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/](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.