

The Survey on the Use of Book Numbers System in South Korean Academic Libraries

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since call numbers are comprised of class numbers and book numbers system, the book numbers make the unique filing position on shelves by individualizing items under the same subject having the same class numbers; by doing so, its efficiency in shelving can be enhanced. In addition, it allows an easy access for patrons to the entire collection of the library and will increase the effectiveness of searching a certain item on shelves. Thus, book numbers play a key role in managing the entire collection of the library effectively.

Bliss (1910) asserted that without book numbers system, to search a specific item on shelves in a library would be cumbersome. In addition, ALA (1921) examined the relationship between time consumption in circulation and

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cataloguing without making an entry the book numbers system. The result reported that a significant amount of the time was reduced in circulation and cataloguing when the book numbers system weren't used. However, it took longer in rearranging items on shelves than saved time in circulation and cataloguing, when compared the time for the patron to find the wanted the target item on shelves with the time for librarian to arrange a specific item on shelves. Although this study did not measure all the aspects of the effectiveness in using book numbers system, it took a key role in utilizing and promoting book numbers system.

Mann (1943) pointed out that if book numbers system were not used in the library, this would result in poor utilization of the library recourses and in turning patrons away from the library. Satija and Comaromi (1992) claimed that the use of book numbers system in the library makes it easy to rearrange the returned books by indicating and arranging books within the same class number. Additionally, they asserted that it groups the same author's works according to the author's editions, copies and resources under the same class number.

Although the use of book numbers system is highly needed, the studies on book numbers system have been discarded among the librarians and researchers (Denton, 2003). In addition, the interest in conducting researches in using book numbers system has been reduced as library information system becomes more computerized.

Especially without directly visiting the library, patrons are able to collect useful resources and to search entire collection of the library beyond time and space through the Internet. This phenomenon is widespread and the attention to book numbers system has diminished prominently. However, even though the advanced on-line searching for library resources would allow a distance surfing among patrons, it is still necessary to approach on shelves as the end way to obtain the target items.

Academic libraries in South Korea have been using a standardized record format, called KORMARC (Korean Machine Readable Cataloguing) and they have been sharing the catalog services through the KORMARC system. Due to successful integration of cataloguing services among participating

university libraries, its effectiveness of managing resources has been increasing by utilizing a copy of cataloguing.

Although the cooperative efforts in standardizing classification and cataloguing have led a success, yet, each library is using the different book numbers system table. As a result, unnecessary duplicative works are required in the cataloguing.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the book numbers system have been used in Korean academic libraries, and to examine the problems that perceive academic librarians on book numbers system and the problem awareness of librarians who are working at 110 academic libraries in South Korea.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Park (1947) was made author numbers table added at the end of the Chosun decimal classification table. It was the origin of Korean book numbers system table. After that, Ko (1954) was formed Korean author numbers table and Japanese author numbers table as The classification of Korean Bank for the utilization of Korean Bank Library.

In addition, Lee (1958) was made Eastern author numbers table, and revised as Hangul order book numbers system in 1982. This table's structure and characteristics were different from other author numbers tables published across the country in that it is a synthesis of the author numbers table.

Another, Lee (1960) was made Oriental author numbers table. Jang (1961) was created the Korean author numbers table, and revised as Oriental author numbers table in 1964. Also, Jung (1973) was developed the Korean book numbers system table.

For chronological book numbers system, Lee (1983) was created Chronological book numbers system, and revised as New chronological book numbers system in 1986. Moreover, the National Library of Korea on its

own developed and utilized Oriental author numbers table and revision Cutter-Sanborn table using Seoul National University library and Elord's author name table.

Other aspects of author numbers or book numbers system in South Korea have been studied by various researchers; for example, the development of author numbers table or book numbers system and usage, and arrangement (I. Jang, 1971; P. Jung, 1972; J. Lee, 1970, 1985), and process of the development and efficiency (Jung, 1986; C. Lee, 1986; Kim, 1987; Seoul City Library Study Committee, 1989).

Park (1991) organized the new author numbers table by analyzing the characteristics and strengths along with weaknesses of Cutter and Cutter-Sanborn tables and developed the automatic exploration system of the Park's author numbers.

Lee (1995) investigated the present book numbers system used in Korean libraries. Thus, she suggested several options. First, the education of librarians about the kinds and the application methods of book numbers system used in Korean libraries should be sufficiently offered. Second, the current book numbers system should be expanded in detail to avoid the duplication of the call numbers. Third, since the object word of main mark is a heading in main entry, it must apply cataloguing rules closely.

Kim (1997) demonstrated the importance of prompt offerings of the latest resources to library patrons as the speed of science development is accelerated. Therefore, he asserted that the new chronological book numbers system table should be used in a library.

As mentioned before, the study regarding Korean book numbers system was about the development of book numbers system table until the middle of the 1970's. In the 1980's, the study focused mainly on short essays about the process of development and efficiency of book numbers system. After the middle of the 1990s, the study has been reported on a library field and then it raises some concerns of the current book numbers system and conducts use of the new book numbers system table.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study was attempted to analyze some problems and concerns when modifying or changing the book numbers system as well as the situation of a book numbers system table have been used in Korean academic libraries. Participants were librarians working at 110 academic libraries in South Korea. The survey employed an on-line research method. Participants' informed consent was obtained before their participation in the study.

The pilot test was done from 1/01/2006 to 1/07/2006 via five academic libraries. The questionnaire was revised based on the pilot test. The main survey was conducted from 11/14 to 1/26/2006 in the 110 sample academic libraries. The returning rate was 68.2 percent with 62 libraries replying.

The method of this survey was a general questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of three questions asking about general situations and eighteen questions on recognition of the current situation of book numbers system along with some concerns in modifying and changing book numbers system.

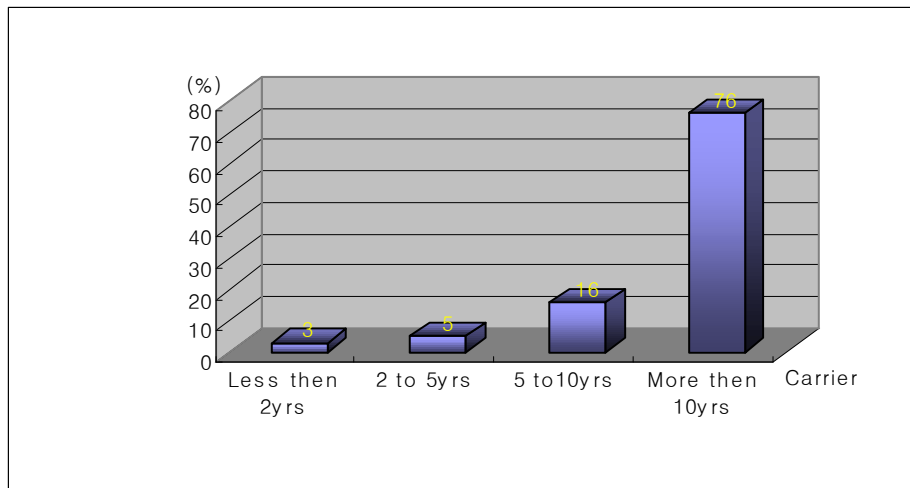
In addition, in order to analyze the result of this survey, a nominal scale and the 5 scale of the Likert as an interval scale were used. Thus, if the participant replied that the problem recognition of the current book numbers system is extremely important, 5 points were scored. In contrast, if they replied, it's not important at all, 1 point scored. As an analysis instrument, SPSS for PC ver. 10.0 were utilized for frequency analysis, mean and standard deviation.

IV. RESULTS

1. General Situation

The forty female and twenty-two male librarians participated in this survey. <Fig. 1> presents the percentage of their working experience at the academic library. Of participating librarians, 76 percent indicated that they

had more than 10 years of working experience at the academic library.

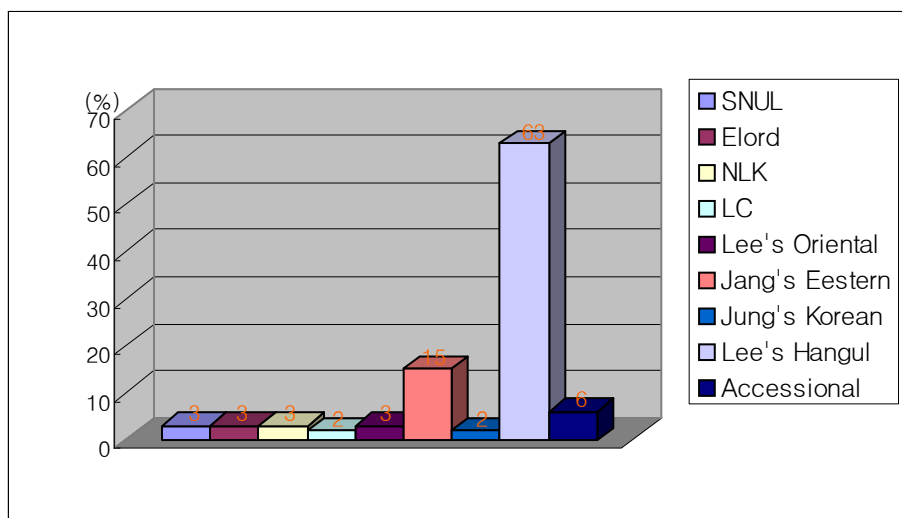


<Fig. 5> Working experience

These responses show that working the book numbers system required more special skill than the other working experience at the academic library. Overall, book numbers system mean that it has been occupying important field at the academic library.

2. Situation of Book Numbers System Use

Currently, eleven methods including two western methods and nine eastern methods are being used in Korean academic libraries. <Fig. 2> presents the percentage of the current use of eastern methods in academic libraries. Hanguk book numbers system by Jeaschul Lee are being used by 63 percent of academic libraries. Eastern author numbers by Ilsea Jang are being used in participating libraries of 15 percent, and book numbers system by accessional ordering are being used in academic libraries of 6 percent.



<Fig. 6> Current use of eastern methods

In addition, eastern author numbers by Chunhee Lee, eastern author numbers by the National Library in Korea, Elord's author name table, and revised Cutter–Sanborn tables by Seoul National University are being used by two libraries respectively. And Library of Congress call numbers and Korean book numbers system by Pilmo Jung are being used by one library respectively.

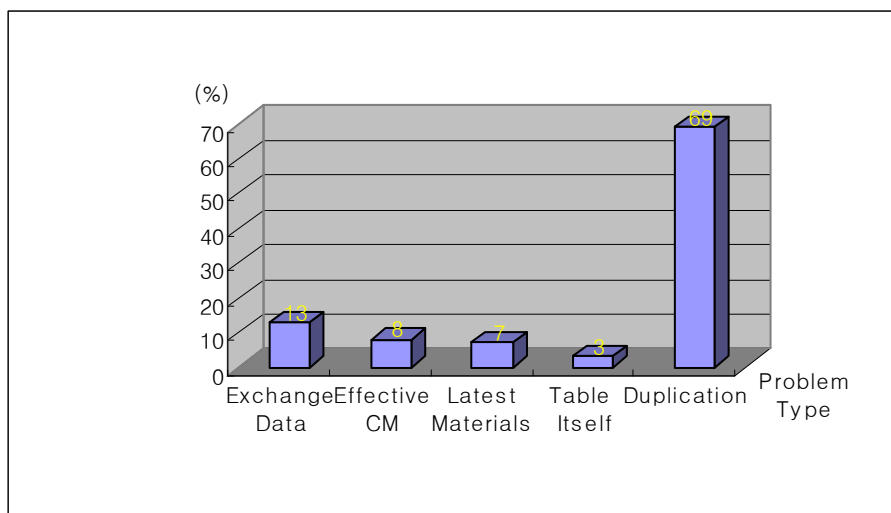
While the western methods, Cutter and Cutter–Sanborn tables are being used in the 98 percent of academic libraries, and Library of Congress call numbers are being used only one academic library. Academic libraries mentioned above are using different book number tables for the eastern and western materials except for one academic library that uses the Library of Congress method. However, the result indicates that 45 percent of academic libraries are arranging combined western and eastern materials, and 54 percent of academic libraries are arranging the western materials and eastern materials separately.

Up to date, about 42 percent of academic libraries have gone through a modification or changed of the book numbers system table, and 58 percent of academic libraries stick to only one book numbers system table. While 39

percent of academic libraries modified and changed book numbers system table only once, and 3 percent of academic libraries did more than three times.

3. Problems with Book Numbers System

In general, book numbers system using in Korean academic libraries consist of author-number or author-name, the first letter of the title and edition mark. The result showed that 31 percent of participants responded that using book numbers system table is efficient, but 69 percent of participants responded that it is not appropriate. Of the 69 percent participants responding as no appropriation, 45 percent of participants said that it is necessary to modify the book numbers system table and 24 percent of participants felt the need to change the book numbers system table into the new book numbers system table.



<Fig. 7> Problems with book numbers system

As shown in <Fig. 3>, the result reported that problems with book numbers system in Korean academic libraries lie in the duplication of book

numbers system (43 participants, 69 percent), exchange data with other libraries (8 participants, 13 percent), ineffective collection management (5 participants, 8 percent), difficulties of differentiating the latest materials (4 participants, 7 percent), problem with book numbers system table itself (2 participants, 3 percent).

In addition, 50 percent of participants expressed concerns for revising book numbers system table; 31 percent of participants reported that removal of duplication for book numbers system is needed; 11 percent of participants reported that consistency of the arrangement for retrospective materials is recommended; and, 8 percent of participants responded that consistency of the shelf arrangement is also needed.

4. Problem Awareness of Librarians

The result indicated that the most crucial problem with book numbers system in Korean academic libraries is the duplication of book numbers system. As shown in <Table 1>, for the problem awareness of librarians, the mean was 4.5484 and it was the highest of the problem awareness, and reported awareness was the following: 61 percent of participants responded that it is very important, and 34 percent of participants said that it is important.

Next, when asked about the problem regarding book numbers system table itself, 42 percent of participants responded that it is important and 29 percent of participants were not bad. The mean score was 3.6936 and it is quite low.

When considering the problem regarding differentiation of latest materials, 44 percent of participants responded that it is important. The 29 percent of participants were very important. The mean score for this question was 3.8226 and it was very high.

When asked about the problem regarding the effective collection management, 63 percent of participants responded that it is very important and 24 percent of participants were important. The mean score for this

question was 4.4516. It was the second highest.

When considering the problem regarding exchange data with other libraries, 35 percent of participants responded that it is not bad. The 26 percent of participants were important. The mean score for this question was 3.9613. It was the lowest.

<Table 1> Problem awareness of librarians

Problem with book numbers system	Scale					
	1	2	3	4	5	M
Duplication of Book numbers	–	1(1.61)	2(3.23)	21(33.87)	38(61.29)	4.5484
Book numbers table itself	1(1.61)	5(8.06)	18(29.04)	26(41.94)	12(19.35)	3.6936
Differentiation of latest materials	4(6.45)	4(6.45)	9(14.52)	27(43.55)	18(29.03)	3.8226
Effective collection management	1(1.61)	1(1.61)	6(9.68)	15(24.19)	39(62.91)	4.4516
Exchange data with other libraries	4(6.45)	10(16.13)	22(35.48)	16(25.81)	10(16.13)	3.2903
Total	10(3.23)	21(6.77)	57(18.39)	105(33.87)	117(37.75)	3.9613

As mentioned above, librarians working in the Korean academic libraries recognized some problems such as the duplication of book numbers system, ineffective collection management, and differentiation of latest materials, the book number table itself, and exchange data with other libraries.

The concerns taken into account about the current book numbers system table in modification and changing into the new method are the following:

The most significant concern librarians have recognized to solve the duplication of book numbers system. 56 percent of participants responded that it is very important and 31 percent of participants were important. The mean score was 4.4375. It was the highest; next, consistency with the current book number system is another concern. 63 percent of participants responded that it is very important and 26 percent of participants were important. The mean score for this question was 4.4166; Consistency on the shelf arrangement is another issue. 52 percent of participants responded that

it is very important and 34 percent of participants were important. The mean score was 4.3542; regarding arrangement of retrospective materials is another matter. 40 percent of participants responded that it is important and 29 percent of participants were very important. The mean score was 3.8125.

In sum, librarians identified the key problem as the duplication of book numbers system and felt the need for a new method that is consistent with the current book number system and entails consistency on the shelf arrangement, and arrangement of retrospective materials in this order.

5. Discussion

The issues on the book numbers system of South Korean academic libraries are based on the situation of book numbers system use and current problems are summarized below.

First, Korean academic libraries are currently using standard forms for classification tables and cataloguing rules, and pursuing an effective working environment by making a cooperative cataloguing. However, <Table 2> shows that book numbers system of the same book vary with libraries using different book numbers system table of the authorial ordering. This does not fit into the purpose of making a cooperative cataloguing, and also, it consumes more time and energy for each library in arranging materials by adding additional work in order to book numbers system.

Second, in general, book numbers system in Korean academic libraries are made up of author-number or author-name, the first letter of the title and edition mark. Especially, Korean name of author is made up of three letters. So, in current book numbers system table, it is hard to individualize a book under the same subject when the different people with the same name have similar title. Under the same call number, the same book numbers system frequently appear, as a result, extension of the length of book numbers system happens for the individualization of a book by adding the numbers at random.

Third, book numbers system consist of author-number or author-name,

the first letter of the title and edition mark so that it's difficult to chronologically trace the related materials on numerous shelves. Thus, this not only causes confusion among patrons who trying to use recent materials but also waste the time of patrons who looking for target resources.

<Table 2> Book numbers system of the same book

Method		Table	Author	Book numbers
Accessional ordering		–	–	–
Authorial ordering	Combination	Hangul Book Numbers	Lee, J.	이72ㅅ
		LC	LC	I11s
	Enumeration	Eastern Author Numbers	Jang, I.	ㅇ864ㅅ
		Korean Book Numbers	Jung, P	이78새
		Eastern Author Numbers	Lee, C.	ㅇ843ㅅ
		Author Numbers	NLK	이597ㅅ
		Author Name Table	Elord	이재철
		Rev. Cutter–Sanborn Table	SNUL	Y58d
Chronological ordering		–	–	–

*Lee, J. (1986). *New chronological book numbers*. Seoul: Asiamunwhasa.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Book numbers system that distinguished from class numbers should comprise elements of the main entry including author, title, edition, and date of publication. However, until now, Korean academic libraries have adopted the book numbers system which consist of author–number or author–name, the first letter of the title, and edition mark.

Based on the results of this study, the current use of book numbers system table and its associated problems appear to be similar and these are summarized below.

First, the Korean author's full name is made up of three letters.

Therefore, the main problem is that the current book numbers system cause to duplicate of book numbers system frequently. It often takes place that the different book under the same subject has the same book numbers system.

Second, Korean academic libraries have been adopting various book numbers system tables, so that it does not coincide with the goal of making a cooperative cataloguing among academic libraries. Thus, each library makes out the book numbers system of its own and this situation results in waste of time and extra cost.

Third, with the current book numbers system, the patrons cannot trace the chronological materials or find the latest resources of the academic library that have been holding millions of collection.

Fourth, the problems with the current book numbers system that librarians have recognized are duplication of book numbers system, ineffective collection management, and differentiation of latest materials in this order.

Lastly, librarians felt that the problems should be solved in this order: duplication of book numbers system, consistency with the current book numbers system system, and consistency in collection arrangements.

Thus, this study suggests two options in order to tackle the problems of the current book numbers system with Korean academic libraries.

First, the expansion of the current book numbers system. In other words, book numbers system should consist of the elements of the main entry including author, title, edition, and date of publication, additionally, any other shelflisting device such as volumes and copies. Expansion of the book numbers system would assist libraries in eliminating the concern for duplication of book numbers system and searching library resources in a chronological order.

Second, integration of eastern and western book numbers system tables is recommended. This option will benefit the Korean academic libraries that arranging western and eastern materials on the same shelf. In other words, it would be better to change eastern author name into alphabet and then use the same western book numbers system table.

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APPENDIX : Sample Academic Library List

1. Ajou University Central Library. Available: <http://library.ajou.ac.kr/>
2. Andong National University Central Library. Available:
<http://lib.andong.ac.kr/>
3. Anyang University Central Library. Available:
<http://lib.anyang.ac.kr/AYUL/>
4. Busan National University of Education Library. Available:
<http://203.237.232.10/Slima/>
5. Catholic University of Korea Library. . Available:
<http://library.cuk.ac.kr/web/home.html>.
6. Central Library, University of Seoul. Available:
<http://plus.uos.ac.kr/index.jsp>
7. Changwon National University Library. Available:
<http://lib.changwon.ac.kr/>
8. Cheju National University Central Library. Available:
<http://chulic.cheju.ac.kr/cnulib/>
9. Cheonan University Bagkseok Library & Information Center. Available:
<http://lib.cheonan.ac.kr/>
10. Chonbuk National University Library. Available:
<http://dl.chonbuk.ac.kr/dlsearch/TGUI/Theme/Chonbuk/main.asp>
11. Chongju University Central Library. Available:
<http://wuam.chongju.ac.kr/main.htm>
12. Chongshin University Library. Available: <http://lib.chongshin.ac.kr/>
13. Chosun University Library. Available: <http://library.chosun.ac.kr/>
14. Chungang University Library. Available: <http://www.lib.cau.ac.kr/>
15. Chungbuk National University Library. Available:
<http://cbnul.chungbuk.ac.kr/>
16. Chungju National University Library. Available:
<http://chains.chungju.ac.kr/>
17. Chungnam National University Library. Available:
<http://clins.chungnam.ac.kr/>

18. Daebul University Library. Available: <http://lis.daebul.ac.kr/new/>
19. Daegu University Central Library. Available:
<http://love.taegu.ac.kr/wlibrary/>
20. Daejeon Catholic University Library. Available: <http://lib.datholic.ac.kr/>
21. Daejeon University Library. Available: <http://libweb.dju.ac.kr/>
22. Daejin University Central Library. Available: <http://library.daejin.ac.kr/>
23. Dankook University Central Library. Available: <http://lib.dankook.ac.kr/>
24. Donga University Library. Available: <http://dalis.donga.ac.kr/>
25. Dongeui University Central Library. Available: <http://lib.deu.ac.kr/slimadl/>
26. Dongguk University Central Library. Available: <http://lib.dgu.ac.kr/index.j4>
27. Dongseo University Central Library. Available:
<http://libcenter.dongseo.ac.kr/>
28. DongYang University Library. Available: <http://dyucl.dyu.ac.kr/DYUL/>
29. Duksung Women's University Library. Available:
<http://discover.duksung.ac.kr/>
30. Ewha Womans University Library. Available:
<http://lib.ewha.ac.kr/DLSearch/TGUI/Theme/main.asp>
31. Geumgang University Library. Available: <http://library.kunsan.ac.kr/>
32. Halla University Library. Available: <http://lib.halla.ac.kr/>
33. Hallym University Ilsong Memorial Library. Available:
<http://www.hallym.ac.kr/~library/>
34. Hankuk University of Foreign Studies University Library. Availabale:
<http://weblib.hufs.ac.kr/>
35. Hanman University Academic Information Center. Available:
<http://hanul.hannam.ac.kr/>
36. Hansung University Library. Available: <http://hse1.hansung.ac.kr/>
37. Hanyang University Paiknam Academic Information Center & Library.
Available: <http://library.hanyang.ac.kr/>
38. Honam University Library. Available: <http://library.honam.ac.kr/>
39. Hongik University Central Library. Available: <http://honors.hongik.ac.kr/>
40. Hoseo University Library. Available: <http://dlibrary.hoseo.ac.kr/>
41. Hyupsung University Central Library. Available:
<http://hulins.hyupsung.ac.kr/>

42. Inha University Central Library. Available: <http://lib.inha.ac.kr/>
43. Jeonju University Central Library. Available: <http://lib.jeonju.ac.kr/>
44. Joogbu University Central Library. Available: <http://julis.joongbu.ac.kr/>
45. Kangnam University Library. Available:
<http://library.kangnam.ac.kr/dlsearch/TGUI/Theme/Kangnam/main.asp>.
46. Kangnung National University Library. Available:
<http://iskul.kangnung.ac.kr/>
47. Kankuk Aviation University Library. Available:
<http://210.119.25.2/SlimaDL/>
48. Keimyung University Dongsan Library. Available:
<http://kimsweb.keimyung.ac.kr/DLSearch/tgui/theme/main/kmuniv/index.asp>
49. Kongju National University Library. Available:
<http://knulib.kongju.ac.kr/korean/index.html>
50. Konkuk University Sanghuh Memorial Library. Available:
<http://kkul.konkuk.ac.kr/SlimaDL/>
51. Konyang University Central Library. Available:<http://lib.konyang.ac.kr/>
52. Kookmin University Sungkok Library. Available: <http://lib.kookmin.ac.kr/>
53. Korea National Open University Library. Available:
<http://knoulib.knou.ac.kr/>
54. Korea National University of Education Library. Available:
<http://libsvr.knue.ac.kr/>
55. Korea University Library. Available: <http://library.korea.ac.kr/index.jsp>
56. Kunsan University Central Library. Available: <http://library.kunsan.ac.kr/>
57. Kwandong University Library. Available: <http://www.kwandong.ac.kr/lib/>
58. Kwangju University Library. Available: <http://klic.kwangju.ac.kr/>
59. Kwangju Women's University Library. Available: <http://kwul.kwu.ac.kr/>
61. Kwnagwoon. University Central Library. Available:
<http://kupis.kwangwoon.ac.kr/>
62. Kyeongsan National University Library. Available:<http://library.gsnu.ac.kr/>
63. Kyonggi University Library. Available:<http://203.249.26.247/>
64. Kyunghee University Central Library. Available:
<http://khis.kyunghee.ac.kr/>
65. Kyungil University Library. Available:<http://cham.kyungil.ac.kr/>

66. Kyungnam University Library. Available:<http://library.kyungnam.ac.kr/>
67. Kyungpook National University Central Library.
Available:<http://kudos.kyungpook.ac.kr/>
68. Kyungsung University Central Library.
Available:<http://kulis1.kyungsung.ac.kr/>
69. Kyungwon University Library. Available:
<http://210.102.187.39/DLSearch/TGUI/Theme/Kyungwon/main.asp>
70. Kyunwoon University Library. Available:
<http://pluto.kyunwoon.ac.kr/~library>
71. Library of Dongduk University. Available: <http://ddlib.dongduk.ac.kr/>
72. Miryang University Library. Available: <http://lib.miryang.ac.kr/>
73. Mokpo National Maritime University Library. Available:
<http://lib.mmu.ac.kr/index.asp>
74. Mokpo National University Central Library. Available:
<http://library.mokpo.ac.kr/>
75. Mokwon University Central Library. Available:
<http://lib.mokwon.ac.kr/Sky/Users/MokWon/OpacMain.aspx>
76. Myongji University Central Library. Available: <http://library.mju.ac.kr/>
77. Myungshin University Library. Available:
<http://www.myungshin.ac.kr/msu/Library/index.asp>
78. Nambu University Library. Available: <http://210.123.228.164/>
79. Namseoul University Central Library. Available: <http://nsulib.nsu.ac.kr/>
80. Paichai Central Library. Available: <http://library.paichai.ac.kr/>
81. Pukyong National University Library. Available: <http://libweb.pknu.ac.kr/>
82. Pusan Nation University Library. Available: <http://203.237.232.10/Slima/>
83. Sahmyook University Library. Available: <http://lib.syu.ac.kr/>
84. Sangji University Library. Available:
<http://www.sangji.ac.kr/home/library/index.jsp>
85. Sangju National University Central Library.
Available:<http://san.sangju.ac.kr/>
86. Sangmyung University Library. Available: <http://lib.sangmyung.ac.kr/>
87. Sejong University Library. Available: <http://sjulib.sejong.ac.kr/>
88. Semyung University Minsong Library. Available:

- <http://selas.semyung.ac.kr/>
89. Seokyeong University Library. Available: <http://lib.seokyeong.ac.kr/>
90. Seoul National University Library. Available: <http://library.snu.ac.kr/>
91. Seoul National University of Education Library. Available:
<http://www.lib.seoul-e.ac.kr/>
92. Seoul Women's University Library. Available: <http://lib.swu.ac.kr/>
93. Seowon University Library. Available: <http://lib.seowon.ac.kr/>
94. Silla University Library. Available: <http://library.silla.ac.kr/>
95. Sogang University Loyola Library. Available:
<http://library.sogang.ac.kr/dlsearch/TGUI/Theme/theme1/main.asp>
96. Sookmyung Women's University Library. Available:
<http://lib.sookmyung.ac.kr/>
97. Soonchunhyang University Central Library. Available:
<http://library.sch.ac.kr/>
98. Soongsil University Library & Information Center. Available:
<http://oasis.soongsil.ac.kr/>
99. Sungkonghoe University Library. Available:
<http://library.skhu.ac.kr/index.asp>
101. Sungkyul University Library & Information Center. Available:
<http://library.sungkyul.ac.kr/>
102. Sungkyunkwan University Central Library. Available:
<http://skkcl.skku.ac.kr/>
103. Sungshin University Library. Available: <http://lib.sungshin.ac.kr/>
104. Suwon University Central Library. Available: <http://lib.suwon.ac.kr/>
105. Taegu National University of Education Library. Available:
<http://slima.taegu-e.ac.kr/>
106. Tongmyong University Library. Available: <http://lib.tit.ac.kr/>
107. University of Ulsan Prominent Library. Available:
<http://library.ulsan.ac.kr/LibSolution/BaseWeb/front.aspx>
108. Wonkwang University Central Library. Available:
<http://elibrary.wonkwang.ac.kr/>
109. Woosuk University Library. Available:
http://library.woosuk.ac.kr/main1.asp?tb=inno_2&page=1

110. Yeungnam University Library. Available: <http://slima.yu.ac.kr/SlimaDL/>
111. Yonsei University Central Library. Available: <http://library.yonsei.ac.kr/>
112. Yosu National University Library. Available: <http://yosulib.yosu.ac.kr/>

Abstract

The Survey on the Use of Book Numbers System in South Korean Academic Libraries

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This study investigated the actual condition of book numbers in South Korean academic libraries. Book numbers that are used in the Korean academic libraries consist of a combination of author-number or author-name, the first letter of the title, and any other shelflisting device. This study examined the current problems that perceive academic librarians on book numbers and the problem awareness of librarians who are working at 110 academic libraries in South Korea.

The result shows that academic libraries are using eleven different methods of the book numbers table including nine eastern methods and two western methods. Also, librarians mentioned that the crucial concerns among participating libraries were the duplication of the book numbers and ineffective collection management.

Therefore, this study suggested the expansion of the book numbers system in order not to duplicate of book numbers and the unification of western and eastern methods so that academic libraries tackle problems of ineffective collection management.