Korean Collections Consortium of North America Annual Meeting

Jae Yong Chang

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MINUTES

Part I. Business Meeting

Participants:

Jae-Yong Chang, University of Toronto  
Hyonggun Choi, University of Chicago  
Kyungmi Chun, University of Hawaii  
Mikyung Kang, University of California, Los Angeles  
Joy Kim, University of Southern California (Chair)  
HyoKyoung Yi (formerly Lee), in transition from Columbia to University of Washington  
Sook-Ja Park, University of California, Berkeley  
Chungnam Yoon, Harvard University

Joy Kim, Chair, opened the meeting and thanked Mr. Jae Yong Chang, Secretary, for his hard work arranging for the dinner, conveniently catered in the meeting room. The dinner was generously sponsored by the Korea Foundation.

1. Updates from Member Institutions

Ms. Hyokyoung Yi (formerly Lee) has accepted the position at the University of Washington vacated by Yoon-ghan Choe’s retirement, where she will start in May. (Columbia has already posted their Korean position.) University of Washington hired a part-time contract cataloger to work for two years exclusively on the Consortium materials in order to satisfy the cataloging requirement, which was a condition for the renewal of the contract. Columbia received permission from the Korea Foundation to spend up to 30% of the grant on materials outside of the assigned subjects for the fiscal year of 2000-2001.

University of California, Berkeley signed the renewal contract with the Korea Foundation, but the continued vacancy of their Korean studies librarian position has prevented it from receiving the grant for two years in a row. Berkeley hopes to fill the position soon which was reposted recently. This brought up the question of whether these two years’ grants were forfeited or simply being delayed. Mr. Choi speculated that, based on Chicago’s experience, Berkeley would have a delayed cycle, rather than lose the two years’ funding.

University of Southern California had trouble cataloging the materials in time for the annual report. This was due to late purchase of the materials which was in turn caused by the delayed disbursement of the grant. The Korea Foundation noticed and inquired about the problem, but USC has caught up by now.
Chicago is having a problem hiring a qualified Library Assistant and thus has been relying heavily on student assistants.

UCLA, Hawaii, Harvard, and Toronto are doing well and had no specifics to report.

2. Future of the Consortium

Joy Kim said that when she visited the Korea Foundation in December 2001, she inquired about the future of the Consortium. Director Song Jung-seok and other KF officials she met could not give any definitive answers, but invited input from the Consortium members.

The members again discussed the possibility of converting the annual grants into endowments. This idea was originally proposed to the Korea Foundation in 2000, but the Foundation did not approve it at that time on the ground that not all members supported the plan.

Advantages of creating matching endowments over annual grants were discussed (e.g., a good development tool, the best way to secure the future of the Consortium permanently, increasing the Korea Foundation’s visibility by naming the endowment after the Foundation, etc.). All members supported the endowment format, except for Mr. Choi of Chicago who said he would rather spend the money now than save for the future. Mr. Choi said that, when he visited the Korea Foundation in March 2002, he discussed with the president of the Korea Foundation the possibility of renewing the grant for 2004-2009, and he was optimistic that the Korea Foundation will support the Consortium for another 10-15 years.

3. Next Year’s Leadership

Joy Kim reminded members that, at the 1996 annual meeting in Hawaii, a decision was made to rotate the Consortium’s annual leadership alphabetically by institutional names, and that the next incumbent will serve as Secretary. She also pointed out that, an inadvertent error had placed UCLA out of order (under L for Los Angeles, rather than under C for California). Accordingly, Joy Kim presented the following corrected order for the purpose of leadership, which was approved.

- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Chicago
- Columbia University
- Harvard University
- University of Hawaii
- University of Southern California
- University of Toronto
- University of Washington

According to this schedule, Mr. Jae Yong Chang of University of Toronto was elected Chair for 2002/2003. For Secretary, University of Washington’s Ms. Hyo Kyoung Yi graciously turned down on the ground that she had served only 2 years ago while at Columbia University. Next-in-order
Berkeley's position being vacant, Ms. Mi-kyung Kang of UCLA was elected as Secretary. The term is July 1-June 30 each year.

It was further decided that when the incumbent cannot serve for any reason (vacancy, etc.), the position will go to the next in line. Once skipped, that institution will not be eligible to serve until the next rotation cycle.

**Part 2: Open Meeting**

Approximately 10 non-members joined the first-ever open meeting. Two Korean database vendors, Nuri Media and Dong Bang Media, came from Korea to discuss the possibility of consortial or collective purchase arrangements of their databases for overseas libraries. After presentations by the vendors, lively discussions ensued, addressing various technical and budgetary constraints facing overseas Korean studies libraries. Based on the discussions, the vendors pledged to explore ways to provide their databases at affordable prices.

(Recorded by Jae Yong Chang)