

Electronic government and government information services in Japan

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

Australia National University, Canberra, July 2, 2007



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



Webcat Plus employs 2 search methods

Associative search

Just as human beings can instinctively associate a particular word with numerous other words, this search method uses your search keywords to extract other words having a high association with them. Webcat Plus then conducts a thorough search that includes books listed under these associated words.

Matching search

If you have a particular book in mind, this method allows you to search for such books by entering its title, author or other information. Webcat Plus will then make a pinpoint search for the book you need.

Features of Webcat Plus

- Webcat Plus helps you find out-of-print books that are in the collections of university libraries and other institutions. You can even find the latest publications that are not yet in libraries.
- In cases where it is difficult to judge the content of a book by its title alone, Webcat Plus lets you view information in its table of contents, attached advertising material, or cover (for books published after 1986). Currently, Webcat Plus can conduct searches for Japanese + English books 9,721,802 records (Associative Search) and books + journals 12,684,583 records (Matching Search). Confirmation is recommended on libraries policy of copy/loan service before you visit the library.
- Even when searching ambiguous themes, Webcat Plus' associative search function can help you find the right books. You can even do follow-up associative searches based on the books that you have already found.

Links

- ▶ **Webcat (original)** Search for books and journals held in university library collections throughout Japan
- ▶ **GeNii** NII Scholarly and Academic Information Portal
- ▶ **National Institute of Informatics**

National Institute of Informatics
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Powered by 

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

The screenshot displays the CiNii website interface. At the top, the header includes the CiNii logo, the text "NII 論文情報ナビゲータ 国立情報学研究所" and "NII Scholarly and Academic Information Navigator", and a "Japanese" language selector. Navigation links for "Quick guide", "Help", "FAQ", and "Contact" are present. A statistics bar shows "Number of records: CiNii: 10773444(2007/06/23), Citation Index: 27318684(2007/06/16)".

The main content area is divided into two search sections:

- Simple Search:** Features a search box, "Results per page" set to 25, and "Sort by" set to "Year (Descending)". It includes radio buttons for search options: "All" (selected), "Include Full-text", and "Include Full-text and/or link".
- Advanced Search:** Similar to the simple search, it includes a search box, "Results per page" set to 25, and "Sort by" set to "Year (Descending)". It also has radio buttons for search options. Below this is a table for defining search criteria:

Search area	Search words	Combination of search words
Any		all of the words
AND	Author	all of the words
AND	Article Title	all of the words
AND	Journal Title	all of the words
AND	ISSN	all of the words

Below the table is an "Add Area" button and a section for "Year" search with "From" and "to" fields. At the bottom of the search area are "Search" and "Clear" buttons.

On the left side, there is a sidebar with the following sections:

- Research Organization of Information and Systems:** Includes "LOGIN", "Forgot your password?", and "New Registration".
- Browse Publications:** Includes "CiNii", "Citation Index (International Search)", "CiNii+Citation Index (International Search)", "Citation Index is a product of Thomson Scientific (formerly ISI)", and "NII-ELS journal title list Download (tsv)".

At the bottom of the sidebar is the CiNii logo. Below the search area, there is a "Browse Publications" section with a link to "Browse list of Journals and Publishers".

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/AIHAO.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 Headquartershttp://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 ...

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Thank you.

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