A System for Exploring NDLSH and LCSH Headings

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Abstract

Searching for foreign language books is difficult since it is more complicated to find appropriate foreign-language keywords than keywords in one’s native language. We present an approach that explores native- and foreign-language keywords and searches OPACs using them. We use the National Diet Library Subject Headings (NDLSH) and the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) as alternatives to keywords. The former are in Japanese, and the latter are in English. Users can explore connected headings, not only broader, narrower, and related terms but also other types of headings, including NDLSH and LCSH headings that are connected. The headings contained in searched books can also be connected. We developed a prototype system called Subject World on the Web that enables users to explore NDLSH and LCSH headings and to search in Osaka City University’s OPAC. Japanese-native users can explore NDLSH headings and find LCSH headings, and non-Japanese-native users can explore LCSH headings and find NDLSH headings to search and find both foreign and native books. We implemented our system using JavaScript and D3 so that it can be used by such general web browsers as Microsoft Edge, Chrome, and Safari. Our system is available to the public.

Features

- Open to public, so everybody can try it
- Users can explore NDLSH and LCSH headings and search in Osaka City University’s OPAC
- Japanese-native users can explore NDLSH headings and find LCSH headings, or non-Japanese-native users can explore LCSH headings and find NDLSH headings, to search for books published in both a foreign language and one’s own language

What users can do

- Keyword Search: Searching NDLSH and LCSH headings
- NDLSH Search: Searching Broader/Narrower/Related NDLSH headings
- LCSH Search: Searching Broader/Narrower/Related LCSH headings
- Book Search: Searching OCU OPAC
- Objects can be connected without limit
- NDLSH headings have LCSH numbers; NDLSH and LCSH headings can be linked to each other

NDLSH: Downloaded from NDL Website
LCSH: Using LCSH Linked Data Service

Search Example

(1) Keyword Search (LCSH) “comic” → LCSH “Comic books, strips, etc.”
(2) Book Search “Comic books, strips, etc.” → books and an OPAC window
(3) NDLSH Search “Comic books, strips, etc.” → NDLSH “漫画”
(4) Book Search “漫画” → books and an OPAC window
(5) NDLSH Search “漫画” → NDLSH headings
(6) LCSH Search “キャラクター” → LCSH headings
(7) LCSH Search “Cartoon characters” → LCSH headings

Let’s Try!

http://murakami.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/subjectworld/