

A SURVEY OF JAPANESE INFORMATION ON WWW (WORLD WIDE WEB):
FOCUS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESOURCES*

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บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยเรื่อง “การสำรวจทรัพยากรข้อมูลญี่ปุ่นบนระบบเครือข่ายอินเทอร์เน็ต: กรณีศึกษา งานวิชาการด้านสังคมศาสตร์” มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อสำรวจ สถานภาพในการเผยแพร่ข้อมูลญี่ปุ่นมาสู่ ประเทศไทยและประเทศอื่นๆในโลก เก็บ รวบรวม วิเคราะห์และตรวจสอบแหล่งข้อมูลญี่ปุ่นที่มีการ เข้าถึงการให้บริการอย่างไร พร้อมทั้งสร้างโฮมเพจเพื่อให้บริการข้อมูลญี่ปุ่นที่เกี่ยวกับงานทาง วิชาการบนระบบเครือข่ายอินเทอร์เน็ต โดยยึดหลักในการจัดหมวดหมู่ตามระบบหอสมุดรัฐสภา อเมริกัน งานวิจัยนี้ได้ทำการศึกษาและเชื่อมโยงระบบข้อมูลญี่ปุ่นเพื่อให้บริการบนระบบเครือข่าย อินเทอร์เน็ต ผลสรุปงานวิจัยนำมาซึ่งประโยชน์ในการศึกษาและค้นคว้าช่องทางในการรับข้อมูล การ ใช้ การเผยแพร่ และพัฒนาในการเข้าถึงทรัพยากรข้อมูลญี่ปุ่นในระดับลุ่มลึกต่อไป

คำสำคัญ: การสำรวจ /ทรัพยากรข้อมูลญี่ปุ่น/งานวิชาการทางสังคมศาสตร์

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** นักวิจัยชำนาญการ สถาบันเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ศึกษา มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์

Abstract

The purposes of the research on “A Survey of Japanese Information on WWW (World Wide Web): Focus on Social Science Resources ” are as follows: (1) to survey the status of Japanese information dissemination to Thailand and the world; (2) to analyze and gather information about Japan; (3) to examine the information delivery channels and academic information resources of Japan; (4) to create a homepage of Japanese information resources and their linking on www. In conducting the research, the webpage survey form comprising of a comprehension lists of url details, were developed. The researchers reviewed all related literature. According to the library of Congress Classification Scheme and Thammasat University’s Courses , Japanese information resources homepages were analyzed and the linkage among these resources were constructed. The research results would bring the following benefits: (1) the knowledge of information delivery channels of Japan; (2) the way to promote the Japanese information using in Thailand; (3) the improvement of research efficiency in the field of Social Science; (4) the dissemination of Japanese academic information resources and etc.

Keywords: Survey/Japanese information/ Social Science Resources

Introduction

Project Background and Significance

The emerging of internet changes not only the information delivery channels but also the researchers' methods for information retrieval. The information can be accessed within a second and with no location limitation. The tremendous numbers of homepage were created to disseminate a great quantity of useful information worldwide. In addition, the Program for advanced Information Infrastructure established by Japan, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, shows that the bibliographic information released by the government to the public would be extensively compiled into databases and supply via networks. Furthermore, the library networks are connected to the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS). In late 1995, the Internet connection between Thailand and Japan was inaugurated under the sponsorship of NACSIS. The research network, ThaiSam and SINET (Science Information Network) was connected as well as NACSIS. Thai Project was conducted. In 1997, the training programs: NACSIS-IR and Trail service were provided

to Thai instructors twice. The trail service was available in Thailand at Thammasat University, Chulalongkorn University and Japan Foundation. The events mentioned above show that Japanese information is disseminated to Thailand via new channel so it can be exploited more extensively. Some Japanese homepages were written both in Japanese and in English especially government sector homepages. Although online databases are mainly provided in Thailand by STKS (Science and Technology Knowledge Service) which is from USA, it doesn't mean that Japanese information is not important for Thai researchers. Actually, the Asian information and Asian vision are crucial for the research activities in Thailand as it could create another new vision to Thai researchers. However, one of the problems of Japanese studies in Thailand surveyed by Institute of East Asian Studies is the insufficiency of Japanese information. From WWW survey, there are many WebPages about Japanese studies but most of them are not classified and integrated. It is urgent to create new resource of Japanese studies on Internet so that the information could be accessible to all researchers.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project on A Survey of Japanese Information on WWW (World Wide Web): Focus on Social Science Resources are as follows:

- to survey the status of Japanese information dissemination to Thailand and the world
- to analyze and gather information about Japan
- to examine the information delivery channels and academic information resources of Japan
- to create a homepage of Japanese information resources and their linking on WWW
(World Wide Web)

Methodology

Documentary and Internet Survey on WWW are the methods of the study.

Scope of Project

The project is conducted and focused on social science resources of the Japanese Information and WebPages written in English language.

Benefits

The project will give the following information:

- delivery channels of Japanese studies
- Homepage linkage of Japanese information resources
- the Japanese academic information resources

Project Plan

The project plan outline is the followings:

- Feasibility Study : define the subject, scope and objectives
- Survey and Collect General Information
- Analysis and conclusions
- Proposed the project report

Literature Review

Japanese Information

Japan is one of the most important countries in the world as it is the center of world innovation, industry and economy so the information about Japan is needed by users both within and outside the country. Unfortunately, Japan has been previously pointed out to be an uninformative society as its information resources are tightly

accessible by public. Because of the dramatic changes in information technology and policies for information dissemination, Japan will inevitably become more open with its information resources together with its public policy.

National Characteristics of Japanese Information

The national characteristics of Japanese information that might affect public accessibility can be concluded as the followings (Morita, Ichiko : <http://www.nmjc.org/jiap/jdc/cyberjapan/morita>):

1. Most information stays within the government and the Government agencies sanction fund for social, economic, technical, and industrial research.
2. The information from most of major trade associations, nonprofit organizations, professional societies and think tanks is also difficult to obtain because these organizations have strong ties to government agencies. Most information lacks of non-existence bibliographic control and non-retention of documents.
3. Nearly all of Japan's public policy documents are "grey literature" - materials with limited publication runs and distribution.
4. Information access is limited to a selected few. In Japan, this lack of transparency prompts private companies to employ retired upper-echelon government officials to coordinate their information collection with the government.
5. Japanese information is derived from Japan's tradition of vertical social linkage. The Japanese group that depends on a highly developed sense of trust and loyalty is narrow defined and surprisingly rigid. Information is shared only within a specific ministry, agency, department, subsidiary, academic department, learned society, and research specialty.
6. Because of an intense rivalry exists between governmental ministries, as well as among the research communities, which are corporations, laboratories or trade association. There is little impetus

to share information between organizations or groups, and those outside of these established cliques are excluded from access.

The other barriers excluding the language barrier which might affect the accessibility of Japanese information are there are no good guiding information systems to let the public know the existence of government information and the way to access them. Library systems are poor and there are few professionals who are trained for reference efficient services. The Internet may certainly be a solution to some of these problems because the documents can be put on the Internet as WebPages or as databases, which are easily accessed by the public. (Kaminuma, Tsuguchika:

<http://www.nmjc.org/jiap/jdc/cyberjapan/ka minuma>)

Factors for Widening Japanese Information Access

The factors for widening international as well as Japanese public access to Japanese information are as the following:

1. The most important factor has been the rapid development of technologies and policies for information dissemination. Both the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications have produced extensive reports, white papers and policy statements promoting the “informationalization” of Japanese Society (Japan. Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. Telecommunications Council : 1994) Efforts to deregulate Japan’s telecommunications infrastructure, expand fiber optic networks, support machine translation, and increase Internet access and information all have the potential for making Japanese information among the most accessible worldwide.
2. Freedom of information. The government of Japan, under administration of Prime Minister Ryotaro Hashimoto, presented a national “information disclosure” (joho kokai) bill to the Diet (Parliament) on March 27, 1998.

Such a law would create a legally enforceable right of access to Japanese national government files and make the bureaucracy more open and accountable to the Japanese public. Observers pointed that the proposal still clearly strict the availability of many categories of important information and provides much broader discretion to officials dispossession of the files. These accords with a long-standing tradition in Japan of respect for government officials, the domination of the legislative process by those officials and a lack of transparency in most government procedures. (Repita, Lawrence and Chafee, Jody : <http://www.nmjc.org/jiap/spcerpts/joho.html>)

The democratization and deregulation of Japan's information policies face many challenges. Culture and tradition cannot change as rapidly as do technology and international politics. Nevertheless, the prospects for access to Japanese information, both for foreigners and

Japanese citizens, are brighter than they have ever been.

Channels through which Japanese information enters the world via Internet

There are two kinds of channels which Japanese information enter the world: Formal channel and informal channel.

Formal channel

There are two kinds of information on Japan and/or from Japan: published and unpublished information.

1. Published information. The printed format is a major format in which information on Japan and/or from Japan is carried. This includes books, serials, journals, reports, pamphlet, posters, etc. Other media are microforms, such as microfilms and microfiche; and electronic information, such as on-line databases and CD-ROMs. In each non-print medium, some materials are reproductions of printed originals, but some are particularly issued only in those formats.

One can purchase published information sources in stores and through information vendors; if not found, they can

usually be ordered. Libraries and information centers are other channels to get to those resources. There are public libraries, school libraries, research and corporate libraries among many other libraries. There are government and private information centers, mostly non-profit. If the information is published in a serial, such as CD-ROMs or on-line databases, one must have some particular equipment and/or software. Japanese CD-ROMs often require Japanese CD-ROM readers. If the electronic information is in Japanese characters, proper software and operating systems are needed to receive and display or print them. In addition, some also require Japanese printers.

According to the progress of Internet technology including electronic commerce, most libraries, information center, government agencies, information vendors as well as publishers have their own WebPages on Internet so that their customers worldwide can be easily accessible their products and services via network.

2. Unpublished information. Besides such published information, there is a great deal of information in Japan which is not

published. At one extreme of unpublished materials is classified information, which is made available only to a specifically targeted agency, organization, or group of people for whom the information is intended. In between there is a kind of information which is not published, but not classified. Unlike classified information, these are obtainable. This is the category of literature which is usually referred to as "grey literature" because it falls between white (published and widely distributed) and black (classified).

Japanese grey literature, also known as difficult-to-obtain literature, encompasses a wide range of information. It is very intriguing and challenging work to obtain grey literature, especially up-to-date information on Japan and/or from Japan. Some examples to grey literature are:

- all sorts of reports, including government agencies' reports, financial reports by financial organizations, technical reports by research institutes
- statistics
- policy statements, draft legislation
- economic trends and forecasts

- company promotional and other PR materials Discussion Forums etc. The members can communicate each other via e-mail.
- preprints, proceedings of conferences Internet and Japanese Information Access

These types of primary information source are usually distributed directly by the original issuing agencies, such as government agencies, research institutions, and corporate body. A large volume of information is distributed in these formats. Therefore, it is important not to miss the information issued in this category of grey literature.

There are some important sources that Japanese grey literature can be obtainable via Internet. They are Japan Documentation Center, Library of Congress (JDC), National Council of Science Information System (NACSIS) and Japan Information Access Project (JIAP).

Informal channel

The informal channel is another channel through which Japanese information distributed worldwide. For someone who are interested in Japan can join the discussion groups about Japan such as H-Japan, ESL Japan.com

Internet has made an impact on access to Japanese information both amount and variety. Motohiro Tsuchiga (Keio University) suggested that evolving technologies may urge the Japanese towards more openness, as evident in the number of government homepages growing to 1,112 in March 1997 from a mere 127 one year earlier. (Japan Documentation Center, Library of Congress: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/jdc/news-4.html>)

The Japanese Government is improving both its information systems and its information services. According to the Program for Advanced Information Infrastructure of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI: <http://www.glocom.ac.jp/NEWS/MITI-doc.html>), its purpose is to clearly defined MITI's concepts of the directions that the advanced information infrastructure society should take, and to propose specific policy program for each field. Both environment for realizing advanced information society

and providing high-grade contents and applications were improved. Some of concrete measures for FY 1994 were improvement of administrative information databases and supply via networks, establishment of networks for research, construction of library networks and electronic library system. It shows the way to unleash information and knowledge to the public. Thus, one of the most interesting possibilities of the Internet's impact on Japan is that it may overcome Japan's traditional weakness in information dissemination and may change Japan into a more open and more informative society. This evident can be seen from "The Fifth International Conference on Japanese Information" held at the Library of Congress July 30 to August 1, 1997. The issues were focused on how to evaluate the abundant print and electronic sources, systems compatibility, and ways the Internet continues to open up new possibilities for management and distribution of information. Whereas how to gain access to Japanese information was a central focus of the first conference held in Warwick, England, in 1987.

Followings are some important sites and services on Internet from which Japanese information could be found and obtained:

1. The Japan Documentation Center (JDC): collects current Japanese information on Japan's public policy, especially source materials in economics, commerce, and industry, law, politics, the environment, national defense and social conditions. The materials are collected from government and private sources. Most information which is difficult to obtain is usually referred as "grey literature" (policy studies and reports, white papers and annual reports, draft legislation, think-tank reports, public opinion polls, conference proceedings) and approximately 95 % of the materials are in Japanese. The remainders are in English. The English abstracts are created for each document to help users determine the contents of the Japanese materials. Additionally, there is a searchable database of

- JDC Bibliographic database which is presently free to scholars and researchers interested in Japan's public policy. The user can request documents online without any charge. (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/jdc>)
2. Japan Information Access Project: the nonprofit organization, which has the objectives to train people on how to evaluate, acquire, and use effectively Japan-related information. It provides library services; databases, Internet links, and translation to Japanese sources all complement our efforts. (<http://www.nmjc.org/jiap>),
 3. Gateway Japan: Research Database Business Support Information Japanese government, procurement announcements, market news and research, Japan Economic Institute monthly business reports. Research and Policy Documents on Japan policy issues. (<http://www.gwjapan.com>)
 4. The National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture was inaugurated in April 1986. NACSIS is one of the Inter-University Research Institutes which serves all university researchers in Japan. Its function is to gather, organize and provide scholarly information and relevant systems. (<http://www.nacsis.ac.jp>)
 5. Dun & Bradstreet Japan (File DNJA on DataStar) is a directory database recently available on DataStar through a partnership between Dun & Bradstreet and Tokyo Shoko Research Ltd. (TSR). The database covers nearly 90% of Japan's corporate activity with details on 250,000 of the largest Japanese companies as measured by sales. Its records include current contact information, background information, and sales profit figures for the last three years in yen and dollars. Usage cost is \$6.21 per full record. (<http://www.krinfo.com/>)
 6. Maruzen Company, Ltd. Maruzen has earned a solid position as one of Japan's leading booksellers,

and the Company has also diversified into other areas. In information-related fields, Maruzen's business activities include providing multimedia information services, developing networks, marketing office automation equipment, and offering facilities development services. (<http://www.maruzen.co.jp/>)

World Wide Web

The World Wide Web(WWW) is a form of Internet access. Using special browser software (such as Netscape or Internet Explorer), users can access a range of Internet services. Additionally, the Web has its own special protocol, Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), which permits the transmission of hypertext documents. The flexibility of the Web and its ability to deliver hypertext, graphics-oriented documents has made it the most it the most visible segment of the Internet today .There are two types of WebPages: static and interactive.

1. A static WebPages is a document that can be read from top to bottom without leaving the document.

Unless explicitly modified, the static WebPages presents identical information to all viewers.

2. An interactive WebPages is a customized document which uses interactive WebPages allows users to submit forms, query databases, format results, structure displays, and access password- protected areas of a site. (O'Neill, Edward T.: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla63/63onee.htm>)

Related Works

There are several survey researches concerned the status of Japanese information dissemination, information delivery channels of Japanese information, and WebPages content.

The Status of Japanese Information Dissemination and Information Delivery Channels

The survey done by the Database Promotion Center, Japan (DPC) (<http://www.dpc.or.jp/ndpc/eng/dbjpn/dbj98/dbin98.html>) in 1998 revealed the important point of the Internet utilizing status of the database service companies in Japan. The

companies currently providing database services via the Internet increased from 22 (27.8%) to 33 (42.3%) and the database services provided via the Internet by 33 companies are “character, numerical and still picture information service on the WWW” which accounted for the largest proportion at 90.9%. The Internet is currently being used by 514 companies (85.0%) among the 605 replies. The number of the ‘company’ users doubled when comparing with last year and the number of database being supplied overseas from Japan has continued to increase since this survey has been started in 1987, and as of July 1997. This result is relevant to the survey of USACO Corporation, a large book and online distributor (Hawkins, Donald: 1996). It states that most overseas publishers, vendors, and scientific organization in the U.S., Europe, and Taiwan have introduced the Internet into their organizations since 1992 and WebPages are being used for the dissemination of corporate information, product/services introductions, pricing information, public relations, and electronic commerce. Also, the survey research

“Comparative Study of Internet Using between University Libraries in Thailand and Japan” (Nimsomboon, Narit: 1997) showed that Japanese university libraries have used WebPages as the tools for library service access and the important services such as online database services, were put on libraries’ WebPages. In addition, Sekiguchi and Anderson found that both local government and national government are determined to increase their Information System (IS) utilization and there are the visible signs of these changes such as one-stop shopping, tele-access to government information, digital libraries, office automation, etc. Although only about 20% of government uses the Internet and primarily for the display of information on culture events, such as tourist information, and for attracting business, Few of the WebPages provided by local government in Japan allow its citizen to send e-mail to the department mailbox and the result also showed that some cities don’t simultaneously publish some data such as the citizen’s opinions on issues on the city’s WebPages. (Sekiguchi : 1999)

WebPages Content Analysis

According to the research done by Deb Aikat (<http://www.unc.edu/~daikat/dissabs.html>) and Edward T. O' Neill, it showed that the constructors of WebPages are: academies, government, commercial and private company. The WebPages content could be categorized as the followings:

1. Public Relation and advertising
2. Data bank/General Information
3. News
4. Service/product information
5. Bulletin board
6. Archives/exhibition
7. Entertainment
8. Commentary
9. Miscellaneous/other

Also the study concluded that the WWW, with its global information universe, would be an important part of the information superhighway.

According to related works, we can conclude that Japanese information has been disseminated worldwide via Internet and WebPages which are the important tool to carry it. Most organizations both profit and non profit, academic

institution, government including personal constructed WebPages to disseminate their activities, products/services, pricing information ,and electronic commerce via Internet.

Methodology and Procedure

Documentary and Internet survey research on WWW were the methods of the study which were conducted through a WebPages survey forms to get a general views of Japanese Information on WWW: focus on social science resources. In conducting the research, the WebPages survey form comprised of comprehensive lists of URL details were developed. The researchers reviewed all relevant literature as above-mentioned. According to the Library of Congress Classification Scheme and Thammasat University's courses, the classifications of subject coverage were divided and the analysis tables were constructed. The application programs, FOXPRO and SPSS were used for selecting, collecting data and computing their percentage of one thousand URL lists from World Wide Web.

WebPages Survey Construction

The WebPages survey forms utilized in this research were adapted from the studies on the national characteristics of Japanese information (Morita, Ichiko: <http://nmjc.org/jiap/jdc/cyberjapan/morita>), channels which Japanese information disseminate through the world. (Morita, Ichiko T.: 1994) and the research result done Deb Aikat (<http://www.unc.edu/~daikat/dissabs.html>) and Edward T. O' Neill. The WebPages survey forms were constructed in the English language.

Body of the WebPages Survey Form

The body of the WebPages was formulated with an aim to get information on the following aspects:

- Web page title
- URL
- Name of Constructors
- Types of Constructors
- Language
- Country
- Description of WebPages
- WebPages Contents
- Last Update
- Subject Coverage

- Facilities

Administration of WebPages Survey Forms

The WebPages survey forms were administered to Japanese Information on WWW: focus on social science resources. The purposes were to survey the status of Japanese information dissemination to Thailand and the world, to analyze and gather information about Japan, to examine the information delivery channels and academic information resources of Japan, to create a homepage of Japanese information resources and their linking on WWW.

Sampling and Scope of the Study

This investigation was limited to the Japanese Information: focus on social science resources and only found in WWW. The analysis of the study was based on the data provided by one thousand WebPages (URL), the criteria of selecting the data samplings (WebPages) are as follows:

- Lycos Network was considered as the following points :

It's currently one of the most visited hubs on the Internet reaching one out of every two Webs users (source: Media Metrix). Its network of sites includes

Lycos.Com, Tripod, Angelfire, WhoWhere, Mailcity, HotBot, HotWired, WiredNews, Webmonkey, Suck.com, Quote.com, Sonique, and Gamesville. Lycos' search engine and directory began with a patented, intelligent technology that was originally created at Carnegie Mellon University. In 1998, the Lycos Network has become the largest and fastest growing. Online community with more than 5 million registered Tripod and Angelfire members. Sites using Open Directory data include Lycos and free use license. The Open Directory is a compilation of many different editors' contributions. Directories are usually human – compiled guides to the web, where sites are organized by category.

- EBSCOHOST service was one of the database service

It's a free database service that Thammasat University provided to their members. The related web results from searching with keywords "Japan OR Japanese" are included and analyzed in this study.

Data Preparation and Procedure of the Study

To attain the goals of the study, the procedure of the study were the following steps;

1. To review and study documentary related to the research
2. To constructed a form of WebPages in order to set their details.
3. To survey the WebPages of Japanese Information
4. To analyze the data from Internet Survey through use of frequencies and percentage
5. To present the research report; results, conclusions, discussions and suggestions.

Analysis and Conclusions

The Purpose of this study has four points as follows: firstly, to survey the status of Japanese information dissemination to Thailand and global ; secondly, to analyze and gather information about Japan; thirdly, to examine the information delivery channels and academic information resources of Japan; and finally, to create a homepage of Japanese infor-

mation resources and their linking on www. The consequence presented after analysis of the 1,000 data population (WebPages) were closely examined, analyzed and computed by using frequencies and percentage analysis. The research results were shown in the following tables and charts:

Referring to the objectives of the study, Followings are the major findings:

- The first highest number of the constructor was Profit Organization
- Most of Japanese information were provided by Japan
- Most of Japanese information being utilized through out the world companies and organizations were in English.
- Most of WebPages have provided none of facility's search such as subject trees, keywords and etc.
- Most of WebPages did not define the update homepages regularly.
- Most of WebPages contents were articles, links and corporate / organization information respectively.

- Most of the subject coverage was culture / art, history, and geography / anthropology / recreation respectively.

Referring to the study of the information delivery channels and academic information, there were two channels of Japanese information disseminating to the world:

- Formal Channel was divided into 2 types: published information and unpublished information. Internet utilization through WebPages of constructors were mostly used for disseminating to the global
- Informal Channel was also used for disseminating Japanese information through worldwide by using internet as a means for discussion groups, networking and etc.

Concerning the homepage construction, the Japanese Information: Focus on Social Science Resources' WebPages conducted by the study is located at <http://202.28.73.6>

Recommendations

Finally, recommendations are suggested for the development and implementation of WebPages construction and channels through Japanese information in order to facilitate the users who are interested in Japanese studies. The recommendations emerged from this study are as follows:

1) Languages

According to the scope of the study, most of data sampling were written in English. However, there are WebPages written in other language. For examples, the WebPages of Japanese Organizations were written in English language. Since most of our data observation were Profit Organizations which earned income by providing their services through the world. Thus, it's necessary to have 2 versions for their WebPages; one is the native language and the other should be International language; English was proposed for this case. This points out that the Japanese information spread all over the world though the problems of language barrier still exist. For example, the WebPages of Whitepaper of the Japanese Organization were written in English and Japanese

versions. In the English version, a very short and brief summary was displayed. On the contrary, the more details were in Japanese version. In addition to the Grey Literature, there were approximately 95% of the Japan Documentation Center's material was provided in Japanese language.(see more details in chapter 2) This study showed that the English language played the important roles on the Japanese Studies via Internet. From observation we found that most of Japanese information focusing on Social Science Resources WebPages was written in English. However, ones who are interested in Japanese studies will receive more advantages from learning Japanese language.

2) WebPages Contents

Most of WebPages contents were corporate and organization information that moved around and pertained to promoting their products or services. WebPages contents' styles were presented in term of short articles. So, it is too brief to understand clearly. If it is not a burden of the constructors, database and full text should be provided because they will be value added to the WebPages.

3) Constructors

Regarding to the observation, there were a variety of constructors providing Japanese information such as government, library, organization and etc. The highest number of constructors was profit organization, the second were government and the third were personal WebPages and etc., respectively. However, WebPages of the government especially the local government ignored to provide or distribute as much useful and valuable information to the people or public as the government should do. The above – mentioned writing agree with the research works. From the study, the researchers expected that among the various constructors, universities should provide Japanese Information WebPages written in English language more than the others. On the contrary, we found that the universities' rank was almost the last. However, if this study focuses on the WebPages written in Japanese language, the universities' rank may not be almost the last.

4) Subject Coverage

Regarding to the 13 themes of subject Coverage found from the survey, most of them were culture, history,

geography and etc., respectively. Besides these three above- mentioned themes (culture , history and geography) , the constructors should increase more subjects in WebPages m than only the three themes in order to give more benefits to the one who is interested in Japanese studies.

5) Countries

From observation, there was more than ten countries dissemination the information for Japanese Studies. Among these countries Japan ranks the first and the United States of America the second in term of the number of the WebPages. This phenomenon gave the benefits to the users because Japan originally produced their own information. However, the users were able to directly get Japanese information from view point of the United States of America. We hoped the numbers Japanese information WebPages produced by other countries were increased so that the users will receive various views points from different countries. Yet, the numbers of non defining countries rather peaked. We hoped that the WebPages constructors should clearly define their sources of sites especially WebPages that their domain names were dot com (.com) or free

homepages. If the constructors can clearly define their sources, it will make the WebPages more reliable.

6) Facilities

There were a few of facilities for searching the information such as keywords or subject trees which was necessary for the users. There should also be keywords or tree diagrams in Japanese Information WebPages because users can use the tree diagrams to browse for the general information. If ones required specific information, Search engines or keywords will be used. The constructors who followed by these suggestions will make more value added to their WebPages.

7) Update

Most of the surveyed homepages were not defined update homepages. Therefore, the researchers suggested that the constructors should regularly update every WebPages and inform the update

8) General Information

From the research study, it was found that WebPages were very useful for the Japanese studies because the WebPages were tools to access Japanese Information quickly and effectively. Some information were very helpful such as statistic, policy statement, draft legislation and etc. However, it was found that these information were still inadequate. Users who interested in Japanese studies still have to depend on printed matter such as textbooks, journals, newspapers and etc.

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