Committee Activities

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE MATERIALS
Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 1999, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Boston Marriott Copley Place

Committee Members:

SachiTheta Noguchi, University of Pittsburgh (Chair)
Rob Britt, University of Washington
Izumi Koide, International House of Japan
Lynne Kutsukake, University of Toronto
Hideyuki Morimoto, University of California, Berkeley

Ms. SachiTheta Noguchi, Committee Chair, opened the session with welcoming remarks and an introduction of the committee members. The session was divided into two sections, a special mini-seminar on image/graphics databases, moderated by Lynne Kutsukake, and the regular report and announcement section, moderated by SachiTheta Noguchi.

Mini-Seminar on Image/Graphic Databases:

Electronic Library Plans and Image Databases at the National Diet Library:

Mr. Taketoshi Ishikawa of the National Diet Library of Japan presented a comprehensive overview of new and on-going plans for electronic library development. NDL has undertaken two large-scale construction projects which will take advantage of advances in electronic library technology: (1) the Kansai-kan project in Kansai Science City, scheduled for completion in 2002 and (2) the International Library of Children's Literature in Ueno, Tokyo, slated to open in the year 2000. One of the main electronic projects underway for the International Library of Children's Literature is the "Picture Book Gallery," which involves digitizing children's literature around the world. The Picture Book Gallery will allow children to view valuable rare books, many of which may no longer be handled.

As early as 1994, NDL began the digitization of the rare books in its collection for inclusion in image databases. The materials selected for the project include colored woodblock prints, illustrated botanical materials, and rare maps. Mr. Ishikawa described some of the technical steps involved in digitization and briefly touched upon problematic issues such as copyright. NDL is developing a retrieval system which will link image and bibliographic data so that image databases may be searched by keyword using web browsers.

Visual Image Projects of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies:

Prof. Masako Ema Watanabe of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) described several graphic databases developed at her institution. Nichibunken is interested in the use of visual imagery for the study of culture and has therefore placed emphasis
on the development of image databases to promote cultural studies research.

The Gaizo database, for example, consists of digitized images of Japan taken by foreigners before 1900. The database is searchable, permitting the retrieval of images by title, author, or keyword. The Database of Early Photographs consists of hand-painted luxury photographs made for foreigners and is also searchable. As the history of the opening of Japan and the history of photography coincide, the Nichibunken image databases contain great potential as tools for scholarly research. Nichibunken has also developed a three-dimensional virtual reality video project, Rakuchu Rakugai, which allows the viewer to "step inside" the screen and "walk" through the streets of Kyoto. Prof. Watanabe pointed out the need for further work in developing search systems for graphics and the importance of standardization among search systems.

Reports and Announcements:

Third Japan Foundation and National Diet Library Senior Japanese Librarians Training Workshop:
Ms. Kuniko Yamada McVey, Director of the Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan at the Reischauer Institute, Harvard University, reported on the Third Japan Foundation and National Diet Library Senior Japanese Librarians Training Workshop which was held Jan. 18 to Feb. 5, 1999. This year's training workshop had 12 participants from countries around the world. Ms. McVey was selected as the U.S. participant; attendees from other countries included Mr. Tsuneharu Gonami of the University of British Columbia, Canada, and Ms. Michelle Hall of the University of Melbourne, Australia. Ms. McVey stressed that the greatest benefit of the training program in her view was getting to know the National Diet Library and its staff. With its extensive collection and expert staff, the NDL is a great national treasure but unfortunately it is not very user-friendly and seems "designed against productive use." Ms. McVey urged greater openness and took the opportunity during the workshop to emphasize the profound need of overseas Japanese studies librarians for access to the NDL resources. NDL announced plans to open its web catalog in the near future.

The International Flow of Japanese Information Symposium:
Ms. Izumi Koide, Librarian at the International House of Japan Library, reported on a symposium held on Feb. 3, 1999 entitled "The International Flow of Japanese Information: Considering Information Infrastructure of Japanese Studies." Its purpose was to increase knowledge in Japan about Japanese studies, and to improve understanding of the trends and methodologies employed. The Symposium was held at the International House of Japan and was organized by the Japan Foundation and the International House of Japan. Keynote speaker, Professor Patricia Steinhoff of the University of Hawaii, addressed the nature of Japanese studies in the United States, its conditions, characteristics and trends. She noted that as doctoral candidates select new topics for their dissertations, they require new types of materials for their research. Changes in theme and methodology affect the type of research materials needed. Altogether there were 100 participants in attendance, representing a broad cross-section of parties interested in information flow: librarians, publishers, members of the press, and professors of library and information science. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in Japanese by the Japan Foundation.
Ninth Annual Conference of the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS):

Mr. Hideyuki Morimoto of the East Asian Library, the University of California, Berkeley, reported on the Ninth Annual Conference of the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS) held in Louvain, Belgium, September 23-26, 1998. In attendance were 54 participants from across Europe as well as from Japan and the United States, who delivered a diverse range of conference papers. Of particular interest was the special workshop on using Japanese electronic resources. Some of the papers delivered were: S. Noguchi on the Electronic Text Initiative, I. Morita on the dissemination of difficult to obtain information, N. Koyama on the U.K. Japanese union catalog project, Ch. Dillon on web sites for Japanese information, Mr. Shinohara of NDL on the full text database of minutes of the Diet, K. McVey on Japanese government document information on the web, and H. Morimoto on the Waseda WINE records loaded into OCLC WorldCat. The program may be viewed at URL http://www.daiwa-foundation.org.uk/eajrs/1998.html. The proceedings of the conference will be published.

Bakumatsu Meiji Kaigai Tokosha Rainichi Gaikokujin CD-ROM:

Mr. Koshiro Moroya of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology and Mr. Rob Britt of the University of Washington Gallagher Law Library gave a presentation introducing a CD-ROM developed at Mr. Moroya's institution. Entitled Bakumatsu Meiji Kaigai Tokosha Rainichi Gaikokujin Detabesu, this is a database of Japanese who went abroad in the Meiji period and foreigners who came to Japan. It contains records for 4,522 Japanese and 1,071 foreigners, and provides information such as the number of times they went abroad and who supported them. System requirements are Japanese Windows 95 and Access 97. Kanazawa Institute of Technology donated 50 copies of the CD-ROM which were distributed at the end of the meeting to interested libraries.

Announcement of Rare Book Workshop at Freer Gallery of Art:

Ms. Reiko Yoshimura of the Freer Gallery of Art announced an upcoming workshop on Japanese woodblock illustrated books from the Edo period in early 2000 (January or February). It will be held at the Freer Gallery of Art and will be open to both scholars and librarians. Lecturers will include Prof. Jun Suzuki of the National Institute of Japanese Literature and Prof. Lawrence Marceau of the University of Delaware. At the present moment, plans are to hold the workshop over a two-day period and to accept about 20 participants (this number may be increased).

The session closed with remarks by Ms. SachiTheta Noguchi, who expressed thanks to all the speakers and committee members for their participation as well as to the members of the audience for their attention and support. She noted that this meeting brought the work of her Committee to an end and that she was looking forward to the upcoming activities of the new Committee on Japanese Materials chaired by Mr. Hideyuki Morimoto.

Lynne Kutsukake, Reporter
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
Sachie Noguchi, University of Pittsburgh (Chair)

Meeting of the Committee on Japanese Materials: March 27, 1998, 3:00-5:00

The 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. The focus of this year's mini-seminar was Japanese government documents, and four excellent speakers were brought together to provide wide ranging coverage of this important topic.

**Mini-Seminar**

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 gray 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 demonstration 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 gray 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. The first, Ms. Mariko Liliefeldt of the Japan Foundation Library in Toronto, reported on "Digital Information and Electronic Library Service in the NDL and Other Libraries." The NDL Pilot Electronic Library Project began in 1994 and 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 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.

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 from 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 and 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.

2. 1999 CEAL Japanese Librarian Training Workshop

The CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials planned a Japanese Studies Librarian Training Workshop to be held during 1999 AAS/CEAL Annual Meeting in Boston. The goal of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for junior and mid-career Japanese Studies librarians in North America to gain practical knowledge and hands-on experience in some of the most important aspects of Japanese librarianship. The workshop will include both print and electronic resources and will aim to cover a diverse range of topics, reflecting the multi-faceted training needs of our rapidly changing field. The workshop will draw upon the skills and knowledge of many of our leading colleagues, and course offerings will be designed to provide the kind of specialized training so essential yet so difficult to obtain. We have been working to create a good mix of traditional and computer training in a program that will address the needs of the working librarian today. Naturally in such a short time it will be impossible to cover everything, but we feel confident that this workshop will provide a very solid training experience.

In January, the Committee started the Workshop project by searching for a suitable site. After reviewing possible sites, the Committee agreed that Harvard University with computer facilities and rich printed resources is the ideal site for the workshop. The Committee contacted the Harvard-Yenching Library and the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies and got their support for the Workshop.

The date and the venue were decided to be Saturday, March 13 to Sunday, March 14, 1999 at Harvard University where we will have access to the rich resources of the Harvard-Yenching Library and to the computing facilities on campus.

In April, the Program Subcommittee for the Workshop '99 was set up to plan and propose the program of the workshop to the Committee chair. The Subcommittee submitted program recommendations to the Chair.

Subcommittee Members:

Rob Britt (Chair) rrbritt@u.washington.edu
Sharon Domier sdomier@library.umass.edu
Lynne Kutsukake kutsukal@library.utoronto.ca
In June, the Chair, S. Noguchi traveled to Japan to explore several issues related to the CJM activities. For the Workshop, she visited and negotiated with the National Diet Library in Tokyo for sending an instructor for the course on the electronic library. The Chair and Ms. Koide visited the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto and negotiated the same issue. The Chair visited also the Nippon Zaidan in Tokyo to discuss the possibility of funding for the Workshop.

In October, based on the Program Subcommittee’s recommendation, all recommended personnel for instructors were contacted, and the Program was determined as follows:

- Proposal writing / By Dr. Eric Gangloff, Japan-United States Friendship Commission
- The Electronic Library (digitization of microform and print materials) / presentation by the National Diet Library and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies
- Cataloging Japanese materials / by Mr. Hideyuki Morimoto, University of California, Berkeley
- Japanese Language Research Tools on the Web / by Mrs. Mihoko Miki, University of California at Los Angeles
- Working with Japanese and Your Systems People / by Mr. Robert Britt, University of Washington
- Finding Relevant Information in Japanese Newspapers / by Ms. Sharon Domier, University of Massachusetts
- Book Acquisition: from Using the Web for Selection to Used Book Vendors / by Sachie Noguchi, University of Pittsburgh
- Resources for Reference in the Humanities and Social Sciences / by Ms. Izumi Koide, International House of Japan, Mrs. Yasuko Makino, Princeton University, and Mr. Eizaburo Okuizumi, University of Chicago
- Japanese Rare Books / by Prof. Jun Suzuki, National Institute of Japanese Literature

The committee is grateful to all of our colleagues who have agreed to be instructors and who will be giving so generously of their time and experience to help the rest of us learn more about this rich and ever-evolving field. As can be seen, several instructors are coming all the way from Japan and their participation makes this workshop a very special learning opportunity.

In September, the Committee submitted funding proposals to the AAS Northeast Asia Council (NEAC), the University of Pittsburgh Japan Council, and the Japan Foundation.

The Committee is grateful to the Harvard-Yenching Library and the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies for their generous, ongoing support in the organization and arranging of this workshop. Funding is currently awarded by the NEAC and the University of Pittsburgh Japan Council with funding from the University's Mitsubishi Endowment Fund and the Japan Iron and Steel Federation Endowment. Additional support has come from the University of Pittsburgh's Asian Studies Program with funding from the U.S. Department of
Education through its National Resources Center. Donations have been sought from Japanese publishers and vendors to assist in financing the Workshop.

3. Freer Gallery Rare Book Workshop: January 2000

Prof. Jun Suzuki, National Institute of Japanese Literature, and Dr. Lawrence Marceau, U. of Delaware, conceived the idea to have a Japanese rare book workshop using Freer Gallery's facilities (Seminar room and Ehon rare books). Freer's Assistant Librarian, Ms. Reiko Yoshimura, Dr. Marceau, and S. Noguchi got together at Freer Gallery on August 14 to discuss the possibility of this workshop. Decisions made: date: January 2000; venue: the Sackler Gallery Conference room; instructor: Prof. Jun Suzuki; trainees: about 25 faculty members, librarians, and graduate students. The Freer Gallery and Dr. Marceau will seek funding for workshop.

4. Other

S. Noguchi, Chair of the Committee, is a member of the NCC representing CEAL. She attended the NCC January 1998 meeting in Berkeley, California and the September, 1998, meeting in Durham, North Carolina 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 about forty applications for the program and attended the Subcommittee meeting which took place right after the NCC January meeting. In cooperation with the NCC, she was one of the selectors of the candidate for JF-NDL Senior J. librarian training.

During visits to the National Diet Library and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in June, S. Noguchi also negotiated with them to send their personnel to give presentations on image/graphic databases developed by them in a mini-seminar section of the Committee meeting during the 1999 AAS annual meeting in Boston.

Sachie Noguchi, Chair, Committee on Japanese Materials