ABSTRACT

Monash University Library has both book and non-book materials to support research, teaching and study in Korean studies. The foci of this collection have been on the social sciences, language, history, architecture and music of Korea.

We have several ways to provide information to our users. These include:

- The Library subject guide for Korean studies provides information on Monash University Library Catalogue, Korean databases on the Web as well as Monash University Library databases.

- Library information literacy. The library offers information literacy to undergraduate, postgraduate, and higher degree research students in Korean Studies as well as to staff.

- Asian Libraries in Melbourne (ALIM) is a collaborative venture between Monash University and the University of Melbourne Libraries. The two libraries share resources, expertise and collection development.

- Librarian for Korean studies. Her role is to assist anyone who studies or researches Korea. Users can contact by email, phone, or visiting the library to find information on Korea.

The paper focuses on the services at the Monash University Library, though it also raises other matters such as cooperation between libraries for Korean databases, information delivery and other services to users.

1. HISTORY OF KOREAN COLLECTION

The establishment of the Korean Studies Research Library (KSRL) at Monash University in 1992 was a major step in the creation of a world class research collection of materials to support the emerging research program of the National Korean Studies Centre (NKSC). A $150,000 grant from the Australian Research Council facilitated the establishment of Monash University Library’s Korean collection. The key purpose of the collection was to serve researchers in Korean Studies in Australia and especially in Victoria. Researchers have access to a core collection of Korean and English language materials essential for their research programs, the library catalogue to sources held in the National Library and in other universities and colleges in Australia, and the services of a specialist Korean Studies Librarian. After the Asian economic crisis began in mid-1997, many Australian universities eliminated or reduced the number of subjects on Korean studies due to financial problems. The NKSC also closed after that. Since the closure of the NKSC, the Korean Studies Research Library has operated as the Korean collection under the Asian Studies Research Collection of Monash University Library at the Clayton campus.
Korean language materials in the library are catalogued using the McCune-Reischauer Romanisation system. The Korean Studies Librarian is available to the Asian Libraries in Melbourne (ALIM)\(^1\) team.

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2. Library Services

There are several ways to provide information to our users.

2.1 Library Subject guide – Korean

Each library subject guide helps students and other users find resources on the Web. It has links to the Library Catalogue to help users find materials held in the Monash University Library, and links to databases where users can search for articles on their topics. The library subject guide also provides links where students can get guidance in citing and referencing student assignments and papers.

![Library subject guide - Korean

A copy of the Korean subject guide Webpage\(^2\) appears above. It uses the same headings as other Arts subject guides in Monash University Library. Materials found in

the Monash University Library can be found under the headings of Library catalogue, Microforms, and Literature (see red arrows above). Other headings link mainly to Web-based information or resources which Korean users can access freely from anywhere. Even though the Korean collection of the Monash University Library is the largest in Australia, it is small compared to major research libraries in Korea and the United States. Our budget is relatively small, making it difficult to purchase the often very expensive Korean databases. Thus, we emphasise free databases, which have articles in both Korean and English. In addition, library users can access Asian Studies databases for non-Korean language materials (see blue arrow above).

2.2 Library Information Literacy – Korean

Monash University Library provides information research skills (formerly known as information literacy\(^2\)) and learning skills\(^4\) to all Monash University Library users. The Library hopes that academic staff can incorporate such training in introductory subjects. There is a blog in this area entitled Literacy & Learning @ the Library,\(^5\) where librarians and learning skills advisors exchange ideas, information and opinions.

Early this year the Korean Studies Librarian approached Korean academics to discuss information literacy in Korean studies. It was agreed to provide information for the Korean translation subject. The Librarian created a Webpage in the Korean subject guide page (see “translations” under Literature above). The purpose is to provide materials which are not easily found in library catalogue such as short stories.

To solve this limitation, the Librarian checked each translated work and each original work of fiction. Each original and translation can be found by going to the translations page of Korean studies subject guide, where students can click on the item and find it in the Monash University Library catalogue, (see [http://lib.monash.edu.au/subjects/korean/translations.html](http://lib.monash.edu.au/subjects/korean/translations.html). A small section of this list appears below). This information was given to students during a class held at the Library.
with the Korean Studies Librarian.

Students and staff interested in translation may find the following item available at the Monash University Library:

- Han’guk munhak po’nyo’k so’ji mongnok = Bibliographies of Korean literature in foreign languages

In addition, the following information can be obtained on the Web:

- Korean short story index = Han’guk tanp’yo’n sosot’1 saegin (http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/korea/SSIndex/ssmain.htm)
- Korea Journal web site (http://www.ekoreajournal.net/archive/index.jsp)
- Munhak Yo’ngyo’k chak’um so’ji cho’ngbo (http://artsonline.arko.or.kr/trnsinfo/trns_all_result.html?function=T)

3. ASIAN LIBRARIES IN MELBOURNE (ALIM)

To solve limitations of resources in Asian studies, some libraries have joined in cooperative ventures sharing materials and human resources. Asian Libraries in Melbourne (ALIM), a project supported by the Monash-Melbourne Protocol, is a collaborative venture between the Monash University Library and the University of Melbourne Library. The two libraries share resources, expertise and collection development. They meet twice a year—one at the University of Melbourne and once at Monash University—to discuss projects, ideas and other issues.

The ALIM cooperation is especially important in Korean studies in the area of architecture where the University of Melbourne Library uses the Monash University Library Korean collection to service the Korean portions of the subjects in Asian Architecture and Architectural Conservation in East Asia two subjects taught by Dr Qinghua Guo at the University of Melbourne. The Monash University Korean Studies Librarian prepares webpage and gives user education on Korea for both subjects at the University of Melbourne as part of ALIM project. Before 2000, Monash University Library also provided materials on Korean law to the University of Melbourne.

3.1 Korean Architecture Resource (http://alim.monash.org/alimarchkor.html)

This webpage is one of the ALIM Webpages to provide information on Korean architecture resources on the Web for the University of Melbourne Asian Architecture
class use. Early in second semester the Monash University Korean Studies Librarian goes to the Baillieu Library, the University of Melbourne. She presents on Korean architecture resources to the Asian Architecture library resources class. Prior to the class, she consults Dr Guo and Bick-har Yeung, East Asian Librarian, the University of Melbourne, to select the class materials. She prepares a list of titles of books, videos, and DVDs according to the discussion, and then the list goes to the Monash University Library’s Document Delivery to provide those items for semester loans to the University of Melbourne. During the library class, some items are shown to the students. Items are held in the East Asian Collection area of the University of Melbourne Library until the end of second semester and then return back to Monash University Library.

3.2 Architectural Conservation in Korea

The first semester of 2009, there was a library resources class for the Architectural Conservation in East Asia. This is for Master’s degree students who are eligible to use document delivery or inter-library loan system. Postgraduate students can also use the Melbourne-Monash Intercampus Loan (MMICL) for borrowing available items. So for this subject, material did not go to the University of Melbourne Library from Monash University Library. Instead, the Korean Studies Librarian spent time to prepare the above webpage to help student to search or find materials from Monash University Library catalogue. She also put some information on architectural conservation in Korea on the Web. Because of none of the students in the class can read or speak Korean, the Librarian provides search guides about how to find resources from the National Research Institute of
Cultural Heritage\textsuperscript{6}, National Library of Korea\textsuperscript{7}, the Research Information Service System (RISS4U)\textsuperscript{8}, and the Korean Traditional Architecture series on the NRICH Web site.

4. SUBJECT LIBRARIAN

Many articles mention the changing role of the subject librarian (Dale, Holland, and Matthews 2006; Hardy and Corrall 2007; Yakushiin 2005) from traditional roles to today with considerable digital aspects. Feldmann (2006) concludes that subject librarians offer much in the way of customer service, interaction and relationships with students and university staff, a perspective strongly conscious of user perspectives, knowledge built over time of academic staff needs and concerns, intimate knowledge of the resources in a discipline, instructional skills with an ability to teach to first-year students, graduate students, and academic staff as well as experience with virtual reference, creating tutorials, web page design, etc.

At the Monash University Library, the Korean Studies Librarian’s role is to assist anyone who studies or researches Korea. Users can contact her by email, phone, or visiting the library to find information on Korea. According to Kim (2001, 259), the role of the Korean Studies Librarian is as follows:

The librarian’s primary duties are selection, acquisition and cataloguing of Korean language material, and to liaise with academics and students of the department. Additional duties include rostered time on the Matheson information desk to assist clients to locate relevant sources of information across all campuses, prepare and deliver classes on using the Library catalogue and information resources.

The Korean Studies Librarian catalogues Korean materials in Voyager clients, checks records from Libraries Australia, OCLC or Library of Congress Catalogue. If records are not found from those cataloguing services, the Korean Studies Librarian creates new records and then uploads these to the Libraries Australia. The Korean language records are displayed in Romanized Korean as well as Korean script.

5. KOREAN DATABASES – FEE BASED

Earlier, we mentioned the difficulty of acquiring Korean databases with a small budget of Korean collection. Last year, Monash University Library got a trial database named “e-Korean Studies Database”.

This database is a recent initiative to bring all the various Korean subscription databases to one site and under one search engine. It covers all academic disciplines including the arts and humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medical sciences, and physical education. It includes various sources such as monographs, periodicals and newspapers, dissertations and research reports, law, classical literature, dictionaries and encyclopedias and video lectures. The trial databases Webpage was in Korean but users can change their interface language into English, Chinese, and Japanese. The integrated “E-Korean Studies Database” includes KISS, KSI e-book, DBpia, KRpia, Digital Culture Art Course, KoreaA2Z, Kdatabase, Kpjournal, Korean History & Culture Research Database, History Cultural Series, and LawnB’s Legal Information.

\textsuperscript{6} http://www.nricp.go.kr
\textsuperscript{7} http://www.nl.go.kr
\textsuperscript{8} http://www.riss4u.net/
Early this year, the Korea Foundation, the members of “the Task Force on Korean Online Database Price Negotiation”, and Korean databases vendors made an agreement to reduce the subscription fee of this integrated “e-Korean studies database”. This was announced to the eastlib email list server and the libraries that joined trial database in April 2009. Although the reduced subscription fee in US$ was still too much for Korean collections in Australasia that did not subscribe to any Korean database, at Monash University we have negotiated a reasonable price with the assistance of the Korea Foundation. Hopefully, by the time this paper is formally delivered at the KSAA conference, we will have an integrated e-Korean studies database, which will benefit our users enormously.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper outlines library services for Korean studies at the Monash University Library. We not only provide service to Monash University staff and students, we also provide services to others such as the University of Melbourne through ALIM and to others on a less formal basis. While limitations in budget and staff time mean we cannot do everything, we aim to improve our services as much as possible. Please contribute any ideas and suggestions to the email address below.

REFERENCES

Dale, Penny, Matt Holland, and Marian Matthews. 2006. Subject librarians : engaging with the learning and teaching environment. Aldershot: Ashgate.


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