

REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 2001 JAPAN FOUNDATION CONFERENCE IN TOKYO

*An International Conference on the Enhancement of Information Availability for Scholarly
Resources in Japanese Studies*

For the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials Meeting at AAS in Washington, D.C.
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I. An Overview of the Conference

A. Organizers

1. Japan Foundation (国際交流基金)
2. International House (国際文化会館)

B. Language: *The conference was held in Japanese*

C. Invited Guests

Included many academics, librarians, museum professionals from many parts of Japan and around the world. Several CEAL members were present in the audience.

D. Schedule

1. Dec. 18-19, 2001 (Tokyo: The International House)
2. Dec. 20, 2001 (travel day)
3. Dec. 21, 2001: The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (NichiBunKen) (国際日本文化研究センター)

E. Participants and Topics: *Issues Regarding the use of Japanese Materials Abroad*

1. Session 1

Primary Materials for Academic Research: As Seen by Japan Specialists. Moderator: Izumi Koide (小出いずみ) (国際文化会館) (International House of Japan)

a) William Coldrake
Professor at University of Melbourne, Australia
Topic: Buildings Lie!: Substantial and/or Ephemeral Research Materials in the History of Japanese Architecture

b) Rikki Kersten
Professor at Leiden University (the Netherlands)
Topic: The relationship between Research and Primary materials; The importance of access to digital versions of materials

- c) Peter Pantzer
Professor at Bonn University, Germany (also Librarian)
The Situation of Japanese Libraries in Central Europe
- d) Paolo Calvetti
Professor of Japanese Language and Literature at Naples East Asian
Institute
An Ideal Library-Archive Network in the 21st Century
- e) John Campbell
Professor of Political Science at University of Michigan
"Quantitative Data: Progress but still Problems"
- f) Phillip Brown
Professor of Japanese History at Ohio State
*Multi-Layered and Globalized Use of Primary Sources for Academic
Research*

2. Session 2 From the Japan Studies Librarians Perspective

- a) Eizaburo Okuizumi
Librarian at University of Chicago
*Access to Large-Scale Primary Sources for Japanese Studies:
Experiences in Finding, Mediating, Researching, and Producing Them*
- b) Sachie Noguchi
Librarian at Pittsburgh University Library
Seeking for Access to Primary Sources: Solved and Unsolved
- c) Rob Britt
Librarian at University of Washington Law Library, East Asian Law
Department
Access to Japanese cases and statutes in the U.S.
- d) Noboru Koyama
Librarian at Oxford University, Bodleian Japanese Library
Research Materials for Japanese Studies in Great Britain
- e) Paul Wijsman
Librarian at Leiden University Library
Current Status of Japanese Studies Libraries in Dutch Universities
- f) Michelle Hall
Librarian at Melbourne University Library
Researchers and Primary Sources Seen from Australia

3. Session 3

Issues From the Overseas Users' Perspective

Moderator: Hisamichi Yamazaki (Chuo University) Questions/answers and discussion on Sessions I and II

4. Session 4

Providing Resources for Academic Research in Japan: Archives, Libraries, Museums and Their Networks Moderator: Mieko Hirano (National Diet Library)

- a) Masahito Yasufuji (安藤正人)
National Institute of Japanese Literature
Research and Education in Archive Studies in Japan: How to Contribute to the International Community in the 21st Century
- b) Tetsuya Ohama (大濱徹也)
National Archives of Japan
Issues in the Housing and Use of Research Materials for Japanese Studies
- c) Akio Takamizawa (高見沢明雄)
Tokyo National Museum
Trends and Issues in Providing Information on Museum Collections
- d) Hiroakira Kaneko (金子啓明)
Tokyo National Museum
On the Use of Digital Information in Museums: The Case of the Digital Archives of Horyuji Treasures
- e) Akira Miyazawa (NCC Member) (宮澤彰) National Institute of Informatics
Current and Future Information Services Provided by the National Institute of Informatics
- f) Yuri Chiyo (千代由利)
National Diet Library
New Developments in the User Services of the National Diet Library

5. Session 5

Linking Users and Providers Moderator: Hisamichi Yamazaki (Chuo University) Questions/answers on Session IV and overall discussion

6. Session at Nichibunken (国際日本文化研究センター) (The International Research Center for Japanese Studies), in Kyoto

- a) Mr. Tetsuo Yamaori (山折哲夫)
(Director of NichiBunKen)
Greetings.

- b) Sachie Noguchi
The Information environment for Japanese Studies outside of Japan: North America
- c) Noboru Koyama
Information environment of Japanese Studies outside of Japan: Europe
- d) Mitsuda Kazunobu (光田和伸)
Assistant Professor (Nichibunken)
Current status of information distribution by Nichibunken : An Interactive map database of Heian Jinbutsu Shi (平安人物志)

II. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. From the report issued by the International House (Izumi Koide): "Recommendations of the International Conference on the Enhancement of Information Availability for Scholarly Resources in Japanese Studies Based on the Conference Presentations"

1. Responding to the expanding use of primary sources for Japanese studies, there is a strong need to consolidate information resources on materials housed in libraries, archives, museums, etc.; the frameworks for organization, preservation, and management of these information resources should be chosen in consideration of borderless use.
2. It is strongly recommended that access service and a navigation function be established for information resources and source materials in Japan, of both integrated and subjective scope.
3. It is strongly felt that digitized materials require appropriate indexes, catalogs, and links in order to make possible full use of the search function.
4. The immediate resolution of institutional and technical issues regarding access to digitized materials in Japan is strongly sought.
5. Education and continuous training are increasingly crucial for information specialists -- who are the intermediary between researchers and information resources, and who organize source materials professionally -- particularly when considering the current expansion and diversification of information resources and media.

B. Individual Recommendations (Also from the I-House Report):

1. a "Plural-Union Catalog" raised by Prof. Paolo Calvetti of the Oriental University Institute of Naples.

2. “Digimura” by Prof. Rikki Kersten of Leiden University
(*She proposed a "Digital Village" in which all documents and archives would be easily available on the internet, world-wide.*)

3. “Compilation of a Directory of Japanese Libraries in Europe” by Prof. Peter Pantzer of the University of Bonn and President of the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists
(*This last suggestion is the first, basic step toward the enhancement of information availability for scholarly resources in Japanese studies in Europe, and its early implementation is highly recommended for the following reasons*):

a) Japanese collections in Europe are strong in late 19th and 20th century materials, and they correspond to the most studied period in Japanese studies, as suggested by Prof. Philip Brown’s survey made for this conference; they would be useful worldwide

b) A union catalog is indispensable for easy access while there is no such catalog in Europe nor the possibility of one in the near future, except for pre-Meiji books. A concise directory of European collections is a realistic means to facilitate access in these circumstances

c) If this proposed directory would include libraries, archives, and museums as EAJRS and as this conference did, it can be most helpful even to scholars in Japan.

C. My Personal Impressions, and More Information

1. My Visit to the Supreme Court Library, arranged by Ms. Jono of the Japan Foundation. Was able to meet the librarians there (Director Mr. Fujii Katsunori (藤井克典) and Assistant Director Mr. Itajima Hikoyasu (板嶋彦安) and who we have been exchanging materials with for many years

2. Wonderful opportunity to meet and hear the opinions of many of our Japanese colleagues, museum staff, and scholars

3. Feel honored to have been able to participate

4. Feel hopeful that such events will help to bring about real improvement in the international exchange of scholarly information about Japan

5. *Videotape*

Note: A 1/2 Hour English-language television program produced by

Channel J summarizes the conference. If you are interested in viewing the tape, and contact me.

6. Conference Publication

A print publication documenting the conference (in Japanese) will be available soon. Please contact the conference organizers for more information.