

Queer Japan Web Archive: Enhancing Metadata of a Web Collection



Toshiyuki Minami, Brown University Library
Haruko Nakamura, Yale University Library

CEAL Task Force on Metadata Standards & Best Practices for East Asian
Electronic Resources (ERMB) Pre-Conference Forum, March 17, 2022

Is Queer Japan Web Archive (QJWA)
an Open Access Resource?

What is “Open Access”?

- Digital (electronic format)
- Online (available on the Internet)
- Free of charge
- Less restrictive (copyright)

Is Metadata “Open Access”?

“Metadata includes factual fields in library catalog or other records, These short factual pieces of data themselves are not copyrightable because they are short phrases and pure facts.”

Source: Association of Research Libraries Issue Brief (August 2017) “Metadata and Copyright: Should Institutions License Their Data about Scholarship?”

Is QJWA “Open Access”?

- The contents of the websites archived in the QJWA are not “open access.”
- Most (if not all) of the metadata in the QJWA is “open access.”

Metadata of the QJWA

(1) Title

(2) URL

(3) Description

(4) Creator

(5) Language

(6) Group

(7) Coverage

(8) Subject Term

Metadata #6: Group

- Public awareness / support / self-help groups
- HIV/AIDS / public awareness / support / self-help groups
- University circle
- Parade / area events
- Municipalities
- Partnerships / same-sex marriage / family
- Business / employment

Metadata #7: Coverage

- Record region, prefecture, or municipal information.

(Examples)

Kyushu Region

Kyoto

Kyoto-shi (Kyoto-fu)

- Some websites have more than one area.

(Example)

Kanagawa : Tokyo

Metadata #8: Subject Term

- We use the Library of Congress Subject Headings.
- Subject headings are separated with a colon.

(Example) College students : Sexual minorities

- Subdivisions in SHs are used as separate terms.

(Example) QJWA: AIDS (Disease) : Government policy
LCSH: AIDS (Disease) -- Government policy

Subject Terms frequently used in QJWA

- Sexual minorities
- College students
- Student activities
- Administrative and political divisions
- Local government
- Gay community
- Self-help groups
- Nonprofit organization
- Gay pride parades
- AIDS (Disease)
- Festivals
- Gay communities
- Lesbians
- Gender identity
- Gays
- Helplines
- Bisexual women

Challenges and Issues

- (1) Quality control of metadata
- (2) Enhancing metadata

Issue #1: Quality Control of Metadata

- Instructions on how to enter metadata
- Limited workforce
- Need for quality control measures

Issue #2: Enhancing metadata

How can we enhance subject terms?

Supplementary tools like Homosaurus?



- International linked data vocabulary of LGBTQ related terms
- Maintained by Digital Transgender Archive
- 1,800+ LGBTQ related terms as of March 17, 2022

LCSH vs Homosaurus

LCSH	Homosaurus
Deaf gays	LGBTQ+ deaf people (More inclusive)
Sexual minority	LGBTQ+ people (More colloquial)
Foster parents	LGBTQ+ foster parents (More specific)

Conclusion

- QJWA as a case study of metadata of a web archive at an early stage
- Importance of quality control of metadata
- Exploring use of supplementary tools for both metadata enhancement and DEI

Any questions, suggestions, feedback?

We would like to hear from you.

Thank you!



Email: Toshiyuki Minami (Toshiyuki_Minami@brown.edu)

Haruko Nakamura (haruko.nakamura@yale.edu)

URL: <https://archive-it.org/collections/11854>

<https://guides.library.yale.edu/QueerJapan>