

NCC 3-D Conference: Topical Discussion Summary Proposition # 1 Digital Resource Needs of the Field

This summary reports on discussions related to the need for broader access to Japanese digital resources for North American and international researchers? The summary reports on discussions at Proposition #1, led by Digital Resources Committee Chair Dawn Lawson, and synthesizes further discussions and recommendations from throughout the NCC's 3-D Conference.

At NCC's first once-in-a-decade conference held in 2000 the need to expand access to digital resources led to the creation of the Consortial Licensing Task Force, which was reconstituted as a standing committee of the NCC in January 2002. To date, digital resource licenses have been largely held by the major research libraries most active in Japanese studies, still leaving many potential users without access. Shrinking resources have made affording digital resources increasingly difficult for many institutions, and the costs of research travel to Japan have become increasingly prohibitive. Expanding access to digital resources for individuals and institutions is all the more crucial now as it was one decade ago. Broadening access to new users and preserving what many currently enjoy will require negotiations with vendors, a more varied range of licensing options, and consortial/quasi-consortial arrangements. The 3-D Conference produced a strong consensus on the need for a "national" strategy for digital licensing. NCC was encouraged to be one of the institutions facilitating that strategy, which it was suggested, might be created under an NCC "umbrella."

It was universally acknowledged that NCC does not currently have the infrastructure to lead such an ambitious effort, and that any such project must evolve gradually, over a period of years. The creation of such a project must be user-driven with strong buy-in by the future beneficiaries (vendors, institutions, individuals, etc). The NCC breakout sessions of Proposition #1 asked how NCC could contribute to making this possible. Discussions focused on several key themes: 1) how to gauge the demand for digital resource licenses, 2) how to solidify necessary vendor networks, 3) what a "national" system might include, 4) how the NCC would need to evolve to take a leading role, 5) what value-added services a national strategy might provide, and, 6) how to develop the collaborative ties upon which such a project must depend.

1) How to gauge the digital resource demands of the field:

- Conduct an online survey of potential users (like the IUP survey, via lists)
- Create a faculty task force to help design and review the survey
- What does a survey need to find out:
 - What kinds of data people need,
 - What ways data will be used (teaching, research, publications),
 - Payment methods and acceptable price ranges,
 - Potential individual and group usage rates,
 - What the optimal package looks like,
 - Identify problems with existing services (e.g. problems with Factiva)

2) How to Solidify Vendor Networks and Address their Concerns:

- Generally vendors welcome the idea
- Vendor-Elders may need persuading
- How to heighten vendor desire to broaden involvement and investment
- How to emphasize the upside profit potential
- Should NCC sponsor a “Vendor Summit” in Tokyo?
- Expanded use will create vendor benefits in the long run
- System must provide vendor flexibility
- How to delegate negotiations among vendors
- Do the vendors need a “trade association?” Should NCC advocate for one?
- Should there be more aggregation (in tune with libraries needs)

3) What might a “national model” look like?

Content:

- A broad menu of free and fee-based resources (with linked guides)
- Components based on demand
- Content should include:
 - English language and basic materials for undergraduates
 - Materials for language learners keyed to proficiency levels
 - Specialized resource options
 - National and regional newspapers
 - Aggregated data sets

Potential Member Profiles:

- Open to institutions as well as individuals (flexibility is a must)
- Small institutions must be included
- There must be support for institutions w/o EA librarians
- Model should be adaptable globally
- Temporary/short term licenses must be permitted
- Needs a range of user categories (independent scholars, alumni, “Virtual Visiting Scholars”)
- Membership benefit for affiliated groups might be attractive (for example AAS, APSA)

Multiple pricing options must be available to subscribers:

- There should be a minimal fee for basic service
- It should be easy for users to increase their level of service
- Pay per view (by time and/search) should be available
- Have a pre-paid deposit account option
- Seasonal/short term subscriptions should be permitted
- Need individual subscriptions with varied fee structure
- Tiered pricing for institutions needed
 - By institutional size
 - By number of users at an institution
 - Budget based pricing (program size, institution, etc)

Terms of Subscriber Access:

- Simultaneous/concurrent users should be allowed
- Onsite and remote options are needed
- Need federated authentication (NII/Shibboleth)
- Establish proxy server for authentication (not IP)

4) How does NCC needs to evolve to lead such an effort:

Need to develop a project Business Plan to:

- Identify and clarify demand (through user survey)
- Begin slowly, long timeline (3-5 years minimum)
- Consider a pilot project with a single or small number of products
- Clearly outline steps/processes
- Define what the optimal package looks like (package of resources, mainstreaming options)
- Develop grant proposals
- Create Brand (how did JK create their international brand?)
- Identify service providers (vendors, aggregators, publishers)
- Outline NCC's role in collective bargaining
- Who acts as the billing agent
- Evaluate Pros and Cons of volunteers versus funded project personnel

What structural changes must take place in NCC:

- NCC must have reliable and regular infrastructural funding
- NCC must have independent, permanent and expandable office space
- NCC requires an increase in personnel (to include full time positions)
- NCC's technological capacities require upgrades
- Should NCC consider fundamentally change its organization (incorporate as a nonprofit foundation to "pass-through" funding, like SSRC)? Appropriate models for such change must be explored.
- NCC needs legal advice (pro bono, if possible)

Potential Funding Sources:

- Could MVS funds be repurposed to build the consortium? (Not currently feasible within the grant's structure and JUSFC willingness is unknown)
- Keep trying Japan Foundation (follow KF model)
- Seek foundation support (Nippon Foundation and others)
- JUSFC may support undergraduate-focused components
- NEH Summer Seminar
- Department of Education
- Possibly Freeman if K-12 users are included
- What about a Toshiba component
- Is there a Tateuchi component
- What about the large tech-based foundations such as Gates

5) Value-Added Services of Such a Program:

NCC Website Develops Information and Training Hub:

- NCC sends regular materials updates
- Provide online training modules
- 24/7 access to self-guided refreshers
- Information clearinghouse
- Create a growing Wiki
- Actively use professional online lists
- Use paid advertising as needed

Key Attractions to Institutional Participants

- Flexible umbrella licenses
- Options to tailor versions with addenda
- Address concerns of university licensing officers (who generally oppose national licensing)
- Facilitates collective bargaining
- Provides user-advocacy
- Provides deeper and more individualized training

Examples of User-training Needs: (Cross-referenced with other sessions)

- Need training and support for national licenses
- Expand on success of past NCC hands-on workshops and Faculty Forums
 - Cosponsor stand alone workshops at given institutions
 - Offer more faculty forums in expanded format
 - Develop faculty-librarian teams at small institutions
 - Use regional meeting venues
- Partner with vendors at regional meetings to beef-up their instruction
- Look at coupling summer licenses with NEH-like seminars
- Workshops further publicize the NCC and its services providing a ripple effect
- Need to provide help to small institutions and those new to field
- Should integrate onsite and online training
- Need an “ask a librarian” option
- Needs basic and introductory English-language materials for undergraduates

6) Expanding Needed Collaborations:

Partners and Models to Consider:

- Work with AAS to enhance their membership benefits
- LC may be an ideal partner in some aspects
- Work with Liberal Arts groups like Oberlin Group and AsiaNetwork
- Team with disciplinary professional associations: ATJ, AAA, APSA, etc.
- Work with ACRL, ICOLC, NERL, CIC, statewide consortia
- Talk to past consortial leaders who may consult (for a fee)
- Use KCC site as a model, second reference Korean e-Korea
- Look at Vendor examples (Nikkei Tel, JK, Yomiuri)
- Work with OCLC, Eastview, other e-publishers/consolidators
- Is CRL a feasible partner, despite different missions of CRL (extensive membership fees) and NCC (free and open to all)

Partners in Japan:

- Partner with Japanese institutions that need similar services
- Work through and expand the GIF network
- Work with 図書館総合展
- Advocate among data holders
- Work with Toshokan Zaidan
- Advise Government Agencies on ways to make their sites more accessible to foreign users
- Emphasize the Cultural Diplomacy benefits of broadening information resources
- Emphasize NCC's role in underpinning the field
- Expand NCC's role as a clearinghouse for international collaborations

Proposition #1: Dawn Lawson, lead facilitator; Setsuko Noguchi, note-taker; Group 2: Fabiano Takashi Rocha, facilitator; Beth Katzoff, note-taker; Group 3: Tomoko Bialock, facilitator; Rob Britt, note-taker