

Bridging the knowledge disparity: Success story from a Chinese translation and co-publishing endeavor

Mohan Ramaswamy and Donna Schenck-Hamlin

Kansas State University Libraries
Manhattan, Kansas

Summary of the paper presented at the
International Association of Agriculture Information Specialists ([IAALD](#)) &
United States Agricultural Information Network ([USAIN](#))
[Joint Conference](#), May 14-19, 2005, Lexington, Kentucky.

Introduction:

Kansas State University Libraries' successful experience in a translation and co-publishing project will be discussed in this presentation and paper. This paper describes how substantial knowledge was brought from China and shared with the western world when the information was much needed. Not only the technology and the Internet, but also the human interface i.e. subject experts, librarians and translators played a vital role in this project. Thus this paper bears relevance to globalization of information in agricultural sciences.

The Problem:

Soybean aphids (*Aphis glycines*), which cause significant damage to crops in China and Japan, first appeared in the U.S. in 2000. Infestations have been reported from the US states Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. For an updated map of distributions see the "Soybean Aphid Watch" (<http://www.pmcenters.org/Northcentral/Saphid/aphidindex.htm>). Potential losses to the U.S. soybean industry have been estimated as high as \$ 2.2 billion (see University of Minnesota's loss assessment web site [http://www.soybeans.umn.edu/crop/insects/aphid/aphid_loss.htm]). Yet documentation in English has been scarce, since most research carried out in Korea, Japan, and China is published in their original languages.

The Translation and Co-publishing Project:

Four participants from two U.S. universities obtained support from a 2001 APHIS grant (PPQ Soybean Aphid Biocontrol Project <<http://www.cips.msu.edu/ncr125/StateRpts2001MILab.htm#1>>) to identify and begin translating vital scientific research carried out in China on *Aphis glycines*. Professors from the University of Minnesota and Kansas State University librarians jointly collaborated in this project. Later, the project included three translators from two institutions in Beijing i.e. China Agricultural University and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Beginning with approximately 40 Asian publications uncovered by searches of CAB, AGRICOLA, and Biological Abstracts databases, the researchers

traced available reference lists back to previous work, and requested searches of Chinese databases on-site at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The resulting bibliography (<http://www.ksu.edu/issa/aphids/reporthtml/citations.html>) lists over 80 publications now located both at KSU and UMN, which are in various stages of translation. The full text of completed translations are linked from the bibliography. Where copyright permission has been obtained, Chinese originals are available in full text as well.

Funding for the 2001 project ended in March 2002. Kansas State University received United Soybean Board support to begin the Phase II of the project. The Phase II was an expansion of the bibliography to include Japanese and Korean research with its translation in 2002-2003. The project ended in June 2003.

The authors discussed their experience identifying the emergent information need, developing helpful contacts, acquiring grant support, and accomplishing the project successfully.