From Japan to abroad: How to present Japan's digitalization projects to international researchers

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1-2. Words of appreciation

Through the JAL project 2016 we have become acquainted with the great efforts made by many different research institutes in Japan in establishing and improving their OPACs and digital archives. We really appreciate your work.

The numerous rich databases owing to the high technological level of digitalization in Japan are really wonderful. To mention some of the different open access databases there are for example the Tokyo National Museum Web Archives, the Ukiyo-e Viewing System of Ritsumeikan University Art Research Center, and The International Research Center for Japanese Studies. We are honoured to be able to discuss how to communicate the importance of these information resources to an international audience. Actually, in our countries we often see that digitalization has not yet properly been put into practice.

Our group consists of two librarians and one art historian. Therefore our needs are not always the same, but it is certain that we all in the future when doing research and promoting this research will find your databases extremely effective. We will definitely communicate what we here have learned both to our students and to other researchers.

3. The starting point

Usually when we want to check things we use google. Therefore it is a very important question to us whether we are led to the research institutes' databases by google or not. We have been introduced to many different databases by now, but unfortunately, unless the google searches were made in Japanese (and sometimes even in spite of this) there were difficulties in finding one's way to the databases.

4. How to help researchers find their way to your databases

When we search on the internet we mostly carry out our searches in English or in *romaji* (romanized Japanese transliterations). So in this respect the visibility of the Japanese databases is still rather low. The language question is an unavoidable problem. Since the majority of the people of the world do not read Japanese *kanji*, we hope that it will become much easier than now to access the databases without having to use Japanese. In this respect the initiatives taken by the National Institute of Japanese Literature to improve the precision of searches in English and *romaji* and to make their databases multilingual are truly wonderful. It is part of a current project called "The project to Build an International Collaborative Research Network for Pre-modern Japanese Texts". The National Institute of Japanese Literature are also tagging their digital images which we think will be really useful.

5. How to help researchers who do not know Japanese

Perhaps it is difficult to change all information services completely into English. However if short abstracts in English were added as meta data, it would at least be possible to understand what the book or dissertation is about, and to judge whether it is necessary to get hold of it or download it to read it, or whether it is worth translating and publishing it in one's own country. This kind of abstract would be extremely helpful not only to researchers of Japanese culture and Japanese art, but also to researchers who do not talk a word of Japanese, but who

occasionally might need some Japanese material for their research or investigation.

In our opinion if you want to make your research known abroad, it is necessary to write in English. Even if the language of your own country is important in the humanities, a real scientific international community can be created only by increasing translations or, at least, by including abstracts in English at the end of the research papers.

6. An example of how it could be done

As an example we think that it is desirable that the development of database services should be like CiNii, which is provided by The National Institute of Informatics, where English titles and personal names in *romaji* usually are supplied. And as we expressed earlier it would be very useful to tag the digital images in English and in *romaji*.

7. Being able to prepare one's research beforehand

Next we would like to talk about how to use the databases. Many of the databases of the research institutes that we have been introduced to cannot be accessed from outside the institute. However it is a big burden not only of course for us foreign researchers but also for Japanese researchers to have to use the computer terminals in the reading room of the institutes. The reason for these restrictions in providing the data are owing to copyright problems and the individual owners of the cultural assets, which is similar to what we experience in our countries. Therefore if access restrictions were only applied to the digital images, but access to the meta data were possible, then if one were to visit the institute, it would be possible to prepare one's research thoroughly beforehand, and one could save a lot of time and money.

8-10. Integration of the databases and archives

The further development of integrated search systems is important. There are integrated search systems that make cross searches possible in many different OPACs and databases scattered around Japan, such as the cross search in the art libraries of the Art Libraries' Consortium (ALC), the union catalog of the collections of the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art, the e-Museum (e-Kokuho) and the Cultural Heritage Online (Bunka isan online) site, and The National Diet Library Search (NDL Search) (which is an integrated search service) of the National Diet Library. These systems would, if the aforementioned language and copyright problems were solved, make it more efficient especially for foreign researchers to find out where the research materials they need are located.

11. Establishing common standards to ensure the quality of the databases

The development of these union catalogues would make the collections and databases of the relatively small scale cultural organisations and research institutes more visible than now, and this is also connected with communicating their importance to both Japan and abroad. There are still numerous examples of the institutes not being able to transmit their information by their own efforts due to their budget, and whatever precious material they might have is regrettably overlooked. In order to prevent this situation, we think that it is important to expand the scope of the important portal sites even more. We think that it has become necessary to reduce the problem of inconsistency in how to operate within the many different large and small databases. Especially if there are subtle differences in the words used for the style of the works and the classification of the subjects confusion arises for people who do not understand Japanese well enough, and therefore it is important to establish certain standards, in order to ensure quality databases and a high

level of homogenization. As a first step toward this direction we would like to suggest to use the simplest and most commonly used designs as possible for the portal sites and interfaces.

12-13. Possible models for easier access to your digital archives

While we on the one hand are looking forward to the improvement of the many different kinds of databases and portal sites in Japan, we researchers in the Western countries on the other hand comparatively often (tend to) use the digital archives of for instance The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York or The British Museum in London, where one can browse the digital materials of the Japan related collections in the possession of these institutions. The wealth of information provided for the works of study is of course poor compared to what is provided in Japanese by the Japanese databases. At present, however, most of the open access digital archives made for researchers who do not read Japanese are provided overseas. For example the Kuniyoshi Project, the Utagawa Kunisada Project, Kabuki21.com and the like are used by many people to examine and do research on nishiki-e and kabuki-related woodblock prints.

Ukiyo-e.org is an extremely useful web site where you of course can search by text, but where it is also possible to search using an image recognition search function. In Japan Edo Tokyo Museum, Tokyo National Museum, and among universities Waseda University Theatre Museum and Ritsumeikan University, and Tokyo Metropolitan Library among others are participating in Ukiyo-e.org which links up to the materials in their collections.

14. How to promote your databases and digital archives internationally

It has become more necessary than ever before to actively introduce one's activities through international platforms for instance by making presentations and holding workshops.

A good way to promote the databases and digital archives of the museum institutions abroad could be by joining the International Council of Museums (ICOM). There is a meeting once every three years, and the next meeting will be held in Kyoto in 2019.

One of the missions of ICOM is developing the professional network. It is a professional network of institutions and museum professionals and it has more than 35,000 members. Many times a year, ICOM brings together museum experts to discuss various museum-related themes and it conducts advanced research for the benefit of the museum community. So one of the topics could also be digitalization, including quality standard levels, together with promoting and diffusing the knowledge of the main OPACs related to the art history in each country.

The dissemination of the databases and digital archives through ICOM can also lead to increasing the archives, sharing images, records, and information and also produce an imitation effect: all the museums that preserve Japanese artworks might be encouraged to create new archives or share their resources.

15. Personal networking

We have just made some proposals to you about how to make it easier for people in other countries to use your databases and digital archives, but we would like to end this presentation by stressing the importance of personal networking.

Many Japanese libraries and research institutes already attend the Asian academic conferences that I (Hiroyuki Nagahashi Good) am attending each year in the United States. Two librarians from the National

Diet Library participate in the sessions of The Council of East Asian Libraries (CEAL) and North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC), where they introduce the newest developments of their databases and services. Professors from the National Institute of Japanese Literature have twice already held a workshop on above-mentioned "The project to Build an International Collaborative Research Network for Pre-modern Japanese Texts" for researchers and librarians at Asian academic meetings. The head of the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation Information Resources Center is also attending the Asian academic conferences every year, where he introduces the Shibusawa Shashi Database etc. Next year he plans to have a booth in the exhibition hall where he will introduce the digital edition of the publication 'Shibusawa Eiichi denki shiryō' (Shibusawa Eiichi biographical data) to the researchers.

One of the most productive results of the JAL Project has been the possibility to meet and create a network with fellow librarians and curators at national museums, museums of art, and research centers. Thanks to the JAL Project we have visited many museums and research centers where many online databases and digital archives of Japanese art images and resources have been introduced to us. However, if these resources are difficult to find and use - and even more so when back home in our respective countries - they will not be so useful for others. Personal networking is one of the key factors to break through the barrier of un-discoverability. Sometimes a museum curator does not have time to check reviews or websites, above all if they are not strictly bound to art history or conservation, and therefore a programme like the JAL Project is of great importance not only to librarians but also to curators.

Therefore, we encourage librarians and curators of Japanese museums and research centers to attend conferences in the United States, Europe and Australia to promote their databases and digital archives, and do networking with us.

16-17. AAS & CEAL

Annual Conference of Association of Asian Studies (AAS) is the best venue to reach librarians and researchers of Japanese Studies in North America. AAS is the largest Asian Studies conference held in North America with over 3,000 attendees and more than 350 panel sessions.
In addition to that, the Council of East Asian Libraries (CEAL) will hold a 2-day conference just before the AAS.

Future conference dates and sites are:
2017 Toronto, Canada, CEAL: March 14-15 and AAS: March 16-19
2018 Washington, D.C., CEAL: March 20-21 and AAS: March 22-25
2019 Denver, Colorado, CEAL: March 19-20 and AAS: March 21-24

18. EAJRS

Annual conference of European Association of Japanese Resource Specialist (EAJRS) is the best venue to reach Japanese studies librarians in Europe.
http://eajrs.net/
Next conference will be held in Oslo, Norway in September 2017.

19. EAJS

Annual conference of European Association of Japanese Studies is the best venue to reach scholars and researchers focusing on Japan.
http://www.eajs.eu/
The 2017 conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from August 30 to September 2.

20. JSAA

The Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) is the professional

association for those in Australia who teach, research or study Japan.

The JSAA holds a conference every two years. The next conference will be held in 2017 at Wollongong University, New South Wales.

21. We are happy to help you

If you want to register for these conferences and organize workshops, we are happy to help you. For instance, I have organized a workshop and several panels at AAS so I (Hiroyuki Nagahashi Good) can help you to propose your workshop to the AAS conference. The call for papers and workshops for AAS 2017 is already closed, but not for the CEAL conference. If you want to give a presentation at the CEAL conference in 2017, I am happy to link you up with the Japanese committee of CEAL.

AAS 2018 will be in Washington D.C. It is a great opportunity not only to attend CEAL/AAS but also to visit the Smithsonian Museums.

22.

We really do want to share the knowledge of our collections and skills. Please do the same. Thank you for your attention.
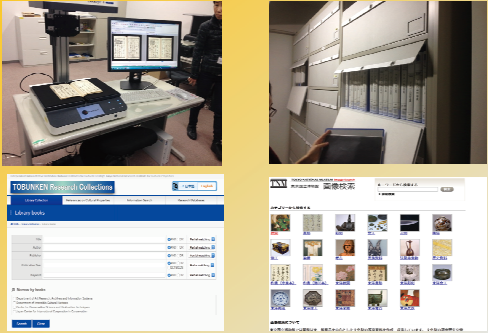
Slide 1

JAL Project 2016

日本から海外へ
日本におけるデジタル化資料を
いかにして外国人に伝えるか
From Japan to abroad
How to help *gaikokujin* researchers get to know Japanese
digitalization projects

メレッテ・ピーターセン
グッド長橋広行
マルタ・ボスコロ・マルキ

1

Slide 2

We really appreciate your work!

2

Slide 3

The starting point

Someone who is looking for some information usually starts from google

Google

Check if your database can be reached by google

3

Slide 4

How can a researcher reach your database? Please help him!

美術

Bijutsu
Art

4

Slide 5

There are also non-Japanese speaking scholars...

What is a book or an article about? Everybody would appreciate:
本や論文が何についてものなのか？　あれば助かります

- A short abstract in English
- 短い英語のアブストラクト

- Translation in English
- 英訳

- Tags in the pictures
- 画像へのタグ付け

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Slide 6

**Good example for English search:
CiNII articles of National Institute of Informatics (NII)**

CiNii   Articles   Books   Dissertations

Article   Author   Full Text

mizutani art libraries journal

All   Include Full-text

Search Results :   1-3 of 3

Select all   Open in New Windows   Go

Continuity and Transgression : Philosophy of MLA collaboration(<Special
[in Japanese]
MIZUTANI Takeshi
ミュージアム,ライブラリ,アーカイブという蓄積・検索型の情報サービスを提供する機関のトータ

6

Please let us prepare our researches at home before coming to you
日本に来る前に準備をさせて下さい
Share information, open the databases

Even without images, because of the copyright

著作権の問題で画像がなくてもいいです

7

Integration of the databases

The integration of the archives is the best way to help researchers not to waste time in entering and searching in different OPACs - if they know them! - moving from a website to another

統合検索システムが出来れば、研究の速度が上がります

8

Integration of the databases
Union catalogues

Example of museum libraries:
- Art Libraries' Consortium (ALC)（美術図書館横断検索システム）

Examples of museums:
- **Union Catalog of the Collections of the National Art Museums, Japan (所蔵作品総合目録検索システム)**
- **the e-Museum (e国宝)**
- **the Cultural Heritage Online site (文化遺産オンライン)**

9

Integration of the databases
"NDL Search" an integrated search service of catalogs and digital archives

10

Standards for quality level of the databases
データベースの規格を統一

Homogeneity of the quality level
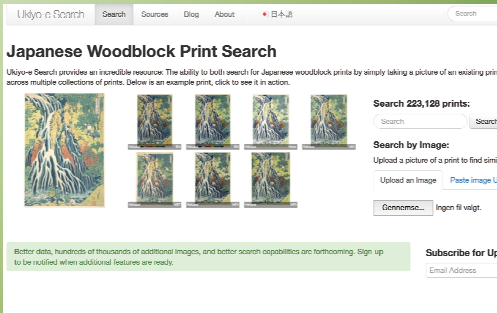### データベースの質の均一化

- what basic information you need
- 必要な情報は何か

- standardize classification
- 分類の統一

- where to find information
- どこに何があるか

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Good model for an easy access:
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York & Utagawa Kunisada project

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ukiyo-e.org Japanese Woodblock Print Search

13

How to promote databases and digital archives in the museums around the world

世界へプロモート

International Council of Museums (ICOM)

国際博物館会議

More than 35,000 members

Propose the topic of digitalization to ICOM Promotion and diffusion of the knowledge of the main opacs related to art history

In 2019 ICOM meeting will be in Kyoto

2019年は 京都で開催

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Personal Networking

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Association of Asian Studies (AAS)
アジア学会

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Annual Conference of
Council of East Asian Libraries (CEAL) and
Association of Asian Studies (AAS)
東アジア図書館評議会とアジア学会の年次会議

2017年 カナダ、トロント
CEAL: 3月14-15日 AAS: 3月16-19日

2018年 ワシントン D.C.
CEAL: 3月20-21日 AAS: 3月22-25日
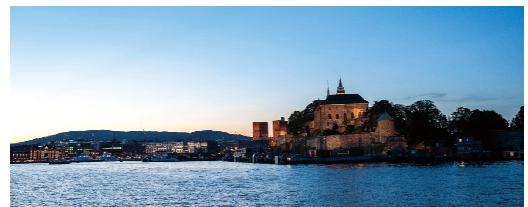
2019年 コロラド州デンバー
CEAL: 3月19-20日 AAS: 3月21-24日

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European Association of Japanese
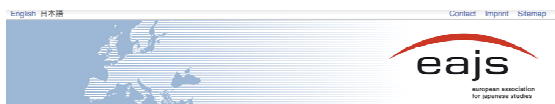Resource Specialist (EAJRS)
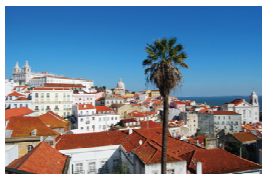日本資料専門家欧州協会

eajrs

ノルウェー、オスロ
2017年9月

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European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS)

欧州日本学会

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ポルトガル、リスボン
2017年8月30日–9月2日

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Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA)

豪州日本研究学会

ニューサウスウェールズ州
ウーロンゴン大学
2017年6月26-30日

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Annual Conference of
Council of East Asian Libraries (CEAL) and
Association of Asian Studies (AAS)

東アジア図書館評議会とアジア学会の年次会議

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2019 コロラド州デンバー
CEAL: 3月19-20日 AAS: 3月21-24日

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Thank You!!!

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