

Comments from a Discussant

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As a researcher and a teacher of (Digital) Humanities from a country in East Asia, I appreciate all of you, presenters and participants, for your efforts to support research and education about East Asia at a large distance from the area.

To Azusa Tanaka

- It's a good case to start thinking about what would be useful for users.
- It's shared understanding for researchers to build user-oriented metadata. It's valuable that librarians support and follow the same idea.
- The user-oriented metadata (schema) often faces issues of interoperability.
 - Interoperability means not only for synchronic sharing between software, servers, or institutions, but also for diachronic sharing to inherit the metadata.
 - Azusa mentioned that **description is important**.
 - In your case, Tohoku Univ's metadata might be a standard for Gaihozu.
 - **Would you plan to translate its Japanese description into English and also to map it to one or more international standards in order to share it among the US libraries?**

Adopting user-oriented metadata

- It's critical for users of information that the information providers adopt one or more existing international standards not only for metadata but also for any layers of data.
 - It allows the users to leverage knowledge and experiences which have been accumulated through the efforts of specialist communities, who have developed standards for them.
 - Issues of the conversion between an international standard and MARC are sometimes solved with tool developments.
 - Adopting international standards have usually solved interoperability issues by the specialist communities.
 - For example, Text Encoding Initiative Guidelines have been adopted to describe metadata of classics in some libraries such as Cambridge, Oxford, and so on.
 - It's sometimes not so easy to adopt international standards for the contents or metadata of the contents at hand.
 - It's necessary to form a kind of local communities to solve it in such a case.
 - It's also beneficial to share such knowledge and experiences via mailing lists or blog articles.

To Haiqing Lin

- It's invaluable for the East Asian researchers to have such a comprehensive and reliable service.
- I also support that the library technical services should be a reliable partner to them based on my own experiences of collaboration with libraries/librarians.
- But as the services become deeper and more complicated, it might become difficult for users to appreciate/evaluate the level of reliability.
- How do researchers and students today learn to think that library data is more reliable than other data sources?
 - [Would you do something about it?](#)

To Hyokyoung Yi

- You address the most urgent issue for me.
- How should we find appropriate information if there are very few people who know it, not only in your community but also in the world?
 - A general solution is to form a larger community in the former case, but yours is the latter case.
 - As I sometimes work as a developer/programmer, I've often faced the latter case myself and have been consulted by others in the same situation.
 - In the latter case, it's helpful to share the information as wide as possible, for example, by writing a blog article.
 - I would like to hear any suggestions from the presenters and the participants.
 - What are possible solutions to find appropriate information for your independent digital project?

To Kathi Matsuura

- You presented one of the best practices that I've heard in the field.
 - The whole activities as presented would be difficult to be realized by other institutions except very few ones.
 - But some of the activities would be useful for the others to follow, for example, the Project Intake Form, Web archiving, developing interoperable APIs, creating a template of MOU, and so on.
 - Will you want to share these methods with other libraries?
- For the expert learners, a DH summer/winter school would be useful.
 - It provides opportunities to learn an overview of the latest aspects of DH.
 - You find the up-to-date solutions provided by some of the leading DH researchers.
 - For example: **DHSI (Digital Humanities Summer Institute)** offers around **50 courses** for 800 participants at Uvic. <http://www.dhsi.org/>
 - This year, the Japanese Studies course will be offered.

To Ying Zhang

- DH researchers would expect librarians in various ways.
- As mentioned before, a DH summer/winter school would be a solution to prepare librarians to meet their expectations and to gain an appropriate training for that purpose.
 - You find from **“Digitization Fundamentals and their Application”** to **“DH For Department Chairs and Deans”** in <http://www.dhsi.org/>.
 - I suppose CEAL may offer some courses focusing on East Asian Lib and DH in some popular DH summer/winter schools like DHSI.
- It might be a useful solution to collaborate with the communities and institutions in East Asia and to entrust them some roles.
 - Like English librarians manage Text Creation Partnership which produces 25,000 public domain TEI-encoded digitized texts in collaboration with university libraries in English countries.
 - Please share your experiences and observations about DH researchers’ expectations of librarians, your training opportunities with the DH summer/winter school, and your collaboration with the institutions in East Asian countries.

To all

- I appreciate all of you again, and I would like to assist your efforts continuously with my colleagues of DH researchers in East Asia.
- I expect CEAL would support to form such relationships.