

2016

## Wandering the Web--Exploring Information of Japanese Americans' Experiences in Internment Camps during World War II

Tadayuki Suzuki  
*State University of New York*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

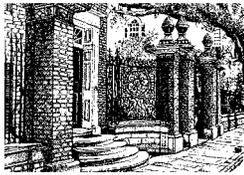
### Recommended Citation

Suzuki, Tadayuki (2016) "Wandering the Web--Exploring Information of Japanese Americans' Experiences in Internment Camps during World War II," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 28: Iss. 1, Article 39.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7297>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries.  
Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

Subscribe to **The Charleston ADVISOR Today!**

6180 East Warren Avenue • Denver, CO 80222  
Phone: 303-282-9706 • Fax: 303-282-9743



# The Charleston ADVISOR

Critical Reviews of Web Products for Information Professionals

*"The Charleston Advisor serves up timely editorials and columns, standalone and comparative reviews, and press releases, among other features. Produced by folks with impeccable library and publishing credentials ...[t]his is a title you should consider..."*

— *Magazines for Libraries*, eleventh edition, edited by Cheryl LaGuardia with consulting editors Bill Katz and Linda Sternberg Katz (Bowker, 2002).

- Over 750 reviews now available
- Web edition and database provided with all subscriptions
- Unlimited IP filtered or name/password access
- Full backfile included
- Comparative reviews of aggregators featured
- Leading opinions in every issue

**\$295.00 for libraries**  
**\$495.00 for all others**

**Yes! Enter My Subscription For One Year.**  Yes, I am Interested in being a Reviewer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Wandering the Web — Exploring Information of Japanese Americans' Experiences in Internment Camps during World War II



by **Tadayuki Suzuki, Ph.D.** (State University of New York (SUNY) College at Cortland)

Column Editor: **Jack G. Montgomery** (Professor, Coordinator, Collection Services, Western Kentucky University Libraries)  
<jack.montgomery@wku.edu>

**Author's Note:** *When you explore the stories of Japanese Americans, you may notice that many stories narrate their experiences in internment camps during World War II (WWII). Although America is a country that consists of immigrants primarily from Europe, many Americans are in general not familiar with how Asians, for instance Japanese, immigrated to the U. S. and how they were historically treated by others in this country. When I pointed out this issue in my graduate course one day, many students reluctantly agreed with my comments.*

*Although many teachers and teacher trainees tend to show a discomfort with using multicultural stories in their instruction due to their unfamiliarity with the cultural contexts in the stories, their use helps stretch their comfort zones and enrich their cultural perspectives as educators. Therefore, teachers and librarians should also be familiar with multicultural stories with a variety of ethnic groups. Although no quick solution exists for this agenda, exploring specialized Websites during and after reading a story, and gaining more specific information about a particular topic help readers build more accurate knowledge and understanding of the topic. I recently had opportunities to explore some of the Websites related to Japanese Americans during WWII. Below is the list of Websites that I recently explored. — TS*

**T**hese Websites are especially useful when teachers plan extension and/or application activities after reading related stories with their students. The following Websites were selected based on the quality and accuracy of information.

### Experiences of Japanese Americans in Internment Camps during World War II

**The Children of the Camps: The Documentary** — <http://www.pbs.org/childofcamp/> — is owned by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). The documentary portrays the personal stories of six Japanese American children during WWII. The documentary was directed by **Dr. Satsuki Ina**, who was born in the Tule Lake Internment Camp. She guided former child internees from Japanese ancestry for about ten years. This documentary was broadcasted from April 1999 to April 2000. DVD and VHS versions are now available for purchase. You will be able to find specific information about the overview of the documentary, the background information about the participants and filmmakers, and the viewers' guide and reviews from the audience on the Website.

**Welcome to the Denshō Website** — <http://www.densho.org> — Denshō is the term originally derived from a Japanese word, which means "pass on the truths to the next generation." This Legacy Project

*continued on page 76*

was organized in 1996 and its purpose was to disseminate the voice of Japanese Americans who were unfairly incarcerated during WWII due to their ancestry. The Website consists of six sections: (1) Home, (2) Causes of the Incarceration, (3) Learning Center, (4) Denshō Archive, (5) Other Resources, and (6) About Denshō. Learning Center is the Denshō's curriculum modules. These multidisciplinary lessons help students from upper elementary levels to undergraduate levels learn about the historical overview of Japanese Americans' experiences in the internment camps.

### Oral History and Digital Resources for Instruction

**A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution** — <http://amhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/experience/index.html> — is owned by the **Smithsonian National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center**. This Website consists of five sections: (1) Story Experience, (2) Reflections, (3) Collection Search, (4) Resources, and (5) Credits. A former NBC journalist, **John William Chancellor**, provides the historical overview in the introduction. You can choose to either listen to or read it. The photographs are grouped into six categories such as Immigration, Removal, Internment, Loyalty, Service, and Justice. In Reflections, you can read reactions from others and also post your own responses, which is one of the unique characteristics of this Website.

**Calisphere: Japanese American Relocation Digital Achieves** — <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/jarda/> — owned by the **University of California**, offers the information related to the cultures and history of California. Under this Website, you will find the background information and timeline about the Japanese Americans during WWII, primary sources such as photographs with historical context, and lesson plans that particularly target grades 4-12. The lesson plans are created based on the personal experience of Estelle Ishigo, the European artist and wife of a Japanese American who was forced out of California with her husband together. The primary sources consist of four different categories such as People, Places, Daily Life, and Personal Experiences.

**Digital Collections** — <http://content.lib.washington.edu/socialweb/> — is owned by the **University of Washington**. All of the digital collections are listed under the Society and Culture Collection. Although the images cover extensive political, social, and culture topics related to Native Americans, Chinese Americans, the Washington State Government, Labor, Original Artworks, Outdoor Activities, and Performing Arts, pertaining to Japanese Americans, the lives of Camp Harmony (Puyallup) and Minidoka (Idaho) are especially focused on this site. One of the unique characteristics of this Website is that the lives of Japanese American students in the **University of Washington**, children in the camps, and Japanese Canadian's internment issues are also described with the digital images. Digital images are powerful literacy instructional tools especially for primary and intermediate grade level students. They can also compare and contrast them with other text features from picture books and informational texts.

**Our Story American History Stories and Activities You can Do Together** — <http://amhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/internment/> — is also owned by the **Smithsonian National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center**. Approximately twenty-three topics are listed under Activities. Under Life in a Japanese American Internment Camp, you will find a brief historical overview and the list of the bibliography. Bibliographic information includes not only the topics, appropriate age groups, and publishers of the books but also the types of the books and the awards that these books were granted in the past. This Website helps you locate some of the well-known picture books related to Japanese Americans' experiences in the internment camps.

**Telling Our Stories: Oral History Achieves Project** — <http://www.tellingstories.org> — provides you with five different oral histories such as (1) Stories of the Civil Rights Era, (2) Holocaust Survivors and Refugees, (3) Liberators and Witnesses to Genocide, (4) Japanese American Internees, and (5) Fillmore Redevelopment and Dislocation. The Website is owned by the **Urban School of San Francisco**. Under the Japanese American Internees, you will find twelve Japanese-Americans' oral histories based on their experiences in the internment camps. Each

of the interviews were conducted and transcribed by local high school students in the **Urban School District of San Francisco**. The project is operated by local students, teachers, and community volunteers. Exploring and analyzing oral histories by these twelve Japanese Americans will work as efficacious extension and/ or application activities after reading related stories.

### Memorials for Japanese Americans

**Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)** — <http://www.jacl.org> — is known as the oldest national civil rights organization for Japanese Americans in the U.S. The primary purpose of this organization is to protect the human rights of the Japanese ancestry and maintain the history and legacy of Japanese Americans. This Website also emphasizes fairness, equity, and social justice for Japanese Americans. Information regarding Japanese Americans' experiences in the internment camps exists under the Education section, and you will also find the historical information, the map of the internment camps, the Exclusion Order, and the summary of the Constitutional Rights violations. The JACL periodically offers teacher workshop trainings, publish educational resources, and also offer scholarships to qualified students. The information on this site is targeted for teachers and leaders in society rather than students.

**Japanese American National Museum (JANM)** — <http://www.janm.org> — The primary purpose of the JANM is to disseminate the history and experiences of Japanese Americans during WWII to others so that they could appreciate the uniqueness and the diversity of the Japanese Ancestry that exist in the U.S. The JANM collaborated with teachers and communities and developed instructional tools and materials for teaching children the true meanings of democracy based on the Japanese Americans' experiences in the internment camps during WWII. The JANM also offers teachers pre-visit educator workshops before they bring students to the museum. This professional development workshop facilitates not only teachers' learning about the history and experiences of Japanese Americans but also their students' interactive learning experiences when they visit the museum.

### Teaching Resources

**Japanese-American Internment During World War II** — <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/internment/> — this Website exists under the Primary Source Sets in the **Library of Congress**. In this Website, you will find many primary sources, such as photographs of the **President Roosevelt** signing the declaration of war against Japan and the Civilian Exclusion Order 5, teacher's guide and analysis tools and supplementary instructional guides as well as ones for other major historical events in the U.S. The resources for education are especially targeted for both pre-service teacher students and in-service teachers when they plan history lessons. The primary sources can be employed as authentic instructional materials for teaching students any academic subjects at any grade levels.

**National Achieve: Teaching With Documents: Documents and Photographs Related to Japanese Relocation During World War II** — <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/japanese-relocation/> — The **U.S. National Archives and Records Administration** offers the information regarding Japanese Americans' incarcerations during WWII under Teachers' Resources. The lesson resources consist of five sections: (1) The Documents, (2) Standards Correlations, (3) Teaching Activities, (4) Document Analysis Worksheet, and (5) Our Documents. com. As one of the unique characteristics, you will find the photocopy of the final report of Japanese Americans' evacuation from the West Coast and the transcript of Executive Order 9066 by **President Franklin Roosevelt**, February 19, 1942.

**Letters from Japanese American Internment** — [http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson\\_plans/japanese\\_internment/](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/japanese_internment/) — is owned by the **Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access (SCLDA)**. In this Website, letters written to **Miss Clara Breed** by Japanese American children and her responses to them are used for teaching history during World War II. **Miss Breed** was a librarian at the **San Diego Public Library** from 1929 to 1945. It is believed that she distributed stamped and addressed postcards to Japanese American children, asking them to write to her and describe their lives in camp. The resources on this Website can be used when teachers plan to teach reading and writing as well as U.S. history. Teachers and librarians may

*continued on page 77*

## Back Talk from page 78

fell modestly to 60%, but added members from 44 other countries. At present, 175 consortia are fully represented on the ICOLC Website with descriptions of their functions. Numbers fluctuate somewhat as some groups do fade in purpose, while others consolidate and combine. Consortia are also very different creatures from one another, depending on focus and extent. The largest has almost 1,000 members; most have a few to a few dozen.

As ICOLC nears its 20th, it faces a significant transition. **Tom Sanville**, after his move to **Lyrasis** a few years back, retired at the end of 2014, and ICOLC representatives are depending more than ever on the volunteer efforts of colleagues in the group. After a series of participatory structural discussions online and at the Albany (April 2015) and Oslo (October 2015) meetings, a coordinating committee of nine members (currently **Rick Burke**, **Teresa Costa**, **Celeste Feather**, **Kirsten Leonard**, **Craig Olsvik**, **Ann Okerson**, **Anne Osterman**, **Kjell Tjensvoll**, and **Glenn Truran**) is providing and divvying up the sorts of roles that were previously handled by **Tom**. Emphasis and discussion are shifting into areas such as eBooks, discovery, currency fluctuation, promoting ICOLC outreach and partnerships. We are learning not only how challenging it is to replace **Tom** (seems to take a village!) but also about the effort required to minimize organizational weight and bureaucracy, to remain the light-weight and productive organization of the past 19 years.

We invite you to learn more about this remarkable, sometimes under-the-radar group and if you are in a library, to support actively your consortial leaders. If you're an information or service provider, keep us in mind for conversations and possible partnerships. And if you staff a consortium focused on providing the best possible service to your libraries, please join us — be prepared to work for the benefit of libraries everywhere.

### Recommendations for further reading:

ICOLC Website: <http://icolc.net>

ICOLC in Wikipedia, by **Ann Okerson** and **Kathy Perry**: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Coalition\\_of\\_Library\\_Consortia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Coalition_of_Library_Consortia)

ICOLC overview article by **Celeste Feather**. "The International Coalition of Library Consortia: origins, contributions, and path forward: <http://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.260/> 🌳

## Wandering the Web from page 76

use all of the letters and lesson plans for any grade levels, but most of the instructional tools and suggestions are more appropriate for primary graders than ones in intermediate and/or middle grade levels.

**Utah Education Network** — <http://www.uen.org/themepark/liberty/japanese.shtml> — offers some useful Web links for the information about Japanese Americans during WWII. The links are grouped into five categories (1) Places To Go, (2) People To See, (3) Things To Do, (4) Teacher Resources, and (5) Bibliography. The information on this Website is especially useful for people who cannot visit some of the sites and museums physically due to a long distance. Another unique characteristic is that this Website also describes German Americans and Italian Americans who were also placed in the U.S. internment camps during WWII.

### Ten Internment Camps for Japanese Americans during WWII

Ten internment camps existed in the U.S. during WWII. You will be able to access more specific information about each of these internment camps through clicking on the following Web links:

Amache, Colorado — <http://www.amache.org>

Gila River, Arizona — <http://www.bookmice.net/darkchilde/japan/gila.html>

Heart Mountain, Wyoming — <http://www.heartmountain.org>



**turpin**  
distribution

A 360° SERVICE DELIVERING  
GLOBAL FULFILMENT SOLUTIONS

**BOOK FULFILMENT**

At Turpin we understand the importance of providing a timely and efficient fulfilment service for your book customers. We support many thousands of customers throughout the global arena on a daily basis – to include key trade accounts, internet e-tailers, academic institutions and individuals. Core services include:

- Full EDI integration for key trade accounts
- Amazon Advantage programme compliant
- Bespoke P&A data feeds for improved product discoverability
- Comprehensive consolidation service for reduced shipping costs
- Dedicated key trade customer advisors
- Electronic delivery of all invoice and shipping documentation
- State-of-the-art warehouse management system providing real time access to stock levels

**SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT**

We can handle every aspect of the subscription fulfilment process for you, from order processing to claims handling, payment collection, renewal campaigns and label production and mailing.

We can support all types of subscription products and business models using multiple currency pricing and payment options. With over 40 years experience in the business we have developed extensive partnerships with subscription agents and online hosts to ensure there is a seamless transition from order to activation.

For more information about our services please contact Neil Castle or Bob Rooney and we will be delighted to discuss how Turpin can assist you with your print and digital distribution.

Neil Castle - Commercial Director - UK  
E: [Neil.Castle@turpin-distribution.com](mailto:Neil.Castle@turpin-distribution.com)  
T: +44 (0)1767 604868

Bob Rooney VP Publisher Relations - US  
E: [Robert.Rooney@turpin-distribution.com](mailto:Robert.Rooney@turpin-distribution.com)  
T: 001 860 318 5330

Jerome, Arkansas — [http://www.intheirwords.org/the\\_home\\_front\\_experience/internment\\_camps/jerome\\_internment\\_camp](http://www.intheirwords.org/the_home_front_experience/internment_camps/jerome_internment_camp)  
Manzanar, California — <http://www.nps.gov/manz/index.htm>  
Minidoka, Idaho — <http://www.nps.gov/miin/index.htm>  
Poston, Arizona — [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/anthropology74/ce10.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/anthropology74/ce10.htm)

Rohwer, Arkansas — [http://www.intheirwords.org/the\\_home\\_front\\_experience/internment\\_camps/rohwer\\_internment\\_camp](http://www.intheirwords.org/the_home_front_experience/internment_camps/rohwer_internment_camp)  
Topaz, Utah — <http://www.heartmountain.org>  
Tule Lake, California — <http://www.tulelake.org/history.html>

### Conclusion

Theses Websites are not a comprehensive collection of historical overviews and experiences of Japanese Americans' internment camps during WWII. Although the main focus of each Website somewhat varies, as one of the most important findings, I discovered that most of these sites offered the teaching tools, instructional materials and/or lesson plans regarding Japanese Americans during WWII.

A number of historical fictional stories describing their ancestry and experiences during WWII are widely available nowadays. However, we should not ignore the gap that exists between the information from these stories and the truths from each of the personal stories and experiences. Although eliminating the gap is almost impossible, through exploring these specialized Websites as an initial step, we may possibly narrow the gap and minimize the misunderstanding toward Japanese Americans and their history, rethink and reevaluate our own responsibility as the U.S. citizens and/or residents, and further educate ourselves as teachers and/or librarians. It goes without saying, expanding background knowledge about a particular topic such as Japanese Americans invariably helps us understand related stories better, and ultimately, it also helps us and our students understand the cultural, racial, and linguistic diversity that exists in this country further better in the future. 🌳