

## Consult the Cat

by Shannon Roy, Editor

*I saw a Publib Discussion List Message the other day that caught my eye, possibly because I'm a former Missourian. It said that the St. Louis County Library had an Asian Center in their Daniel Boone Branch. It was designed to meet the needs of Asian immigrants and Asian-Americans in St. Louis County and to share information on Southeast Asia with all library users. The Asian Center can be found at <http://www.slcl.org/branches/ac/>.*



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I explored the website for the Asian Center and I was quite impressed with their programs and services. I think it would be a purrrfectly wonderful resource to have in all Kansas cities. However, the resource that seemed to have the most value for everyone was the page called Selected Asian Websites. This was a series of hotlinks that led to a wide variety of information on Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The web pages are not identical. They contain a variety of basic facts, cultural information, historical information, child-friendly pages and journalism. But it adds up to a wealth of available information on Southeast Asian nations.

Internet websites are often layered like Russian nesting dolls. When I opened the website on Japan I found an unbelievable collection of online resources on Japan and also on eighteen other Asian nations. I clicked on "Horses" and got a fascinating history of Japanese horsemanship.

Asia is not a part of the planet that I know very well, but here is a resource that provides a lot of accessible information about Asian nations. I bookmarked this site on my computer and made an effort to bookmark it in my brain. If I had been a professional reference librarian, I would have been REALLY delighted. This program at the St. Louis County Library certainly wins a purr from the

Cat.