PCC Asian Materials Cataloging Seminar Breakout Session for Chinese Language Catalogers

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A Breakout Session at which Chinese language catalogers met with staff of the Library of Congress was held after the end of the first day of the Asian Materials Cataloging Seminar. Prior to the Seminar participants from other institutions submitted questions to LC staff, who addressed the questions during the Breakout Session. The Session was found to be helpful for resolving cataloging problems and issues regarding authority headings, subject headings, and classification numbers.

Participants:

Chao, Yenshew Lynn  Harvard University
Cheng, Charmian  Princeton University
Chiang, Hsiu-ying  National Central Library
Chiu, Cathy  Univ. of Calif. at Santa Barbara
Chou, Yu-Lan  Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley
Chu, Pao-liang  Harvard-Yenching Library
Della Porta, Ann  Library of Congress
Elman, Sarah  UCLA
Feng, Margaret  National Library of Medicine
Ho, Paul  Library of Congress
Hsieh, Lydia  Library of Congress
Lau, Clement  University of Baltimore
Leu, Yann Sheu  Library of Congress
Li, Marjorie  Rutgers University
Lin, Mary M  University of Wisconsin
Liu, Wen-ling  Indiana University
McCloy, William B.  University of Washington
Mei, Teresa  Cornell University
Ohta, Beatrice  Library of Congress
Richter, Wayne  Western Washington University
Ruth, Gordana  University of Maryland
Shen, Justin  Library of Congress
Shen, Zhijia  University of Colorado
Shih, Catherine  Library of Congress
Small, Sue Swee Chin  University of London
Su, Meng-fen  Harvard-Yenching Library
Tang, Liang-Yuh  Harvard-Yenching Library
Topping, John T.  Library of Congress
Tsai, Thomas  Library of Congress
Tsao, Jai-hsya  University of Chicago
Tsiang, Amy  UCLA
Tzung, Jean  Univ. of Calif., San Diego
Wang, Eddie  Columbia University
Wang, Xiaotong  University of Oregon
Wu, Ai-Hwa  Arizona State University
Yan, Wei  Ohio University Library
Yang, Li-shiuan  Harvard-Yenching Library
Yang, Cathy  Library of Congress
Yee, Tom  Library of Congress
Yu, Abraham  University of California, Irvine

Handouts provided were

--AACR2 22.11A and 22.15A with application to Chinese names
--Corporate body with multiple name changes
--Call number for Hung lou meng
--Classification number for supplement and continuation
--Uniform titles for works of collections lacking collective titles
--Subject headings for Chinese essays and Chinese prose literature
--Cataloging of Chinese legal materials

With Tom Tsai as moderator, the session began with an introduction of each participant.

1. Headings for Chinese Pseudonyms--Hyphenated or Non-hyphenated

P. Ho started the meeting describing the LC practice of establishing Chinese pseudonyms as hyphenated compound names vs. non-hyphenated ones. The method we were using often confused other libraries. LC preferred two different approaches; each had its merits and demerits. One school of catalogers would glance at the name first to see whether it looked or sounded like a pseudonym. If so, they would treat it as a hyphenated pseudonym instead of using a format of regular compound name. The other would consult a reputable family-name dictionary, such as "A Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Family Names," to see whether the omitted family name had been listed and would rely on the dictionary as an authority to determine a regular compound name even it might look or sound as a pen name. Finally, B. Ohta took the floor to elaborate on this topic. All outside participants wanted LC to employ a consistent way to tackle the problem. After deliberation, B. Ohta agreed that LC would employ a family-name dictionary to determine form of entry, and make a cross reference from the alternative form. Participants agreed with this proposal.

2. Corporate Body with Multiple Name Changes

Participants were puzzled about the name change for a corporate body; in this case, "Huang-pu chun hsiao," a Chinese military academy. The school changed its names six times during different periods, and its locations also varied. T. Tsai made a detailed presentation on this topic. One outside library complained that when a corporate body changed its name several times, unless a user was aware of all the earlier and later names of the entity, it would be very difficult to locate all the works about it through subject access. Furthermore each name and location change would make the cutter numbers inconsistent. T. Tsai cited appropriate cataloging rules to
defend LC practice and also to show the merit of doing it this way.

3. Classification Number of Hung Lou Meng

The group discussed the classification number "PL2727.S2" assigned to Tsao Hsüeh-chin. Participants raised the question why his work "Hung lou meng" shared the same author number "PL2727.S2" without a cutter H. In other words, the author was equal to the work, which seldom happened to other literary authors. T. Tsai answered that because tens of hundreds of books had been written about Hung lou meng, so the second cutter was reserved for the commentators instead of the work per se. Suppose Hung lou meng had its own number with an H cutter following the author number, all commentators would have been crowded out, with no apparent call numbers in order for their individual titles.

4. Classification Numbers for the Supplements

A librarian wanted to know when a supplement was grammatically or not grammatically linked to the Chinese title. AACR2 1.1B9 gave a clear guideline that a hsü pien or hsü chi (supplement) was not grammatically linked to the title when a space or a period came before it; and that a supplement was grammatically linked to the title if a space or a period came after. In the former case, it should be treated as a supplement; in the latter, also as a supplement with a 500 note (Supplement to the original title).

5. Uniform Titles for Collections Lacking Collective Titles

This topic raised a complexity of cataloging rules and was not easy to deal with. RI21.7C and RI21.30J tell us how to handle a collection that does not have a collective title. Normally, a uniform title would be employed in this situation. But there were exceptions. LC will try to develop a guideline to address the concerns submitted by the participants.

6. Chinese Essays and Chinese Prose Literature

Scope notes are not available for either heading. "Essays" normally means a short composition dealing with a single topic, and is typically personal in approach. "Prose literature," which has a broader sense, might include essays, fiction, and prose poems. Chinese essays could stand as its own class (PL2607), while Chinese prose literature covers a wide range of literary styles. Since we do not have many collections of Chinese prose literature, we have not employed a separate class number for it (as is done with English prose literature).

DINNER PARTY

Following the breakout session, the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division division chief, team leaders, catalogers of Asian materials and their guests went to a nearby Chinese restaurant, Hunan Dynasty, for a dinner party, beginning around 8 P.M.

Four dinner tables had been reserved, with hosts mingling with their guests at each table. In the course of our dining, guests and hosts continued to discuss cataloging techniques, LC cataloging
policies, ways to improve services, and cataloging problems at their individual institutions. At the dining tables, both Beatrice Ohta and Thomas Tsai were commended for their language skills in the daytime presentations. Participants said the presentations had been well prepared and informative. All conversation was carried on in an informal and light, relaxed atmosphere. A couple of guests even volunteered to entertain the audience with their singing talents. The night was a time of laughter and gaiety. Everybody had a wonderful time. By 9:30 P.M., at the conclusion of the feast, some guests said this was their best gathering ever and that they hope to come back in the future.

(Justin Shen, Library of Congress)