

The Pacific Rim Library of the University of California, San Diego

R. Bruce Miller, Associate University Librarian – User Support Services
University of California, San Diego Libraries rbmiller@ucsd.edu

Phyllis S. Mirsky, Deputy University Librarian
University of California, San Diego Libraries psmirsky@ucsd.edu

Reagan Moore, Associate Director – Data-Intensive Computing
San Diego Supercomputer Center, University of California, San Diego moore@sdsc.edu

The Libraries of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) have begun development of a Pacific Rim Library (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/prl>) in support of education and research in international studies. This library has been planned as a *virtual library* that delivers collections and services in digital format over the Internet. The intent is to develop a fully functional library but with the important distinction that it will not reside in a building and there will be no books on shelves.

The UCSD Libraries have initiated a variety of projects to begin creating the Pacific Rim Library:

Multilingual Gateway – client software that enables access to library catalogs and information resources regardless of language or national character encoding standards. The current implementation includes Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. Connections among systems are based on the International Standard Protocol for Information Retrieval (ANSI/NISO Z39.50 and ISO 23950).

Romax – a Java applet that provides conversion among Chinese romanization schemes (Pinyin, Wade-Giles, Mandarin Phonetic Symbols II)

Bibliography of East Asian Studies – index of Western language journal articles

Beijing SuperStar Digital Library – scanned images of contemporary Chinese books

Scripta Sinica – digital library databases from Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Wenyuange Sikuquanshu – Qing Palace Wenyuan Library. Full-text and scanned images of 3,700 titles

These projects have been multinational in effort, multicultural and multilingual in content, and reliant on multiple technical standards. There has been significant technical collaboration. The San Diego Supercomputer Center has provided servers and the technical environment to enable network access to substantive digital resources. The OCLC Online Computer Library Center has built upon research by Karl Lo to extend the capabilities of the multilingual gateway. We have demonstrated that it is possible to deliver varied online resources through a single Web site even though those resources rely on varied and proprietary interfaces and file structures. The Pacific Rim Library project illustrates that political, linguistic, legal, financial, geographic, and technical obstacles can be overcome through collaborative, practical projects.