

ALA Fellowship Highlights—HELEN IVES

My activities while in Japan and Taiwan fall into three categories:

First, outreach to Japanese professional librarians and American Studies faculty. During these activities I was able to bring them up to date on American library practice in all types of libraries and introduce them to use of the Internet for material on the U.S. as well as Internet sources on Japanese public policy and legislation. I also used this opportunity to invite those professionals to ALA this summer. Tokiko Bazzell helped produce a brochure in Japanese, which constituted an invitation.

I was able to make the following trips/visits, many at the invitation of the American consulate/American Centers to five Japanese cities and Taipei:

1. Taipei Taiwan. I spoke to a group of some 70 librarians from all parts of Taiwan. The symposium sponsored by the China Library Association featured speakers on access to US documents on the Internet, specialized databases available through the USIA web sites, specialized sources available on Taiwanese governmental websites and the problems associated with these developments. During the two day visit, we were also the guests of the National Library where we saw both their rare book collection and their digital library initiative. I also spent some time at the American Cultural Center Library .

2..Nagoya Consulate. At the invitation of the American Reference Center Library, Ms. Watanabe, I participated in a discussion panel with librarians from all types of libraries in that prefecture. Working from written questions, I prepared a presentation that addressed their concerns about user education, user-friendly webpages, the balance between print and electronic sources in American libraries, job outlook for searchers in the era of Web versions of databases such as Dialog, and the future of the Internet access to resources. The discussion was quite enlightening as their genuine concern and interest prompted a lively interchange. During my stay Ms Watanabe also took me for a special tour of the Tokugawa Museum and archives as well as a unique visit to the library of the resident Kabuki company. While at the Kabuki library , I was presented with bibliographies of their holdings for my own home institution as well as for the Stanford Japan Center in Kyoto.

3. Kyoto University Center for Southeastern Asia. This was an especially interesting visit as the librarian, a graduate of the University of Hawaii library school, was eager to exchange ideas on collection building for specialized studies. The library holds collections of rare materials in many languages and makes them available generally by having librarians from other countries come to catalog the non-Japanese materials. This visit gave me an insight into how National universities in Japan are organized and the role of librarians in them. The various specialized centers in Kyoto have developed their subject emphasis by default; in the case of Kyodai, it specializes in ecology.

4. Fukuoka American Center. I was invited to speak to a large group of librarians from the area around the western city of Fukuoka by the librarian from the Consulate there. Most of the librarians were academic

library specialists and were most interested in how we use the Internet in our instruction program and in how we encourage students to use library resources intelligently. The Q&A session focused on the differences in the way American and Japanese libraries are organized, how their staffs are deployed and what they could do to increase their impact on campus. National university library staffs (the upper echelon, mostly male) are rotated frequently from one national university to another while in private universities, staff are rotated through the university offices and generally do not specialize in library and research skills. The impact on the development of the private university collections is apparent. They were very interested in the access to US documents that the FOIA etc makes possible in light of current legislation in the Diet to provide that access to Japanese governmental proceedings. In most university libraries, teaching faculty decide on materials to be purchased (individual budgets) and a senior faculty member is given the post (titular and honorary) of University Library Director. He does not spend time in the library, but visits for meetings etc. The Library Committee is responsible for deciding on materials, which fall outside a particular faculty member's area of expertise.

5. I spoke at the Osaka Consulate to assembled librarians and American studies faculty on the various gateways to US documents with special emphasis on the access mandated by FOIA. In addition to the presentation and ensuing Q&A, which covered a wide range of concerns, I followed up on a good number of reference questions that developed during the hands-on tour of the Kansai American Center library.

6. In Tokyo I was briefed by the director of the Tokyo American Center. The Tokyo Reference Center is actively engaged in cultivating younger members of the Japanese Diet and briefing them on the developing of FOIA activities and sunshine legislation in Japan as part of their mission to explain American policies. Their library as do the other center libraries offers a wide range of sources and periodicals for students and scholars.

7. The University of the Ryukyus invited me to speak to a large group of librarians and members of the American studies association in Okinawa on public access to US documents. They were very enthusiastic about the hands on session, which followed and shared with me the digital projects they (and the National Diet Library) have been promoting. The Embassy had given them a core American Studies collection so our visit there was partly to commemorate that. Staff from the Archives of the Ryukyus are working on a project to digitize the records of the SCAP held at the NARA in College Park with cooperation from the National Diet Library.

8. Stanford Japan Center is a specialized research center in Kyoto. The librarian, a Rutgers graduate, was instrumental in procuring entree for me to various libraries in Kyoto and introducing me to Ritsumeikan faculty. The students, most from the consortium of universities (Harvard, Yale, etc), spend time in Japan engaged in cultural studies. The Japan Center librarian and I visited many special libraries in Kyoto including the library attached to the minority rights advocacy association to increase cooperation between those librarians.

9. Ritsumeikan University hosted a meeting of some 50 Kyoto area academic librarians at which

I spoke on the WRLC in the context of other consortia. The universities in Kyoto/Osaka coordinate their activities with their private or national university colleagues in purchasing of primary sources materials so they were very interested in learning of the many ways that WRLC and other consortia leverage their human and economic strength. The audience was very interested in the development of digital libraries in the U.S. academic world.

10. Ritsumeikan University organized a session for their library staff during which I briefed them on how we use the Internet in our reference work here at American University Library.

11. I participated in a program at Kyoto University Library (a national university) with speakers from Rutgers University Library (the Social Science Data Center director) and the National Library of Canada. Kyoto University encourages the interchange of ideas with large American libraries.

12. I met with the American Studies faculty of the Center for American Studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto to discuss ways they would promote and increase access to US government and scholarly materials on the U.S (I suggested CIAO etc). Doshisha is a private university, which has the largest American studies collection (40,000 volumes) in Japan and cooperates with Ritsumeikan. The American studies faculty are very interested in professionalizing the library staff to ensure consistent development of the collection.

13. I gave several workshops for the Ritsumeikan International Relations faculty and graduate students on access to U.S. Documents on the Internet.

Second, Collection Evaluation-Ritsumeikan University Library. The Kyoto American Center was closed in 1996 and since faculty in Kyoto felt the loss of access to materials for the study of the United States, an international relations faculty member proposed that USIA send a library fellow to fill this gap at Ritsumeikan. I was asked to evaluate and make suggestions for improvements in the collection underpinning their American studies and international relations curricula. I designed a web page for the Center for American Studies to publicize the availability of US documents on the Internet as well as the existence of the Center's offerings. I made a detailed study of their collection in the context of the other university collections in the region and presented my written recommendations to the Vice President of the University and the Director of the American Center. The Embassy Cultural officer and director of the Kansai American Center will follow-up on the University's response to these recommendations.

Finally, I was able to extend some professional help to American University students now enrolled at Ritsumeikan and to Ritsumeikan students who will be coming to Washington in August. I conducted two orientations to our OP AC and library services and made plans with my colleagues at AU to continue that liaison with the Ritsumeikan coordinator of the joint degree program.