

**NCC 3-D Conference: Where is Japan in the Global Information Society?
Views from the National Libraries
Post-Keynote Discussion**

Interviewer Patricia Steinhoff began by mentioning the *Global Conference on Japanese Studies: Japanese Studies is global now*, (October 2009, Hakone, Japan). We must keep in mind that the US has been training not only Americans but also students from all parts of the world who become Japan specialists. The graduates of US doctoral programs teach everywhere Japanese studies are taught. However there is a tendency for scholars in a given area to communicate among themselves, and sometimes, communication between/among specialists by-passes the US or even Japan. New technologies must be used to reduce such insularity among scholarly groups enabling everyone to do more and know more. NCC plays an important role through its efforts to open access to [resources] for scholars. There needs to be more collaboration among all such groups.

Currently more than half of all Japan specialists are interested in modern and contemporary studies, however much of the material contained in foreign collections is older material. Therefore NDL, which is digitizing current works, becomes all the more important as a resource now and in the future. Copyright is the biggest impediment to scholarship and Dr. Nagao's revision of Copyright rules is an important first step. However the broader off-site use of the materials NDL is digitizing still must be realized.

Professor Steinhoff asked Dr. Marcum: to what extent the Library of Congress could exercise leverage over NDL and other Japanese organizations to help make contemporary materials available to scholars?

Dr. Marcum: replied that it is critical to work with database producers and to develop "national licenses" with varied payment structures. She hopes LC and NCC can collaborate on such advocacy.

A question from the floor: What is LC's position on the Google books project related to orphan books?

Dr. Marcum: replied that because the Copyright Office is a part of the Library of Congress it was decided that LC should not make a public statement on that subject.

A comment from the floor: There seems to be considerable concern expressed by Japanese colleagues that despite the fact that Japanese information (databases) have become accessible, some vocal commentators feel that NDL is not trying hard enough to fully open access. It was suggested that as NCC did in 1997, perhaps NCC should send a delegation to Japan to impress upon vendors, publishers and other institutions that it is not enough simply to digitize everything, there needs to be open access for scholars.

Another participant noted: that NCC's creativity and energy greatly contributed to access to national library collections since 1997. If NCC is not supported in the future, NCC may not be able to advocate effectively for the needs of users abroad. A participant expressed the fear that NCC's activities may be restricted because of the Japan Foundation's change of funding strategy/policy.

Mr. Isao Tsujimoto of the Japan Foundation: responded that the Foundation is exploring ways to fund groups like NCC that provide essential infrastructural underpinnings to the field.

Another question from the floor: There is fear that because of the budget crunch, digitization may be sacrificed, and what is the status of LC's digitization plans?

Dr. Marcum: responded that most of LC's digitization projects are supported by separate outside funding that is independent of the annual budget appropriations upon which the Library of Congress depends.

(Notes taken by Sachie Noguchi of Columbia University)