CTP/CJM Joint Working Group on ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table

Working Group (WG) continued to work hard to fulfill its given charges: <http://www.eastasianlib.org/ctp/Subcommittees/sub_JpnRT.htm>

WG has used PBworks and biweekly conference calls as our primary means for collaboration. Between April 2014 and March 2015, we had 17 conference call meetings.

**Membership**

Rob Britt, University of Washington; Mieko Mazza, Stanford University; Hikaru Nakano, University of Florida (Jan. - May 2014)\*1; Chiaki Sakai, University of Iowa; Keiko Suzuki, Yale University; Yoko Kudo, University of California Riverside, Chair

Erica Chang, University of Hawaii at Manoa, ex officio (CTP Chair); Michiko Ito, University of Kansas, ex officio (CJM Chair); Bruce Johnson, LC, advisor; Hisako Kotaka, OCLC, collaborator (Jan. – Aug. 2014)\*2

\*1 Hikaru Nakano resigned at the end of May 2014 due to conflict with other responsibilities. WG decided not to fill the vacancy at the time.

\*2 WG has no official adviser/collaborator from OCLC since Ms. Kotaka’s retirement. Ms. Cynthia Whitacre, WorldCat Quality & Partner Content Dept. Manager, has kindly agreed to be contacted when WG seeks input from OCLC.

**Activity Summary**

In May through June 2014, WG conducted a survey on Japanese Romanization. The purpose of this survey was to find out how the CEAL community was dealing with the major changes in the recently revised Japanese Romanization Table, and what further improvement the community wishes to see in the Table. The survey was developed using the Google Form, and was sent out to the CEAL community through Eastlib and JpnLibLiaisons listserv. 35 responses were received. The following is some of the findings:

* Majority use the Romanization Table for cataloging purposes.
* Newly added kana-Roman equivalents charts are well accepted, but there are also requests for more letters be added, as well as instruction on exceptional cases.
* Majority ask for more help in word division, preferably as examples.
* Majority find numerals problematic.
* Many prefer having a written aid (supplementary guidelines) over a webinar or workshop.

Based on feedback provided through the survey, WG identified the following four areas to be the focus of our 2014-2015 work plans (in order of priority).

1. Numerals (clarification of the current practices)
2. Kana-Roman equivalents charts (possible addition of more letters and foot notes)
3. Word division (clarification of some of the instructions; providing best practices for confusing words and phrases, etc.)
4. Long vowels (clarification of the different types of long vowels)

It was decided later that the numerals issues be put on hold pending decisions by the Library of Congress and the CTP Subcommittee on RDA. As of April 2015, WG does not project sufficient time to address the long vowel issues by the end of our term in August.

WG finished looking at the kana-Roman equivalents charts, and is currently working to prepare recommended word division practices for the words submitted through the survey as well as for those directly sent to WG members through September 2014. Once the work is complete, WG will report the results to CJM and CTP, and plan to discuss with them how to address the remaining issues including collaboration with the Library of Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoko Kudo

Chair, CTP/CJM Joint Working Group on ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table