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REPORT OF THE NCC OPEN MEETING

Association for Asian Studies
Washington, D.C., March 25, 1998

The annual open meeting of the National Coordinating Council for Japanese Materials was held in the West Dining Room of the Library of Congress on March 25, 1998, with approximately eighty people in attendance. Chair Kristina Kade Troost began the meeting by thanking Karl Kahler for his three years of leadership.

Japan Foundation Librarian Training Program
The second Japan Foundation Librarian Training Program was held in Tokyo for three weeks in February, 1998. Izumi Koide, Librarian at the International House of Japan, stressed the cooperative nature of running the program; the Japan Foundation, the National Diet Library, NACSIS and the International House of Japan work together to make the program a success. Eizaburo Okuizumi was this year's attendee from the U.S. Topics covered in the training included networking activities in Japan, digital information and electronic library services, acquisition and distribution of electronic publications at the National Diet Library and NACSIS, international cooperative programs at NDL, preservation and rare books, and site visits to library-related organizations in Tokyo. There will be third program January-February of 1999, so people should start thinking now about the possibility of attending.

Union List of Japanese Serials
Dorothy Gregor reported that at several NCC meetings faculty members have expressed a desire for better access to Japanese newspapers, and the NCC, as part of the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project, is trying a number of strategies to meet this need. Among these is developing a WWW-based Union List of Japanese Serials. Maureen Donovan described the development and current functionality of the Union List and encouraged people to contribute data to increase its usefulness as a tool for librarians and end users. The List includes newspaper titles and has the capability of searching/browsing newspapers as a separate category. This project has served as a model for at least one other area studies program developing a union list. (The list can be found at http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu.) In addition to the Union List of Japanese Serials, the NCC wants to compile on the Web a bibliography of print and electronic indexes to newspapers. The NCC Office will try to do the compilation with the help of the Japanese Studies librarians whose libraries may hold such indexes or who know about their existence.

ILL with Japanese Libraries
Dorothy Gregor reported on ARL Project efforts to establish regular ILL relationships with Japanese libraries. Waseda University and the Association of National University Libraries have responded positively to the Japan Project's invitation to participate in ILL with U.S. libraries. International payments and copyright clearance are issues not yet fully resolved, but the invitation has been given much attention in Japan. She also explained that funding was available through a grant from the Center for Global Partnership to present workshops on accessing electronic resources from Japan and encouraged the group to consider hosting workshops for users on their campuses.
Japan Art Catalog (JAC) Project
Yasuko Matsudo described the Project, which was begun in 1995 in order to enrich information on modern Japanese fine arts. The Freer Gallery was selected as the U.S. depository in Spring, 1996, and the first shipment of catalogs was made in September of that year. So far, 1,583 volumes have been sent in three shipments. There are over 800 records in RLIN created by Reiko Yoshimura and her volunteers at the Freer. Because the Freer collection is generally non-circulating, there is a separate ID for these items, which must be available on ILL.

Dorothy Gregor reported briefly on JAC II, the NCC's effort to solicit catalogs of Japanese art exhibitions held in the U.S. To date, eighty-five catalogs have been forwarded to the Art Catalog Library in Tokyo. Junko Kurita of ACE-Japan described the Art Catalog Library in Tokyo which now has over 7,000 items. She invited the group to subscribe to the Art Catalog Library's Bulletin as a way of keeping up with its collections and activities. The Bulletin also publishes useful bibliographic articles.

Multi-Volume Set Project
Chair Troost began the MVS Project report by thanking the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission for providing funding for this valuable effort. She reiterated the need for applications to respond to the criteria specified in the guidelines (price, publishing date, cataloging support, utility to local patrons, significance of title). There was agreement that it was a good idea to change the guidelines to require that no other circulating copy be available, rather than the "no more than three circulating copies" which had been the previous requirement. Group discussion provided a number of suggestions for the MVS Subcommittee to consider for next year's Project. There was general agreement that we should include retrospective newspaper files in the scope of the Project.

Japan Foundation Library Support Program
Hisami Konishi-Springer reported on the recently completed review of applications to the Japan Foundation's Library Support Program. Forty-two proposals were reviewed and recommendations forwarded to the American Advisory Committee of the Japan Foundation. She encouraged the continued development of proposals which supported the concept of building national collections: by building strong niche collections, e.g., popular culture; by providing outreach to users beyond the applying campus; by building on existing strengths; and by consortium building.

Next Decade Planning Discussion
The final discussion item was a "Next Decade Planning" discussion led by Chair Troost. The NCC is developing a strategic planning effort which would be the topic of a pre-conference session at the AAS meeting in San Diego in the year 2000. Meeting attendees were asked to help develop the agenda by suggesting topics for the year 2000 meeting. Suggestions included:

- Review the scope of the MVS project
- Definition of the role of LC in the national collecting effort
- Future of Japanese Studies librarianship in the U.S.
- Activities to promote greater cooperation and communication with Japanese colleagues
- Collections and services issues for smaller libraries
Collections and services for programs without librarians/libraries
Financial projections for the field--what funding will be available?
Distance learning
Future of technical services
Training for public services
Mentoring program for new professionals
Advising on tenure and professional development (especially for younger librarians and those who speak English as a second language, but applicable to all)
Development of Web-based resources

The possibility of soliciting topics from users in the field through such online lists as SSJ-Forum, H-Japan, EA Anthro, and J Lit was discussed. For further information contact Chair Troost (kktroost@acpub.duke.edu) or Dorothy Gregor, Director (dgregor@mcn.org).

Dorothy D. Gregor (Director, NCC)