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Electronic government and government information services in Japan

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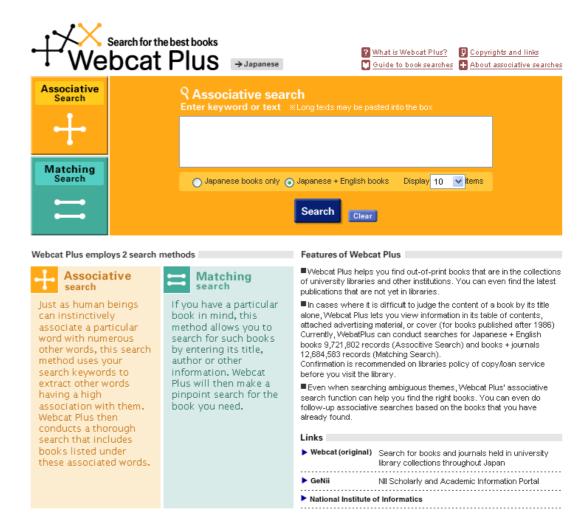tkoga@nii.ac.jp   http://research.nii.ac.jp/~tkoga/index_e.html

15th Biennial Conference of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (Library Forum), Session 1

Australia National University, Canberra, July 2, 2007

NII
National Institute of Informatics

NII's service: Webcat Plus (http://webcatplus.nii.ac.jp/en/)

- Search for books and journals held in university library collections throughout Japan for free
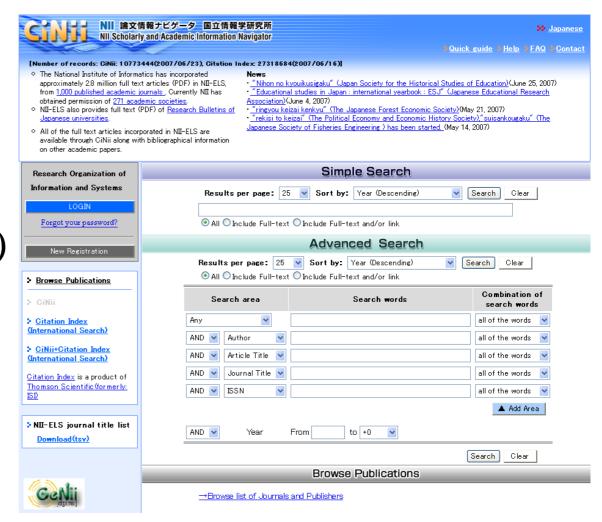
NII's service: CiNii (http://ci.nii.ac.jp/en)

- Database of academic articles in Japan

- Some parts (search, browse) are free, others (access to full texts, citation index) are for-fee

National Institute of Informatics

Agenda

- National policies which support e-government in Japan

- Guideline for dissemination of administrative information on the web

- Several examples of government databases on the web

- Issues and problems of e-government in Japan

National policies which support e-government in Japan

- **The year 2001** marked the landmark for the development of e-gov
  - Enforcement of the Information Disclosure Law (a.k.a Japanese version of FOIA) in Apr. 2001
    - Enactment in 1999
    - Including a provision concerning proactive dissemination of government information

    (law text) http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/data/AAIHAO.pdf
  - Formulation of e-Japan Strategy in Jan. 2001
    - First-ever holistic policy for nationwide IT use in Japan
    - Including the section of e-government
    - Followed by New IT Reform Strategy in 2006
    - Led by the IT Strategy Headquarters
      http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/policy/it/index_e.html

National policies which support electronic government in Japan (Cont')

- The Year 2001 (Cont')
  - launching of e-Gov.go.jp (a portal site), maintained by the Administrative Management Bureau (AMB), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
  - Guidelines for dissemination of administrative information on the web
    - Discussed in next slides

- Though these e-gov policies target mainly at the administrative branch, they affect the activities of the legislative and judicial branch

Guidelines for dissemination of administrative information on the web

- Official Name: Basic Plan for Electronic Provision of Administrative Information
- Approved by the Inter-Ministerial Council for Promoting Government-Wide Use of Information Technology in Mar. 29, 2001
  - Let by the AMB
- Final revision: Nov. 12, 2004
  - Approved by the Inter-Ministerial CIO Council

  http://www.e-gov.go.jp/doc/20041112doc1.pdf
  (in Japanese)

Guidelines for dissemination of administrative information on the web (cont')

- What kinds of administrative information should be disseminated on the web:
  - Brief description of organization and institution
  - Legal information
  - Materials of deliberative councils (*shingikai*)
  - Notification of public comments and the results
  - Contents of white papers
  - Statistical information   etc…
- These information should be retained for three years

Several examples of government web databases in Japan

"e-Gov.go.jp"

- Launched in April. 1, 2001 (the same day of enforcement of the IDL)

- Portal site of the central government in Japan

- Only the "web-search" function is available in English

http://www.e-gov.go.jp/

The Portal Site of Statistical Data in Japan

- Contents are available in Japanese and English
- Search function is also available (but too much noise…)
- Maintained by the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

http://portal.stat.go.jp/Pubstat/topE.html

Database of the National Diet (*Kokkai*) Minutes

- Minutes from the 1st Diet (under the current Constitution) in 1947 to the current Diet

- Tool for policy research

- Tool for appeal by Congressmen (who speaks what, how)

- Maintained by the National Diet Library (the national central library in Japan)

http://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/ (Japanese only)

Database of the Imperial Diet (*Teikoku Gikai*) Minutes

- Minutes from the 74st Diet in 1938 to the 92nd Diet in 1947 (under Meiji Constitution)

- Maintained by the National Diet Library

  http://teikokugikai-i.ndl.go.jp/ (Japanese only)

Legal Databases

- Law in Japan http://law.e-gov.go.jp/
  (Japanese only)
  – Database of law texts
- Supreme Court of Japan
  http://www.courts.go.jp/english/
  – Including the list (not searchable) of the judgments of Supreme Court in English

Translations of Japanese Laws and Regulations

- List of a very few number of laws translated in English

- Includes data of Standard Bilingual Dictionary for Translations of Japanese Laws and Regulations

- http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/data2.html

Issues and problems of e-government in Japan

Archiving e-gov contents

- "WARP" of the National Diet Library
  - Archiving government and non-government websites in Japan
  - Archiving through permission of the website owner; even archiving e-gov contents require permission from the government agency
  - Different from compulsory legal deposit system

  ↓

- Comprehensive archiving of e-gov contents has not yet been realized, compared to other countries' web archiving initiatives

  (e.g. PANDORA of the National Library of Australia)

- Both the NDL and the government agency do not pay full attention to "three year" period of retaining e-gov contents in the "guidelines for dissemination"

Archiving e-gov contents (cont')

- How to share responsibility of archiving e-gov contents between the National Diet Library and the National Archives of Japan is yet to be seen

- Political issue: newly-elected governors in local governments tend to erase web contents made by former governors

Accessibility

- Web accessibility standard: JIS (Japan Industrial Standard) X 8341-3 in 2004

- Measurements to apply accessibility for e-gov contents
  - Recommendations in the e-Japan Strategy
  - Project for enhancing accessibility of local government websites by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Relationship with library services

- ## Library Law in 1950
  - Including provision of disseminating government publications to public libraries (similar to the Depository Library System in the USA)

    (law text) http://www.jla.or.jp/law-e.html
  - Article 9
    - 1. The Government shall furnish public libraries established by prefectures two copies of the Official Gazette and other documents which are made available for public information published by the printing agency.
    - 2. Agencies of the state and of local public bodies may furnish public libraries free of charge, upon request, publications and other data and materials which they publish.
  - Does not work well…

Relationship with library services (cont')

- How to deal with the transition of government publication into e-government?
  - Using e-government services (e.g. statistics) for business information services

Conclusion

- Trends to disseminate government information via the Internet will continue

- Involvement of libraries for enhancing access to e-gov and archiving its contents is needed

- Please give me comments about what do you think of e-government and government information services in Japan

For more details …

- Koga, Takashi. "Access to Government Information in Japan: A Long Way toward Electronic Government?," *Government Information Quarterly*. Vol. 20, No. 1, Feb. 2003, p. 47-62.

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- Koga, Takashi. "Policy Issues regarding Electronic Government and Web Accessibility in Japan," *World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council*, Seoul, Korea, Aug. 21, 2006. http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/091-Koga-en.pdf

Thank you.