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Meetings and Conferences

Hideyuki Morimoto
William Wong
Mihoko Miki
Ju-yen Teng
Maureen H. Donovan

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES


The National Central Library of the Republic of China is pleased to announce an upcoming conference on national libraries entitled "National Libraries – Toward the 21st Century". This conference will be taking place on April 20-24, 1993 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the National Central Library in April of 1933. The focus of the conference will be to discuss the mission of national libraries and to plan for the further development of national libraries into the 21st century. Central to this development will be an emphasis on greater use of library resources and automation. Moreover, an equally important theme of the conference is to expand cooperation and exchange between national libraries.

The members of the organizing committee cordially invite the directors of national libraries and scholars with research interests in the area of national libraries to attend. Sponsoring the conference with the National Central Library are the Library Association of China and the Center for Chinese Studies. If interested in the conference "National Libraries – Towards the 21st Century", they would be happy to send you a prospectus which contains further information about the conference. Please write to:

Secretariat
Conference Organizing Committee
National Libraries – Towards the 21st Century
National Central Library
20 Chungshan South Road
Taipei 10040
Taiwan, Republic of China

FAX no.: 886-2-382-0747 (Hideyuki Morimoto, through EASTLIB)

Annual Conference of the University of California and Stanford University East Asian Librarians (Irvine, CA: August 21, 1992)

The Eighth Annual Conference of the University of California and Stanford University East Asian Librarians was held at the University of California at Irvine (UCI) Library on August 21. With a general theme of "Success Through Cooperation," the committee reports and panel discussions covered collaborative collection development, cooperative cataloging and retrospective conversion, sharing and exploiting standard texts and reference resources, and interlibrary loan (ILL) services improvements.
Thirty participants representing UC and Stanford and invited guests from the University of Southern California and Claremont Colleges attended this extremely productive one-day meeting. Highlights included the adoption of a proposed strategic plan for East Asian library materials; agreement on using Share Collection Acquisition Project funds for purchasing major sets of Chinese local gazetteers; and applying for federal grants to support retrospective conversion. James Cheng of the University of California at Los Angeles East Asian Library will take the leadership role on the acquisition and cataloging projects. Although individual libraries explained local restrictions on interlibrary loan procedures, there was a consensus that lending policy in East Asian journals and other research materials should be liberalized. The ILL Task Force chaired by Phyllis Wang of the University of California at Davis will forward its recommendations to the Heads of Public Services group for action. The group also recommended enhancing reference by utilizing electronic exchange of information.

The East Asian Newspapers Project and the Comprehensive Collaborative Collections Program which started in the previous years were declared completed. The group agreed to urge the individual library administrations to sign off on the documents required to make the agreements final.

A high point of the conference was the keynote speech by UCI Vice Chancellor Anne Spence at the luncheon held at the University Club. Dr. Spence emphasized the importance of library resources to support the curriculum programs and research projects on campuses. Using a quotation, "Success is a journey, not a destination," as an inspiring guide, she encouraged various cooperative projects among libraries. The audience was thrilled that Dr. Spence was reinforcing the University policy in supporting collection development and other library service programs.

In the process of planning and preparing this conference, Joanne Euster, Michael Homan, Judith Paquette, Ruth Boyer, and Steve MacLeod offered their advice and support. The Conference participants were especially grateful to Dr. Euster for her warm welcome to UCI. The staff of the UCI Special Collections Department conducted a special display on Asian arts for the conferees.

(From UCI Library Items 22, no. 16 (September 8, 1992): 1-2; William Sheh Wong)

Japanese Studies Librarians Workshop (Los Angeles: April 1993)

The Workshop for Japanese Studies Librarians is to take place in Los Angeles on March 23-24, 1993, two days prior to the annual meeting of the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL).

The CEAL Subcommittee on Japanese Materials has received a grant from the Japan Foundation to conduct the workshop for librarians who are responsible for dealing with Japanese materials. Dr. Gordon Berger, the former Chair of the Association for Asian
Studies Northeast Asia Council, has concurred with the Subcommittee about the importance of librarians’ education and has offered to sponsor the workshop. For this reason, Subcommittee members are indebted to Dr. Berger as well as to the University of Southern California.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide basic skills and knowledge and also to provide training for librarians working with Japanese publications. Specifically, the participants will gain knowledge of the Japanese publishing world, trends, online systems, and data bases in Japan, basic subject bibliographies, collection development, reference sources and services, and cataloging of Japanese materials.

The tentative schedule of the workshop is as follows: on the morning of day one we will deal with the Japanese publishing world, the book trade, dealers, libraries, online systems and data bases in Japan, and nonbook materials; the afternoon will be devoted to acquisitions and selection of materials; the morning of day two we deal with reference books and services and subject bibliographies; the afternoon will be spent on cataloging.

The schedule above is still tentative. We wish to focus our workshop topics according to the needs of the participants as closely as possible. Therefore, it is essential for the Subcommittee to know the specific subject areas individual librarians wish to study at the workshop. Participants should articulate their needs in their applications.

The number of participants for the workshop is twenty. If there are more than twenty applicants, the Subcommittee members will vote to select twenty. The participants will be provided with the cost of meals and two days stay at the conference hotel. Assuming librarians will attend the ensuing CEAL annual meeting, the costs of transportation to Los Angeles and to the hotel are not covered.

Application forms were sent out September 1, 1992 and should be returned by the 20th of October to: Mihoko Miki, East Asian Library, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1575.

(Mihoko Miki)

Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (October 23-24, 1992: Tucson, Arizona)

The 1992 annual meeting of the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies was held on October 23-24, 1992 at the Student Union of the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Professor Chia-lin Pao Tao of the Department of East Asian Studies was the Chair of the Conference. Thirty-eight panels had been organized, and one of them was on East Asian Librarianship. The title of the panel and the members of the Committee on East Asian Libraries who participated in the conference were as follows:
Friday 3:34 p.m.-5:15 p.m. October 23, 1992

FACING THE NEW DECADE IN EAST ASIAN LIBRARIANSHIP

Chair: Gene Hsiao, University of Arizona

Hideyuki Morimoto, University of Iowa, "Staffing and cataloging productivity in East Asian collections: cross-sectional/cross-temporal assessment."

Sharon Domier, University of Oregon, "Beyond the basics: education for future East Asian librarians."

Ai-Hwa Wu, Arizona State University, "Experiences and problems in retrospective conversion."


All the participants engaged in the discussion following the papers.

Ju-yen Teng was in charge of the Book Exhibit at the conference. Twelve vendors and one library, the National Central Library of Taiwan, participated in the Exhibit.

(Ju-yen Teng)


The Fifth Japan-U.S. Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education was held at Tokyo University's Sanjo Conference Hall. The thirty U.S. participants included several Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) members (Maureen Donovan, Amy Heinrich (who presented a paper, "Is This The Library?: Japanese Library Resources in the United States"), Hideo Kaneko, Hisao Matsumoto, Mihoko Miki, Emiko Moffitt, Eizaburo Okuizumi, Karen Smith-Yoshimura, and Warren Tsuneishi). There were forty-four Japanese participants. The Program opened with keynote addresses by Hiroshi Inose, Director General, National Center for Science Information System (NACSIS) ("Information Technology and Society: Libraries at the Crossroads") and W. David Penniman, President, Council on Library Resources ("Libraries and Scholarly Communication"). On the last day of the conference there was a special speech from Stanley N. Katz, President, American Council of Learned Societies ("The Humanities and the Future of the Research Library").


This meeting, the fifth in a very successful series of conferences, was characterized by lively exchanges of information and ideas among conference participants from the United States and Japan. One exciting piece of news was that NACSIS may be available through the Internet as early as Spring, 1993, although procedures and policies regarding access to NACSIS by non-members are still being discussed. In general, the issues and challenges which face librarians in both countries are increasingly similar in nature, something which allowed the conference participants to find many areas which seem appropriate for future cooperation and collaboration.

(Maureen H. Donovan)

European Association of Sinological Librarians 12th Annual Conference, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, 10-11 September, 1992

The European Association of Sinological Librarians (EASL) met at the Bibliothèque Nationale September 10-11, 1992. The meeting was chaired by Thomas Hahn (Heidelberg), with thirty-three members and four observers present. An opening address was given by the Aministrateur-Général of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie. The agenda included a report on the EASL visit to the CEAL meeting and the East Coast libraries of the USA. This was followed by a lively discussion on the association's constitution. Probably the most interesting part of the meeting for all in attendance were demonstrations of three different configurations of ALLEGRO-C being used in Berlin, Heidelberg, and Oxford. This library catalog software currently works with Guobiao (Berlin) or Big Five (Heidelberg, Oxford) codes and has enabled these three libraries to develop OPACs which display vernacular bibliographic information. Each library has been able to develop the input configuration and display according to the local priorities at each institution utilizing the flexibility inherent in the software design. In general, these three libraries have reduced the amount of labor-intensive romanization which they do for each record in favor of displaying the vernacular characters. Other automation discussions resulted in a decision to establish a listserv mailbox for EASL. Also, it was announced that the European Database of Chinese Serials now includes the holdings of Germany, Sweden, and Great Britain.

J.-M. Streffer (Berlin) distributed current microfiche output of this data base and invited participation from other locations. (Note: In answer to my question on the availability of these microfiche outside Europe, it was decided that requests from CEAL members could be channeled through the CEAL Chair and should be made at one time.) The publication of the Bulletin of the European Association of Sinological Librarians was discussed and it was determined that its printing and distribution would be on a commercial basis, at least for the next issue. It was decided that the CEAL and EASL would exchange publications
henceforth to promote communications between the organizations. (Note: As CEAL Chair, I have received a full set of the first five issues of BEASL published from 1985 to 1991 and a copy of the latest EASL Directory (sometimes printed as part of the Bulletin). BEASL No. 6 will be published before the end of 1992.) Finally, Thomas Hahn and David Helliwell were re-elected chairman and secretary respectively of EASL for the next year and an announcement was made that the next meeting would be held at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele II in Rome, September 9-11, 1993. CEAL was invited to send a representative as an observer to that and to subsequent meetings whenever it would be possible to do so and EASL members were likewise invited to attend CEAL meetings.

(Maureen H. Donovan)