Abstract

Increased internet usage, especially of the World Wide Web, has significantly changed our lives in the past decade. The internet has become an essential tool for a variety of activities, including the teaching and learning of foreign languages. Foreign language educators have recognized this, and now use the internet as a resource for language learning. It functions both as a vast source of information, and as a means to connect with other speakers of the target language.

This paper investigates, evaluates, and classifies useful sites for Japanese-language education, so as to introduce them to Japanese-language teachers and learners. The key words used for the web-searches were 1) 日本語教育 (Japanese-language Education)   2) 日本語教材 (Japanese-language teaching materials) 3) 日本語学習 (Japanese-language learning) 4) ภาษาญี่ปุ่น (Japanese language) and 5) วัฒนธรรมญี่ปุ่น (Japanese culture). Using advanced web search options, a very specific search, limited to the following criteria was conducted:

1. Only Websites that have keyword in the title of the page

2. Only Websites that are HTML files.

3. Only Websites written in Japanese or Thai language.

Based on the above criteria, the author found 94 useful sites on Japanese-language education and culture. The sites can be roughly divided into 76 sites for Japanese-language education, and 18 sites that can increase awareness and understanding of Japanese culture. The site for Japanese-language education is subdivided into the following eight categories. 1) Characters, 2) Vocabulary and phrases, 3) Grammar, 4) Conversation, 5) Practice and quizzes, 6) Reading comprehension, 7) Study tools, and 8) Teaching materials. The sites on Japanese culture cover both cultural issues, as well as a Japanese language study guides.