



Electronic Resources (1) Key Web sites for Japanese Studies

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Electronic Resources I: Key Web sites for Japanese Studies

1. What Web pages do experienced librarians use for reference?

(1) Good Web pages created and maintained by other experienced librarians

We often find that a useful Web site that was there yesterday is gone today. A Web site whose content is consistent and updated frequently is very valuable.

[1] Japan Studies Resources -- Duke University East Asian Collection

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/eac/japanesestudies.html> (2002-8-9)

[2] Japan Online Resources -- Harvard-Yenching Library Website

<http://hcl.harvard.edu/harvard-yenching/japandatabase.html> (2002-8-9)

[3] Literary database compedium: Links to free searchable databases -- Jissen Women's University Library

<http://www.jissen.ac.jp/library/bjenglish.htm> (2002-8-9)

[4] Librarian's Index to the Internet

<http://www.lii.org/> (2002-8-9)

(2) Web pages created and maintained by academic societies or institutions related to Japanese studies

[1] Association of Asian Studies

<http://www.aasianst.org/> (2002-8-9)

[2] Academic Society HomeVillage

<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/> (2002-8-9)

(3) Web pages created by governments or supported by government funds

[1] Japan Home Page

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[2] Japan Information Network

<http://jin.jcic.or.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[3] IPA Information-technology Promotion Agency

<http://www.ipa.go.jp/ipa/about/historyindex.htm> (2002-8-9)

(4) Web pages created and maintained by trade associations in Japan

[1] Japan Automobile Manufacturer's Association

<http://www.jama.or.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[2] Japan Department Store Association

<http://www.depart.or.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[3] Nihon Zasshi Kokoku Kyokai (日本雑誌広告協会)

<http://www.zakko.or.jp/jpn/index.html> (2002-8-9)

2. How can I judge the quality/authenticity/reliability of the page?

(1) Evaluation of Web sites is concerned with the following criteria:

Authority, scope and coverage, accuracy, frequency of updating, consistency, accessibility/ease of use

When I find a new Web site, I check the following:

[1] Is the author of the Web site an expert for the subject? What is the author's authority? Does the Web page offer detailed information about the credentials of the people responsible for maintaining the resource?

[2] Does the organization sponsoring the Web site have a particular political agenda or viewpoint?

[3] Is the scope and coverage of the Web site clearly described?

[4] Is content on the Web site accurate and correct?

[5] Does the author provide a list of reference links to related topics?

[6] When was the Web site first established? How regularly is the information being updated?

[7] Is the design of the Web site user friendly? Is it easy to find appropriate information?

(2) Good criteria for Web sites from other librarians and information professionals

[1] Evaluating the quality of information on the Internet: checklist

<http://www.virtualchase.com/quality/checklist.html> (2002-8-9)

[2] Evaluation criteria

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/evalcrit.html> (2002-8-9)

[3] A guide to critical thinking about what you see on the Web

<http://www.ithaca.edu/library/Training/hott.html> (2002-8-9)

(3) Frequency of Updating

In most cases, the frequency of updating for the English page is not equal to the frequency of the Japanese page.

(4) Lack of search function by subject

The function for searching a keyword inside the Web page is not common in Japanese Web pages. Most of the Web sites have the site map of the Web page. "Site index" is less popular. Archives often appear in chronological order without a subject index. Weakness in subject approach to information is the most significant characteristics of Japanese Web sites and databases. For example, in NII Web cat, if you check the bibliographic data carefully, you may find much bibliographic data without any subject headings and classification numbers.

(5) Accessibility by mobile phone

Accessing by mobile phone to Internet Web pages is popular in Japan now. You may access the Web pages using a mobile phone. There are many Web pages specialized for mobile phone and they are increasing day by day. Some of them are fee-based services.

Example:Kantei (官邸) <http://www.kantei.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)
[NTT DoCoMo; au Tu-Ka; J-PHONE](#) (2002-8-9)

(6) Advertising-oriented contents

The Web pages of universities and colleges in Japan are targeting students and parents who may wish to enter the institution. English Web pages for a company site are often targeting investors abroad. These kinds of Web sites often seek to portray the organization in the best possible light and might have a favorable bias.

3. Key points for finding good Web sites in Japanese as reference sources

(1) English vs. Japanese

It is very hard to find an appropriate site using an English keyword. You should try Japanese. If you cannot input Japanese by your keyboard, the following site may supply Japanese characters for you.

<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/wwwjdic.html> (2002-8-9)

4. Characteristics of Japanese Web pages organized in Japan

(1) Lack of English information

Most of the Web pages don't have any English pages. If there are both English and Japanese pages, the information on the English pages is not equal to the amount of information on the Japanese pages. Information that Japanese authors think foreigners might not be interested in is often excluded from the English page. If the cost for translation of contents of the Web pages from Japanese into English is expected to be expensive, often the Web organizers give up on preparing the English contents.

(2) Hiragana, Katakana, Roma-ji or Kanji (漢字)

When you search a Japanese Web site, you should try Kanji first. Success of the search is up to the Web site's description, so if you cannot find any appropriate site by Kanji, you should try the same keyword in Hirakana, Katakana, and Romaji.

(3) Search engines vs. Web directories

Both have different good points for searching Web sites. It's better to use search engines or Web directories case by case.

(4) Combination of the use of traditional reference tools and Web pages

To translate a patron's request in English into Japanese, we have to use traditional reference tools first. We have to know the correct description in Japanese before we use search engines.

After a search, if you have any doubts about the search result, you should cross check any of the traditional reference tools.

5. What are the most important free sites, including databases, e-text, catalogs, graphic databases, search engines and guides?

(1) Links to free sites

[1] Literary database compedium: Links to free searchable databases -- Jissen Women's University Library
<http://www.jissen.ac.jp/library/bjenglish.htm> (2002-8-9)

[2] Ariadne: resources for the arts and humanities
<http://ariadne.ne.jp/> (2002-8-9)

(2) databases

[1] The National Institute of Japanese Literature (国文学研究資料館)
<http://www.nijl.ac.jp/databases/databases.htm> (2002-8-9)

[2] The National Institute of Japanese Literature Department of Historical Documents (国文学研究資料館史料館)
<http://history.nijl.ac.jp/dhdidx-e.htm> (2002-8-9)

[3] National Women's Education Center, Japan (国立女性教育会館)
<http://www.nwec.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[4] National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan (国立民族学博物館)
<http://www.minpaku.ac.jp/database/> (2002-8-9)
Database for books and articles regarding costume in Japanese.

[5] National Museum of Japanese History (国立歴史民俗博物館)
<http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/database/gazo/index.html> (2002-8-9)
Graphical database for holding objects is available.

[6] National Institute for Educational Policy Research (国立教育政策研究所)
<http://www.nier.go.jp/homepage/kyoutsuu/frame08.html> (2002-8-9)

[7] Japan Institute of Labor (日本労働研究機構)
<http://db.jil.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)
Databases for "labor policy," "articles on labor," "research paper," "research and survey institute," "research and survey results," "labor-issues specialists," "orders and judgments on unfair labor practices" are available.

[8] Institute of Developing Economics, Japan External Trade Organization (日本貿易振興会アジア経済研究所)
<http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Library/List/Sakuin/> (2002-8-9)

The index to journal articles and catalogued books database is useful to search articles in Japanese on Asia.

[9] Annual bibliography of Oriental studies (東洋学文献類目)

<http://www.kanji.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/db/CHINA3/index.html.ja> (2002-8-9)

The database for Toyogaku Bunken Ruimoku (Bibliography of Asian Studies) by the Documentation and Information Center for Chinese Studies, Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University. This is a good bibliography for books and periodical articles on oriental studies published in Japan.

[10] Kinejun Eiga DB (キネマ旬報全映画作品データベース)

<http://www.walkerplus.com/movie/> (2002-8-9)

A database for movies shown in Japan since 1945. You may search by keyword, title of the movie, name of director and actors. Search results show the date of publication, name of distributor, list of staff, list of actors, annotation and abstract of the story.

[11] Tsutaya Online

<http://www.tsutaya.co.jp/index.zhtml> (2002-8-9)

Tsutaya is a large chain of stores which sell and rent videos, DVDs, and CDs in Japan. This site includes information about rental videos, so you may find information regarding out-of-print videos. Bibliographic information on movies and TV programs in Video, DVD and CD, an annotation for each work, a commodity number and the name of the distributor are available from this site. information for scores including Japanese pop and traditional music is available.

[12] Gakufu netto (楽譜ネット)

<http://www.gakufu.ne.jp/GakufuNet/index.phtml> (2002-8-9)

This Web site is operated by an online shop for music scores. Bibliographic information for scores including Japanese pop and traditional music is available.

(3) e-text

[1] Kampo (官報)

<http://kanpou.pb-mof.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)

E-text (PDF file) of issues published within only one week is available.

[2] Proceedings of meetings of the National Diet (国会会議録)

<http://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)

E-text of the proceedings of meetings of the National Diet since 1947 is available in Japanese. You may search by keyword, name of the speaker, position of the speaker and the name of group to which the speaker belongs.

[3] Cases of the Supreme Court (最高裁判所)

<http://www.courts.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)

Full text of cases and judgments of the Supreme Court in Japanese and a summary of cases and judgments of the Supreme Court in English are available. Updating of English information is slower than for Japanese.

[4] Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (アジア歴史資料センター)

http://www.jacar.go.jp/index_e.htm (2002-8-9)

A digital archive of digitalized images of historical records related to Asia dating from the early Meiji era to the end of the Pacific War held in the National Archives of Japan, the Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Library of The National Institute for Defense Studies of the National Defense Agency and database of cataloged information accessible through the Internet. You may search in English and digital images of the full text in Japanese are available.

[5] Saga Shimbun newspaper article database

(佐賀新聞記事データベース)

<http://www.saga-s.co.jp/pubt/ShinDB/search.html> (2002-8-9)

Full text of articles appearing in the Saga Shimbun is available free of charge.

[6] Blue Sky Collection (青空文庫)

<http://www.aozora.gr.jp/> (2002-8-9)

E-text collections of copyright-free texts.

[7] Denshi tekisuto no aru basho, Nihon bungaku

(電子テキストのある場所・日本文学)

<http://www.aozora.gr.jp/denshitext/denshitext.html> (2002-8-9)

Links to e-text related to Japanese literature.

[8] Nihon bungaku kankei tekisuto fairu to : sakuhin betsu, goju-on betsu

(日本文学関係テキストファイル等：作品別・五十音順)

<http://www.konan-wu.ac.jp/~kikuchi/linkd.html> (2002-8-9)

Links to e-text related to Japanese literature by titles.

[9] Denshika shiryō o teikyo shiteiru saba, University of Ryukyus

(電子化資料を提供しているサーバ)

<http://www.lib.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/erwg/denshika.html> (2002-8-9)

Links to e-text supplied by academic universities in Japan.

[10] Ariadne e-script o sagasu; e-text o sagasu

<http://ariadne.ne.jp/e-script.html> (2002-8-9)

<http://ariadne.ne.jp/e-text.html> (2002-8-9)

Links to e-script and e-text.

[11] Japan Patent Office Industrial Property Digital Library

(特許庁電子図書館)

http://www.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/homepg_e.ipdl (2002-8-9)

The Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL) offers the public broad access to the full text of the IP gazettes.

(4) catalogs

[1] National Institute of Informatics--Webcat

http://Webcat.nii.ac.jp/Webcat_eng.html (2002-8-9)

[2] National Diet Library

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/e/index.html> (2002-8-9)

[3] Zenkoku Kanseki Database

(全国漢籍データベース：日本所蔵中文古籍データベース)

<http://www.kanji.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/kanseki/> (2002-8-9)

A database of a union catalog for Chinese classic literature in Japanese academic libraries.

[4] Public Libraries (公共図書館)

<http://www.jla.or.jp/link/public.html> (2002-8-9)

Links to Web sites of public libraries organized by the Japan Library Association.

[5] Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library (東京都立中央図書館)

<http://www.library.metro.tokyo.jp/12/> (2002-8-9)

[6] Osaka Furitsu Toshokan (大阪府立図書館)

<http://www.library.pref.osaka.jp/index.html> (2002-8-9)

[7] Osaka Kinpen Ruien Kikan Annai (大阪近辺類縁機関案内)

<http://www.library.pref.osaka.jp/lib/ruien.html> (2002-8-9)

[8] Academic libraries (大学図書館)

<http://www.jla.or.jp/link/univ.html#13> (2002-8-9)

Links to Web sites of academic libraries organized by the Japan Library Association

[9] WWW servers in Japan academic libraries

(日本国内の大学図書館関係WWWサーバ)

http://www.libra.titech.ac.jp/libraries_Japan.html (2002-8-9)

Links to Web sites of academic libraries organized by the Tokyo Institute of Technology Library

[10] Selected List of Special Libraries in Japan Open to the Public

(専門図書館OPAC)

<http://www6.ocn.ne.jp/~jsslakant/jsl/jslframe.htm> (2002-8-9)

<http://www6.ocn.ne.jp/~jsslakant/opac/index.htm> (2002-8-9)

[11] Sanko Bunka Kenkyujo Fuzoku Sanko Toshokan

(三康文化研究所附属三康図書館)

<http://www.f2.dion.ne.jp/~sanko/> (2002-8-9)

This library succeeded to the collection of the Ohashi Toshokan, which was established in 1902 and had a good collection of Japanese literature and children's books from the Meiji era to the end of World War II. OPAC for books on education, literature and periodicals is available.

[12] Jcross

<http://www.jcross.com/> (2002-8-9)

You may search OPACs of multiple libraries in Japan at once.

(5) Graphic databases

[1] Tokyo National Museum (東京国立博物館)

<http://www.tnm.jp/> (2002-8-9)

Photographs and information for some 500 art objects in the Tokyo National Museum collection.

[2] Nara National Museum (奈良国立博物館所蔵写真検索システム)

<http://www.narahaku.go.jp/kensaku/kensaku.html> (2002-8-9)

Photographs and information for art objects in the Nara National Museum collection.

[3] Kyoto National Museum (京都国立博物館)

<http://www2.kyohaku.go.jp:10080/olc/menu00e.htm> (2002-8-9)

This On-Line Catalogue currently includes about 2,000 of the over 5,000 works owned by the Kyoto National Museum.

[4] National Museum of Japanese History Database Rekihaku

(国立歴史民俗博物館データベース れきはく)

<http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/database/gazo/index.html>

Graphic database of the holdings of the National Museum of Japanese History is available.

[5] Mainichi Photo Bank (毎日フォトバンク)

<http://photobank.mainichi.co.jp/> (2002-8-9)

Digital archive for more than 200,000 photographs including 120,000 photographs taken in the pre-World War II period. You may search by keyword and browse the photographs. You may purchase a copy of any photograph through the Web page.

(6) Search engines

[1] Yahoo!Japan

<http://www.yahoo.co.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[2] Google

<http://www.google.co.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[3] domoz

<http://dmoz.org/> (2002-8-9)

This Web site is the large, comprehensive, human-edited directory of the Web. It is constructed and maintained by a vast, global community of volunteer editors.

6. What are the most important "must-link" Web pages?

[1] National Institute of Informatics

<http://www.nii.ac.jp/index.html> (2002-8-9)

[2] National Diet Library

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/e/index.html> (2002-8-9)

[3] The Library of Congress Catalog Online

<http://catalog.loc.gov/> (2002-8-9)

[4] e-Gov: search Japanese Government Websites

<http://www.e-gov.go.jp/> (2002-8-9)

[5] Bibliography of Asian Studies online

<http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/b/bas/> (2002-8-9)

7. Hands-on training and practice

(1) Case 1:

I would like to make a byobu (Japanese screen) by myself. Do you have any books about byobu in English or Japanese? Could you introduce me to any good place to ask about how to make byobu?

(2) Case 2:

I would appreciate your assistance in finding the current address of the Jichi Sogo Center in Japan. The only piece of information related to Jichi Sogo Center is its old mailing address at: 8th FL., Toranomon Center Building: 7-1 Nishi-Shimbashi 1-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 105 JAPAN

(3) Case 3

When I look for books in Japan I use the NDL web catalogue and the NACSIS web, and for second-hand books I use several furuhon websites. However, here is one title my patron wants which I haven't been able to find:

"Kowakatta jishin tsunami" which is in the NDL catalogue but I can't find anywhere else. Do you have any ideas?

(4) Case 4

Another print that I am seeking is a print by Oso of the Sakuradamongai incident in 1860. I found it in the *Nihon rekishi shirizu*, v.17, p.19-22. It says it is from Tanba Tsuneo zo. Do you by any chance know how to locate the collection?

(5) Case 5

I am looking for a popular Gunka (Japanese military song) whose title includes the word "Aiba (愛馬)." Could you find it for me? If possible

I would like to listen to it, too.

Guide books about Internet searching in English and Japanese

[1] Itoh, Tamio. *Intanetto de bunken kensaku*. By Ito Tamio; ed. by Jissen Joshi Daigaku Toshokan. Tokyo: Nihon Toshokan Kyokai, 2000. [伊藤民雄 インターネットで文献探索 伊藤民雄著 実践女子大学図書館編集 東京：日本図書館協会, 2000] 187p. ISBN:4820400215
<http://www.jissen.ac.jp/library/frame/index.htm> (2002-8-9) In Japanese.

[2] *Johogen: the ultimate guide to printed, electronic and cyber sources of Japanese information on business, technology & commerce*. V. 6, revised and enlarged. Tokyo: EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, 2002. 220p. (EU-Japan business series #7) ISBN: 4931240038
<http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/>

[3] Kawasaki, Yoshitaka, ed. *Daigakusei to joho no katsuyo: Joho tansaku nyumon = I. R. 101: An introduction to information retrieval*. Zohoban. Kyoto: Kyoto Daigaku Toshokan Johogaku Kenkyukai, 2001. [川崎良孝 大学生と情報の活用：情報探索入門 増補版 京都：京都大学図書館情報学研究会, 2001] 197p. ISBN: 4820400266 In Japanese.

[4] Mori, Kazuhiro. *Bunken tansakuho no kiso 2002: repoto, ronbun sakusei, chosa hikkei: tosho, zasshi, shimbun, denshi joho hen: zeneraru kara shudai chosa made*. Tokyo: Ajia Shobo, 2002. [毛利和弘 文献探索法の基礎2002：レポート・論文作成・調査必携：図書、雑誌、新聞、電子情報編（ゼネラルから主題調査まで） 東京：アジア書房, 2002] 181p. ISBN: 4900762261 In Japanese.

[5] Ogushi, Natsumi. *Bunkakei Gakusei no intanetto kensakujutsu*. Ogushi Natsumi. Tokyo: Seikyusha, 2001. [大串夏身 文科系学生のインターネット検索術 東京：青弓社, 2001] 182p. ISBN: 4787200259 In Japanese.

[6] Sherman, Chris and Gary Price. *The invisible Web: uncovering information sources search engines can't see*. Medford, N. J.: Information Today, 2001. 439p. ISBN: 091096551X
<http://invisible-web.net> (2002-8-9)

[7] Shiveley, James M. and Philip J. Vanfossen. *Using Internet primary sources to teach critical thinking skills in government, economics, and contemporary world issue*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2001. 244p. ISBN: 0313312834