

NCC 3-D Conference: Topical Discussion Summary Proposition #2

What more needs to be done to promote user training for Information Literacy?

This summary focuses on discussions on information literacy and other user-training needs. The major venue for such discussions were the Proposition # 2 breakout session, led by Sharon Domier of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

NCC's principal mandate is to focus on the needs of faculty and student users of Japanese and Japan-related information and to facilitate access to resources for such users. To broaden discussions about the various contexts in which faculty and students must be information literate this session was broken into five discussion topics, each of which focused on a specific group of users and the information they need. Those groups were language learners at all levels of study; students planning to study abroad in Japan; young researchers and graduate students just getting started on a research project and needing to learn about the kinds of resources available to them in libraries and digitally; midcareer scholars and senior faculty who need to learn about new sources of information and to become adept users of digital resources; and Japanese scholars and students coming to teach or do research overseas.

Recommendations to NCC fell largely into two categories: 1) strategies, methods, and venues for user-training instruction, including recommended expansion to NCC's online tutorials and information literacy instruction materials; and 2) Strategies for beefing up the Information Literacy Components of NCC Website's to make it a true clearinghouse for information on Japan. Specific Website-related recommendations made at Prop #2 are contained below and incorporated into the overall recommendations about redesign, expansion, and marketing of the NCC Website at xxx URL.

1) Recommended Information Literacy Training Programs, Methods and Venues:

- NCC should focus on user training for non-specialist librarians. CEAL, OCLC, LC, NDL and other groups offer specialized JS and EA librarian training.
- NCC's "training the trainers" intensive workshop series would be an excellent model for an intensive faculty user-training workshop.
- Regional training in information management (research methods) is needed for faculty and students.
- Stand-alone workshops should be given at a (hosting) institution advertized regionally.
- NCC should partner with vendors at regional meetings to introduce resources and to provide more in-depth and introductory instruction than that often offered by vendors.

Topics for Direct User Training Workshops (with augmentation needed on the NCC Website):

- Searching strategies:
 - Finding Primary Sources
 - Secondary Sources (journals, TOC, reference, books)
 - Using J. E-resources
 - Finding things online
- Strategies for initiating new research (topic, area, etc)
 - Conducting a multi-disciplinary subject scan
 - Learning the new tools/resources
 - Learning how to search deeply
- Using the Global ILL Framework and broader use of interlibrary loan and document delivery

- Typically based workshops bringing together scholars and grad students according to disciplinary interests

2) **Information Literacy Recommendations for Redesign and Expansion of the NCC Website:**

The NCC Website needs to become a true clearinghouse for Japanese information; it should be a central node for information and access to libraries, and information services through which the collective voices of users can be heard. It is already a major repository for information literacy instruction materials, which need to be updated and expanded. Specific information literacy related recommendations for the NCC Website include:

- Make it very multi-media with integrating video and audio, WebCT, Blackboard, PPT,
- It must include a Wiki, blogs, and other social networking software,
- Its principal focus should be on users, with distinct paths (faculty, students, librarians),
- It should contain lists of useful library websites and recommended links (internationally),
- It should be a central link for collaboratively (and internationally) developed materials (LibGuides, online instruction, etc. see below),
- It needs to include English language materials for user who do not speak Japanese,
- It should have more “basic” materials created by and for non-specialists librarians,
- It needs Japanese language pages and links,
- It should be a resource for independent scholars and researchers,
- All components of the current NCC website should be fully updated and integrated.

Directories and Reference Resources Recommended for NCC Website:

- An annotated and linked map of major collections and their staff (with email), an international “Whose Who” in the Japan-related library and information field,
- A guide to Japanese Romanization (working with Library of Congress),
- A guide to using Japanese libraries with a directory of facilities, downloadable templates for letters, and contact info (use the IUP webpage as a model),
- A guide to Japan Information by category (statistics, government documents, newspapers, online news, materials in translation),
- A directory of Japan-related resources in English.

Online Tutorials Recommended for the NCC Website:

- A central collection of integrated LibGuides and other Tutorials on Japan (share responsibility, avoid duplication of efforts, allowing individuals to develop guides that reveal the special characteristics of their collections rather than re-inventing the basic lessons) developed through international collaborations with coproduced e-content (CEAL, EARJS, JSAA, etc.),
- Tutorials on use of Citation Management Software;
- Bibliography Course, especially needed by small universities,
- Tutorial on Japanese original scripts (maybe a project for CEAL, with link from NCC),
- Copyright issues: Fair Use, E-Resources, Copyright clearance (from IUP site),
- Licensing procedures and terms (from DRC site).

Current Awareness and News Bulletins from the Field for the Website:

- Updates on RSS feeds available (newspapers, journals, TOC),
- What full-text articles are becoming available,
- Extensively use Eastlib and other lists for promo of updates and additions.