The 2005 Workshop for Overseas Librarians Sponsored by the Korea Foundation and the National Library of Korea: A Report

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THE 2005 WORKSHOP FOR OVERSEAS LIBRARIANS SPONSORED BY THE KOREA FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF KOREA: A REPORT

October 23 - 30, 2005
Seoul, South Korea

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Introduction

The first Workshop for Overseas Librarians, co-hosted by the Korea Foundation and National Library of Korea, was held from October 23 through 30 in Seoul, South Korea. Twenty-four participants from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and France had an opportunity to gain an overview of the Korean information world and many different aspects of Korean Studies Librarianship (See Appendix 1 for the list of participants).

The Workshop Program was designed to increase the awareness of Korean Studies resources among librarians and information specialists working outside Korea. It included lectures on various topics of Korean studies and Korea-related resources management, several hands-on database training sessions and seminars on current issues of concern to information specialists, and site visits (See Appendixes 2 and 3 for the lists of lectures and visits). While the Korea Foundation provided the funding and the logistical support for the program, the National Library of Korea developed the curriculum content and arranged the instructors. The entire program was conducted in Korean.

Participants spent the first four days in Seoul, where we attended workshops at the National Library of Korea. On the fourth night, most participants went to Andong, North Kyŏngsang province and stayed at Nongam Chongtaek (the head house of the Nongam Yi family), where we experienced staying in a Korean traditional house. While staying in Andong, we visited several historical sites. On the fifth night, we returned to Seoul and attended the rest of the program.

This report summarizes the 2005 Workshop for Overseas Librarians under the following two areas of activity: 1) Training sessions at the National Library of Korea and II) Site visits.

I. Training Sessions at the National Library of Korea

A. Korean Rare Books: Reservation and Cataloging

One of the highlights of the program of workshops was this session on conservation of library materials, which included a tour of the National Library of Korea’s Old and Rare Collection Division, where the participants could observe how the trained conservation specialists repair old and worm-damaged Korean books. During the session, two members of the staff of the National Library of Korea, Ms. Gui-won Lee (Chief of Old and Rare Collection, National Library of Korea) and Ms. Hye-eun Lee (Classics Specialists of Old and Rare Collection Division, National Library of Korea), made presentations.

Ms. Gui-won Lee gave a lecture about the characteristics of Korean rare books covering the following topics: the history of Korean manuscripts, the history of traditional Korean book publishing, and the distinctive features of Korean rare books as opposed to Chinese and Japanese rare books. Finally, she explained that the National Library of Korea recognizes the importance of preservation for long-term uses and the importance of better access for users. The Library maintains proper environmental conditions for the materials and continues reformatting projects (microfilm, digital image, etc.). In August 2000, the Library established an on-site deposit storage building that can hold 3.6 million books, equipped with a specialized ventilation system, fumigation chamber and fire protection system, etc. to store valuable materials. She emphasized that as preservation is one of the priorities at the National Library of Korea, it actively reformats heavily deteriorated materials and produces archival boxes to store materials.
Ms. Hye-eun Lee explained how to identify the author and publication information in Korean rare books. She also gave tips on how to distinguish between Chinese, Japanese and Korean rare books by pointing out special characteristics, such as the fact that traditionally-bound Korean books usually have five holes with red stitching, while Chinese and Japanese books usually have only four holes with white stitching. In addition, she informed us about the current status of reprints of Korean rare books as well as digitization of rare books and their accessibility.

B. Korean Electronic Databases: Current Situation and in-depth Training

This session which was designed as a hands-on training program, was presented by Professor Young-joon Nam (Department of Library and Information Science, Chung Ang University). Professor Nam showed us advanced database search techniques and effective research planning strategies for Korean electronic resources. It was impressive to see digitization and electronic publishing efforts spearheaded by government-affiliated institutions. There are immense benefits to the government role, especially low or no cost access to important resources such as the National Digital Library, by which the National Library of Korea opened up the access of the collection to overseas libraries.

The participants were introduced to online databases listed below:

- National Library of Korea’s initiative: The National Digital Library
  URL: [http://www.dlibrary.go.kr/](http://www.dlibrary.go.kr/)
- Korea Education and Research Information Service Union Catalog’s RISS
  URL: [http://www.riss4u.net/index.jsp](http://www.riss4u.net/index.jsp)
- Korean History On-line
  URL: [http://kh2.koreanhistory.or.kr/](http://kh2.koreanhistory.or.kr/)
- Korea Knowledge Portal
  URL: [http://www.knowledge.go.kr/index.jsp](http://www.knowledge.go.kr/index.jsp)
- Nurimedia’s DBpia
  URL: [http://www.dbpia.co.kr/](http://www.dbpia.co.kr/)
- Korean Studies Information’s KISS
  URL: [http://kiss.kstudy.com/](http://kiss.kstudy.com/)
- Nurimedia’s KRpia
  URL: [http://www.krpia.co.kr/](http://www.krpia.co.kr/)
- Dongbang Media’s Korea AtoZ
  URL: [http://www.korea2z.com/](http://www.korea2z.com/)
- Choson Ilbo Archive
  URL: [http://archive.chosun.com/daily.htm](http://archive.chosun.com/daily.htm)
- Korea Contents Lab’s Kdatabase
  URL: [http://www.kdatabase.com/](http://www.kdatabase.com/)

and many more databases, including Korean Studies Information’s e-book, Korea Contents Lab’s KPjournal, and Zininzin’s Excavation Report Database

C. Publishing Trends in Scholarly Books in South Korea

This session gave us an excellent overview of the structure of and recent trends in the South Korean publishing industry. Mr. Kyung-hee Kim, President of Chisik Sanôp Publications was the guest speaker for this presentation. He presented a lecture the included the topics of important reference materials for Korean studies, reprints of pre-1945 materials, the dissemination of government publications, government documents and their accessibility, the distribution structure of commercial scholarly publications, the dissemination of non-commercial scholarly publications, and the used book market in South Korea.
D. Trends in the Korean Studies Scholarly Community in South Korea

Hyuk-rae Kim, Professor in the Korean Studies Program of the Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University, introduced trends in the Korean Studies scholarly community in South Korea. The talk covered various subject areas such as Korean history, literature, religious studies, and social sciences.

E. South Korean Copyright Law Issues Relating to South Korean Libraries

Mr. Hyun-chul Kim, Chief Researcher of the Deliberation and Conciliation Division, Copyright Commission for Deliberation and Conciliation, was invited to explain the South Korean Copyright Law issues relating to Korean libraries. We received an overview of the Korean Copyright Act and other international treaties relating to copyright. Also, he provided us with details on the regulations pertaining to Copyright Exemption for Korean libraries. While all of the courses were fascinating, I found this session especially interesting and helpful.

F. The Korea Foundation’s Korean Studies Publication Program

Ms. Jeong-sik Oh, Publications & Media Officer of the Korea Foundation gave a presentation on their Korean studies publication program. The Korea Foundation provides Korea-related materials published in domestic or foreign countries to libraries and major organizations overseas in order to support Korean Studies scholars and students. For this purpose, she informed us that the Korea Foundation operates this program under two tracks: the Regular Distribution Program and the Distribution by Request Program.

- The Regular Distribution Program is available once a year. Each year, the Korea Foundation provides a carefully selected list of reference materials to each library. When a library files a request, the Foundation provides the materials after careful review.
- The Distribution by Request Program allows a library to request specific materials that are not included in their list. The Foundation provides these requested materials after a review process.

Materials provided include Korean language textbooks, linguistics and literature, history, religion, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, economics, politics, international relations, art history, music, and the performing arts. Formats include books, audiovisual materials, and multi-media materials in Korean, English and other foreign languages. Currently, the Korea Foundation supports about 450 organizations in 70 countries.

G. Meeting with Librarians of the National Library of Korea

The National Library of Korea arranged a meeting with their librarians from the Library Policy Division and the International Relations Division. This session was very useful as it provided an opportunity to talk about interesting matters such as romanization system issues between the South Korean government’s new romanization system and McCune-Reischauer romanization, as well as gift and exchange programs. Also, we had an opportunity to learn more about their current projects and initiatives.

One of the most significant outcomes of this session was that the National Library of Korea decided to open up its digital library collection to overseas libraries. Any overseas library, which wishes to participate in accessing its digital collection, needs to sign an agreement with the Korea Reprographic and Transmission Rights Center in order to settle royalty issues for copyrighted works. The National Library of Korea, as a legal depository library, has undertaken to digitize its collection. As of 2005, the library holds over 5.6 million volumes. They initially digitized monographs, rare books, rare maps, newspapers, scholarly journals, PhD dissertations, Korean publications written in Japanese, etc. At present, we may access some 320,000 volumes (1 million pages) of their collection. Among these volumes, 160,000 volumes are freely accessible online.

1 The Korea Foundation’s Korean Studies Publication Program <http://www.clickkorea.org/books/english/found/f_index.html>
accessible. However, as the rest of the volumes are still protected by copyright law, access fees must be paid.

II. Site Visits

Participants were privileged to be able to make a number of different on-site visits. While each library visit provided different insights and perspectives about how information is acquired, organized, preserved and provided in South Korea, visits to historic sites provided a deeper understanding of pre-modern Korean society and culture, and the progress of Korean society.

- **The National Library of Korea** ([http://www.nl.go.kr](http://www.nl.go.kr))

  Since its founding on October 15, 1945, the National Library of Korea in Sogong-dong, Seoul has endured the turbulent times of Korea's history. As a national representative library, it has a collection totaling 5.74 million volumes. It is a treasure house of Korean literature that has comprehensively and systematically collected and preserved Korea’s national intellectual and cultural assets in an effort to hand them down to the future generations.²

- **Kyujanggak** ([http://kyujanggak.snu.ac.kr/index.jsp](http://kyujanggak.snu.ac.kr/index.jsp))

  The history of the Kyujanggak Royal Library begins with its establishment by King Chŏngjo the twenty-second king of the Chosŏn dynasty in 1776 in the rear garden of Ch’angdŏk Palace. Being founded at the height of Chosŏn culture, it enjoyed enormous privileges bestowed by the founding King, but its role experienced ups and downs in the Chosŏn government until the end of the dynasty. From the colonial period to the Korean War, the Kyujanggak has shared with the Korean people both the glories and trials of Korean history. Throughout this entire period, however, the Kyujanggak’s collections have continued to expand and now contain books, documents, maps, and printing blocks numbering over 260,000 items, including National Treasures (6 titles consisting of 7,076 volumes) and Treasures (8 titles consisting of 28 volumes).³


  Until October 2004, the National Museum of Korea was located in the Sŏkchojŏn building in Kyŏngbok Palace, in the former Imperial Household Museum. It re-opened in October 2005 in a new building within Yongsan Family Park.⁴ We visited the museum on its opening day which was a historical moment. It was a great privilege for us to be able to visit the museum on this day.

- **Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS)** ([http://www.keris.or.kr/main/index.jsp](http://www.keris.or.kr/main/index.jsp))

  KERIS serves as a research and database provider for Korean academic institutions, and provides a national library catalog, full-text document delivery service, and overseas databases for Korean academia. The national catalog includes a catalog database of 335 Korean academic libraries including books, serials, journal articles, and dissertations.

- **Korean Studies Advancement Center** ([http://www.koreastudy.or.kr/index.jsp](http://www.koreastudy.or.kr/index.jsp))

  The Center was established in 1995 as a non-profit foundation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, aiming at the promotion of the Korean culture through general and systematic research of the country’s endangered traditional culture. It is located in Andong, which has been an international center of Confucianism culture since the Chosŏn dynasty.⁵

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³ Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies <http://kyujanggak.snu.ac.kr/english/e1.jsp>
⁵ Korean Studies Advancement Center <http://www.koreastudy.or.kr/about.jsp>
In the early 15th century, the King Taejong ordered the construction of a new palace at an auspicious site. A Bureau of Palace Construction was set up to create the complex, consisting of a number of official and residential buildings set in a garden that was cleverly adapted to the uneven topography of the 58-hectare site. The result is an exceptional example of East Asian palace architecture and design, blending harmoniously with the surrounding landscape. The palace was added to UNESCO’s World Heritage list in 1997.

Ch’ŏnggyech’ŏn

Ch’ŏnggyech’ŏn was once a naturally formed stream before the Chosŏn dynasty designated Seoul as its capital. Recently, Seoul has demolished the elevated roadway built over it and has set about restoring the central waterway. The Ch’ŏnggyech’ŏn project has restored 5.8 kilometers of waterway and historical pedestrian bridges, and has created extensive green space as well as promoting outdoor public art installations.

Insa-dong

Insa-dong and the surrounding area were the residences of Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910) officials, extended royal families, and the yangban aristocratic class. The antique art shops of this neighborhood, which were established there during the Japanese Colonial Period, carry everyday items of the privileged class that gradually have become antiques in the face of modernity.

Tosan Sŏwon

Tosan Sŏwon is the largest and most famous of all Confucian academies in South Korea. The first buildings on the site were established in 1561 by Yi Hwang, one of the great Korean Neo-Confucian scholars. The academy served two functions: it served as a memorial shrine to Yi Hwang and a place where his disciples could perform important ceremonies in his honor, and it also served as a place where the teachings of Yi Hwang were passed along to succeeding generations of disciples.

Pyŏngsan Sŏwon

Pyŏngsan Sŏwon was founded in 1563 near the village of P’ungsan and given the name P’ungak Sŏdang. However, there were difficulties with the site and the academy was moved to Andong and its name changed to Pyŏngsan Sŏwon, which means “Academy of the Mountains [that are shaped like] Folding Screens.” This move took place in 1572 during the fifth year of King Sŏnjo (1567-1608). Like most academies, Pyŏngsan Sŏwon was established by local scholars and supported by sympathetic members of the local community.

Andong Hahoe Village

This Village, nested along the Naktong River, is a folk village which maintains traditional Korean houses and is a clan village of the P’ungsan Yu family. A famous folk performance presented in this village, Hahoe Pyŏlsin kut Mask Dance, is a kind of mask drama presented by performers wearing traditional Hahoe masks. This performance has been designated by the South Korean government.
as South Korea’s Intangible Cultural Property No.69, and 11 Hahoe masks, the oldest masks in Korea, have been designated as National Treasure No.121.\textsuperscript{11}

- **Andong Hanji Factory**

  This factory is a great place to see and touch *hanji* (traditional Korean paper), and to see the delicacy and skill of its practitioners. Visitors follow the production of paper from tree to finished product, and are given a chance to produce their own piece of paper, which is stamped and addressed for them.

**Concluding Remarks**

The entire week in Seoul and Andong provided us with an enormous amount of information. Indeed, it was an invaluable program that has enriched the participants’ knowledge of and experience in Korean studies publications, including overall trends, electronic collections, rare books, preservation, the Korean library system, and Korean copyright issues.

The participants benefited from the experience of learning and exchanging information, forming new relationships, and renewing or changing their perspectives.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the National Library of Korea and the Korea Foundation for organizing such a wonderful training program. Also, I would like to pay special thanks to Ms. Hyokyong Yi, Korean Studies Librarian of the University of Washington, who was Chair from 2003 to 2005 of the Committee on Korean Materials of the Council on East Asian Libraries and who initially submitted this workshop proposal to the two organizations above; and to Ms. Mikyung Kang, Korean Studies Librarian of Stanford University (current Chair), who worked tirelessly to make the workshop program come about. As one of participants, I sincerely hope that this type of librarian training program will continue in the future.

\textsuperscript{11} Andong Hahoe Village <http://www.koreatips.net/english/cities/gyeongju_around02.html>
Participants and several executives from the National Library of Korea and the Korea Foundation at the National Library of Korea on October 24, 2005

Appendix 1: List of Workshop Participants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Kim, Jung-sim</td>
<td>Korean Studies Librarian</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Park, Jung-ok</td>
<td>Korean Unit Librarian</td>
<td>Australian National Library</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>Kim, Hana</td>
<td>Korea Studies Librarian</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Na, Eun-joo Carré</td>
<td>Documentalist</td>
<td>École des hautes études en sciences sociales</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Woo, Hyang-soon</td>
<td>Korean Resources Librarian</td>
<td>University of Auckland</td>
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<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Chang, Jae Yong</td>
<td>Korean Studies Librarian</td>
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<td>Chun, Kyungmi</td>
<td>Bibliographer</td>
<td>University of Hawaii</td>
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<td>University of Southern California</td>
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<td>Kim, Sung-ok</td>
<td>Cataloger</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
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<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Kim, Sunnie</td>
<td>Librarian, Head,</td>
<td>National Library of Medicine</td>
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<td>Borrowing/Replacement Unit</td>
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<td>Los Angeles Public Library</td>
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<td>Lee, Hyang</td>
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<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Paek, Seunghi</td>
<td>Korean Cataloger</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
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Appendix 2: List of Lectures and Workshops

- Korean rare books: Preservation and cataloging
- Korean electronic databases: current situation and in-depth training
- Publishing trends of scholarly books in Korea
- Trends of Korean Studies scholarly community in Korea
- Korean copyright law issues relating to Korean libraries
- Korea Foundation’s Korean Studies Publication Program
- Meeting with Librarians of the National Library of Korea

Appendix 3: List of Site Visits

**Seoul Area**
- National Library of Korea
- Kyujanggak
- National Museum of Korea
- Ch’angdŏk Palace
- Ch’ŏnggyech’ŏn
- Insa-dong
- Korea Education and Research Information Service

**Andong Area**
- Korean Studies Advancement Center
- Tosan Sŏwŏn
- Pyŏngsan Sŏwŏn
- Andong Hahoe Village
- Andong Hanji (traditional Korean paper) Factory