

**THE AUSTRALIA-JAPAN FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIAN RESOURCE CENTRE
MULTI-MEDIA ENVIRONMENT AND OUR SERVICE-**

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What we are

The Australia-Japan Foundation (AJF) is a cultural organ of the Australian Government and is operated with Australian Government funding. The AJF was established in 1976 to promote exchange and deepen mutual understanding between Australia and Japan. The Head Office is in the Australian Embassy, Tokyo, and the Secretariat Office is located in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Canberra. The Australian Government has established bilaterally focused organisations, including the AJF, to engage with those nations which have particularly close relations with Australia, like Japan, China, and Indonesia, to promote cultural and educational exchanges. One of the activities of the AJF is to operate the Australian Resource Centre (ARC).

The ARC was established at the same time as the parent organisation, AJF, Tokyo, in 1980.

The Centre specialises in providing the general public with an extensive range of books and documents on a wide range of subjects on Australia both in English and in Japanese. It is the only specialised library of its kind in Japan that allows the general public to view and borrow material from its collections.

The Collection:

8,000	monograph
150	periodicals
3	newspapers
100	maps
300	music CDs
1,000	videos
120	CD-ROMs
	statistics, and Japanese-language academic theses on Australia

Although the number of visitors to the ARC tends to fluctuate throughout the year, an average of 1,000 people visits the library each month. An average of 280 books is lent out monthly. We also respond to 1,200 enquiries, by telephone, facsimile, mail and e-mail each month. Main users are university students and/or higher degree candidates, but also we have users from primary school children, who want to learn about Australia in general, to elderly people.

The ARC employs a Senior Librarian and a Research Librarian, in addition to a part-time employee who is responsible for retroactive data input of the these/reports for the full-text search system.

Opening hours are from 10:00am to 5:30 Monday to Friday.

Multi-media environment

1) The introduction of a full-text search and document management system

We installed a Teijin System Technology program, 'My Quick', for full text searches and document management. We can now create electronic versions of Japanese-language theses/reports on Australia (including colour photographs). The software is of excellent quality; searches take only seconds, and data entry is also simple.

As of 1 July 1999, we have offered a search facility for bibliographical data on the homepage on the Net using this 'My Quick'. There were 360 requests out of 870 data entries from the Internet users and visitors between July and December 1999. We had previously received the consent from each author that we could store their theses/reports in digitised format in our server. We are convinced that this service was favourably received by Japanese users, who seek academic materials on Australia. The subjects, which were requested by users, were (Top 10): Multicultural Sociology, Aborigines, Education, Sociology, Economics, Politics, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Environment, and Labour.

There are not enough books available on Australia in Japanese published and sold in the market; therefore, these theses/reports are very important materials for the users. The ARC is in the process of entering data to enable full text searches at some stage.

2) On-line borrowing

It was necessary for the ARC to establish its own Intranet outside the limited Embassy network to achieve our objective of making the ARC a truly multi-media service in which clients could have free use of the Internet and CD-ROMs in the ARC.

A resource management system that enables researches of materials and lending services via our Internet homepage.

The ARC aims to provide its service equally to all people. Consequently, we offer a system that enable people to access the database through the Internet and borrow books by e-mail. This enabled us to extend our service to the disabled, the elderly and those who live in remote regions. Books are sent by courier and the borrower pay only the transport costs.

Using the Internet, the new database enables searches of our collections and requests to borrow books have become even simpler. In other words, we have created a system that is similar to on-line shopping.

3) CD-ROMs and Internet

A CD-ROM changer allows immediate access via the computer desktop to our CD-ROM collection. We also installed two computers to enable ARC clients to access the Internet in the RC.

Promotion for the Resource Centre and Australia

1) Visitors

We have initiated a program to regularly and proactively encourage individuals and groups to visit the ARC. Under this program so far we have received high school students from all over Japan, Tokyo-stationed Australian related institutions such as State Government Representative Offices, State Tourism Organisations, private companies, and major media representatives, representatives from member libraries of the Japan Specialist Library Association, which has a membership that includes the information centres of major corporations, NGOs and various foundations, including American Centre, and the Japan Foundation, and local community groups.

2) Salon Seminars

In addition, we have been also conducting a seminar series called the 'Salon Seminar' with guest speakers on areas of current interest. At the beginning of the Seminar, the Director of the AJF gives a presentation of 'current topics'. This is aimed to serve as a vehicle to gain greater understanding of current issues in Australia, and beyond the main theme of the seminar, to encourage people to take wider perspective of changing Australia.

We have had the Seminars so far on 'After the Election in October? Current Political situation in Australia' by Dr Teruhiko Fukushima, Assistant Professor of Obirin University in Nov 98; Sydney Writer's Festival and poems by the world-renowned Poet, Mr Shuntaro Tanikawa in Feb 99; 'The Australia-Japan Relationship: Australian images, Japanese images' by Dr Rikki Kersten, then visiting researcher, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo in April 99; 'Who is managing and protecting Australia's Indigenous Heritage' by Ms Chrissy Grant, Director, Indigenous Heritage Section, Australian Heritage Commission and Leona Landers, Executive Officers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, Images of Australia Branch, DFAT and Aboriginal Story Teller, Mr Herb Wharton in June 99; 'Australian Wine' by Mr Akihiro Hirosaki, Tokyo Cookery Academy in Oct 99; and 'Miracle? Australian Economy' by Professor Takeshi Mori of Dokkyo University in Feb 2000.