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### **Japanese Studies in the Internet age**

This paper reflects on the role that the Internet has come to play in our work as Japanese Studies researchers today. My basic arguments are simple: that the Internet, despite its reputation as an agent of globalisation, allows more convenient access to local knowledge than ever before, in the process undermining the notion that area studies are no longer important; that it rewards the advanced language proficiency which is the hallmark of the area studies researcher; and that it has become a major support in enhancing and enabling Japanese Studies research today by facilitating the task of finding information through advanced search capabilities and online portals.

Specifically, I consider four areas resulting from the adoption of Internet technology in Japanese Studies:

- a) the opening up of a new research field within Japanese Studies on Japanese uses of the Internet
- b) graduate student training
- c) reinforcement of the need for advanced language skills in the study of Japan
- d) the relationship between the Internet and fieldwork