

NCC September Council Meeting, Harvard University, Cambridge

September 1, 2007

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Resource Re-Use Project: Suggested Revisions Based on the Feasibility Study

Based on reports from the feasibility study, we propose an improved framework for the Re-Use Project. In cases when a JANUL library, hereinafter referred to as the “contributing library”, prefers that North American libraries reuse its unnecessary duplicates, JANUL conveys the contributing library's intention to the NCC so that the NCC may coordinate and facilitate the transfer.

1. JANUL reports the results of the feasibility study in 2007 to its member libraries and serves as the liaison between the NCC and member libraries.
2. The NCC will work directly with the contributing library to coordinate the Re-Use project.
3. Procedures for communication, packing, shipping, selection of transporter, documentation preparation and other necessary actions will be discussed and determined by the NCC and the contributing library.
4. The NCC will set up a task force for each project to select and contact recipient institutions.

The 2007 feasibility study between the NCC and the University of Tokyo Library has corroborated the importance of Japan's national university libraries' contribution to the Japanese studies community in North America. The NCC hopes that JANUL members will appreciate the possibility that the books that would otherwise be abandoned could be re-used by Japanese studies researchers and students in North America.

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Report on the Feasibility Study of the Resource Re-Use Plan

The Feasibility Study on the Resource Re-Use Plan (the Study) was announced on February 5, 2007 via Eastlib, H-Japan, and H-Asia listservs, per the agreement between the NCC and the University of Tokyo Library. Tokiko Y. Bazzell and Toshie Marra, current and former NCC Chairs, conducted the Study on behalf of the NCC. By the announced deadline, February 21, nine North American academic libraries responded with their request items. After the deadline, Ohio State University Library and the University of Kansas Library submitted requests. Their requests were accepted on the condition that only items not already on the lists of the other nine libraries would be considered. The final analysis, post study survey, and comments are followed:

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	n/a	n/a
	Manitoba	Vanderbilt	Michigan State	Virginia	UC-Irvine	Minnesota	Texas-Austin	UHM	UCLA	Kansas	Ohio State
Region	Canada	South	Midwest	South	West	Midwest	South West	West	West	Midwest	Midwest
holdings	300	500	6,000	9,000	18,745	35,178	61,360	125,000	175,740	74,000	102,345
Req. vols	67	76	26	229	116	41	275	82	310		
# of overlaps	12	12	2	41	8	5	33	12	132		
Total gift books	67	54	17	164	41	14	99	17	131	6	63
%	100%	71%	65%	71%	35%	34%	36%	20%	42%	n/a	n/a
Librarians	Reference Services	Cataloging (Chinese)	Asian Studies Librarian	East Asian Librarian (Chinese)	Asian Studies Librarian (Chinese)	East Asian Librarian (Chinese)	East Asian Librarian (Chinese)	Japanese Studies Librarian	Japanese Studies Librarian	Japanese Studies Librarian	Japanese Studies Librarian
Total Cost	¥26,075	¥24,984	¥8,338	¥31,942	¥28,765	¥7,774	¥29,779	¥7,314	¥32,000	¥6,120	¥14,885

Selection process

1. Confirmed non-duplicated items from the nine libraries. These items would automatically be distributed to the requested libraries.
2. Identified duplicated items.
3. Reviewed the size of Japanese language collections and geographical location of each library. The nine libraries are geographically spread out across North America. Therefore, the duplicated items were selected with priority given to the smallest collections.
4. The University of Manitoba (Canada) will be provided 100% of its requested items. Over 70% of the requested items will be distributed to Vanderbilt and Virginia (South). However, the University of Minnesota (Midwest) will acquire 17% or 9 items. In order to give more consideration to the University of Minnesota, we decided to transfer 6 items from the University of Virginia's list. In the end, Virginia still keeps 70% of its request, while Minnesota can obtain 34% of its request, which brings the distributions more in line with the other institutions.
5. After that, distributed non-duplicated items selected by Ohio State and the University of Kansas respectively.
6. Each library was presented the final list and asked to confirm its willingness to receive the items in the Study. As of March 5th, all the institutions confirmed their participation.
7. As a result, over 74% of the available items from the University of Tokyo Library will be distributed (re-used).

Afterthoughts and questions

- Seventy-four percent of the materials will be re-used among North American libraries, which demonstrates a need for this type of project and that it should be considered for continuation.
- The total time used to compile and distribute the items was approximately 8 hours. However, it took an additional, but undocumented, amount of time to contact, follow up and correspond with each institution.
- In this Study, a relatively small number of items and participating institutions were handled (900 available items and 11 participants). Moreover, the collection sizes and geographical locations of the participants were

not complicated, which made it easier to implement. If more items were available and the priority variables were more complicated, it would require more time and effort. The fact that only two weeks were given for selectors to respond to the Study probably contributed to the low number of participants.

- One institution expressed a concern that it would receive relatively few of the items it requested. If the pool of participants becomes larger and more requests duplicated, we could expect to have more concerns from participants.
- The Study shows, however, that institutions like UCLA (131 non-duplicated items) and Ohio State (63 non-duplicated items) which selected unique items, had a higher success rate in receiving requested items.
- The University of Kansas wanted to participate even though only six items were available to them this time. The question remains whether it will be cost effective to pay shipping and handling for a small number of items. (Note: Kansas expressed their satisfaction in their post study survey.)

Post Study Survey

1. Do you find this type of project worthwhile?

Yes: 11 No: 0

Comments

- They may be old, but sometimes you can get something you have been looking for.
- It is a wonderful project. Appreciate the NCC's initiative and its efficient execution of the project. The project is well designed that it gave the least amount of efforts for application. Ms Bazzell provided an excellent presentation during the annual meeting
- Some of titles are no longer available in the book market, plus it is a good use of the duplicates in those libraries.
- donated books + handling charge + postage was reasonable for the quality of books received
- Useful materials that are not wanted by one library could be shared with other libraries that want these materials. This project gave us a good opportunity to enhance our library collection in the area that we recently began developing.
- Increased our collection for the books that we probably won't be able to get.

2. If there is another opportunity like this, would you participate again?

Yes: 11 No: 0

Comments:

- Our budget has been restrained, so I have to look for every opportunity to maximize our purchase power.
- It's a great resource of acquiring new Japanese titles for our library. We will definitely participate again.
- Certainly, I would love to participate if the opportunity comes up again, and I look forward to it.
- The current project included some materials that are difficult or impossible to acquire from our book vendors, and the same situation is expected for the future opportunities like this.

3. Is the price for books, shipping, and handling adequate?

Yes: 11 No: 0

Comments:

- We have shipping and handling fund separately from book budget. So the shipping and handling cost is not threatening.
- The cost involved was very generous and reasonable.
- To me, the charges are adequate, and hopefully are not going to increase
- very reasonable
- I think it is adequate, considering the good service that JPT provided.

4. If the handling charge is increased, how much would you be willing to commit? This time, the handling charge was set at ¥3,000 per carton.

Up to how much would you be willing to take?

¥6000: 1 ¥5000: 4 ¥3500-¥4000: 2 ¥3000: 4

5. Is the volume of books adequate? (there are about 1,000 books this time)

Yes: 9 No: 0 No answer: 2

Comments:

- I cannot answer. Many of books, if I remember correctly, are in the fields of science and engineering. Our focus is on the humanities then social science.
- It seemed right length of list to browse for selection.

- The items I selected are not given to me, so the matter is not how many titles in the pool I guess, it matters to me is that if the titles I wanted can be secured or not.
- If too many books are listed in a single list, I might be able to check too well, unless the list is organized differently, e.g., classified by subject areas.

6. Is the selection procedures (book allocation, timing, correspondence, etc) adequate?

Yes: 8 No: 3

Comments:

- My application was too late, but I appreciate the committee taking my application into account. The correspondence was prompt and I cannot complain.
- Overall, the project was executed very well! The amount of time provided for selection is adequate. Having a reminder for deadline was also helpful.
- Yes, it was an efficient process for me, and it was very well organized and that saves time.
- needed more time for selection – this project came at a very busy time of year!
- It was good that the priority was given to smaller collections for book allocation, rather than using first-come first-served basis
- Need more time to review the list.

7. Is the given information adequate?

Yes: 10 No: 0 No answer: 1

Comments:

- The information for the selection is sufficient for me to make decisions
- I think so. I could identify the materials.

8. If this type of opportunity is provided again in the future, when is the most convenient time for you?

Please indicate your preferred month(s)

Anytime except July-August & December 1 Any time 2

May – June 1 June – July 1 Summer 4

January-February 1

March 1

9. If you are asked to coordinate or to be a member of the coordination committee, would you be willing to volunteer to serve?

Yes: 7 No: 2 No answer: 2

Comments:

- I am interested in this project, but I cannot be responsible for making commitment. I think this will be a good project to continue, and if there is another opportunity, I will definitely support the project and request books if I find them useful for our collection.
- I'd be happy to volunteer.
- I would love to volunteer my time to work on it, but I guess I should not commit things that I may not be able to accomplish, not because I don't want to, simply because I don't have enough time to do one more volunteer.
- If it is OK to correspond in English
- I think it is a good and worthwhile project also from the perspective of international cooperation. I am willing to support this type of collaboration
- will be happy to help in whatever I can. My Japanese is very limited.

Meeting with JPTC on May 24, 2007

JPT feels that the University of Tokyo staff worked very hard to prepare the books. When these books were sent to them, a slip of a requester (one row from the Excel print out) was inserted in each book and books were bundled based on the destination. Their handling charge in amount of ¥3,000 this time does not include a profit margin and does not reflect the actual costs. If they consider their need to break-even and cover their personnel expenses on the project, they feel that the charge would be set at around ¥5,000 to ¥6,000 per carton. Also, they could only handle the volumes of this level (1,000 volumes) and they cannot accommodate multiple donor institutions. They would like to receive the NCC's final report on this project.