Committee on Japanese Materials 2020 : Q & A

Speaker: Yasuyuki MINAMIYAMA, Chief Data Librarian, Research Center for Open Science and Data Platform, National Institute of Informatics

Questions About Presentation 1 : Recent Trends of Social Science Data in Japan

Q1: Presentation 1, Slide 22: How would MS Excel files of Nihon tokei nenkan tables obtained through JapanKnowledge be characterized? Somewhat dated with the lag in release?

> A1: The JapanKnowledge version of MS excel files is accurate and very useful. If your institution subscribes JapanKnowledge database, I would like to recommend it. However, according to each website's information, it seems that there is time-lag (probably 1-year) to record in JapanKnowledge.
> JapanKnowledge version: 2018 ver.
> (https://japanknowledge.com/contents/toukeinenkan/index.html)
> Statistics Bureau of Japan version: 2019 ver. (https://www.stat.go.jp/data/nenkan/index1.html)

Q2: Personal contact was mentioned as one method to obtain data directly from research groups. Now some Japanese researchers are posting their contact information on Researchmap, their website, etc. and finding their contact information got slightly easier. But still not so easy. Do you have any suggestions and secret you have to obtain data via your personal network?

> A2: As you comment, access to the research group is not easy. Another choice other than researchmap, I would like to recommend using the KAKEN database (https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/ja/). You can find the "research results" list, and maybe some paper has displayed in their representative's contact address. And again, I think it's easier to get a response by contacting the "department" of the representative's institution. And in any case, I think it's important to have a perspective that is accessed from as close to a researcher's personal connection as possible.

Q3: For slide 5, would you mind tell us more about what we can find from those various websites you've listed, especially the difference and overlap in terms of data content? Thank you!

> A3: I'm sorry I couldn't help you, I have not seen any examples of such a list, nor I have created by myself (I created this slide 5 only for this presentation). I think that the NISTEP website (https://www.nistep.go.jp/research/scisip/data-and-information-infrastructure/datalink_country_detail) is well organized, and one of the most comprehensive pages is the University of Tokyo's page (GACoS: https://www.dl.itc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/gacos/ . You can look for the database by subject category). It might be a one-step to take a cursory look and extract the pages that seem to be necessary for your library.

Q4: Thank you very much for your well-organized and informative presentation, from which I learned a lot. I might have missed, but I wonder how data librarians in Japan collaborate to help researchers of their respective institutions and beyond. Are there mailing lists or professional/academic associations with a special focus on social science data repository, etc.?

A4: Unfortunately, I've not seen such a community of librarians focusing on social sciences in Japan (It may exist locally). However, since 2018, JAPAN OPEN SCIENCE SUMMIT (JOSS) conference has been held annually, and some sessions focused on the specific field (e.g. http://codh.rois.ac.jp/workshop/joss-20190528/). Until now Japanese librarians may need to participate in academic conferences related to social sciences and gathering information individually (I was like that), but in the future we might be able to collect necessary information more efficiently.

Q5: Many thanks to Mr. Minamiyama for the well-prepared and organized introduction to the current trend and development of Social Science data in Japan. I am impressed by the establishment of the RDM training. However, in the meantime, would Mr. Minamiyama serve as a primary contact person to refer us to the right colleague who is in charge of the data questions that we may have?

A5: Unfortunately, there is no national contact organization for social science initiatives now, so you need to find and contact the appropriate organization for each inquiry. Personally, I would like to support somewhat as much as I can with those who have seen this presentation, so please feel free to contact me when you get stuck!

Q6: Institutional repositories have their different research data management plans. How NII works with individual institutions to encourage a more standardized way to manage their research data?

A6: This time I only showed briefly on slide 14, NII has created three unique platforms; a research data management platform (GakuNin RDM), a repository platform (WEKO3), and a discovery platform (CiNii Research) (please see our website: https://rcos.nii.ac.jp/en/service/). To realize a data management plan, NII would like to support individual institutions with implementing GakuNin RDM. If you need more detailed/technical information, please see our member's presentation (only in Japanese): https://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/event/2019/pdf/20200207_5.pdf

Q7: It is my understanding that when an individual makes a request for data use to SSJDA, it may take one to three months to get permission. Do you have any advice about how to make the request process as efficient as possible?

A7: As far as I know, the SSJDA's response speed seems to depend on the data depositor's response, not on the database administrator. Unfortunately, I cannot suggest a better way to speed up, but it might be a good way to clarify your desired deadline and to ask SSJDA's estimate of their reply period.

Question(s) about Presentation 2: Results of the Questionnaire Survey on Recognition and Use of Japanese Social Science Data

Q1: Sorry that Indiana University missed the opportunity to participate in the survey! At that time, I was afraid that we don't have much to contribute to the survey. After reading the Presentation 2, if Mr. Minamiyama is still interested in gathering information from a public university with student population over 40,000, I would be very glad to join his survey and send him the survey reply as soon as he needs.

A1: Many thanks for proposing additional cooperation! I would like to discuss the members how to handle the additional data, so let me have a litle time.

Q2: I think that after seeing you presentation, some people might have a better idea about how to respond to the questionnaire. Would you be interested in continuing to collect survey responses? If so, we can work on communicating that to the CEAL members.

A2: Please see comment above (i.e., Many thanks for proposing additional cooperation! I would like to discuss the members how to handle the additional data, so let me have a litle time)

Other questions or comments

Comment 1: Thank you very much for preparing this recorded presentation in such a short time, Minamiyama-sensei. Your survey and PPT made me think of what I need to find out to provide better services to my users to access Japanese SS data. By the way, slide 15 includes 文字化け.

Thank you for pointing out "garbled (文字化け)". Now I cannot check the garbled point immediately because my PC's environment is suitable for Japanese, but I will adjust this image capture.

Comment 2: Great presentation! Very informative and helpful! I've learned a lot. Thank you, Mr. Minamiyama!

Comment 3: Thank you so much for sharing with us such an informative presentation.

Comment 4: On behalf of the Committee on Japanese Materials, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your hard work. Your presentation was very informative, and I am overwhelmed by the fact that there is so much about Japanese research data that I need to learn. Fabiano