic assistants. One option as sought by Ohio State University Library is contracting out the task. They sought outside contractors and tested the qualities of their cataloging. They are in the process of selecting one contractor.

Most Korean collections are staffed with one Korean professional and one full or half time assistant. The professional usually is responsible for both acquisitions and cataloging, with the assistant providing routine and mechanical processing such as adding characters to outgoing orders and inputting data into computers.

Traditionally, Korean collections have been understaffed and the recent increased volume of Korean publications makes the situation worse than before. With shrinking staffing budgets, it is highly unlikely that the Korean collections will be granted additional staff to relieve the situation. The only way out of the plight seems to be in the automation of the acquisition system which will reduce the time for the maintenance of acquisitions files to one tenth of what manual systems require.

Catalog cards and orders can be produced in bilingual scripts, and labels and various lists can be produced from the automated PC online system.


The Korean Section became an independent unit within the Asia Division. It has expanded its services and functions since then. It has published a bibliography on Korean manuscripts in the United States and added two staff to support the increased tasks. Dr. Yang sponsored a preconference meeting for the enhancement of library services to Korean studies and expects to sponsor a full conference to expand dialogue between scholars and librarians later this year.
3. Union list of Korean serials in academic libraries.

The union list will cover all serials published since 1945; the total is expected to reach approximately 900 to 1,000 titles. The holdings will show those for the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Hawaii, the University of Washington (Seattle), Princeton, and Yale. It will be an online data base updatable at regular intervals. Yong K. Choo was granted $4,000 for this project from the Association for Asian Studies Korean Studies Subcommittee. The preliminary list will be distributed to the eight collections mentioned above for recording their respective holdings. The list will be completed by the end of 1992.

4. Status of library automation in Korea reported by Moo-jae Pak.

Library automation in Korea is in the development stage; that is, most efforts are being pursued locally and there is no centralized national plan.

Character coding for han’gul and hancha is limited and far from complete. The most widely used code for Korean characters is KSC5601, but it is still inadequate because it does not include a sufficient number of codes for Chinese and Japanese.

Machine-readable codes for bibliographic materials is in the final stage of development by the National Central Library. It includes serials and audiovisual materials.

Three national libraries are developing integrated online systems independently of one another.

The National Central Library is in the final stage of developing a "Central Library Automation System", details of which will be released in the near future.

The National Assembly Library has developed three online systems: Online Information Retrieval System, Bill Information Retrieval System, and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs System for, respectively, periodical articles, the proceedings of Assembly sessions, for retrieval of the text of bills, and, lastly, for retrieval of documents on foreign affairs.

The Korean government is developing a comprehensive national network, consisting of CSL and SIN. Both systems are for improving access to scientific and technological information.

The project is supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and will create a national network for science and technological information, which participating institutions may draw upon.

Three academic libraries, Seoul National University Library, Yonsei University Library, and Ewha Women’s University Library are developing their own online systems. None of these
libraries has completed an integrated automation system yet, one which includes selected functions such as cataloging and acquisitions or automated public access.

Korean libraries suffer from lack of standardization for bibliographic data structure and also from the incompatibility among systems of different libraries.

5. **List of Korean reference sources by Mr. Eugene Chai.**

The current list is still available but it will be updated in the near future and distributed next year.

With that announcement the meeting was then adjourned.  

(Yong Kyu Choo)