

Collaboration toward Sharing Japanese Cultural Resources

3rd Group: Kristin Williams, Wayne Andrew Crothers, Aurora Canepari

Part 1. For Easier Searching (Kristin Williams)

1. We will be presenting on ‘Collaboration toward Sharing Japanese Cultural Resources’.

2. This presentation was written by Kristin Williams, Aurora Canepari, and Wayne Crothers. Today, we will address the three points that you see in the slide: ‘For Easier Searching’, ‘Japanese Databases for Everyone’, and ‘Funding and Resources’.

3. During the JAL Project, we visited various research organisations, and we were impressed with the many specialised databases that researchers in Japan have created. However, one problem that emerged in our group discussions was the fact that it is difficult to perform integrated searches of multiple Japanese databases. As a librarian, part of my job is to teach students and researchers how to efficiently obtain information. The use of databases is one important part of the research process.

4. I want to introduce students and researchers to the databases that I learned about during the JAL Project. I think the databases would be much easier for people to use if there were a search portal that allowed for searching many databases at once. Currently, if people want to search across the large amount of data that is available online, they must search many databases individually. For people who cannot read Japanese quickly or easily, this creates an unnecessary barrier to research because they must learn how to use each of the different databases.

In order to resolve this problem, I think it would be very helpful if there were a portal site that allowed people to search many research organisations and databases at one time. We saw that this type of concept is being implemented in things like the Integrated Retrieval System for the National Institutes for the Humanities and NDL Search from the National Diet Library. We believe these search systems are a great beginning, but there is still room to improve in terms of bringing information together in a way that can be searched smoothly and effectively.

5. One way we could help to increase the number of databases and amount of materials it is possible to search at once would be to work toward a greater network of collaborating international institutions. For example, Cambridge University Library has about 22 old Japanese books and scrolls available publicly in its digital library. Many museums have also made ukiyoe, woodblock prints, and rare books available online. However, users in Japan may not always think to look at foreign websites when searching for Japanese cultural materials. It may be difficult to collaborate with international libraries, museums and archives. But if we could agree on a metadata standard for our sites, it would become easier to share information and collaborate in activities.

Part 2. Japanese Databases for Everyone (Aurora Canepari)

Since I am Italian, I face the issue from an international point of view and I would like to talk about the obstacles the international users have to overcome.

1. International users without Japanese language ability

First of all I would like you to imagine how difficult it could be to approach sources written in Japanese for a user without Japanese ability. I'm talking about people interested in Japanese culture who could become a bridge between cultures, spreading Japanese art and tradition knowledge abroad.

For example, in the Museum where I worked there are two not-Japanese speaking volunteers who do all their best in spreading Japanese art and culture through children activities. But as soon as I started to collaborate with them, I immediately realized how wide was the gap between the amount of information I can reach and the one that they can reach.

If we use internet for our research, we know that not only the amount but also the quality of the information changes if we type the keyword in hiragana instead of *romaji* in a search engine.

2. English and *romaji* keywords and titles

For this reason I think that in order to spread information via internet, would be a help the combined use of keywords in English and keywords in *romaji*, which are very useful in the case of words that have a particular use in Japanese language and can't be translated in English. For example, in the case of the research of an article, a book or an artwork it would be easier if the title or the name of the artwork will be written both in *romaji* and English, in order to understand which other words can be

used together as keywords in further researches.

3. Thumbnail Images

In order to deepen and improve the quality of the results, the easier way to find our way in the wide web is to see the image of what we are looking for, so I suggest to add to the databases thumbnail images of the cover of the books or the article, or in the case of images databases, the thumbnail of the image itself. This improvement could be very useful not only for the international user who cannot read Japanese, but also for the international Japanese speaking researchers who have to quicken their research. We all know that a research is not always a quiet thing and sometimes we really need to be as faster as we can.

4. Instruction and training for database use

Thanks to the JAL Project I had the possibility to be trained in how to use the databases and I feel very grateful for this, but I also think about how much this training would have been useful when I was a student. I think that Japanese Studies students who approach for the first time the source research and the databases in order to write their dissertation, would be very enthusiastic to have this kind of training. I saw how much effort libraries, institutions and foundations put into the creation of databases, so I think that it would be a pity not to instruct young people on how to use them. For this reason, in addition to the kind of training that the JAL Project provide, I would like to suggest that Japanese librarians and/or the researchers that are working on the database project come to abroad institutions, libraries, universities and give training there, in order to see the local background and collaborate in foreign countries.

Part 3. Funding and Resources (Wayne Andrew Crothers)

Funding and Resources

The unfortunate reality of any research project is establishing funding and human resources. Traditionally international and Japanese public cultural institutions have relied on local and federal government funding as their sole funding resource for financing museum activities. Over the last several years many regional and national governments have been dealing with high levels of debt and slow moving economies and cutting public expenditure. This is a trend that can be expected to continue into the future. In many cases one of the first areas of government spending to be reduced is the funding to art institutions and cultural projects. This situation of decreasing government funding has led to institutions seeking alternative avenues of funding from the corporate and private sector. At first, the prospect of institutional fund raising may appear to be difficult to control with potential for conflict of interests between the private and public sector. However, if managed with guidelines, fund raising activities can provide very rewarding outcomes.

Exhibition sponsorship

The direct sponsorship of major exhibitions by private corporations is an activity that has been used for many years. In the early years of exhibition sponsorship, in most cases this was by one exclusive corporation where the sponsor would receive signage at the exhibitions entrance, on printed material and on exhibition advertisements. In recent years' sponsorship has become a more complex and coordinated activity and can include numerous corporations being involved in sponsorship at different levels of financial support. Multi sponsorship

arrangements does result in larger sponsor signage at the entrance to exhibitions but also the ability to stage larger and more frequent exhibitions with an enhanced visitor experience.

Special project funding, for example, digitalisation

In recent years' sponsorship from the corporate and private sector has also become an activity to enhance the possibilities of scholarly research and academic activities. This subject I feel is of relevance to the theme of this discussion. Amongst many roles as a curator at the National Gallery of Victoria cataloguing, photographing, and facilitating public access to the museum collection through an online digitisation project has been a major activity. My job does not require funding but numerous other staff that include photographers, database technicians and arts installation staff all require additional funding to fulfil these operations. To receive this funding, the museum found a private donor who has a personal interest in these activities and a passion for open access to the extensive cultural resources of public arts institutions that are only partially on display at any one time.

Funding for at acquisitions of artworks and gallery presentations.

Funding for the acquisitions of artworks to keep museum collections active in current areas of research and up-to-date with contemporary art and design trends is of great importance. In order to acquire Japanese artworks many museums do not receive any government finance and rely solely on the financial support of private and corporate supporters. In return for this support there is a credit line on gallery labelling as well as a credit line in the

caption of the artwork when published online, in gallery publications and public newspapers and magazines.

Fund raising.

It has become a common practice for large museums and cultural institutions to employ specialist staff in the field of seeking corporate partnerships and private donors. These specialist fund raising staff work with the curators and exhibition planners to match suitable exhibitions and acquisitions projects with corporations whose type of business or identity can be related to and enhanced by the project. In the case of private supporter, the curator will suggest the type of acquisition or project being planned and the fund raising specialist will make recommendations as to a supporter with a similar interest that could be approached to fund the acquisition or project.

Conclusion

With the correct control and guidelines in place the involvement of corporations and private supporters can facilitate new projects, provide an increase in human resources to work on projects and increase in the speed and efficiency of completing projects.

Group Conclusion

Japan's long and rich cultural history continues to be revealed through contemporary research on artwork and printed material.

Bilingual integrated search portals could help broaden the potential audience for Japanese cultural resources and increase understanding.

Overcome the inevitable limitations of government resources for digitalization projects through partnerships between institutions and corporations.

We hope these suggestions may help international users to utilize current Japanese extensive digitization projects to the fullest extent.

日本の文化資源を広めるための協力
COLLABORATION TOWARD
SHARING JAPANESE CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Aurora Canepari アウローラ・カナパーリ
Wayne Crothers ウェイン・クロザース
Kristin Williams クリスティン・ウィリアムズ

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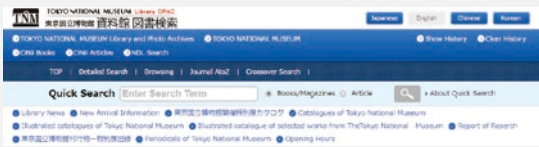
日本の文化資源をより多くの人に使ってもらうために
FOR GREATER ACCESS TO CULTURAL
RESOURCES

- もっと簡単に検索できるように
For Easier Searching (Williams)
- 日本のデータベースを誰もが使えるように
Japanese Databases for Everyone (Canepari)
- 資金と人材の調達
Funding and Resources (Crothers)

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もっと簡単に検索できるように
FOR EASIER SEARCHING

- 統合的に検索
- 海外の図書館・博物館・美術館との連携拡大
- 海外からより多くの資料をインターネットで閲覧できるように



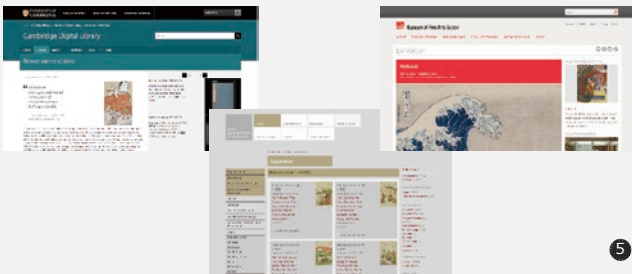
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統合的な検索 INTEGRATED SEARCH



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海外の図書館・博物館・美術館との連携拡大
GREATER NETWORK OF COLLABORATING
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



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海外からより多くの資料をインターネットで閲覧できるように
ABILITY TO SEE MORE RESOURCES
INTERNATIONALLY
VIA THE INTERNET



館内限定閲覧

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日本のデータベースを誰もが使えるように
JAPANESE DATABASES FOR EVERYONE

- ・日本語を知らない海外の利用者
- ・英語とローマ字のキーワードとタイトル
- ・検索におけるサムネイル画像の重要性
- ・データベース利用の指導とトレーニング

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海外の利用者
INTERNATIONAL USER

- ・例：日本の美術や伝統を広めようと頑張る日本語を知らないボランティアたち
- ・日本語話者とそうでない人たちの間で掴める情報の量に大きな差がある
- ・サーチエンジンにローマ字を入力した時とひらがなを入力した時では情報量だけでなく情報の質にも差が出る

そのため…

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英語とローマ字表記のキーワードとタイトル
ENGLISH AND ROMAJI KEYWORDS AND TITLES

- ・英語でのキーワード
- ・ローマ字表記でのキーワード



特別な意味の日本語で、英語へ翻訳ができない言葉を表記する場合にとっても便利

- ・論文や書籍、絵画、彫刻などの芸術品について調べる時に
ローマ字と英語、両方の表記があれば、他にどの単語がキーワードとして一緒に使えるのかがわかる

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サムネイル画像
THUMBNAİL IMAGES

検索結果の質を高めるために、調べたい物の画像を見れば、簡単に目的の情報へたどり着くことができる

データベースに本や論文の表紙、また画像のデータベースの場合は画像そのもののサムネイル画像があるといい

日本語を知らない海外の利用者と、日本語の話せる研究者で**研究の速度**を上げたい人双方にとって便利

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データベース利用の指導とトレーニング
INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING FOR DATABASE USE

日本について研究する学生で、論文を書くために初めて資料やデータベース利用に取り組む人々は、このような訓練に非常に熱心

データベース作成に携わる日本の図書館司書や研究者が、海外の研究機関、図書館、大学などに行って、現地で海外利用者をトレーニングしてみてもどうか

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資金と人材の調達
FUNDING AND RESOURCES

- ・ Corporate funding
- ・ Private supporters
- ・ Fundraising to realise cultural projects

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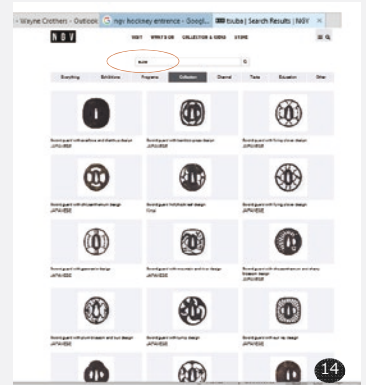
展覧会後援
EXHIBITION SPONSORSHIP



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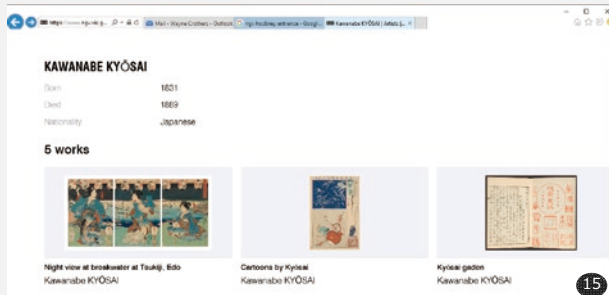
デジタル化特別プロジェクトの資金獲得

DIGITALISATION PROJECT FUNDING



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オンライン検索
ON LINE SEARCHING



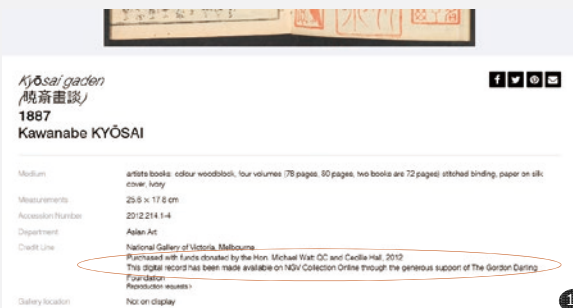
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美術資料の選択
SELECTION OF ARTWORK



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クレジットライン
CREDIT LINE OF FUNDING



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日本の文化資源へのユーザー・フレンドリーなアクセス
USER-FRIENDLY ACCESS TO JAPANESE CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Japan's long and rich cultural history continues to be revealed through contemporary research on artwork and printed material.
- Bilingual integrated search portals could help broaden the potential audience for Japanese cultural resources and increase understanding.
- Partnerships between institutions and corporations can help to overcome the inevitable limitations of government resources for digitalization projects.
- We hope these suggestions may help international users to utilize current Japanese extensive digitization projects

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