Committee Activities

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

CEAL COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE MATERIALS

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 1998, 3-5 p.m.

Committee Members:
Sachie Noguchi, University of Pittsburgh (Chair)
Rob Britt, University of Washington
Izumi Koide, International House, Japan
Lynne Kutsukake, University of Toronto
Hideyuki Morimoto, University of California at Berkeley

This year's CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials annual meeting was held at the Library of Congress. The session began with words of welcome from the Committee Chair, Sachie Noguchi of the University of Pittsburgh East Asian Library.

The format of the session followed the pattern established by the Committee last year. The first section of the meeting consisted of a mini-seminar while the second section was reserved for reports and announcements. Speakers were brought together to provide wide ranging coverage of this important topic.

Ms. Tokiko Yamamoto Bazzell, Reference/Business Librarian at American University, spoke first. In her presentation, "Accessing Japanese Government Documents," Ms. Bazzell discussed the importance of understanding the life cycle of Japanese government documents. She explained the mechanisms within government committees and meetings which lead to document creation and the junctions at which these ephemeral government documents may slip into oblivion. Acquisition of Japanese grey literature requires constant vigilance and active, aggressive efforts. Ms. Bazzell concluded with recommendations for fundamental changes necessary to improve access to Japanese government documents: the establishment of an enforceable records management system and the creation of an open government mechanism.

Mr. Akira Kado, Chief of the International Cooperation Division of the National Diet Library of Japan, delivered a paper entitled, "Japanese Government Documents: the NDL's Perspective." Mr. Kado explained the inter-relationship of government ministry libraries and the National Diet Library known as the "branch library system" and how this network supports the collection of government documents by NDL. He went on to describe the other important role played by NDL: the dissemination and sharing of these Japanese government documents through networks of depository libraries in foreign countries. Developments to improve the speed of delivery of Japanese government documents is evident in important digitization projects such as the Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet, which will be made available over the Internet in the future.

Ms. Ichiko Morita, Head of the Japan Documentation Center at the Library of Congress, gave a live demo of the new web-based search engine for the JDC. With the recently completed
migration of the JDC files from gopher to web, users now have access to the full files with an easy
to use interface and powerful search keys. Ms. Morita invited everyone to begin using the new
search engine immediately—the url is http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/jdc. The JDC collects Japanese grey
literature, with a special emphasis on public policy information. It provides English-language
abstracts and indexing, and disseminates full-text documents upon request.

Ms. Kuniko Yamada McVey, Director of the Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan at
the Reischauer Institute, Harvard University, focused her presentation on “Internet Resources for
Japanese Government Information.” Ms. McVey shared her rich experience in using Internet
resources to answer difficult reference questions that demand tapping into Japanese government
information. For instance, when asked not long ago for the Japanese organ transplant law, Ms.
McVey turned to the Internet and was able to provide her user with the full text of the law. She
pointed out that more and more Shingikai and other committee minutes are becoming available
over the web. In 1997 the Japanese government made a commitment to increase the number of
government documents available over the Internet. As a result, all official reports (such as annual
reports, press releases, statistics, etc.) since 1997 are supposed to be available on the web.

Reports and Announcements: The second Japan Foundation / National Diet Library Senior
Librarians’ Training program was held from Jan. 19 to Feb. 7, 1998, and two librarians who
attended the program gave reports. Ms. Mariko Liliefeldt of the Japan Foundation Library in
Toronto gave a report on “Digital Information and Electronic Library Service in the NDL and
Other Libraries.” The NDL Pilot Electronic Library Project began in 1994. It has involved two
main projects: building a union database of bibliographic information and digitizing rare and
fragile Japanese materials. The goal is for the electronic library to be accessible via the Internet in
the future, with full implementation targeted for the year 2000. Ms. Liliefeldt also mentioned
other digitization projects underway at NACSIS, Kyoto University, and Nichibunken.

Mr. Eizaburo Okuizumi of the University of Chicago East Asian Library also reported his
impressions of the Japan Foundation / NDL training program. Selected by NCC to attend the
workshop, Mr. Okuizumi was the third Japanese studies librarian from the United States to
participate in this important program. He noted the significance of the training workshop as a
central pillar in promoting the exchange of information and ideas among Japanese and foreign
professionals around the world and in fostering the development of international goodwill. Mr.
Okuizumi also summarized the detailed suggestions and recommendations which he and the other
trainees had submitted at the last session of their workshop in the form of a four-page list,
including the need to create an Internet forum for participants of past and future workshops to
exchange ideas and information.

Ms. Sachie Noguchi reported on the current status of the JAPULS Duplicate Book Donation
project and provided a summary of the events of the past year. Although it had been hoped that
the program could begin immediately and applications had been received from twelve North
American libraries, JAPULS was unfortunately unable to respond right away. In reply to a letter
sent by Ms. Noguchi urging that the project proceed as quickly as possible, JAPULS explained
that internal procedures demand that it must first establish its own international relations/exchange
committee which will then determine which projects (including the duplicate book donation
project) should be implemented. Both sides hope that discussions will proceed smoothly as soon
as JAPULS has set up the necessary committee. The CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials hopes that the duplicate book donation project will be reinstated by the new JAPULS committee.

Finally, Ms. Noguchi announced the URL for the CEAL Japanese Materials web page, authored by Hideyuki Morimoto: http://www.pitt.edu/~snoguchi/cjmw/home.htm.

(Lynne Kutsukake, Recorder)

**COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE MATERIALS ANNUAL REPORT, 1997**

Committee on Japanese Materials:
Robert Britt, University of Washington
Izumi Koide, International House of Japan
Lynne Kutsukake, University of Toronto
Hideyuki Morimoto, University of California, Berkeley
Sachié Noguchi, University of Pittsburgh (Chair)

1. **The Japan Foundation Senior Japanese Librarians' Training:**

Ms. I. Koide, a member of the Committee, worked on the Senior Japanese Studies Librarian Training Program in cooperation with the National Diet Library and the Japan Foundation. The proposed training program took place in Japan from February 17 to March 7, 1997. The Chair, S. Noguchi, was actively involved in this training project, working closely with Ms. Koide and with the NCC in the selection of the U.S. trainees in 1997. The Chair happened to be in Tokyo on March 7, 1997 and attended the farewell reception for the Trainees which was sponsored by the Japan Foundation. The chair took this important opportunity to lobby for the Training to continue.

Fortunately the Japan Foundation decided to continue the Training in 1998. Again the chair together with the NCC participated in the selection of a trainee from among many applicants.

2. **AAS/CEAL Annual Meeting in Chicago, 1997**

The Committee on Japanese Materials: March 13, 3:00-5:00

The 1997 session of the Committee on Japanese Materials (Chair, Sachie Noguchi) began with a memorial tribute to 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 1997 Japanese Materials session was divided into two parts: the first half a mini-seminar/workshop focusing on electronic resources, and the second half consisting of 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 structure of organizational reports and announcements.
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 Japan Foundation Senior Japanese Librarian Training Program in February 1997. In his presentation, Rob focused 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 Science and Technology Corporation, Information Center for Science and Technology) to see their array of databases; and the National Institute of Japanese Literature (Kokubungaku Shiryokan) to see how they are creating image databases of old manuscripts. *

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 97). 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 Senior Japanese Librarian Training Program. The focus of her training was on Japanese rare books. She spoke glowingly of the program, which involved three weeks of intensive training, 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.

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 set up of their libraries and the scope of their collections.

(Sachie Noguchi, Chair, Committee on Japanese Materials)

* Papers by K. Yamada and Y. Koda were published in the Journal of East Asian Libraries No. 113 (October 1997), and full reports of both R. Britt’s and Y. Makino’s training experience were published in the Journal of East Asian Libraries No. 112 (June 1997).

3. JAPULS Duplicate Library Books Donation Program:

Based on the discussion during the AAS meeting in Chicago, the Committee prepared an announcement and worked on the logistics to carry out the program. The announcement was made on April 2, 1997. By the deadline, May 15, the Committee had received twelve applications from the libraries in the U.S. and Canada. Afterwards, however, the Committee was notified by JAPULS (Japan Association of Private University Libraries) that they were not ready for this project.

In July, the Committee sent a letter to Prof. Y. Sakai, Library Director of Kyoto Sangyo Daigaku, the institution in charge of JAPULS at this time. The Committee stressed the many merits of the project and urged that the project be reinstated as soon as possible. The twelve applications were also sent with the letter to JAPULS.

In October the Committee received a letter of response from Prof. Sakai, explaining that the JAPULS Preparatory Committee on International Library Cooperation (Kokusai Toshokan Kyoryoku Iinkai Junbishiitsu) has been working to propose the programs which will be carried out
by the Committee and that no program could start until after it has been proposed and the Committee formally established. The list of twelve universities submitted by the North American libraries, however, would be very helpful as reference sources for the future project.

5. Other:

S. Noguchi, Chair of the Committee, is a member of the NCC representing CEAL. She attended the NCC January 1997 meeting in Berkeley, California and reported the activities of the Committee. As a member of the Subcommittee on Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Subcommittee of the NCC, she read and evaluated fifty four applications for the program and attended the Subcommittee meeting which took place right after the NCC January meeting. She was on sabbatical leave from July 13, 1997 to January 12, 1998. During this period, H. Morimoto represented the Committee in terms of CEAL and L. Kutsukake prepared for and attended the NCC September meeting in her place.