

Digital Resources Committee Activity Report
Prepared for the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library
Resources Biannual Meeting
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Dear NCC Council Members:

The following is a brief outline of our activities for last 6 months.

I. AAS/CEAL in Chicago (March-April, 2005)

1. March 31, 2005: The first DRC committee meeting (closed meeting)
Note: A summary of this meeting is available upon request.
2. April 1, 2005 “NCC Digital Resources Committee Open Discussion Meeting”
Presenters: Tomoko Steen (Introduction, and Closing Remarks) and Robert Britt (Background and Discussion)
(The minutes were prepared by Beth Katzoff and the outline was prepared by Robert Britt--both are available on the NCC website
(see: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/drc.html>)
3. “DRC Committee Goals” (see the NCC website) *We plan to modify the goal soon.
 - Educating Japanese Studies Librarians about contracting/licensing issues
 - Working with librarians and library organizations in Japan to effect change
 - Approaching vendors as necessary to effect changes desired by our community

II. NII

1. Tomoko Steen met Professor Miyazawa during AAS/CEAL meeting to discuss the draft of the English version of the NII contract.
2. Steen stayed in touch with NII after the Library of Congress listed questions and problems it had concerning the contract.
3. NII asked DRC to prepare a standard Addendum that would fit the needs of North American Libraries
4. DRC discussed this possibility and is reluctant to provide specific wording, since each library will need to provide wording that is acceptable to their own library administrators. But DRC can do the following:
 - a. Review the current NII contract (when it becomes available)
 - b. Consult with North American librarians involved to determine what common issues they have with the current version of the contract
 - c. Compile a list of these issues and problematic areas, and share this with NII. (Note that many of these areas have already been covered by the memo to Japanese vendors prepared by DRC: "Basic Guidelines and

Requirements for Vendors of Japanese Digital Resources In the North American Library and the Scholarly Community" (see below)

d.

5. Kinokuniya is the only vendor working with NII now, but other vendors may join later to work as liaisons between NII and North American libraries.

III. Communications with Vendors

Mr. Daikichi Mitake of Kinokuniya has been active in promoting digital resources in North America. For example, he has 1) Brought Asahi representatives to North America (in the summer of 2005) 2) Offered to prepare a translation of the DRC memo, and 3) Worked as a liaison between NII and North American libraries.

IV. Consulting

If it is necessary, the DRC will work as a consultant on Digital Resources for North American Libraries to help improve communications between interested parties in North America and Japan. One example of this type of work is that Robert Britt and Tomoko Steen provided comments and editing for a memo to Professor Syun Tutiya titled "Needs for Japanese information from North American researchers."

The memo was drafted by Toshie Marra (NCC Chair) and other NCC Council members, and was prepared at Prof. Tutiya's request. He wanted a memo describing the "current needs for Japanese information by Japanese researchers."

V. "Memo to Electronic Resource Providers in Japan"

In May, Tomoko Steen prepared the first draft of a memo titled "Basic Guidelines and Requirements for Vendors of Japanese Digital Resources In the North American Library and the Scholarly Community." The memo was polished through e-mail communications between Steen and Robert Britt. DRC solicited comments on the memo from NCC Council members, and then incorporated them into the final draft. DRC members approved the memo, and Britt finalized it by adding the NCC header and saving it in Adobe PDF format.

Ms. Kuniko Yamada McVey of Harvard took this memo to the Asahi headquarters in June. She served as DRC's point person with Asahi. The memo was also used by librarians at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Washington and UCLA, when the Asahi representatives visited their institutions.

VI. Japanese Translation of "Memo to Electronic Resource Providers in Japan"

In September, Kinokuniya offered the draft of this translation. DRC has examined the translation, and Steen has revised it. Upon DRC's final approval, Steen will submit the revised version to be examined by a "gyokai" specialist (possibly provided by Kinokuniya), and DRC will finalize it.

VII. The DRC Page On The NCC Website

Robert Britt has been especially active on updating the DRC website with the help of Brigid Laffey, Vickey Bestor's assistant. Currently the page includes a new DRC

Committee member list with contact information, committee goals, committee history, and recent activities. However, we still need to update the website. Tomoko Goto has been very helpful suggesting items for a “List of Incompatibilities in Japanese Database Contracts” or “Possible Improvements in Japanese Database Contracts to Apply North American Institutions” that DRC is preparing. We will study a sample contract prepared by Yale. (*This has been on DRC page.)

VIII. Outreach

Tomoko Steen has been invited to write an article on Digital Reference in a Special Issue of 情報の科学と技術 [Jōhō no kagaku to gijutsu] (The Journal of the Information Science and Technology Association). Steen will discuss digital resource compatibility issues between the US and Japan, including contracts, hardware usage, and reference activities.

X. Future Plans

1. We decided not to prepare NII Addendum, but instead prepare “A List of Incompatibilities in Japanese Database Contracts with North American Institutions”.
2. Finalize the Japanese translation of DRC Memo
3. Arrange for a workshop on Japanese databases collaboration with NCC Database committee (possibly at LC)
4. Prepare a “blog” at the DRC website
5. Send DRC members to present papers at Japanese meetings