Collaboration, Connection, and Communication

Launch of Japanese Book Club as Virtual Public Services in Pandemic

Mitsu Nakamura
Japanese/Korean Studies Librarian
East Asian Library
East Asian Library @ WashU:

- One of 11 Distributed Libraries
- Established in 1963
- Holds over 166k Print Resources in CJK
- Staffed with 3 Full-time Employees
March: Closure of All University Libraries

June: Start of Curbside Pickup Services (Termination of HathiTrust ETAS)

Selected Librarians resumed works on site (1 to 2 days per week as Needed)

*As of Mar.15, 2021, Reopening Date is Not Confirmed.*
Reactions as EAL

**Collaboration** with Stakeholders
Several DH projects with Faculty & Students
(Chinese Studies Librarian)

**Connection** with Students and More
Launch of “Japanese Book Club”

**Communication** to WashU Communities
blog posts, and beyond
Background:
Students’ Demands in Pandemic

• Abrupt Disruptions of in-person class activities => **Loss of Communication** among the Students

• Forced **Cancellation of Field Studies** in Japan => Urgent Needs to keep their Language Proficiency
Response as Librarian

- Form a Monthly J-Book Club on Zoom (with interested Ph.D. Students @WashU)
- Select a title to read in Japanese and ask participants to Purchase own copies (through commercially available vendors)
- Invite interested Students/Faculty/Librarians Outside of WashU as “Guests”
**Creation of Lists for Vocabularies / Discussion Topics**

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Creation of a “Niche” Connection of Scholars who share the same interest in research fields
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For Further Connections…

Our selected title “Pure” and the author, Miyuki Ono who joined the Club as our Guest Speaker
In Summary, J-Book Club Provides Opportunities for:

**Collaboration** among the Participants (including Librarians)

**Connection** among the Participants In & Out of WashU (through the shared interest)

**Communication** among the Participants on Regular Basis (who cannot see in-person any longer)
The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles now provides Grant to Purchase more Selected Titles (Until Summer 2022)
Currently, the Club reads 2nd title, “the Sustainable Use of Our Souls” by Aoko Matsuda

Possible session with a Guest Speaker in later Spring (TBA)
Finally, for further Communication

Library blog posts:
(Links to related articles)
“New Japanese Book Club Launches Virtually”

“Washington University Librarian Awarded Japanese Teaching Materials Grant”
Thank You for Listening

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