

What We Learned Today

Databases for Today

- *Encyclopedia of Japan* (JapanKnowledge: <http://na.jkn21.com>)
NOTE: The print edition of *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan*, published in 1983, is still useful. Some articles are outdated. The online version has more updated information. The database is available in Japan Knowledge provided by Net Advance, Inc. The database is also available through Palgrave MacMillan (<http://www.palgrave.com/reference/socialsciences/kodansha.htm>).
- *Bibliography of Asian Studies* (BAS)
- JSTOR

Sample Question for Today

"In several anime, manga, Japanese video games, photographs of Japan, and even in culturally themed shops, I keep seeing what appears to be a statue of a happy looking badger-like creature with a straw hat, holding a gourd bottle, sometimes portrayed with exaggerated male organs. . . . [Anime friends said] it was a "tanooki." The magic raccoon costume in the [E]nglish Super Mario 3 was called a "Tanooki suit". . . . **Could Tanooki merely be the Japanese word for raccoon, or is it some sort of mythical creature linked to raccoons?"**

(This is a real question submitted to "Ask John" in "Anime Nation" web page, commented on Dec. 7, 2001: <http://www.animation.net/news/askjohn.php?id=400>)

Suggested Keywords and Boolean Operation

NOTE: This illustration shows how keywords can be classified: animals, folks, and Japanese popular entertainment. Though the sample question started with the raccoon-like character in anime and computer games, the research question does not necessarily include this aspect.

