



south China. At the moment, however, academic exchanges in this region are restricted. Of course, many Japanese studies specialists and publications already exist in Taiwan.

As international exchange on Japanese studies has increasingly emerged, the field of vision of Chinese researchers has been gradually widened. In September 1990, an international conference on Japanese studies was held by the Chinese Association for Japanese Studies in Beijing. Foreign specialists from Japan, Canada, Australia, Soviet Union, and the United States attended, and enabled a great step forward.

In 1995, in commemoration of the Fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, an international conference on the Asia Pacific region and Sino-Japanese relations was held by the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations and the Australian National University in Beijing. It was the first international conference on Japan between China and Australia. Of course, bilateral meetings between China and Japan have also increased since 1990.

Many essays and books on Japanese studies have been published in China since 1990. There are more than ten academic journals on Japanese studies, and each year about one thousand papers have been published. A principal national academic journal is *Japanese Studies*, issued by the Chinese Association for Japanese Studies and the Institute of Japanese Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Before 1990 the major books on Japan were translations, but since then the majority of books have been original works by Chinese scholars.

The younger generation of researchers has made great progress. Researchers who are about thirty to fifty years old make up sixty percent of the field, and most of them have gone to Japan for Japanese studies; some of them have received the Ph.D. or passed doctoral courses in Japan.

China is still beset with certain problems. First of all, the research grants and teaching funds as yet cannot keep up with the growth of

Japanese studies especially in relation to the costs of publishing and of computerization. A second problem is how to cultivate and retain the excellent young scholars who begin Japanese studies. A growing number of Chinese students and scholars who have prepared by study in Japan have quit academic Japanese studies to work in business since the 1980s. A third problem is the English-language capacity of Chinese researchers in Japanese studies. Generally they are not used to reading English publications or cannot speak English. As a result, many of the research contributions on Japan by American scholars writing in English are little known in China.

In the future, I hope that such problems can be solved and that Japanese studies in China will continue to achieve major advances. In the coming five years, Chinese researchers will be ever more interested in the evolution of Japan in the twenty-first century. Japanese studies will demand more and more synthetic, specialized and theoretical knowledge. Area studies and comparative studies will see more development. Communications will become faster and more convenient thanks to computers.

In any case, I believe that China and America as two "superpowers in Japanese studies" can carry out more exchange which would be helpful to both sides. American foundations and institutions might well provide more opportunities to Chinese scholars or students of Japanese studies for study and research projects in the United States. On the other hand the travel of American scholars and students in Japanese studies to China for study or academic exchange with Chinese should also be encouraged. Chinese and American specialists should join to construct research projects or organize symposia. If we can work together we can make a new pathway for academic exchanges between China and United States into the next century.

**Documentation
Center on
Contemporary Japan
(Reischauer Institute,**

Sponsor): Japanese Government Information on the Web

**Kuniko Yamada McVey,
Documentation Center Director**

The number and extent of official Japanese government websites has grown dramatically during the last year. As of September 1, 1998, all ministries and agencies of the Japanese government maintained websites.

The most efficient gateway to all of these government websites is maintained by the official residence of the Prime Minister (*Shusho Kantei*, <http://www.kantei.go.jp/80/jp/server-j.html>). This site provides links to all ministry and agency sites, and to online white papers, annual reports, statistics, reports and minutes from numerous government and Shingikai committees. It is a good first stop, although one will then naturally go to the sites maintained by individual ministries and agencies to be sure of finding the most recent or updated material. Noteworthy features of the Prime Minister site are tables of contents of *Kanpō* (daily official announcements) with supplemental reference documents since April 1997, and information and activity reports on Prime Minister Obuchi and his cabinet. In fact, the site lists all current cabinet ministers and vice ministers, gives profiles (and even portraits) of all Prime Ministers to date, and lists the cabinet members in every government since the Meiji era.

This sudden abundance of government information available over the web is welcome. However, the process through which information was selected for posting is not clear, nor do we know how long it will remain available once posted. Overall, a lack of official policy to govern these websites is often observed while navigating this new cyber-resource. To be effective, strategies for accessing and using electronic Japanese information must be continuously evaluated and revised as sites change and the volume of material rapidly increases. I would like to examine current strengths and weaknesses in various sites through a few case studies.



*Case 1: A student wants to find the text of the organ transplant law, and to learn when and how it was passed. Both Houses of the Diet have been providing minutes and summaries of their sessions and committee meetings in electronic form since the 140th session in 1997. However, there is no index for searching this material. For this reason, the student will need to identify some relevant dates first. Go to the Kanpō index (<http://www.gov-book.or.jp/kanpo/kanpo.html>) or from a link in the Government Publication website (<http://www.gov-book.or.jp/>). Searching on keywords *zoki* and *ishoku* results in two items. Get the date the law was announced, then go to the Kanpo digest (which also lacks a search index) via the Prime Minister's official residence site (<http://www.kantei.go.jp:80/jp/kanpo/digest-jul3.html>) and select a date for display of the table of contents, which will provide a link to the full text of the law in question. Summaries of proposed bills since the 140th session are available at the House of Representatives site (*Shugiin*). Go to the entry *gian* (proposed bill) and scroll to find the right bill. The summary provides key dates leading to the promulgation of the law, names of drafters, and the name of the committee that handled the bill. The *gian* summary seems to be designed for databases (which makes sense), as it is the essential tool for tracing the passage or death of bills in the Diet. The user could also browse minutes of the Diet session using the dates gained through the search above.*

Unfortunately, the lack of a public search index for these daily government records significantly reduces their usability. Searchable Diet session records are in use only among selected groups in Japan, although the National Diet Library and both Houses are planning to deliver this system through Internet by the year 2000. Meanwhile, the Kanpō index is not a great search tool.

Case 2: A researcher wants to read the original text of the 1951 U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, to compare it with the new guideline issued last year, and to get some idea about public opinion on Japan's defense policy. The Defense Agency collects basic official documents on Japan's security in the postwar period. The

user can simply download full texts of desired documents. The U.S. Information Service Japan site (<http://www.usia.gov/posts/tokyo>) also provides full text of security documents. Our researcher might want to see the U.S. perspective on this issue. The Prime Minister's Office, which collects public opinion surveys done by the public sector, offers results of selected surveys done in the last three years through its website at (<http://www.sorifu.go.jp/survey/index.html>). One of the 33 surveys listed there concerns public opinion on the Self Defense Force and defense issues.

The Defense Agency has a modest but well appointed site. It selects essential documents and organizes them in a clearly defined structure. I would come here first for defense-related information. Availability of public opinion surveys is also one of the special features of the Prime Minister's office site. However, implementation of a search tool of some kind would greatly enhance the value of this resource.

Case 3: Where can one find the most comprehensive statistics information? Most ministries and agencies make available their own statistics over the websites. For example, financial statistics are provided by the Ministry of Finance, labor force statistics by the Ministry of Labor, population statistics by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, etc. However, sometimes desired statistical information will be spread over multiple sites. To gain a complete picture of micro economic conditions, for example, one might need the consumer price index, unemployment rate, industrial output, saving rates and other indicators. The Statistics Bureau site in the Management and Coordination Agency (<http://www.stat.go.jp/>) provides various search tools for statistics outside of that bureau as well as a full list of statistics compiled by the bureau, some of which can be delivered electronically or in some such other way. This site can be viewed as a clearing house for all available government statistical information.

However, how extensively statistics will be available on the Web remains to be seen. The need for a central clearing house for statistical data in digital format is becoming more

important as digital applications like GIS (Geographic Information Systems) come into greater use in social science research.

In conclusion, at present there is some haphazardness in the way government information is being made available over the internet. Official documents are being posted but with little consideration given to making them useful with searching and similar tools. This might stem from a history of not having disclosed information to the public. In any event, a lot has happened very fast, and there is no sign of things slowing down or stabilizing. Perhaps we could say the learning curve has just begun, both for the government and for users.

Research and Publication in the Harvard Japanese Studies Community

In May 1995, Helen Hardacre, Director of the Reischauer Institute, initiated a project to commemorate both the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Institute and the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War. The aim of the project was to publish a volume documenting the postwar development of Japanese studies in the United States in a number of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. By late 1995 twelve noted scholars had been selected as contributors and were invited to present their papers in the Institute's Japan Forum series between spring 1996 and spring 1997. These talks formed a special part of the Forum during two academic years. The resulting volume, entitled *The Postwar Development of Japanese Studies in the United States*, comprises essays in the fields of history, religion, anthropology, literature, art, political science, and law. Each chapter chronicles postwar scholarship in a particular discipline and provides a useful bibliography. The authors include, from Harvard, Harold Bolitho, Albert M. Craig, Andrew Gordon, Helen Hardacre, Akira Iriye, and John M. Rosenfield; from Princeton, Kent E. Calder and Martin Collcutt; John W. Dower from MIT; Norma Field from the University of Chicago; Jennifer Robertson from the University of