

NCC 3-D Conference Session Summary
Final Conference Wrap-up and Facilitated Recommendations Session
Led by Peter Young, Chief of the Asian Division, Library of Congress

To begin Peter Young asked each participant to keep three questions in mind:

- By the year 2020, NCC will be?
- By the year 2020, NCC will offer?
- By the year 2020, NCC will become?

The task at hand is to focus on “what NCC should become” not how to get there.

First and foremost we must keep in mind the current challenges of the economic situation faced by every institution, regardless of their size and think about how NCC can improve its services to all those interested in Japan. In planning the programs that will meet those needs there are a number of factors to review.

Who are NCC's customers?

- 1) NCC serves the under-served; those in the field of Japanese studies who do not have access to Japanese studies librarians or to major research collections
- 2) NCC helps the librarians who serve such scholars and students to help them better meet their needs
- 3) NCC provides freely available services to all those interested in Japan
- 4) NCC is a crossroads and a clearinghouse between and among information providers and resource users
- 5) NCC is a vocal advocate for the needs of users of Japanese information everywhere
- 6) The programs NCC offers and co-sponsors are significant value-added instruction to Japanese studies centers internationally, regardless of their size

Other questions to ponder:

What structural impediments does NCC face in fulfilling its mission?

- NCC suffers because it is often “lumped” into funding categories with Japanese studies programs at large academic institutions
- NCC is part of a very small group of institutions that underpin the field
- NCC operates entirely on a small-scale, part time and volunteer structure, which is not sustainable on a long-term basis

How should NCC's success be measured?

- Some people say NCC is not a “real” organization because it is not a membership organization. Is that a problem? Would a membership structure present any advantages?
- Alternately, does NCC need to partner with a membership organization through which it can distribute its services?
- How, when, and with whom should NCC partner?
- How should the NCC Website be expanded to quantify NCC's success and strengths, and to better “brand” NCC's products?

Peter Young asked participants to identify the “big needs” of NCC’s customers/audience:

- Users need services (including teaching skills, use of digital tools)
- It is critical for users know how to access and proficiently use Web 2.0 tools
- Students and Faculty need differing kinds of support (classroom)
- Research support for faculty and students is needed
- Users need to understanding NCC’s brand and fully use NCC’s services

To help NCC understand the emphasis that individual participants place on the many ideas and recommendations during the two-days of the conference, Peter Young asked participants to undertake an exercise. The flip chat notes from each session were attached to the walls around the room and each participant was given five colored circle stickers to indicate their five priority recommendations to the NCC. Those priorities were collated and have been summarized below:

Connecting the Dots

Facilitating Digital Access:

- 50 dots: Create a “national” consortium system to distribute digital resources
- 22 dots: Re-purpose MVS funds to support digital projects
- 17 dots: Work with partner organizations (CEAL, AAS, ATJ, etc)
- 15 dots: Requires comprehensive training program to develop user proficiency
- 7 dots: Must have flexible licensing including short-term options
- 5 dots: Must include small institutions
- 5 dots: Should focus on institutions w/o EA librarians
- 3 dots: Learn from other models (KCC, statewide programs, regional consortia)
- 2 dots: Needs federated authentication (not IP)
- 2 dots: Create deposit accounts (prepaid)

MVS Related:

- 27 dots: Modify and create two-tiers for large and small institutions with reduced cost-share for smaller institutions
- 22 dots: Re-purpose MVS funds to support digital consortium
- 5 dots: Continue MVS without major changes
- 4 dots: Divide funds between collection development and digital resources
- 2 dots: Discontinue MVS

NCC Website Related:

- 25 dots: Expand to create a single integrated multi-media site with a Wiki
- 16 dots: Develop online bibliography courses (and others as suggested)
- 15 dots: Facilitate access to Japanese libraries for foreign users with annotated web directory, containing procedures, links to resource people, bilingual letter templates
- 12 dots: Use Website for branding and PR emphasizing NCC strengths in connecting researchers and information specialists
- 9 dots: Include list of useful library sites internationally
- 8 dots: Create and co-produce librarian e-learning networks internationally
- 5 dots: Include more basic materials for non-Japanese speakers
- 4 dots: Create a Romanization Manual (work with LC)
- 4 dots: Upgrade GIF training materials and include more on CiNii (also to improve fill rate)

User-Training Needs:

- 15 dots: Need comprehensive digital training with licenses
- 14 dots: Need faculty and student training in research and info management
- 5 dots: Use T-3 as a model for user training

Expanding International Collaborations:

- 9 dots: Develop a global librarian exchanges (work with Toshokan Zaidan)
- 8 dots: Create and co-produce librarian e-learning network (house on NCC Website)
- 6 dots: Strengthen GIF's role in Japan and expand its collaborations
- 4 dots: Promote periodic "booster" training for EA librarians
- 2 dots: Develop more projects/resources with EAJRS & others (e.g. OJAMASG)
- 2 dots: Research model programs (Mapping Asia, Annenberg's America)

Other Projects: (NOT led by NCC, other groups must take the lead with NCC offering support as appropriate to NCC's mission priorities and staffing capacities)

- 14 dots: Create a directory to hidden collections
- 13 dots: Develop a framework for coordinating national collection development
- 10 dots: Connect users to Deep Web on Japan
- 2 dots: Identify materials that need to be digitized (prevent duplication/make access free)

At the conclusion of the Conference a number of people offered brief comments.

Margaret Mihori: I learned a lot. The Japan-US Friendship Commission is an administrator and a funder. So in fact, you (NCC) are the ones who need to tell us what to do.

Patricia Steinhoff: Some of the recommendations made are big initiatives, which will take a long time to implement and are expensive. However, there are some that can be moved forward dramatically with existing personnel and current resources, and just a small amount of extra work. Beginning the work on the Website is one of those!

Kris Troost: Connecting people is NCC's real strength. This conference is such an opportunity. On behalf of CEAL (of which she was then president) she expressed the field's gratitude to the Japan-US Friendship Commission for funding the conference and to everyone who participated in it.

NCC Chair Keiko Yokota-Carter thanked the funders of for the conference, Japan-US Friendship Commission, the principal funder, as well as Japan Foundation, Toshiba International Foundation, the Northeast Asia Council of the AAS, and University of Pennsylvania Libraries. Locally NCC especially thanked Alban Kojima, University of Pennsylvania Libraries; and from the Center for East Asian Studies, Frank Chance and Nikki Riley. She also thanked the Greater Philadelphia Consortia of Faculty, and all the speakers and facilitators. Keiko Yokota-Carter added that NCC is a very important part of her life, library and to her faculty. NCC is a great community that offers great training. It is like Tao Yang's African proverb: If we go together, we can go farther and do better! She also encouraged participants to please volunteer to help the new work NCC will undertake.

NCC's 3D Conference was concluded by Mr. Koshiro Moroya's (Associate Library Director, Kanazawa Institute of Technology) performing a ceremonial clap "ipponjime (一本締め)."

Note takers: Keiko Suzuki of Yale University and Jack Howard of Royal Ontario Museum.