10-1-1998

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NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE RESOURCES
FALL MEETING 1998

The NCC fall meeting was held at Duke University on September 13-14, 1998. It was the first meeting for several new members, and a list of current NCC members is given at the end of this report. Mary E. Jackson, ARL Senior Program Officer for Access Services and incoming NCC Director attended as a guest.

Funding was a major discussion point during the meeting because both the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and The Japan Foundation, the two agencies which provide most of NCC support, report severe budgetary difficulties. The message is that NCC must seek wider support for its operations and projects.

The MVS Project report from Chair, Fred Kotas, was reviewed. There was concern about the number of applicants who were disqualified because they failed to follow directions to provide a complete application. NCC also expanded the scope of the MVS Project to include three categories, as follows:

1. Continuation of the current guidelines for a 75%-25% split in the cost of the material.
2. Loosening the requirements to allow for 50% funding of sets already held by no more than two libraries (so that the requested copy would be the third). The set need not be fully published at the time of the award, but the requesting library must commit to completing the purchase with or without additional funding from the MVS Project. The MVS Project is funded on an annual basis, so the Project cannot commit to funding unpublished items. This category will be reconsidered after a year’s experience.
3. A new category called "Special Projects which would not have a predetermined cost limit and could include funding for microfilming. Depending on the amount requested, cost share could be part of the funding arrangement. This category will be reconsidered after a year's experience.

The full list of items funded by the Project will be posted on the Cooperative East Asian Libraries World Wide Web site.

Professor Tamiko Matsumura, NCC's new Japan Liaison, has already been busy on NCC's behalf. She reported on a number of meetings and developments in Japan of critical interest to Japanese Studies librarians in the U.S. The Association of National University Libraries (ANUL), along with the National, Municipal and Private University Libraries, has established a Special Committee for International Information Access. The Special Committee has put together a Working Group to study the needs of Japanese researchers and students for information about U.S. studies, to experiment with the graphic transmission of kanji, and to review copyright regulations. These efforts are background for working with the AAU/ARL/NCC Japan Project on bi-national interlibrary loan. Additionally, the Special Committee is seeking funding from the Center for Global Partnership for a Round Table meeting to look at ways to improve DDS (Document Delivery Services) between the U.S. and Japanese libraries. Prof. Matsumura noted that the Special Committee is seeking funding for a Round Table meeting in Tokyo to which NCC representatives would be invited for concrete discussions of bi-national DDS.
The third year of The Japan Foundation training program developed in partnership with the National Diet Library, NACSIS, and the International House of Japan, will be held in Tokyo from January 18 to February 6, 1999. Mrs. Kuniko McVey from the Reischauer Institute at Harvard will attend from the U.S. Mr. Tsuneharu Gonami from the University of British Columbia will attend from Canada. There will be 13 librarians in all. On February 3 a Symposium on Japanese Studies and Japanese Information will be held at the International House of Japan.

The Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers under development at the ARL Japan Project Web site (http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu/ULJS) is growing rapidly and Project participants and other libraries with Japanese serial holdings are urged to contribute. Newspaper records are a high priority to use in planning the coordination of newspaper collections. There is a desire to include retrospective holdings, and the Union List staff is very interested in adding ceased titles. However, many libraries have not yet converted their older titles and since, the current subscriptions are those used in collection planning, it is useful to add as many titles as possible while continuing to work to include the back files. Publicity should wait until the list is a little cleaner, but early in 1999, a publicity campaign aimed at end users should be mounted. Questions should be directed to Maureen Donovan, ULJSN Editor at donovan.1@osu.edu

The NCC reviewed the goals, program outline and schedule for the planning meeting scheduled as a preconference to the AAS meeting in San Diego in March, 2000. Several sources of funding were identified, and it was agreed that this meeting is a very high priority for funding.

Deborah Jakubs, Director AAU/ARL Global Resources Program and Director, Collections Services, Duke University, joined the group for a discussion of the AAU/ARL Global Resources Program, of which the Japan Project is a part. The Program's goals are to improve access to international research resources, especially through cooperative structures and the use of new technologies, and to help libraries contain costs. Deborah then outlined some of the initiatives of the Latin American Project which might be incorporated into the Japan Project. The Latin American Project was funded by institutional matches to monies from the Mellon Foundation. Additionally, it has more participants (41) than originally planned for, and so has funds to support its programs. Twenty-six out of the forty-one participants have agreed to redirect 7% of their acquisition budgets to existing local strengths. The result is an increase in the scope of what is collected nationally and an increase in depth of the local collection. The reallocation includes monographs, backfiles and newspapers. Participants report redirecting $170,000. This kind of quantifiable success is important to continue support from AAU Presidents and ARL Directors. The Project is asking each library to cancel one journal also held by another participant. This is another strategy which could be used by the Japan Project.

NCC's winter meeting will be held in Berkeley at the Durant Hotel on January 15-16. The Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Committee will meet on Sunday, January 17.

Current NCC members: K. Troost, Chair (Duke), T. Gonnami (British Columbia), S. Harrison (Washington), T. Matsumura (Japan Liaison), M. Miki (UCLA), H. Morimoto (Berkeley), S. Snyder (Colorado), P. Steinhoff (Hawaii), A. Allison (Duke), I. Morita (LC), S. Noguchi (Pittsburgh), A. Heinrich (Columbia), Mary E. Jackson, Director

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