Committee Reports

Tim Connor

Lynne Kutsukake

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 1997, 7-9 p.m.

Tim Connor, the Chair, opened the meeting by introducing a guest speaker, Dr. Marilyn Whitmore, Coordinator of Library Instruction in the University of Pittsburgh libraries. Dr. Whitmore gave a wide-ranging talk on “empowering” library users through bibliographic instruction, with particular attention to area-studies librarianship and the special needs of foreign students and scholars. She spoke of the need to validate bibliographical instruction to other professionals, which requires instructors to work closely with the teaching faculty. Bibliographical instruction inevitably involves teaching students about the different kinds of sources in different disciplines and about how to use specific tools; but the more important goal is to teach them how to identify problems, analyze them, and devise research strategies to solve them; to teach concepts that translate into process, rather than show-and-tell or handing them the answers; in short, to teach them how to think. Dr. Whitmore said that it is a much more efficient use of time to teach in classes, rather than one-on-one. In that context there is more opportunity to get students actively involved in learning through role-playing and hands-on group activity. She also stressed the usefulness of printed handouts and help sheets, of which she distributed a wide variety.

Reports and presentations by committee members followed Dr. Whitmore’s talk. Kristina Troost (Duke) gave a presentation on East Asian librarians and the World Wide Web. Based on a survey she conducted, she discussed the present involvement of librarians in writing web pages, their use of web pages written by others, and the kinds of pages that have been written. Her chief focus was on how to create pages of national or international significance and how to cooperate in putting materials of unique importance on the web.

Cathy Chiu (UC Santa Barbara) described the several types of CJK journals and article databases available on the web: full-text (non-searchable), tables of contents (non-searchable), and article databases (searchable, with document delivery). Although they satisfy general information needs and accomplish a certain degree of resource sharing, she demonstrated that they are not yet adequate to meet research needs.

Mihoko Miki (UCLA) reported on the Japanese databases available on the Internet from NACSIS. In February 1997, at NACSIS’ request, our committee mailed packets of NACSIS materials to the three-dozen largest Japanese collections in North America. Ms. Miki reminded the audience of the databases of greatest interest to East Asian libraries—especially the Zasshi kiji sakuin—and told of her experience in using them. She identified several sources of further information and advice, and encouraged CEAL member libraries to offer these important resources to their patrons.
Charles d’Orban (Cornell) reported the results of a survey on how East Asian libraries are making CD-ROM CJK materials available to their readers. The report included reasons for not buying CD-ROMs (principally budgetary) as well as titles and numbers purchased, availability of work stations, storage and security measures, circulation policies and so on. He concluded that East Asian librarians are generally being cautious in their purchase of CD-ROM products, and that Japanese collections in particular are waiting for on-line access to databases in preference to their CD-ROM versions.

Tim Connor (Harvard-Yenching) announced the imminent completion of a project to make interlibrary loan information available through the CEAL homepage. He also offered thanks to Kristina Troost, a founding member of the committee who has resigned to become chair of the National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources. The meeting was then adjourned.

(Tim Connor, Chair, Public Services Committee)

CEAL COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE MATERIALS
Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 1997, 3-5 p.m.

The 1997 session of the Committee on Japanese Materials (Chair, Sachie Noguchi) began with a memorial tribute to a colleague and friend, Shizuko S. Radbill, Japanese studies librarian at the University of Arizona. Hideyuki Morimoto delivered a moving eulogy, which was followed by a minute of silence in Shizuko’s memory.

The structure of the 1997 Japanese Materials session was divided into two parts: the first half a mini-seminar/workshop focussing on electronic resources, and the second half standard reports and announcements. The change in format reflects the Chair’s and the Committee’s recognition of the importance of incorporating training elements into the annual meeting, in addition to the traditional organizational report and announcement structure.

Four speakers gave presentations on electronic resources. Eddy Harrison of the University of Washington East Asia Library described the highly successful use of Asahi Shinbun CD-ROM at his library. CD-ROM technology provides great freedom to end-users in doing their searches, and once set up is less costly than online searches using systems such as G-Search. However, in comparison with online access, there is the problem of time lag between updates, and in comparison with more traditional formats, such as microfilm, there are unresolved issues concerning the durability of the CD-ROM product, especially given the constant upgrading of systems hardware.

Yoshiko Koda of the University of Pittsburgh Japan Information Center presented a detailed
comparative study of her use of *Zasshi Kiji Sakuin*, CD-ROM version and online access via NACSIS-IR. She pointed out numerous pros and cons for both methods, illustrated by concrete examples of her search experiences. The CD-ROM version is only updated twice a year, and the current edition is leased, not owned. In terms of searching, the CD-ROM version can accept Boolean operators but response is slow. In the case of NACSIS-IR, search commands tend to be more cumbersome, involving the creation of search result sets which are then combined. At times, system response time can be very slow. The charges for online access to *Zasshi Kiji Sakuin* via NACSIS-IR include connect time charges of 50 yen per minute.

Rob Britt of the University of Washington, Gallagher Law Library was one of two US Japanese Studies librarians selected to attend the Senior Japanese Librarians Training Program sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the National Diet Library in February 1997. In his presentation, Rob focussed on the electronic resources introduced in his training. He visited a number of information networks and database producers, including: NACSIS to see NACSIS-IR and NACSIS-CAT; JICST (Japan Information Center of Science and Technology) to see their array of databases; and the National Institute of Japanese Literature (Kokubungaku Shiryōkan) to see how they are creating image databases of old manuscripts.¹

Kunio Yamada of the National Diet Library, Japan, spoke of the new developments taking place at NDL in the area of electronic resources. He announced that NDL was working on a CD version of *Zasshi Kiji Sakuin* for Windows95 (to be available in June 1997). In anticipation of the opening of the National Diet Library Kansai branch in 2002, the library is working on a Pilot Electronic Library Project. The Project consists of two parts: (1) Electronic Library Demonstration Experiment, an experimental project to digitize image data and (2) National Union Catalog Network Project, a project to develop a database which combines the bibliographic and location information of materials in libraries across Japan. Other digital projects are: Digital Library of Children's Literature, Asian Materials Information Database Supply System, G7 Electronic Libraries Project, and Optical Disc Filing System for Diet Debates.

In the reports and announcements half of the session, the first to speak was Yasuko Makino of Columbia University, C.V. Starr East Asian Library, the other US Japanese Studies librarian selected to attend the Japan Foundation/National Diet Library Senior Japanese Librarians Training Program. The focus of her training was on Japanese rare books. She spoke glowingly of the program, which involved two weeks of intensive training followed by one week of visits to bookstores and book agents, praising it for the depth of exposure and training it provided. She stressed the importance of creating a global network of Japanese studies librarians.

Dorothy Gregor, Director of NCC, reported on the CULCON Information Access Working Group. CULCON is the US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Exchange, and it is comprised of two parts: the US CULCON and its counterpart, CULCON Japan. The goal of both groups is to improve and facilitate the exchange of information and resources between the two nations. Information access has lately become an issue of important concern, and the
American side has been pushing for greater and more open access to information, including government agency information. Specific concrete objectives on the US side include making JMARC and Zasshi Kiji Sakuin more accessible, improving document delivery service between Japan and the US, supporting training programs for information specialists on both sides, and making more Japanese government documentation available over the Internet.

Koshiro Moroya of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology was in attendance as the representative of JAPULS (Japan Association of Private University Libraries). He presented a concrete proposal for implementing the duplicate book donation program which has been under discussion for the past few years: if North American libraries wishing to receive materials submitted lists of titles they would like, JAPULS would try to fill the requests by contacting its member libraries. The cost of shipping would be covered by Culture Japan.²

The session closed with presentations on two Japan Foundation libraries established recently in North America. Eiichi Ito of the Nihongo Library, Japan Foundation Language Center in Los Angeles, and Mariko Liliefeldt of the Japan Foundation Library in Toronto described the setup of their libraries and the scope of their collections.

(Lynne Kutsukake, Committee on Japanese Materials)

NOTES

1. The full report by Rob Britt and Yasuko Makino of their training experiences was published in the Journal of East Asian Libraries No. 112 (June 1997).

2. The Committee on Japanese Materials announced the plan over EASTLIB in April 1997, soliciting requests from interested North American libraries. Twelve applications were received by the mid-May deadline. Regrettably, the program is not proceeding as smoothly as the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials had anticipated. The Chair, Sachie Noguchi, has forwarded the applications and written letters to JAPULS stressing the importance of this program and requesting its reinstatement.