

Korean library resources in Australian academic libraries: Monash University Library case in particular

Jung-Sim Kim
Monash University Library

This is information for Korean users to understand the current situation in Korean studies and collections in universities in Australia so as to help the users access and utilize these information resources. The information focuses on the Korean Studies Research Library of Monash University Library. However, it will assist users to understand how to become familiar with library resources, and find out the problems with which they may be faced as they use library resources such as CD-ROMs, online catalogs and databases. In order to support the needs of all the users, I searched the Web catalogues of several universities, which have Korean Programs. I will also mention the Melbourne Asian Research Libraries Consortium (MARLC).

1. Background

The National Library of Australia (NLA) has the largest Korean language collection in Australia.

The second largest Korean collection is at Monash University.

In the early 1990s, several university Korean Programs were established. However, these university library holdings were inadequate to cover the needs of researchers or students working on Korea. At that stage, there was a particular lack of detailed statistical material on all aspects of Korean society.

“The rapid development of Korean studies in Australian universities has implications for libraries. Until now, NLA has had the only developing Korean vernacular research collection, although ANU and the University of Sydney have had small more or less static collections.

Monash University is now establishing a Korean research collection as part of the National Korean Studies Centre (NKSC) which links Victorian universities with a focus on Korea. A specialist Korean librarian has been appointed since 1992. During discussions, academics associated with the NKSC stressed that they would develop the collection in conjunction with the NLA collection.

Griffith University is also becoming active in Korean studies, and is currently seeking a tenured position. Their Korean teaching program includes a video teleconferencing scheme for lectures to and from Korea. By agreement, any Korean material acquired by the University of Queensland which, together with Griffith, forms the Key Centre for Asian Studies, is sent to Griffith for cataloguing.” (Gosling, 1992, p. 11).

As Mr. Gosling mentioned, in 1992 the NKSC established its research library located at the Asian Studies Research Library of Monash University, the Korean Studies Research Library (KSRL) (<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/subjects/korean/index.html>), to support a major program of research on contemporary Korea, Australian-based

research resources on Korea, with a special emphasis on Korean language material focusing on Economics, Politics, Law and the other social sciences.

As a result of the Asian economic crisis, many Australian universities removed or reduced the number of subjects on Korean studies.

The Korean collection of Monash University Library is an ongoing service to its users as part of the Melbourne Asian Research Libraries Consortium (MARLC) team. The MARLC was formed in 1993 to enhance access to the Asian materials held in the Monash University and University of Melbourne libraries. The sharing of expertise and the joint development of collections can provide a much-improved service for researchers and students of both institutions. (<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/asrl/marlc/index.html>)

2. Library resources on Korea in academic libraries in Australia

Dr Wells' paper mentioned, "The business and political community is not aware of the Korean collection and needs to be informed of its quality. This is perhaps a little misleading. The materials the survey was designed to cover are the Korean vernacular and Sino-Korean holdings. Clearly, these materials cannot be read unless one is proficient in these languages. The use by academics is actually increasing, and this increase has been quite rapid since the late 1980s". As he mentioned, the Korean language materials are not only for the users who are working in the business and political sectors but also for those who want to learn the Korean language as well as those who research on Korea. To cover those who cannot read the Korean language, most libraries acquire materials on Korea in English, too. To support individual library users, each library has to acquire basic teaching or reference materials, and further provide specific information to the postgraduate students and on researchers' specific topic areas.

Information was retrieved by each university's Web OPAC to get figures on materials related to Korea, in both the Korean vernacular and non-Korean language materials.

Table 1 shows the size of Korean-related library collections and Korean programs in Australia. Most library holdings are under 10,000 titles. Holdings are still poor to support library use about Korea.

Table 1) Korean-related library information and Korean Program in Australia

University (in alphabetical order)	Collection by Web OPAC (as at 21/05/01)	Status of Cataloguing	Korean Studies Librarian	Korean Program*)		
				establishe d	Staff	Degree
Australian National University	2,141	?	0	1980	1.5	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD
Curtin University of Technology	857	?	0	1993	2	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD
Griffith University	3,192	?	0	1990	3	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD

Monash University	10,801	above 93%	1	1989	1.5	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD
University of New South Wales	1,468	?	0	1994	1.5	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD
University of Queensland	1,832	?	0	1990	1.5	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD
University of Sydney	5,364	about 100%	0	1991	2.5	BA(Hon.), MA, Mphil, PhD

*) Information of Korean Program (Jung J.H., 2000)

As indicated above, large numbers of researchers are still relying on their research resources from overseas, requesting by document delivery or by email.

3. Korean Studies Research Library of Monash University Library

The Korean Language Collection is housed in the Asian Studies Research Library in the Matheson Library of Monash University at the Clayton Campus. English language material on Korea can be found in the Undergraduate, Main, and Serials collections of the Matheson Library as well as other branch libraries of Monash University Library.

3.1 Collection, users and services

According to the needs of users, their needs on Korean resources do not only focus on Economics, Politics, Law and the other social sciences but also various other topics such as music, architecture, ... etc. Acquiring materials on Korea relies on purchasing, gifts or donations. Our major gift and exchange partners are the National Library of Korea, The National Assembly Library, and the Korea Foundation. Also gifts come from various institutes or bodies.

Monash University Library has resources on Korea as follows:

- **Full text databases in CD-ROM format**

- “*Hanguk munhwa*” data cumulates from 1980 to 1998

- “*Kongchuk yoksa yongu*” data cumulates from 1992 to 2000

- “*Kugo kyoyuk*” data cumulates from 1969 to 1998

- **Electronic database on the Internet**

- “*The Statutes of the Republic of Korea*” by the Korea Legislation Research Institute (restricted access)

- **Databases in CD-ROM format**

- “*Hanguk munhon mongnok chongbo* = Korean MARC on CD-ROM” (Index of the National Library of Korea’s monographs, theses since 1945)

- “*Kukhoe Tosogwan munhon chongbo* = Korean national bibliographies on CD-ROM” (Index of the National Assembly Library’s periodicals, books, theses, and non-book items)

– **Microform collection**

More than 300 theses on Korea can be found from the Monash Voyager Catalogue. There are more than 650 titles of non-book materials including microform, audio-visual materials, CD-ROMs, ... etc.

Also users can visit “Major microform collections on Korea” from the library page (<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/asrl/iskormic.html>)

Monash University Library provides a dedicated Korean multimedia PC, which can view and input Korean characters, for its users to search and retrieve Korean information from the Internet as well as the ANCJK database. This saves much time for users to get information.

A Korean-speaking librarian looks after the collection. 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 and information resources.

The Korean Studies Librarian updates the Korean Studies Resource Web page on a regular basis. For the users’ convenience, recently received non-book material information is on the Website (<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/asrl/whatsnew.html#KOREAN>), because these kinds of items are not catalogued straight after being received unless urgently required for rush cataloguing.

Newly received materials are also notified to the relevant Korean studies users who contact the librarian on their topics.

Access from other universities:

- For university students or academics from Victoria, they can visit the library with a CAVAL card which they can get from their own library or some users can also use inter-library loan/document delivery.
- For others from interstate, they can use inter-library loan/document delivery from their own library.

The pattern of usage of library materials varies and potential users of the Korean collection at Monash University are:

- (i) Within Victoria: University students who are undertaking projects or assignments on Korea; School students who are taking subjects on Korea (more than 1,000 students); Korean community in Victoria (approximately 5,000)
- (ii) Australia-wide: Postgraduate students or researchers from all Australian states (phone, email, fax, and document delivery)

3.2 Cataloguing and processing of materials on Korea

Over 93% of materials on Korea have been catalogued.

Korean language materials in the collection are catalogued using the McCune-Reischauer romanisation system on the Australian National Chinese-Japanese-Korean databases (ANCJK Database). Non-Korean language materials are catalogued in Kinetica (National Library Database, which provides access to the national database of materials held in Australian Libraries). If an item record is not in ANCJK database, it is necessary to search other databases such as RLIN, OCLC.

All catalogued materials' records are in the Monash Voyager catalogue. This ensures that items are readily available to all researchers elsewhere in Australia.

Users outside Monash can also search Monash Voyager Web OPAC through Monash Voyager Catalogue. (<http://library.monash.edu.au/>)

3.3 Useful Korean database information on the Internet

Each university library is purchasing large numbers of resources in electronic format, which also cover the Asian area including Korea. Non-Korean language information can be accessed from these databases.

To avoid having to seek information from limited existing resources, Korean database information on the Internet will be helpful to users.

Those who want to search articles published in Korea, can use Internet sites as below:

Research Information Service System (RISS4U) (<http://www.riss4u.net>)

It provides services such as a Union Catalog, overseas research information, journal articles, etc.

E-government by Government Computer Center (<http://www.egov.go.kr/index.jsp>)

This site is an electronic government portal site, which combines in one several government Internet sites such as <http://www.korea.go.kr>, <http://open.korea.go.kr>, and <http://minwon.korea.go.kr>, and provides a search and directory service for most government information.

Ministry of Legislation (<http://www.moleg.go.kr>)

All law and regulations of Korea are available on the Internet on this site.

Korea National Statistical Office (<http://www.nso.go.kr/eng/>)

This site provides major statistical information. It also provides Korean Statistical Information System (KOSIS)

National Digital Library (<http://www.dlibrary.go.kr>)

This site provides searching of the union catalog and some full text of seven major public libraries.

- The National Library of Korea (<http://www.nl.go.kr>)
- The National Assembly Library of Korea (<http://www.nanet.go.kr>)
- Supreme Court Library (<http://sclib.scourt.go.kr>)
- Korea Institute of Industrial and Technical Information (<http://dlib.kiniti.re.kr>)
- Korea Research and Development Information Center (<http://eve.kordic.re.kr>)
- Korea Education & Research Information Center (<http://www.keris.or.kr>).
RISS4U is managed by KERIS.
- The Science Library in KAIST (<http://pasteur.kaist.ac.kr>)

Korean Integrated Newspapers Database System (KINDS) (<http://www.kinds.or.kr>)

This site provides full-text articles of newspapers, some magazines, and TV news.

Related sites at Monash University

- The Monash University Library is accessible from anywhere through its homepage (<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/index.html>)

- Monash University is the only university in Victoria, which teaches Korean language programs. (<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/korean/>)

4. Conclusion

This brief information on the current situation of Korean studies and collections in universities in Australia, the Monash University Library case in particular, is able to give us not only some information on the situation of Korean studies in Australia but also the way Korean information clients use the library.

Although the funding situation was not covered I hope that the users gain some ideas how to use the library effectively and conveniently.

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