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Libraries and Institutions

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Université de Montréal Documentation Center Described

The Centre d’études de l’Asie de l’Est now includes 29,000 books and 270 periodicals in the French, English, Japanese, and Chinese languages. It was established with the collaboration of the Diet Library (Kokkai Toshokan) of the Japanese government in Tokyo. There are specialized collections with particular strengths in the social sciences such as anthropology, sociology, economics, political science, geography, and also in literature. In 1980 the documentation center became the depository for official government publications sent to the Quebec government (specifically, to the Bibliothèque nationale) under a program of exchange of official publications between Japan and Quebec, Taiwan and Quebec, and the People’s Republic of China and Quebec.

The collection is divided into two sections: the Japanese section and the Chinese section. The Japanese section has 13,000 volumes, while the Chinese section holds 16,000 volumes. It has benefitted from many grants and donations of books from: the Japan Foundation, the World’s Fair Commemorative Fund (Osaka), a personal collection (Robert Garry, geographer), the People’s Republic of China (with an estimated value of C$40,000), the Société Canada-Chine, the Research Council of Canada, the Asia-Pacific Foundation, and the Foundation for Advanced Information and Research. The rest of the funds came from the Université de Montréal.

Since 1975 a librarian sent by the Diet Library is in Montréal to manage the Japanese section of the documentation center, for a term of three years; this is the only library in Canada to benefit from such an arrangement. The documentation center started to automate its catalog in 1988. All the collection in French and English is now accessible on a database. The holdings in Chinese and Japanese are now, during phase II, being automated.

(Yasushi Yamaji)

Japan Foundation Grant to the Ohio University Library

The Japan Foundation has awarded a grant of books valued at ¥900,000 (approximately US$8,200) to the Ohio University Library. The books, all in English, were chosen by the library from a list developed by leading Japanese and American scholars. The competitive award, under the Foundation’s Library Support Grant Program, was recommended by an American Advisory Council and approved by the Foundation's Tokyo headquarters. The titles will help fill gaps in the Ohio University Library’s collections. Dean of University Libraries, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, expressed appreciation for the award and emphasized that the volumes will strengthen the library’s support of scholarship and the university’s courses on Japan.

(Kent Mulliner)
OCLC CJK Plus Adds Pinyin-to-Wade-Giles Conversion Feature

The Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) CJK Plus system for cataloging materials written in the Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (CJK) languages can now convert automatically words and phrases from pinyin, the recently developed Chinese romanization system, into the Wade-Giles romanization system which librarians have used since the nineteenth century for transliterating Chinese words into roman characters. For example, books about the Qing dynasty (1644-1912), the last imperial dynasty before the Republican period, have titles and subject headings that spell the dynasty name "Ch'ing," according to the Wade-Giles system. Catalogers who use the pinyin spelling "Qing" have not been able to search on-line for items about this period because they are all listed as "Ch'ing."

CJK Plus helps catalogers who are more familiar with the pinyin system search for bibliographic records that have Wade-Giles romanizations in the OCLC Online Union Catalog. The system converts the pinyin text to Wade-Giles text and formulates it into an OCLC search key. For example, the pinyin search phrase for the Chinese Communist Party, Zhongguo gongchandang, is converted to its Wade-Giles equivalent, Chung-kuo kung ch’an tang. When the searcher clicks on "corporate name search," the search phrase is formulated into =chun,kun,c and the search is begun.

The new conversion capability was introduced at OCLC CJK Plus Users Group meetings held at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Los Angeles in March 1993. "People were very excited about this new feature," said Hisako Kotaka, OCLC CJK services manager, who demonstrated the system. "Many said that finally being able to search by both romanizations was a dream come true."

OCLC based its conversion program on the pinyin-to-Wade-Giles algorithm written by Karl K. Lo, head of the International Relations and Pacific Studies Library at the University of California, San Diego. "This conversion is the first step toward providing bibliographic information in either pinyin or Wade-Giles, at the discretion of the user," said Andrew Wang, director of Asia Pacific and CJK services at OCLC. "Some users prefer pinyin, while others prefer Wade-Giles. The OCLC CJK Plus system serves both sets of users."

The CJK Plus system, released in 1993, is the second generation of the CJK350 system, which OCLC introduced in 1987. CJK Plus displays machine-readable cataloging (MARC) records with author, title, and other fields written in both the transliterated roman characters and in the language’s actual characters. CJK Plus runs on a 486 microcomputer in the Microsoft Windows environment. Its powerful hardware and graphical user interface support the standard East Asian Character Code; five methods (including phonetic and graphic) of inputting CJK characters; efficient text editing (through COPY and PASTE commands); comprehensive user documentation (including workbook, template, input code dictionary, and on-line user manual); and the ability to print catalog cards at a local site or to export records to a local system.

(From a news release from OCLC dated May 18, 1993.)
University of California, Berkeley Becomes OCLC CJK Plus User

The University of California, Berkeley (UC-Berkeley) has acquired three OCLC CJK Plus systems and will install two of them in its East Asian Library and one in its Center for Chinese Studies Library. The university's 660,000 East Asian books comprise the second largest collection of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean titles among universities in North America. Only Harvard University's Harvard-Yenching Library, with its 800,000 titles, is larger. The Harvard-Yenching Library also uses the OCLC CJK system.

"The decision by UC-Berkeley to adopt the OCLC CJK Plus system reaffirms the value of OCLC's commitment to serving the research library community by means of the CJK system," said Andrew Wang, director, Asia Pacific and CJK services division, OCLC. (From a news release from OCLC dated May 18, 1993.)