

Chinese-Japanese-Korean library material

Linda Groom reports that work is starting on the national system

Work has begun on a cooperative project to provide Australian libraries that collect Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) material with a shared cata-

loguing and location utility similar to ABN. The project will develop a multi-script database on which it will be possible for the participant libraries to construct OPAC-style

searches using CJK scripts, view displays in these scripts, and order MARC records containing the scripts. For libraries without CJK terminals, access through Romanised versions of the records will be available.

The Project Steering Committee met in Canberra on 27 May. Following the meeting, Committee Chairperson Eric Wainwright, Deputy Director-General of the National Library, announced that tenders would be called in October for supply of the hardware and software to run the system. A decision on the successful tender is expected in the first half of 1994. According to Eric Wainwright, the CJK system will complement ABN until the completion of the ABN/Ozline Redevelopment Project, at which time it is intended to combine or link the two databases. ■



The photograph of the Steering Committee shows (from left): V Nadasabapathy, University Librarian, Murdoch University; Michael Evans, Associate University Librarian Collection Management, Australian National University; Linda Groom, Project Manager, National Library; Edward Lim, University Librarian, Monash University; Eric Wainwright, Deputy Director-General, National Library; John Rodwell, Information Services Librarian, University of Sydney; Jan Fullerton, Assistant Director-General, Collections and Reader Services Division, National Library.

Australian library services for the deaf-blind

Virginia Rowland reports on initiatives from ACROD

At the ACROD Convention in November 1992, ACROD members expressed their concern at the shortage of appropriate services, including library services, for people who are both deaf and blind. The ACROD Board met after the convention and decided to take some action on the issue, initially by preparing a paper with recommendations for action.

ACROD has now released *Services in Australia for People who are both Deaf and Blind: A Discussion Paper*. The report does not specifically mention library services and materials available to deaf and blind people, but discusses in general terms the services offered in each State by

Government and specialist organisations. ACROD has found that most people who are deaf and blind receive services from an organisation catering to a single disability such as deafness, blindness or intellectual disability. This makes it difficult to provide statistics on the number of Australians who are deaf and blind.

The report also highlights problems in the training of staff and identifies gaps in the services for young people leaving school and wanting to find accommodation and work.

The deaf-blind group has not to date presented a strong national voice. There is also uncertainty about funding due to the devolution of Commonwealth funded

services to the States. The report emphasises a need to recognise the high cost of providing support on the one to one basis needed by people who are deaf and blind. There is also a general lack of recognition that the needs of this group of people differ from those of other people with disabilities—access to services and community facilities is only possible to a limited degree for people whose communication is restricted to tactile means.

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