

MVS PROJECT '97**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Funded by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission the goal of the MVS Project is to strengthen Japanese research resources in U.S. libraries by supporting the purchase of expensive multi-volume sets in the Japanese language. Related goals are to utilize scarce book funds effectively, to ensure that valuable materials are available in the U.S., and to increase access to these materials by rationalizing expenses on a national basis. The Project Administering Committee consists of six representative scholars and librarians of Japanese studies. This year's Committee includes co-chairs Hideyuki Morimoto, Berkeley and Mariko Tamanoi, UCLA; Kevin F. Lin, Texas; Stephen Vlastos, U. of Iowa; Toshiyuki Aoki, Harvard and Fred Kotas, Cornell. Sets which can be considered for funding are Japanese imprints in Japanese studies costing more than 100,000 Yen and which have been published in entirety at the time of application. Support is not available for sets essential to any library, e.g., Iwanami's *Nihon koten bungaku taikei*. For further information and an application form see URL <http://genji.lib.berkeley.edu/nccmvs/home.htm> The announcement, application guidelines, and an application form are also printed in the October, 1996 issue of *Journal on East Asian Libraries*. Or, contact the NCC Director. Sets purchased with 95/96 funds are listed on the "genji" Web page mentioned above.

AAS ACTIVITIES**Open Meeting-Mark Your Calendars**

The NCC will hold an open meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies in Chicago on Wednesday, March 12, from 10 am-noon in the Mayfair Room of the Sheraton Chicago. Everyone interested in library resources for Japanese studies is invited to attend and contribute to setting the NCC agenda for projects.

Booth

We will be hosting a booth in the exhibit area featuring Internet-available resources of interest to students, scholars and librarians in Japanese studies. Readers with projects to make Japanese studies information and materials available over the Internet and who are interested in demonstrating

them in the NCC booth at AAS, please contact the NCC Director.

**JAPAN ART CATALOG
PROJECT AT FREER**

The NCC and ACE-Japan (Japan Assoc. for Cultural Exchange) are cooperating in a project in which ACE-Japan collects and sends art exhibition catalogs to the U.S. depository library at the Freer Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and houses a second copy of the catalogs at its new library in Tokyo. There has been substantial progress in both Japan and the U.S. since the Freer was announced as the U.S. depository. ACE-Japan has rented office space on the 3rd floor of the Ark-Mori Bldg. in the Akasaka section of Tokyo for the first Art Catalog Library in Japan. Two librarians are processing and organizing the collection which will open to the public on Nov. 12, 1996. The Art Catalog Library collects and houses catalogs of exhibitions of Japanese art held in Japanese museums and galleries and catalogs of Japanese art exhibitions held at overseas locations. The Library is open to all and will assist researchers and organizations worldwide in their research on art. Bibliographic data on its collections and information about its activities will be available on the Internet. Chaired by Prof. S. Takashima, President of the National Museum of Western Art, the Japan JAC Committee has solicited and received art exhibition catalogs from museums throughout Japan. The 1996 budget was 23,750,000 Yen with 10% provided by The Japan Foundation and the rest raised from private sources. In the U.S. the Freer has received the first catalog shipment reflecting 176 participating institutions (173 museums and department stores and 3 newspaper companies) contributing 1,125 catalogs. The Freer will provide cataloging in RLIN (RLIN ID=DCFX and "JAC Project" as a corporate heading will identify project materials) and make the catalogs available to users without charge through ILL and photoduplication services. The NCC plans to develop a counterpart U.S. project which would provide copies of catalogs of exhibitions of Japanese art held in the U.S., expanding the resources available and returning some of the effort being made by our Japanese colleagues. Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan) chairs NCC's JAC Task Force.

The National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources is a standing committee which represents the community of Japanese librarians and scholars in North America. The NCC's mission is to mobilize library resources related to Japan toward the long-range goal of creating a comprehensive system of ready access to Japanese information throughout North America. Major funding comes from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and The Japan Foundation. Membership in the NCC is open to nominations and suggestions are always welcome.

FROM THE NCC CHAIR

The NCC has almost completed its fifth year as a committee of librarians, other information specialists, and teaching faculty working to coordinate improved access to information on Japan. Although the Committee continues to refer back to the discussions at the 1991 meeting at the Hoover Institution as a guideline for planning, it also has addressed new needs and developments which have arisen since that initial meeting, such as the JS-Net Survey and the JAC Project mentioned in this newsletter. The NCC and its subcommittees want to respond quickly to new issues in Japanese studies information and we rely on you to advise us on future directions and recommendations for projects. Please feel free to discuss your ideas with any member of NCC. NCC members and subcommittees are listed on the last page of the newsletter. Yasuko Matsudo and Ellis Krauss leave the NCC at the end of 1996 with our thanks for their many contributions during their tenure.--Karl Kahler

NEWSPAPERS ANYONE?

Please Comment

At its fall meeting in Philadelphia, the NCC had an initial discussion about possible projects to improve access to Japanese newspapers. Japanese language newspapers were among the materials targeted at the 1991 Hoover meeting as needing national coordinated collection development. Because current newspapers are increasingly available electronically on the Internet from sites in Japan, it was suggested that the most useful project might be the development of a finding aid which would include information on both hardcopy and electronic newspapers. The finding aid could be made available on the WWW and updated regularly to reflect changes. The NCC is very interested in hearing from the Japanese studies community about the need for a newspaper project and how it should be structured. Please send comments to NCC Chair Karl Kahler (kahler@pobox.upenn.edu) or NCC Director Dorothy Gregor (dgregor@library.berkeley.edu).

RECON SURVEY

Funded by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, the NCC Director has queried libraries with 40,000 or more volumes of Japanese language titles as reported in the CEAL statistics. The questionnaire was sent by e-mail to the person designated by the Library's Director with follow-up

telephone calls to record the information from each library. Several of the largest collections remain to be converted, but progress has been made in the large and expensive task of converting the nation's bibliographic records for Japanese language titles to machine-readable form. A summary of the Recon Survey will be made available on the East Asian Libraries Cooperative WWW (<http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu>) It is likely that a recon project developed out of the survey would target formats, e.g., serials, or limited subject areas, rather than whole collections.

JS-NET STUDY GROUP SURVEY COMPLETED

The JS-Net Study Group, chaired by NCC Japanese liaison Takayasu Miyakawa, was formed by the Japan Foundation to find ways to coordinate various efforts among institutions and organizations in Japan providing information in response to queries from overseas researchers and librarians. The Study Group's goal is to develop recommendations for new services based on the use of the Internet. In March, 1996, NCC's Electronic Resources Subcommittee under the direction of Prof. Ellis Krauss (UCSD) directed a survey on behalf of JS-Net to assess the usage of Internet resources by Japan scholars and librarians in the U.S. and to determine their needs for additional resources. Jeremy Lehrer of UCSD conducted the e-mail based survey. One of the findings was that librarians are much more likely than scholars to use the Internet regularly in their work and to access resources related to Japanese studies. The survey was useful in confirming what has been learned from other sources: that U.S. users are primarily interested in access to basic bibliographic information and to the text of journals and newspapers, in particular. Also of high interest are statistics of almost any kind. Respondents also indicated an interest in information on the hardware/software needed to access Japanese language resources, concern about the high costs of accessing Japanese databases, and the difficulties of arranging for access to Japanese databases.

WWW PROJECT

1995/96 was the second year of a cooperative project initiated by Ohio State University's Maureen Donovan to develop an electronic information service for Japanese library resources. The goal of the project, funded by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, was to create a shared electronic resource freely accessible over the Internet. Project participants were OSU, UC

WWW PROJECT, con't.

Berkeley, Columbia, Duke, and MIT. Additional partners from the CIC--Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin--were supported by a grant obtained by OSU from the U.S. Dept. of Education Title IIA Library Technology and Cooperation Program and is an example of how NCC activities have been strengthened and expanded by funding from several sources. All the sites are engaged in making digital resources available for scholars and students in the U.S. and around the world.

The project was successful in meeting its primary goal and all participants will be able to build on the resources which have been made available. In the case of three of the participants who were working with WWW technology for the first time, success came after some painful start-up lessons. URLs and brief descriptions of the resources follow: For more information contact the participants (in parentheses).

UC Berkeley: (Hideyuki Ishimatsu)

<http://genji.library.berkeley.edu>

UCB's Radical Stroke Catalog, home page for accessing *Kuchie* in UCB's Meiji literature collection

Columbia: (Amy Heinrich)

<http://www.cc.columbia.edu/libraries/indiv/eastasian/ea.menu.html>

Homepage, resources under construction

Duke: (Kristina Troost)

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/eac>

[/japanesestudies.html](http://japanesestudies.html)

Bibliographies and guides to research in Japanese studies

OSU: (Maureen Donovan)

<http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu>

Japanese company histories with tables of contents, tables of content for *Gekkan New Policy*

MIT: (Shigeru Miyagawa)

<http://www-japan.mit.edu>

Global Web-based Information Service for Japanese Language and Culture

AAU/ARL JAPANESE JOURNAL ACCESS PROJECT

NCC's Serials Subcommittee has been charged to develop a draft work plan for the Japan segment of the AAU/ARL Global Resources initiative whose goal is to develop a distributed national library for foreign language resources. Although originally focused on Japan's sci-tech literature, the project has been expanded to include all Japanese journal

literature in an effort to scale up the project and to be more responsive to the Japanese studies programs and libraries in ARL institutions. Recommendations for Project activities should result in improved access to the Japanese journal literature for users outside the ARL community as well.

The Subcommittee has asked for comments on its draft plan and is in the process of compiling those comments and integrating them into the plan. ARL will then put out a call for participation to its members. An advisory committee will be formed from the participating institutions and work will begin.

The plan envisions a two-directional effort: to improve access to Japanese journals available in North America and to improve access to Japanese journals and journal articles in Japan. As in the U.S., there is an increasing number of journal resources available from Japan on the WWW, and the Subcommittee is concerned that U.S. libraries not duplicate what is being made available from Japan. Among the recommendations drafted for review by the Japanese studies community are the following:

-Update and make available on the WWW the National Union List of Current Japanese Serials currently available only in paper format.

-Build a collaborative collection development project which will allow participating libraries to reallocate dollars spent on a broader range of Japanese journal titles.

-Explore the possibility for housing some titles at the Center for Research Libraries as part of a Japanese Studies Area Program.

-Provide WWW access to Japanese journal sources for end users.

-Prepare a grant proposal for retrospective conversion of strong collections whose journal holdings are not yet available in the national bibliographic databases.

-Seek funding to improve availability of access to the *Zasshi Kiji Sakuin* from NACSIS, including training programs, facilitating payments for use, and extending hours.

-Monitor availability of electronic journals from Japan.

Members of the NCC's Serials Subcommittee include Maureen Donovan (OSU--donovan.1@osu.edu), Kristina Troost (Duke--kktroost@acpub.duke.edu), Sachie Noguchi (Pittsburgh--noguchi@vms.cis.pitt.edu), Dorothy Gregor (NCC Director) For a copy of the draft workplan contact, D. Gregor (dgregor@library.berkeley.edu)

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The NCC also has the following standing
subcommittees:

Electronic Resources: Ichiko Morita, Chair
Glenn Hoetker, ghoetker@umich.edu
Karl Lo, UCSD, Karl_Lo@UCSDLibrary.ucsd.edu
Randy Soderquist, NSF, rsoderqu@nsf.gov

MVS Project: Hideyuki Morimoto, Berkeley,
hmorimot@library.berkeley.edu and Mariko
Tamanoi, UCLA, mtamanoi@ucla.edu, co-Chairs
Kevin Lin, Texas, llkfl@utxdp.dp.utexas.edu
Stephen Vlastos, Iowa, stephen-vlastos@uiowa.edu
Toshiyuki Aoki, Harvard, aoki@fas.harvard.edu
Fred Kotas, Cornell, fjk2@cornell.edu

Serials: Dorothy Gregor, Chair (see AAU/ARL
Japanese Journal Access Project article for list of
members)

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