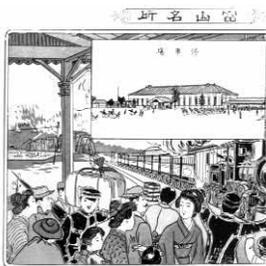


course of study, which will at first however run parallel to the existing master's program.



Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan (Reischauer Institute, Sponsor): Electronic Journals

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With the explosive growth and development of the Internet, electronic journals (e-journals) have quickly mushroomed in number. Over the past decade, digital serial publication and distribution systems have advanced dramatically from experimentation to practical application. Currently, hundreds of academic institutions and commercial publishers offer Internet-accessible electronic journal services, and new electronic journals come online every day. At the same time, this rapidly growing field remains in an experimental stage in terms of pricing. While some electronic journals are available free of charge, many publishers refuse to offer electronic journal subscriptions by themselves. Instead, free electronic access is often granted only in conjunction with print journal subscriptions; other publishers require a small fee in addition to the regular print journal subscription price. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to several important electronic journal resources that are freely available, free during a trial period, or free for most users at academic libraries that have a site license.

JSTOR (Journal STORAGE)
(<http://www.jstor.org/>)

Most of us have had the frustrating

experience of wasting time and effort trying to locate a particular journal in the stacks only to discover that the exact issue we were looking for is missing. JSTOR, a unique digital archive of back issues of scholarly core journals, offers a way to avoid such scenarios. More than 90% of academic libraries in the US have a site license. As its self-explanatory name implies ("JSTOR" derives from "Journal Storage"), the purpose of this database is to resolve two key problems faced by many academic libraries: lack of journal storage space and missing issues. JSTOR uses OCR (optical character recognition) software to digitize and store back issues of reputable long-run academic journals, beginning with their first issues. Because JSTOR does not include issues less than two years old, however, it does not compete with commercial e-journal publishers. Five years after its launch at the University of Michigan in 1995, JSTOR now includes at least 130 journals with an emphasis on the social sciences, notably economics and history. Titles related to Japanese studies include *Monumenta Nipponica*, the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, the *Journal of Asian Studies*, and *Pacific Affairs*, all of which are available in full text form from their first issues. However, JSTOR's use of OCR technology unfortunately means that its digitized articles lack electronic links to citations.

HighWire Press
(<http://highwire.stanford.edu/>)

HighWire, which enjoys a reputation as "the ultimate cutting-edge electronic journal site," has drawn considerable attention for its genesis as a joint project of industry and academia in the heart of Silicon Valley. It began in 1995 when Stanford University Library, University Press, and a number of academic associations came together to develop digital publication and distribution solutions independent of the major commercial publishing houses. HighWire's Marketing Group was subsequently established to support the organization's marketing and management. Although the number of titles accessible free of charge is limited (210 titles as of August 2000), HighWire covers titles with a high "impact factor," one of the criteria used for evaluating the importance of journals. HighWire articles include hyperlinks to citations, allowing easy access to other original articles cited

in the text. In addition, HighWire is capable of incorporating sophisticated multimedia functions.

UnCover
(<http://uncweb.carl.org/>)

UnCover, which is offered by the Carl Alliance of Research Libraries, is an electronic journal provider which offers both table of contents and document delivery services. Though it is a commercial full text database, article citation information is available to all users free of charge and search results can be e-mailed to any address. UnCover includes articles from well over 18,000 journals in a broad range of disciplines from humanities/social sciences to the natural sciences. The collection includes over 270 journals on Japanese studies, such as *Minzokugaku kenkyū* (*Japanese Journal of Ethnology*), *Nihon-shi kenkyū* (*Journal of Japanese History*), *Shakaigaku hyōron* (*Japanese Sociological Review*), *Jōhō kanri* (*Journal of Information Processing and Management*), *Shigaku zasshi* (*Journal of Historical Science*), and *Sugaku* (*Mathematics*). For a fee, UnCover allows users to register their desired journal titles and keyword searches, enabling them to receive table of contents data and search results directly via e-mail. Users can also use a credit card to order both facsimile copies and full-text of any article included in the database.

OCLC FirstSearch
(<http://www2.oclc.org/oclc/fs/fstitle/index.asp>)

FirstSearch ECO (Electronic Collection Online), which was developed by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), a pioneer of digital libraries, contains a variety of electronic journals from many reputable commercial publishers (55 companies as of August 2000). It offers a unified web-based interface for searching seamlessly through the service's massive database. Like JSTOR, FirstSearch ECO is widely used in academic libraries throughout the world. It covers a wide range of journals from humanities/social sciences to medical/biology and engineering, including the full text of more than 2,500 journals. Perhaps more importantly for most users, FirstSearch can display local holdings information for any of the nearly 120,000 titles it indexes.



jake

(<http://jake.med.yale.edu/docs/about.html>)

This freely accessible database is useful for users who wish to know whether or not a particular title has been published or indexed online. As the number of e-journals available on the Internet continues to increase daily, maintaining an up-to-date list of electronic journals is impossible. Even librarians find it difficult to identify those titles accessible on the Internet, let alone the average user. Developed at Yale University, jake (Jointly Administered Knowledge Environment) facilitates efficient management and access to electronic journals by indexing difficult-to-track electronic "metadata," such as the locations of online citation and full text databases for particular journals. jake aggregates information from both public and private/commercial online journal publishers (as of August 2000, 194 databases), effectively functioning as searchable "database of databases." It also offers a way to create customized electronic journal management tools and direct links to URLs.

J-STAGE

(<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/>)

Perhaps realizing that Japanese electronic journal information technology lags significantly behind that in the U.S. and in other Western countries, the Japanese government has come to support the development of digital libraries as a national effort. J-STAGE (Japan Science and Technology Aggregator, Electronic) is a cooperative project developed by the Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST) and the National Institute of Informatics (NII) to assist and streamline the entire process of digital jour-

nal publication in scientific and technological fields, including submitting manuscripts, reviewing submissions, editing articles, and disseminating journals. Recognizing the importance of using the English language to disseminate information overseas, the system roughly converts Japanese manuscripts into English and performs other highly "value-added" services. Although the number of titles included in this database is comparatively limited (20 journals as of August 2000), the service provides free access to all users in the hope of increasing the number of participating journals and ultimately promoting academic communication and international competition in the scientific community.

NACSIS Sokuho: Current Contents of Academic Serials in Japan

(www.nacsis.ac.jp/sokuho)

Many academic libraries struggle to manage their collections of non-commercial publications such as *kiyo* (institutional bulletins), *hokokusho* (reports), and *nenpo* (annual reports). As the Japanese expression goes, "Nothing is more expensive than something which is free." The serial management process, including serial check-in, storage, and providing access, involves tremendous costs. In addition, many in academia do not regard *kiyo* highly because the majority of *kiyo* articles are non-refereed. As a result, library administrators have enthusiastically supported the recent trend towards publishing *kiyo* and other non-commercial publications in electronic format rather than paper format. NACSIS Sokuho is an indispensable tool for locating and tracking such non-commercial publications, for which bibliographic and holdings information is notoriously difficult to

find. Each participating institution contributes its own institutional publications into the NACSIS Sokuho database. As of this writing, the number of participating Japanese academic institutions and departments exceeds 500 and the number of titles included in the database exceeds 2,870.

Online Journals

(http://ambitious.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/online_journal/)

Online Journals, created by Hokkaido University Library, is a useful reference tool for checking the availability of both Japanese and Western journals on the Internet. As of June 2000, the list contains links to 8,377 titles (6,821 foreign, 1,556 Japanese), arranged both in alphabetical order and in Japanese syllable order. Clicking on a letter in the simple index produces a list of Japanese titles that link to the NACSIS Sokuho database mentioned above. For Western journals, it links to the publishers' URLs that provide table of contents. Also, holdings information for many Japanese libraries in the NACSIS WebCat database can be accessed by clicking on the highlighted "HOLD" icon next to each listing.

The world of electronic journal publication is evolving at an extraordinary pace. The growth of electronic journals has impacted and altered not only the concept of journal collection but also the essential services of academic libraries. Even in this age of revolutionary changes in information technology, the future of this new type of journal deserves particular attention in order to provide better library services to our patrons.

