

Korea's Overseas Information Service. Both of these resources can be adapted for use at any level. The material was converted for presentation via the WWW and can also be downloaded for duplication. *Approaches to Teaching About Korea*, from the East Asia Curriculum Project at Columbia, is an excellent resource geared for teachers who want to include Korea into a larger curriculum unit on East Asia.

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) has begun to make its resources available via the WWW. The East Asian Studies Center at IU is providing this service for the AAS. Newsletters, publication brochures, job listings, AAS annual meeting programs, and other announcements and news from the field are made available here. In addition, publications associated with the AAS annual meeting are reproduced in full text, such as the *Abstracts of the Annual Meeting*, which contains the abstracts from all of the papers that were presented at the annual meeting.

The services and resources available through Indiana University's Server for East Asian Languages and Cultures are intended to promote and assist the teaching and study of East Asia at all levels. If you have access to the WWW, please browse through the available material and offer feedback as to how they can be improved, what works best for you, or what you would like to see added. ■

**The EASC can be contacted at:**  
Phone: (812) 855-3765;  
e-mail: [easc@indiana.edu](mailto:easc@indiana.edu);  
or on the WWW at:  
<http://www.easc.indiana.edu>.

#### NOTES

1. The World Wide Web is an interface to the Internet that allows for multimedia presentation. It links computers so that files can be accessed from around the globe as if they were all on one computer. A computer that has been configured to distribute files over the Internet or WWW is referred to as a server.
2. Internet refers to a global network similar to the phone system (via cables and satellites) that allows computers to link and transfer data at high speeds.
3. Software by which a computer can access text and multimedia in a WWW format is referred to as a browser. Netscape and Mosaic are popular multimedia browsers.

## Media Materials for Education About Japan and Asia

By Jackson H. Bailey

### PART ONE

#### The Earlham College Institute for Education on Japan

**T**he Earlham College Institute for Education on Japan was established in 1986 to provide administrative structure for the growing work of the College with K-12 educators, college faculty and students, and business and civic groups in need of information about Japan and other parts of Asia. The Institute and its affiliates provide resources, advice, and consultation to a wide variety of groups and individuals. One of the affiliates, The Japan Study Program of the Great Lakes Colleges Association/Associated Colleges of the Midwest, serves as the resource agent for a faculty and student exchange program, organizes faculty development seminars, and provides liaison service for member colleges with institutions and individuals in Japan. The Institute publishes a series of Occasional Papers which make current research in Japanese society and culture and a variety of teaching materials on Japan available to a diverse audience. These materials include essays on the economy of Japan, social relations, aesthetic and ethical values, the geography/geology of Japan, and Japan's international relations. A brochure listing the Papers may be obtained from the Institute, and the pamphlets are available for nominal cost.

For more than 25 years, Earlham has maintained a major lending library of media materials on Japan. Some of the films have Japanese language sound tracks. Others with an English track provide a visual record of Japan's post-war development. Many introduce various facets of Japanese history and culture.

#### The Earlham Media Production Group (MPG)

With the emergence of video, computer, and CD-ROM technology in the late 80s and 90s, the College has pioneered in the development of new media resources for teaching about Japan. In 1991, the Media Production Group (MPG) was established as an affiliate of the Institute for Education on Japan with a working relationship with the National Institute of Multimedia Education in Chiba, Japan. MPG is a binational partnership that brings together media and Japan Studies professionals to produce and distribute media materials related to Japan and Asia. MPG is dedicated to producing first-quality television and video for teaching about Japan and its role in the world. A new series of half-hour broadcast programs has been designed called *Japan: Resources for Understanding*. Earlham College holds North American broadcast rights and all non-broadcast distribution rights outside of Japan. The series is being broadcast on regional PBS outlets throughout the U.S. Five documentaries have been completed, and a sixth on the development of agriculture in post-war Japan will be completed by the spring of 1996. One-half inch VHS videos of these programs are available from the Institute for \$35 each plus \$4 shipping and handling. Each program is accompanied by a study guide which contains viewing notes and essays by leading authorities, Japanese and American.

*Japan: Resources for Understanding* fills a gap in what is available for teaching about Japan. It focuses on the variety in contemporary Japanese life in contrast to the stereotypical presentations of Tokyo salary men as if they were all there is to understanding Japan. The MPG program *Neighborhood Tokyo* with its accompanying study guide is being used in high school and college classes in conjunction with Theodore Bestor's prize-winning book of the same name (Stanford Univ.

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Press, 1989). MPG's two programs, *As Iwate Goes: Is Politics Local?* and *As Iwate Goes: Is Culture Local?*, are being similarly used with Jackson Bailey's study of *Tanohata: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives* (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 1991).

A series of studio conversations with Japan Studies specialists called *Voices of Experience* is also available on 1/2" VHS video. This series of nine includes a discussion of urban life with Ted Bestor, author of *Neighborhood Tokyo*, Takie Lebra discussing her recently published study of Japanese nobility, *Above the Clouds*, William Kelly on regionalism in Japan, and, soon to be completed, Bob Smith and Ella Wiswell on Suye Mura and *The Women of Suye Mura*.

MPG has also produced teaching tapes to introduce traditional Japanese music and musical instruments. MPG's *Japanese Koto Music: Old and New* has been selected by McGraw-Hill, Inc. for national distribution along with the new edition of its major text *Music: An Appreciation*. The 37 minute 1/2" VHS tape is available from the Institute for Education on Japan for \$35 plus \$4 shipping and handling. A second teaching tape on Japanese vocal and instrumental music will be ready for distribution by the end of 1995.

MPG has arranged with Dr. John Nathan of the University of California, Santa Barbara, to reissue his acclaimed film trilogy *The Japanese* (Full Moon Lunch, The Blind Swordsman, and Farm Song) on 1/2" VHS cassettes. These hour-long documentaries are available through the Earlham Institute for Education on Japan for \$75 plus \$4 shipping and handling. A brochure describing the MPG materials and services can be obtained from the Earlham Institute office.

#### The Earlham Center For Educational Media (CEM)

With the explosion of video and other media materials on Japan in the 1990s, the challenge has become, not to have and hold the materials in a single location, but to organize and make widely accessible, information about what is available, where to find it, and how to acquire it. To meet this need, in 1992 Earlham established the

Center for Educational Media (CEM) as an affiliate of the Institute for Education on Japan. Funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, CEM was originally designed to be a database/national clearinghouse for media materials related to Japan. In 1995-96 the scope of its work is being expanded to include materials on other parts of Asia. The services are accessible by phone, fax, regular mail, and e-mail, and CEM is "on-line" on the Internet through its Home Page <http://www.earlham.edu/~cem>. The e-mail address for CEM is [cem@earlham.edu](mailto:cem@earlham.edu).

CEM publishes a twice yearly newsletter which is distributed free of charge in print form and is available as hypertext with computer on-line access. The newsletter contains information about new technology and reviews of new or especially worthy media materials.

Two CEM initiatives are being designed to experiment with new media. An experimental, interactive CD-ROM is being developed, and we are designing a project to deal with the growing problem of how to keep up with the plethora of media material on Asia now being produced—some good, some bad, some indifferent.

The CD-ROM project, being developed cooperatively with the PBS affiliate KCTS-Seattle, will demonstrate the potential of this medium to convert archived video material into a usable, accessible interactive form for teaching about Asia. Frankly experimental, this CD-ROM will sample the KCTS-NHK-Hawaii PBS archive from the weekly show *Asia Now*. Such video and film archives represent a significant resource for educators teaching about Asia. Problems of copyright and production costs represent serious challenges. CEM and KCTS have joined to make this experimental interactive CD-ROM as a first-step in demonstrating the potential inherent in such archives for teachers and students, K-12 and in higher education. Inquiries about the CD-ROM should be addressed to CEM at Earlham College.

The other CEM initiative will establish a review service for media materials on Asia drawing on the interest and expertise of volunteer teachers/scholars who are

actively teaching and doing research related to Asia. The challenge is enormous, but the need is widely felt, and CEM has been encouraged to make a start.

The CEM Asia Media Review Service will recruit a small group to begin reviewing new and standard media teaching materials on Asia in much the same way as *Choice* magazine provides its reviews of print materials for undergraduate libraries. Items will be procured from producers/publishers in return for copies of the reviews. The reviews will then be accessed on-line and in print as a CEM service. The reviewer receives the item as a "reward" for doing the review. A cadre of volunteers is now being recruited. Those interested in working with the project should send a resume to CEM at Earlham College. We hope to have the first reviewers selected and the first reviews available in print and on-line in the spring of 1996.

A brochure describing CEM and its services is available from the CEM office.

#### PART TWO

##### The Asian Educational Resource Center and CEM

The Earlham Institute for Education on Japan, through its affiliate, the Center for Educational Media, has joined the Education Department of The Asia Society to help establish a coordinated web of databases which provide information and resources for teaching about Asia. In the spring of 1995, The Asia Society established the Asian Educational Resource Center (AERC), a three-part, five-year initiative designed to address nationally the need for information about Asia, and to integrate that work with ongoing local classroom work which too often is unrecognized and isolated. One part of the AERC, AskAsia, will be coordinating the integration of a web-site for existing databases. CEM has given leadership to the AskAsia initiative, demonstrating that, given the new technology, physical location in New York of such integrative, coordinating sites is not only uneconomical, it is not necessary. The new media environment makes decentralization obvious and more productive than the old

way of centralization. This new initiative provides a "win-win" opportunity for all database operators. They can join the web without losing local control and initiative. The web becomes mutually supportive of the work of all of us, since in this coordinated effort, the respective home pages of each database point inquirers to other resources and databases, as well as opening up on-line access to our own. This structure will economize on the use of scarce funding resources by avoiding duplication of function and content while maximizing the spread of knowledge about the availability of a variety of resources. Out of it can come a productive, non-threatening division of labor as we struggle to deal efficiently with the flood of information that deluges us. Information about the AskAsia Web can be obtained from the Education Department of The Asia Society in New York:

Telephone: 212-288-6400  
fax: 212-517-8315 or  
CEM at Earlham College  
Telephone: 317-983-1288  
fax: 317-983-1553  
e-mail: [cem@earlham.edu](mailto:cem@earlham.edu).

Teaching about Asia in K-12 and in higher education has become a necessity. Materials available are of mixed quality and spotty in coverage. Through its affiliates, CEM and MPG, the Earlham Institute for Education on Japan is glad to be able to join The Asia Society's AERC to address these growing needs cooperatively at both the national level and at the classroom and grassroots levels.

The Earlham Institute and its affiliates, CEM and MPG, are delighted to be a part of this growing network of information and service providers associated with the AAS in its new publication, *Education About Asia*. We look forward to serving the needs of its readers. ■

COMING SOON IN  
**EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA**  
Case Study Resources  
on Asian Economic Problems  
High School Teachers on the  
World History Standards  
Mistaken Stereotypes Westerners  
Have About China  
... and MUCH MORE!

## Japan and the Internet

By Judith S. Ames



Figure 1: A Usenet page

It was only a few years ago that the Internet was solely the domain of scientists, academics, and others wishing to exchange often arcane information with others in their community. No longer is this so; the Internet, long unknown to the general public, has made inroads into virtually every area of our lives, and with the emergence of the World Wide Web, commerce and industry have begun to take advantage of this powerful form of communication. In this context, too, the sites on the Internet where one can learn about Japan have proliferated and are offering information of almost unlimited variety.

Most members of a university faculty have easy access to the Internet. It is only during the last few years, however, that those outside the university are able to join the Internet. There are commercial services such as America Online, Prodigy, CompuServe, or the growing number of Internet providers like NetCom or PSI, so that anyone with a computer and a modem can be part of the Internet.

This article will focus on information

about Japan on the Internet. Never before has there been so much information available via the computer in one's home or office, and consequently, there is now a bounty of information about Japan that one can easily access through the Internet. Because of this abundance of information, we will only deal with Internet newsgroups, mailing lists, gopher searches, and the World Wide Web, omitting features such as Internet Relay Chat (IRC), Telnet, and File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

#### Usenet Groups

The Usenet consists of thousands of quasi bulletin boards, or newsgroups, each focusing on a theme of common interest. In a Usenet group one can both read what others are saying and post one's own messages or queries.

JUDITH S. AMES is currently Director of All Aboard, a company specializing in computer and on-line services. She was formerly associated with the Japan Society in New York.