

Report on Activities of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia from January to December 2004.

In the “National Diet Library (NDL) Vision 2004,” the Library specifies four priority areas and each priority objective for them. One of them, titled “the promotion of cooperation,” is to develop international interlibrary cooperation mainly by collaborating with the IFLA and by interacting with libraries in Asia. The IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia will also play an important role and continue its own activities within the new framework.

The following is what the NDL carried out from January to December 2004 based on its Preservation Cooperation Program.

1/ Publications

(1) Translations

We started to translate “A Blue Shield for the Protection of our Endangered Cultural Heritage” (*IPI*, no.4) and “Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs” (*IPI*, no.5) into Japanese. In the near future, we will publish them, load them on the NDL homepage and send them to the International Focal Point for loading on IFLANET.

(2) Distribution of IFLA/PAC publications

International Preservation News no. 31, no. 32 and no. 33, as well as *International Preservation Issues* no. 5 were distributed to libraries and institutions in the area covered by the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia.

(3) Contribution

Mr. Takao Murayama, then Director of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia, contributed an article titled “To Protect Irreplaceable Documentary Heritage at the Foot of the Himalayas - Report of Visit to Nepal” to the *NDL Newsletter* No. 139, October 2004, and Mr. Masaki Nasu, Director of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia, also contributed an article titled “Training programs for the staff of the Nepal National Library, a collaborative project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia” to *CDNLAO Newsletter* No.51, November 2004.

2/ Training

(1) Acceptance of a trainee from the Nepal National Library

We made an arrangement with the Nepal National Library for preservation training in

cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and received Mr. Pradeep Battharai, a staff member of the Library, from October 18 to December 1, mainly in our Preservation Division.

(2) Dispatch of lecturers

To give an introductory lecture on preservation, we sent some staff members of the Preservation Division to libraries throughout the country; Mr. Hitoshi Abe and Mr. Shigeru Otake to the Aichi Prefectural Library on February 2, Ms. Aiko Mizutani and Mr. Hiroshi Ozaki to the Fukui Prefectural Library on October 15.

(3) The 8th Preservation and Conservation Training Program

The 8th Preservation and Conservation Training Program was held at the Kansai-kan, NDL on July 8 and 9, in which 33 Japanese librarians participated. The purpose of the Program was to acquire elementary techniques for mending deteriorated materials.

(4) Preservation training through an online training system

In order to start preservation training through an online training system available from a remote site intended for library staff mainly in Japan from FY2005, we are now preparing a textbook for it.

3/ Raising awareness

(1) The 16th Forum on Preservation

The 16th Forum on Preservation was held at the NDL on February 27, in which 71 Japanese librarians participated. The purpose of the Forum is to enable experts on preservation and conservation to share and exchange information every year. Mr. Yoshiro Komatsu, Chair, Japan Society of Archives Institutions, gave a lecture on “Disaster and information network: towards forming an information network for library materials affected by disaster.”

(2) Preservation Conference between Korea, China, Japan

Mr. Hidetoshi Kanebako, Director of the Preservation Division and Mr. Masakazu Kuba, staff member of the Division, attended the Preservation Conference between Korea, China, Japan under the theme of “Preservation technology and management plan,” held at the National Library of Korea in Seoul from November 14 to 20. Mr. Hidetoshi Kanebako gave the keynote speech titled “Preservation and conservation policy of the National Diet Library and future direction” and Mr. Kuba gave a paper titled “Basic principle on modern preservation work and its management.”

4/ Cooperation

(1) Cooperation with the Nepal National Library

From January 31 to February 11, Mr. Murayama, then Director of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia, visited the Nepal National Library and some other libraries and institutions in the Kathmandu basin to research into the storage conditions of materials and assess preservation needs in Nepal. Based on his report, we made an arrangement with the Nepal National Library for preservation training.

(2) Visitors from overseas

The following people from overseas visited the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre and the Preservation Division of the NDL:

- Mr. James E. Burd, President, Preservation Technologies (January 5)
- Dr John R. Hébert, Chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress (April 15)
- Ms. Kongdeuane Nettavong, Director of the National Library of Laos (September 14)
- Ms. Chu Tuyet Lan, Director of the Library Documentation Information, Institute of Han – Nom Studies, National Center for Social Science and Humanities of Vietnam (November 18)
- Mr. Richard Thouin, Director of Preservation, National Library of Québec (November 26)
- Ms. Supaporn Khaosum-ang, Head Librarian, Pridibanomyong Central Library, Thammasat University (December 6)

(3) Director at the 70th IFLA General Conference and Council in Buenos Aires

Mr. Masaki Nasu, Director of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia, attended the Joint Meeting of the PAC Advisory Board and PAC Directors as well as all the meetings hosted by the Preservation and Conservation Section.

(4) Social Meetings for Experts in Preservation

The NDL held the first and second “Social Meeting for Experts in Preservation” from libraries, archives and museums and other institutions in order to exchange information among them and share knowledge and experience. A planned series of meetings is also intended to promote preservation activities in Japan as well as at the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia, which facilitates working together with libraries and institutions in Asia.

5/ The field of excellence

(1) pH testing

The Preservation Division gave out recently the result of the 17th pH testing of current

Japanese publications published in 2002 and held by the NDL, which was conducted in October 2003. By random sampling, 1,658 items from 98,465 monographs and 1,516 items from 48,299 titles of periodicals were picked out. We selected 2,428 items of the 3,174 items, excluding items in use and materials printed on coated paper. The rate of acid-free paper use was 94.6 % in monographs, 86.9 % in periodicals and 91.4 % in total. Generally speaking, the rate of acid-free paper use is increasing steadily and comes up to our expectations.

6/ Others

(1) Survey about accessibility of packaged electronic materials held in the NDL

The Kansai-kan's Digital Library Division has been tackling a three-year research project for digital preservation from FY 2002 and has already obtained some important results. One of them is a survey on the accessibility of packaged electronic materials held in the NDL. According to the report, which the Division published in March 2004, nearly 70% of 200 samples from materials acquired before 2000 have some problems in using on WindowsXP or MacOSX. In FY2004, we plan to try migration and emulation for their long-term preservation, evaluate the cost and time to carry this out, and create appropriate metadata.

(2) Urgent countermeasure against deteriorated micromaterials

The Preservation Division is taking an urgent countermeasure against heavily deteriorated and deteriorating materials held in the Library according to the degree of deterioration found in the previous assessment. Particularly during FY 2004, the Division reproduces deteriorated microfilms and replaces many paper envelopes of deteriorating microfiches with new acid-free ones.

7/ Activities planned for 2005

(1) Strengthening relationships with libraries and institutions in Asian countries

We aim to strengthen relationships with libraries and institutions in Asian countries. Particularly, from 2005 we plan to carry out a cooperation program for the National Library of Bhutan focusing on preservation and conservation at the request of that Library.

(2) The 11th International Symposium on Preservation

We plan to hold an international symposium on preservation after an interval of six years to identify the preservation needs of Asian countries in an age of change and discuss the future form of collaboration in Asia, as a new Centre may also be established in South and South East Asia in addition to the present three Centres.

(3) Guidelines for increased use of acid-free paper

We carry out research and studies for the long-term preservation of paper-based materials, particularly making guidelines for increased use of acid-free paper.

(4) The 17th Forum on Preservation

The 17th Forum on Preservation is to be held under the theme of disaster prevention and emergency response: introduction of the Japanese version of “The emergency response and salvage wheel” on February 10, 2005.

(5) Disaster plan

We are continually considering disaster plans for the National Diet Library and guidelines for disaster control in Japan.

(6) Web archiving

Based on the “Medium term plan of the digital library,” the Library will conduct web archiving and create an online deposit system for the permanent preservation of digital information resources in 5 years, from the present experimental phase.