To**:** Lucia Snowhill, Chair of CDC
From: Jim Cheng, Chair of UCEAB
March 30, 2006

UCEAB (UC East Asian Bibliographers Group) Response to the BSTF (Bibliographic Service Task Force) Report

UC has the largest Asian student body and one of the strongest East Asian Studies programs in the nation, and holds the most extensive print and digital East Asian collections, including ***1.9 million volumes of print materials and 18 (purchased and subscribed) digital databases***, among all academic libraries in North America. In addition, other foreign language materials, such as Middle Eastern and South Asian, are also growing in a steady pace. The UC East Asian Bibliographers Group (UCEAB) would like to applaud the Bibliographic Service Task Force for recommending to "Provide better searching for non-Roman materials" (BSTF report 1.8).   We, as a group, would like to provide a collective response to express our comments, suggestions, and concerns related to the non-Roman material issue. This response is not intended to be a part of the UC campus-wide ranking practice of BSTF recommendations, but aims to provide the relevant references for UC's future decision-making related to the BSTF report.

Comments and suggestions on:
I.8. Provide better searching for non-Roman materials
I.8a.   Provide better searching for non-Roman materials, allowing searching in both Roman and in vernacular, sorting results in language-appropriate ways, and displaying results in both Roman and vernacular forms.

UCEAB strongly agrees with I.8 and I.8a, and would like to make other related suggestions:

1. As a standard practice or policy, all UC libraries' public terminals should have multi-lingual functionality. As the first phase, the web browser, IE should be configured with the function of input and display of Chinese, Japanese and Korean.
2.   Non-Roman databases (specifically purchased or subscribed to by UC campuses) be included in the CDL E-resource directory and the related campuses' A-Z database list.
3. Support UC eLinks to provide users with direct access to non-Roman materials, specifically, digital full text links (also related to I.1, I.1a, and I.1b).
4. In future federated search design of UC digital resources non-Roman databases should be included as customization and personalization support (also related to I.3 and I.3a).

Concerns on III.2c ……. Abandoning the use of controlled vocabularies [LCSH, MESH, etc.] for topical subjects in bibliographic records.

UCEAB would like to suggest "caution" or "not rush" for III.2c, because as noted above UC has a vast amount of East Asian and other foreign languages materials, the best and most efficient way to retrieve these materials together with the English (and other language materials) under the same subjects is through the LCSH search. So far, we cannot see any suggested methods in the BSTF report that can replace LCSH for this function.