

## **UCSD Pacific Studies Libraries receives unique archive of computer character codes from Taiwan**

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### **UCSD PACIFIC STUDIES LIBRARY RECEIVES CHINESE CHARACTER CODES ARCHIVE FROM TAIWAN**

The Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) Library at the University of California, San Diego has received a unique archive of computer character codes which will revolutionize multi-lingual electronic communications in the Pacific Rim region. The IR/PS Library will have the only complete repository of this significant archive -- The Chinese Character Codes for Information Interchange outside of Taiwan, where it was invented.

"This generous gift from the Council for Cultural Planning and Development of Taiwan represents a technical and cultural breakthrough in Chinese philology that will dramatically enhance our ability to communicate with important academic, governmental and business contacts throughout the Pacific Rim region," said Karl Lo, director of the IR/PS Library.

According to Lo, this set of codes, which links each of the archive's 74,000 characters with a computer code, will enable users to communicate and compute in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and other non-Roman languages. The archive was developed and perfected over the last eleven years by a large group of philologists, librarians and computer scientists in Taipei, under the auspices of the Chinese Character Analysis Group. The project is the largest lexicographic effort ever undertaken in regards to Chinese characters -- the repertoire of characters surpasses those found in the most substantial Chinese dictionaries by more than 20,000 characters.

The IR/PS Library will have the only complete, 74,000 character set outside of Taiwan. The digitized fonts and codes will be mounted on a UCSD computer to be accessed by users through local and international computer networks. Calligraphic fonts in 600 bound volumes will be available for use in the library.

A small subset of the codes has been accepted by the American National Standard Institute. It is being used by two major American library networks -- the Research Libraries Information Network and the Online Library Computer Center for cataloging of East Asian books.

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