

Report on the Second Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science

by
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The Second Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science held on 20–24 May 1985, was a follow-up of the first such conference held in Taipeh in 1983. The organisers were the Cultural and Social Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region (ASPAC) Seoul, Korea and the Central National Library, Republic of Korea. A total of 36 official delegates attended the Seoul conference, between whom a total of 21 papers were submitted.

The papers were presented at three separate sessions:

First session: Cataloguing rules for East-Asian publication

Second session: Development in automated systems of Chinese, Japanese and Korean character codes

Third session: Establishment of East Asian MARC system

The first two sessions gave up much that was useful in indicating the advances already made by countries such as the Republic of China (R.O.C.), Japan, Korea and America in the handling of Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) materials and the production of machine-readable catalogues. There was a consensus that MARC format types of automated bibliographic databases would be the most desirable as this alone promises international information exchanges.

Advances made in dealing with the problems of transliteration as well as the solving of various dilemmas in cataloguing CJK materials were also discussed. In this connection the work of various information bureaux and centres such as the CCCII in coming up with standard cataloguing rules for CJK materials was significant.

The encoding of information was paid particular attention to as it is obvious that only with standardized bibliographic input can ensuing standardized output be effected for information exchanges.

The experience of RLIN's East Asian practices proved an interesting example of a practical approach for the handling of East Asian materials which could

well be used by libraries with CJK collections. Many delegates were interested in the portable RLIN package and the advantageous implications that such a package would give to them.

The last session was given over to an examination of the establishment of MARC systems in East Asian libraries which had considerable CJK materials (such as Korea, and Japan); and in those of Southeast Asian centres which had some CJK materials. They also informed the meeting as to their experience in the establishment of machine-readable catalogues which could be used for international information exchanges.

The papers presented were detailed, and gave a fair idea of the manner in which certain centres and countries tackled their problems, and highlighted the advances made by librarians and computer personnel in the face of a particularly difficult problem. As a result, this proved to be an informative and serious conference.

Much useful contact was made between the delegates and their Korean counterparts. The delegates were not always cloistered in serious discussion. The considerate Korean hosts saw to it that informative visits were made to museums, libraries, and other cultural centres. The delegates could not fail but be much impressed with the unique and ancient heritage of culture which current-day Koreans have inherited, and of which the Korean people are justifiably proud. Warm Korean hospitality was showered upon the delegates from the moment they arrived to the point of departure. Thus, by the end of the week, the conference worked in close rapport and much useful social and professional interchanges were effected.

In addition to the official programme I took the opportunity to visit the Central National Library of Korea, the Seoul National University and the Yonsei University, in addition to the Ehwa Women's College at Seoul. Together they served to reflect the varied academic collections of the country upon which a very rigorous intellectual environment is engendered, especially at the university levels. All the academic libraries are built on architecturally splendid lines, and

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reflect the serious regard which their administrators hold for them.

It was a rare opportunity for me to have met some of the top Korean librarians, among others, Messrs. Sook-Jung Kwon, Director of the Central National Library; Do-Soon Chung, Director of the Cultural and Social Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region; Ke-Hong Park, Librarian of the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology; Lee Young-kee, Director of Seoul National University; and Jai-Chul Lee, President of the Korean Library Association and Director of Yonsei University Library. In addition, to have been able to have discussions and exchanges of information and views with many of the top librarians in the East Asian region was indeed a privilege.

All in all, the conference proved for me to have been an enlightening and educational experience which I would not have wanted to have missed.

The papers presented are lodged at the Bahagian Koleksi Kebangsaan and are listed below. The proceedings of the conference are expected to be published, and made available by the ASPAC office in Seoul by the end of the year.

Second Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science

1. Welcoming address by Sook-Jung Kwon.
2. Opening address by Do-Soon Chung.
3. Keynote speech by Marylin Sharrow.

Papers presented

Session I

4. The feasibility of East-Asian library co-operation: from the point of view of C.J.K. materials cataloguing, by Shih-Hsion Huang.
5. East-Asian resources in Singapore Library, by Koh Thong-Ngee.
6. East-west library information exchange in the computer age, by Sally C. Tseng and Calvin J. Boyer.
7. On the format of cataloging entry, by Pil-Mo Zung.
8. The preparation of the concise edition of Chinese cataloguing rules: principles and applications, by Chien-Chang Lan and Ho-Sheng Lu.
9. Computerized bibliographic control in Thai-

land, by Songvit Kaesri and Wilawan Sapphansaen.

10. The characteristics of Korean personal names and their treatment as headings in library catalogs, by Hahn Soon-Chung.

Session II

11. Chinese character and bibliographic information interchange, by Hiroshi Tanabe.
12. A diagonal encoding system (DSES): a simplified 3-corner coding method and its feasibility for CJK adoption, by Jack Kai-Tung Huang.
13. RLIN East-Asian character code and the RLIN CJK thesaurus, by Karen Smith-Yoshimura and Alan Tucker.
14. A multi-lingual coding system based on CCCII, by Chung-Tao Chang.
15. The present status of the standard Chinese character code system in Korea, by Ki-Sik Lee.
16. Application and design consideration for CJK information interchange code, by Chen-Chau Yang.

Session III

17. Computer application in library and information services in Korea and the need of East-American MARC system, by Park Ke-Hong.
18. History and present situation of bibliographic control in Japan, by Shojiro Maruyama.
19. A Chinese MARC-oriented study on the establishment feasibility of the East-Asian MARC system, by Nancy Ou-Lan (Hu) Chou.
20. On establishing an automated Chinese information dissemination network in the State of New Jersey: an informative account, by Nelson Chou.
21. Computerization and shared cataloguing in academic libraries: a Malaysian experience, by Khoo Siew Mun.
22. Automation of East Asian catalogue records in Australian libraries, by Sing-Wu Wang.
23. The challenges of library automation, by Margaret C. Fung.
24. Production and distribution of bibliographic records in Korea, by Koo Ja-Young.
25. Closing remarks by Sook-Jung Kwon.
26. Closing address by Doh-Soon Chung.