

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 113, March2000



The USCAR Project at Archives II

Seven staff members of the National Diet Library of Japan (NDL) and the Okinawa Prefectural Archives (OPA) have been working for the USCAR (the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands, RG 260) Project at the Textual Research Room of the National Archives II in College Park, MD, USA, for over two years. They catalog the records which are then filmed and sent to the NDL and the OPA. This has been a challenging, but special experience for all of the staff because these records are related to their own history and will become an important part of Japan's historical heritage.

The Ryukyu Islands are located southwest of Japan, northeast of Taiwan and the Philippines. The chain of island is some 775 miles long and consists of 161 islands. Okinawa, the main island, is about 850 miles southwest of Tokyo. The island is sixty seven miles long and has a width ranging from three to ten miles. ([maps](#)) There are about 1.3 million people in the Ryukyu Islands, the majority living on Okinawa and the smaller surrounding islands. Before it became a prefecture of Japan, Okinawa was once an independent kingdom, the Kingdom of the Ryukyus. It prospered in the region, trading goods with Japan, China, Korea and Southeast Asia.

After the battle of Okinawa in 1945, the U. S. military ruled the Ryukyu Islands until 1950. In December 1950, all operational functions of the military government were transferred to the USCAR. During the Cold War Okinawa became a crucial link in a chain of bases in the Pacific and Far East. It remained under control of the USCAR until its reversion to Japan in 1972.

The NDL's Modern Japanese Political Documents Division has a microfilm collection that covers the records mainly related to WWII and the subsequent Japanese occupation period including the GHQ/SCAP (General Headquarters/Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers) records (RG331), the records of the U. S. Marine Corps in the Pacific War and the Department of the State. It also contains microfilms of many documents from the Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower libraries.

From 1978 to 1991, the NDL catalogued and microfilmed the GHQ/SCAP records. Now 30 million pages of the records are available in microfiche at the NDL and are highly valued by the public. While being engaged in the GHQ/SCAP project, the NDL also became interested in the USCAR records. But due to Executive Order No. 12356, which did not permit the National Archives to declassify records less than thirty years old, the USCAR microfilming project did not start until 1997.

The USCAR records have also been one of the major concerns of the Okinawa Prefectural Archives since its establishment in 1995. Although the OPA holds over 150,000 folders of

documents from the local government of the Ryukyu Islands under the U. S. administration, the history of Okinawa cannot be fully known without the USCAR records. Fortunately, in 1995 Executive Order No. 12958 allowed the declassification of the USCAR records. In December 1997 the NDL made an agreement with the OPA and NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) for a five-year joint project to catalog and microfilm the records.

The USCAR records consist of 4,144 boxes, which contain about 3.2 million pages of documents, divided into 16 series. They also include the records of the U. S. Military Government. Two NARA staff, Lyman Reid and Victor Johnson, are in charge of the USCAR Project. Mr. Reid pulls the records, screens them and prepares a list of the records. The NDL/OPA staff is made up of Tomoko Kitagawa, a reference librarian from the NDL, Kazuhiko Nakamoto, an archivist from the OPA, Shinji Fujishiro, Masako Stoehrer, Michiyo F. Parker, Reiko O. Medina, and Nami Tamres. They catalogue the records and input the necessary information into the database such as title, date, type of record, subject code, and keywords in English and Japanese. The database also identifies oversized documents, illegible documents, Japanese documents, contents lists, or withdrawal notices in the folder. The staff carefully tabs duplicated copies to avoid unnecessary filming. After they are catalogued, the records are moved to room 2007, where Mr. Johnson monitors the filming. He also unfastens the records with Yuri Kubota of Nichimy Co., a Japanese microfilm company, and when he finds any documents which require special care, he contacts the preservation staff to take necessary measures. Hiroyuki Asakawa and Shigeharu Matayoshi, from Nichimy Co., film the records, which Mr. Reid then refiles in the stacks.

By the end of February 2000, the NDL/OPA staff had catalogued 2,040 boxes of records and filmed 1,701 of them. Part of the microfilm collection and the database is already accessible at the NDL and the OPA. Based on the agreement between the NDL and NARA, the NDL provides NARA with microfilm of the records and when the project is completed, a copy of the database. So far, 489 reels of microfilm, which cover nine out of the sixteen series, have been donated to NARA. Over 2,000 boxes remain to be catalogued in the next two years.

National Diet Library: <http://www.ndl.go.jp>

Okinawa Prefectural Archives: <http://www.archives.pref.okinawa.jp>



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The Fourth JF–NDL Training Program for Japanese Studies Librarians

The Fourth Training Program for Japanese Studies Librarians was held for three weeks from January 17 through February 4, 2000, under joint sponsorship by the National Diet Library (NDL) and the Japan Foundation (JF).

Specialist librarians who work at libraries connected to overseas universities and research organizations where they are in charge of handling collections of books related to Japan were invited to Japan for training for the purpose of improving their bases for Japanese studies and provision on information on Japan.

Thirteen librarians came from the University of Pittsburgh East Asian Library, the University of Toronto Library, the University of London School of Oriental & African Studies Library, the British Library, the Institute of East Asian Studies (Lyon), the Duisburg University Institute for East Asian Studies, the Japanese–German Center of Berlin, the Vienna University Library for Japanese Studies, the Catholic University of Louvain, the National Library of Australia, the Embassy of Japan in the Arab Republic of Egypt Information & Culture Center, the Harbin Municipal Library and the National Library of Korea.



The NDL carried out a training program focused on materials about Japan: outlines of the NDL collection, reference service, acquisition, database retrieval, preservation. At the request of participants, training on the subject of cataloging of rare and old materials, Japanese newspapers, and Japanese laws translated into English were added as an option.

Some trainees gave talks at a workshop titled “Cooperation in Dissemination of Japanese Materials” held as a joint project with the International House of Japan on January 21, 2000. At the reception following the workshop, participating librarians exchanged opinions with the staff of Japanese related institutions. In February 2nd, the NDL held “Hearing on the training and exchange programs at the Kansai-kan (tentative name) of the National Diet Library”. Participants’ comments and suggestions and information on training programs abroad were useful for the NDL in planning library training.

The participants visited the National Center for Science Information Systems, the National

Archives of Japan, the Management and Coordination Agency Statistical Library, the National Institute of Japanese Literature, the Waseda University Library, the Kyoto University, the Japan Foundation Japanese–Language Institute, Kansai, the Osaka Prefectural Central Library and the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies. Trainees energetically completed a program including observation tours of libraries and the cultural and social institutions in Japan.

The future of the training program will be reviewed in FY2001 after the end of the 5th program. The participants strongly requested continuation of the program at the summary meeting. The NDL considers continuation because many participants of the past program evaluated the program useful for construction of a network of Japanese Studies Librarians working in isolation.

Contents of the Program

1. Orientation
2. Self-introduction
3. Introduction of curriculum and lecturer
4. Guide to the NDL
5. Acquisitions of Japanese publications and overseas materials on Japan
6. Japanese reference books
7. Statistics (option)
8. Government publications
9. Bibliographic database 1
10. Bibliographic database 2
11. Digitized information and electronic library service
12. Rare and old materials (option)
13. Preservation and conservation (option)
14. Hearing on the training and exchange programs at the Kansai-kan (tentative name) of the National Diet Library
15. Summary meeting
16. Training in the National Center for Science Information Systems
17. Observation tours of libraries and the cultural and social situation (National Archives and 3 other institutions)
18. Field trips to institutions related to Japanese studies in Kansai Area (Kyoto University Library and 4 other institutions)
19. Workshop “Cooperation in Dissemination of Japanese Materials”



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Passing on Cultural Heritage: Preservation of Original Texts and Microform

Ryuji Yonemura

Director, Preservation Planning Office
National Diet Library (Japan)

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- [3. Preservation of Contents of Original Texts – Microforming](#)
- [4. The PAC Regional Centre for Asia](#)

Introduction

Libraries and archives in the world now face serious preservation issues. Even if we just focus on Southeast Asia with its severe climate, we can find cultural heritage of many types, in many forms, each of which requires different preservation methods. It would be very difficult, therefore, to formulate a uniform policy for preservation. However, we cannot afford to sit on our hands. It is our responsibility to find a way to preserve human cultural heritage for future generations. PAC, an IFLA Core Programme, in 1998 drew up IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material and distributed it along with the International Preservation News (a PAC newsletter) to national libraries worldwide through the Regional Centres.

Preservation of Original Texts

We all know that each library should design and tailor its own preservation policies and actions. At the same time, by constantly appealing to manufactures of paper, publishers, libraries and related groups to use acid-free paper of high pH value, we will be able to preserve new publications longer. In addition, if permanent paper (ISO 9708) is used, we can achieve long-term preservation. As Mr. Rolf Dahlo, Chair of ISO/TC46/SC10, says, "Not all copies of a document need to be on permanent paper. One copy on permanent paper stored in a safe environment may preserve information for a very long time."

What can be done for the materials that are already a part of the library collection? It is necessary to survey the condition and assess deterioration of materials and take immediate preservation measures. Further, it is necessary to improve the environment, and to include countermeasures against disasters, both natural and man-made. Measures must be taken to maintain constant temperature and humidity (20 degrees Celcius and 55% in the NDL stacks) and to protect against ultraviolet rays, dirt, dust, mould and insects. Especially, old and rare books need the most deliberate care. It is sometimes necessary to restore original materials

by mending, repairing and binding. However, when restoration is required for a vast amount of deteriorated materials, phased preservation methods, such as packing in acid-free paper or boxes, may be desirable. Mass deacidification can be implemented to prolong the life of acid paper. As all of the above measures require money and personnel, not every library can implement them immediately.

Preservation of Contents of Original Texts – Microforming

I have discussed preservation of materials in their original forms. While this is important, recent trends in preservation put emphasis on making the contents of materials available to users. If we were concerned with access alone, electronic media would be excellent. Unfortunately electronic media do not meet all our criteria. Any medium used for recording content must be durable, capable of fast, frequent access, compact, economical and suitable for recording both characters and images easily and clearly. When considering all these criteria, microfilm is still the most ideal medium available today.

Proper production of microfilm is extremely important to preserve film for a long period of time. The film must be developed, fixed, washed in water and so on, according to international standards(ISO). The NDL makes microfilms in accordance with JIS Z 6009, which meets ISO standards. We preserve negative films in boxes and store them as master films, the temperature and humidity being kept at 18 degrees Celcius and 25% respectively. For users, the NDL provides reproductions of the negative instead of the original material. Great care must be taken in storage of negatives to avoid discoloration, fading, contamination, clouding, adhesion, curling, and microscopic blemishes. According to international standards (ISO 10602), the life expectancy of TAC-base film is 100 years and PET-base film 500 years, if stored in an appropriate environment. Presently, microfilm is perhaps the best means of preservation available.

Though I have touched briefly on the preservation of general materials and microfilms and also on its problems, putting it into practice is fraught with many difficulties. In addition, for preservation measures in Asia, it is extremely important that we respect the traditional culture and history of each country.

ThePAC Regional Centre for Asia

As the PAC Regional Centre for Asia, we recognize it to be most important that our preservation programmes be ongoing and meet the needs of our colleagues in Asia. However, there is a limit to one organization's resources. In cooperation with the Japan Foundation Asia Centre and the Toyota Foundation, we invite trainees from each Asian country, dispatch lecturers and sponsor surveys of materials in Asia. On the other hand, it is difficult for us to obtain comprehensive information on planning and instigation of microforming projects in Asia. It is necessary to collect, disseminate and share information on preservation of materials. With this aim, we should promote total cooperation among the relevant organizations and individuals involved in preservation programmes in the region. It is also necessary to actively record the location of negatives produced in Southeast Asian countries.

Concerning dissemination of preservation information, I am pleased to inform you that as of

November 1999 we launched the PAC Centre English-language web site (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/e/iflapac/index.html>). This site provides information on the Centre's programmes and the situation in the region. We are trying to help spread this vital information even further.

We will also work closely with UNESCO, ICA, another IFLA Core Programmes UAP and the National Library of Australia which is acting as the PAC Regional Centre for Asia and Oceania, to exchange information and develop PAC activities in the Asian Region.

In closing, it is my pleasure to announce that in 2002, the NDL is to open its Kansai library (Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library [Provisional name]) in Kansai Science City. This library will house the Asian Resource Information Centre which will provide facilities for visiting scholars and trainees from Asia. Training programmes will include preservation of both microform and original material. With this exciting new venture, we will take a big stride into the 21st century with all its challenges.





Selections from the NDL Collection "Mimeguri no kei"



Title: [Mimeguri no kei](#)
(View of the Mimeguri Shrine)

Author: Shiba Kokan (1747–1818)

Imprint: 1783

Description: 26.5 x 38.7 cm.

NDL call no.: WA33-9

[Click on the little image left](#)
[to go to the standard size image](#)
[or on the title to go to the large image.](#)

Contents:

"Mimeguri no kei" by Shiba Kokan is first etching (a kind of copperplate engraving) in Japan. Shiba Kokan was the outstanding Japanese pioneer of painting in the European style. He was among the earliest in Japan to produce copperplate engraving and paint in oils. Kokan nevertheless preferred to call himself as a "kyuri gakusha" (scholar of natural law) and introduced Western scientific knowledge to Japan. He produced world atlas by copperplate etching and wrote many books on astronomy and geography.

By Kokan's time, no one in Japan knew the proper method of etching. Otsuki Gentaku, Japanese scholar of Dutch learning, translated for Kokan western documents describing the method. Kokan spent a long time to master the technique, but finally, he succeeded in making a etching.

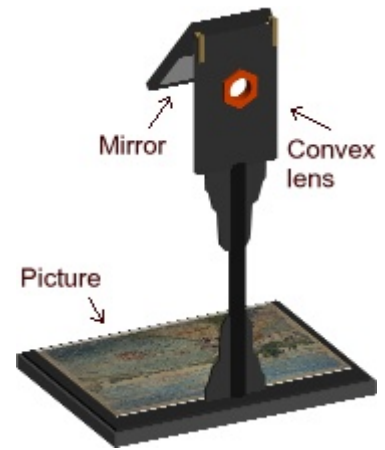
This etching is a landscape of the Mimeguri Shrine viewed from the lower course of the Sumida River, Edo. The perspective is not quite accurate and the Sumida River in the middle looks more like a lake than a river. The mountain in the distance is Mt. Tsukuba.

The picture was described in mirror image, because it was produced as a "perspective view" enjoyed by optical diagonal machine (right). Audience looks picture with an illusion of recession through convex lens and mirror, as if it was a 3-D picture.

The title "Mimeguri" on the top margin, the signature

“Produced by Shiba Kokan, Shiba-mon” on the right border, and “September 1783” at the left border are written in Chinese characters in mirror image. Color is added with a brush.

He described the same scene also in 1787. This 1783 version is rare.



Optical diagonal machine

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The NDL Bibliographies

Books on Japan in Western Languages
Acquired by the National Diet Library



The National Diet Library, as the sole national library, has been actively collecting materials on Japan published abroad since the time of the Imperial Library, the predecessor of the present library. We acquire materials in English, French, German and Italian by blanket order, and other languages by selective purchase or international exchange. Books in this category now number about 38,500 titles including reports by early Christian missionaries published in the 16th century

Bound Catalogs (up to August 1986)

The Library has published three bound catalogs of books on Japan for the convenience of researchers at home and abroad. The catalogs cover almost all the materials on Japan in Western languages acquired by the National Diet Library up to August 1986.

Catalog of Materials on Japan in Western languages in the National Diet Library formerly in the collection of the Ueno Library, 1872–1960 166p., 1966. Contains about 5,000 titles acquired by the former Imperial Library.

Catalog of Materials on Japan in Western languages in the National Diet Library, 1948–1975 400p., 1976. Contains about 7,800 titles acquired by the NDL from April 1948 to December 1975.

Catalog of Materials on Japan in Western languages in the National Diet Library 1976–1986 331p., 1992. Contains about 4,700 titles acquired by the NDL from January 1976 to August 1986. ISBN 4-314-10072-9. Available from Kinokuniya for 23,981 yen (domestic price).



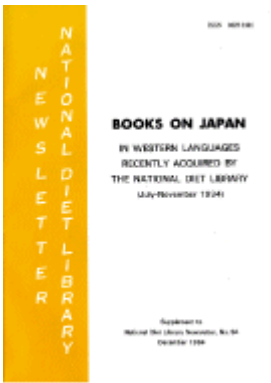
Current Data (from 1986)

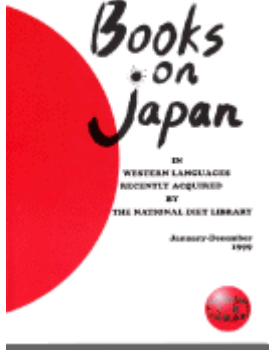
In 1986, the NDL started to build a database of foreign books including books on Japan. The data in this category amount to 21,000 entries as of March 2000.

This bibliographic information is available abroad in a semi-annual catalog titled "Books on Japan in Western Languages Acquired by the National Diet Library". We distribute "Books on Japan" to 277 foreign institutions in 118 countries including LC, BL, BF, NLA, NLC by international exchange of library materials.

The catalog is compiled automatically from our database of foreign books.

Entries are arranged by the National Diet Library Classification number. Each item listed gives the following bibliographic information: call number, title, name of author, place of publication, name of publisher, date of publication, volumes and/or pagination, and other physical details. Author and Title indexes are given at the end of the volume.

Period		Title	Remarks
1986–1989		<p><i>National Diet Library Newsletter, special issue: Books on Japan in western languages acquired by the National Diet Library</i></p>	<p>Published in July 1990 ISSN 0027–9161</p>
1990–1991		<p>List in <i>the National Diet Library Newsletter</i> nos.84–87</p>	<p>ISSN 0027–9161</p>
1992		<p><i>National Diet Library Newsletter, special issue: Books on Japan in western languages acquired by the National Diet Library</i></p>	<p>Published in January 1993 ISSN 0027–9161</p>
1993–Nov.1994		<p><i>Supplement to the National Diet Library Newsletter nos. 89–94</i></p>	<p>ISSN 0027–9161</p>

Dec.1994-		<i>Books on Japan in western languages acquired by the National Diet Library</i>	Semi-annual publication ISSN 1341-4623
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On-line Search

The NDL catalog of Foreign Books (from 1986), including the Books on Japan data, is available through the Internet on the NDL Website from March 2000. The database is searchable by title, author, subject term, year of publication, etc.

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Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals (Text in Japanese)

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No.467, February 2000

- Report of the 10th Annual Symposium on Preservation “Networks in Asia: Preservation Cooperation Hereafter”
- To hand materials down to future generations, printing on acid-free paper required: Results of the 14th pH test on newly-acquired materials, *by the Preservation Planning Office, Acquisitions Department*
- Materials recently designated as rare books: 30th committee on designation of rare books

No. 466, January 2000

- Greeting for the New Year, *by Masao Tobari*
- A prelude to a new stage of Japan-Russia library cooperation: summary of the 8th mutual visit program with the Russian State Library and the National Library of Russia, *by the NDL Delegation to Russia*
- Invitation of a Group of Officials from Central and South American Children's Libraries, *by the International Library of Children's Literature*

No. 465, December 1999

- Participating in the 65th IFLA General Conference and the 26th Meeting of the CDNL, *by Masao Tobari*
- First Bibliotheca Universalis meeting, *by Hiroyuki Taya*
- IFLA '99: Outline of 1999 Section on Library and Research Services, *by Takashi Tsukamoto*
- IFLA '99: Annual Meeting of PAC Directors, *by Takenori Horimoto*
- IFLA '99: Electronic Publications in Bibliographies, *by Naoko Harai*
- IFLA '99: Section on Regional Activities: Asia and Oceania, etc., *by Takashi Tomikubo*
- IFLA '99: 1999 meetings related to the Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults, *by Kuniko Kameda*
- Libraries from an architectural aspect – 11th International Seminar on Library Buildings –, *by Kuniko Kameda*

