**A Report on the Procedure of iBis Data Entry in RILM Japan:
Can RILM Work as Tool of the Internet Search or of the Archival Index?**

**Natsuko Asayama
Chief, iBis Project (RILM Japan)**

This report explains the procedure of the Romanization of the Japanese literature and its translation into English and some of the challenges faced by the iBis data entry team. The iBis data entry team in Japan is divided into three: the first group Romanizes the titles and the proper nouns; the second one translates the title into English; and the third group enters the bibliographic data, which includes the information given by the first two groups, into the iBis. I have organized the entire working schedule and coordinated with the team members (the team was not responsible for selection of the literatures).

One of the major challenges in Romanization is that there are no clear rules in spacing/breaking of the Romanized Japanese words, while there are rules in their pronunciation. Hence, we limit to two team members only who would be in charge of the Romanization in order to minimize the variation. While the efforts of the Romanization team are commendable, a question arises whether it is really necessary to Romanize them at all. The iBis currently supports all three sets of Japanese characters. I would like to pose a question as to whether the Romanized Japanese information could be useful both for those who are looking for Japanese literature, and for those who do not read Japanese.

There are two major problems with the English translation.
Firstly, if the title is in a language other than English (e.g., German, Italian and French), there is no space to enter the original title in the iBis. Therefore, either the author or our team has to generate an English translation of the title, which would not help the user when ordering a copy of this document.
Secondly, if we find the original English title provided by the author hard to understand, our team has worked on supplementary explanation or made revision to the English titles. We have a dilemma: on one hand that providing alternative titles may cause confusion when users search for the documents; on the other hand, the original and incorrect titles would not contribute to providing an appropriate overview of the work, making them equivalent of ISSN or DOI, which are merely means of identification of the documents.

Consequently, I would like to ask a question: Is the RILM one of the clues to the musical literature search? Or is it a documentary project of the musical bibliography? If it is the former, the efforts on Romanization and revision of titles should be

minimized; Instead, the efforts should be made to allow the users to access the full text of the documents. If the full text is available, other information in the iBis would be less important. For those who are looking for Japanese literature, naturally the titles written in Japanese character would be easier to read than in roman character. On the other hand, English titles should be in their original representation so that they are easily found by Internet search. In any case, the bibliographical search cannot be completed solely within the RILM. Hence, the role of the RILM is to compile the fragmented pieces of information on the Internet and present it in one page. As research method is changing from paper to electronic media, we rarely use the handwritten request form at the library today. The document search is often done with copy & paste and clicking.

Supporting new methodology with the Internet may not necessarily be compatible with documentation of music bibliography. It is in fact a specialist work to select outstanding musicological achievements and record them so that the bibliographical information will be passed on in the long term. While almost all of our team members have doctoral degrees and we possess expertise in respective areas of research of musicology, we are not bibliographers, much less informatics experts. It is highly desirable to have an interdisciplinary musicologist who is trained in both bibliography and informatics. The lack of specialized music librarians has been a recognized issue for at least 20 years, but there has not been a major improvement on this issue until today.