

Notes for Benefits of US Archival Institutions' Reference and Access Policy for Studies on Japanese History

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Abstract: The poster presentation on August 10th of 2022 shows the benefits for Japanese researchers to utilize US archival institutions including special collections in museums and university libraries. Introducing my own experience especially under the Covid-19, reference and advocacy activities and showcases of digitized materials of National Archives and Records Administration, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Museums' archives, and several university archives are introduced. At the same time, so-called digital archive in Japan is considered. Main purpose of this presentation is to express gratitude to the archivists who make great efforts to custody the records and construct retrieval system and realize open access to them.

Introduction

One day of September in 2015, I sent an archivist e-mail asking about Ernst Posner papers in American University before I went to bed, then I received response the following morning with the inventory and much more information. I was delighted and surprised with the speed and the rich content. It was great help to my poster presentation at Research Forum 2016 and a research paper in Japanese titled *Posner's Tentative List of Archival Repositories and Accumulation of Records in Japan – Interactions with Warner's List*. I still pursue Posner's work on the ancient Greek archives and study his teaching archival practices.

Problem Statement

In Japan, Public Records and Archives Management Act¹ was established in 2009 and enforced in 2011. In this act the reference work is mentioned as one of the roles of archives and admitted officially as well as exhibits. Certification program of "Certified Archivist by the National Archives of Japan" started in 2020². At the third year, it counts 281 certified archivists (37 belong to National Archives). Even though such efforts of archival communities, in my opinion the concept of Archives is still tenuous. In the field, it is difficult to find reference archivists or data curation archivists and so on, we have just almighty archivists (some of them are in non-regular positions).

Definition of Digital Archive is somehow curious in Japan. It is said that the word itself was created by Yoshio Tsukio in 1990s and now used for the totality of mechanisms for storing, sharing, and utilizing people's various information assets in digital media. Therefore, mainly it is focused on digitization by not only archives but also memory institutions and more over local entities and secondary schools. Here digital preservation is not a major issue. This idea leads to portal system such as Japan Search³, which learned from Europeana and DPLA.

¹ Japanese Law Translation. "Public Records and Archives Management Act", <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/ja/laws/view/3140>.

² It was mentioned at the FANICA in April of the 2022. FAN Virtual Conservations – Resilient Records and Archives Management. National Archives of Japan, <https://youtu.be/hRKqFFOY8ds?list=PLru9FNsjTJG4q56gQtH1OMo4Ya6l9nvm4&t=717>.

³ JAPAN SEARCH. About Japan Search, <https://jpsearch.go.jp/>.

National Archives of Japan is one of the alligators for archival institutions.

On the other hand, many Japanese scholars visit National Archives and Record Administration and other US institutions to research on Japanese history. One big reason is the lost of documents because of the governmental orders of deposition just after the end of World War II. Some records were fired by air raid attacks. Some military documents were captured and carried to War Document Center and other bases.

Under Covid-19 situation, most of archives were closed, then, visiting and using reading rooms in NARA and other archival institutions in US were very difficult. Traveling itself was forbidden. Therefore, the digitized materials and guides have been helpful. Recent services of NARA such as Digital Citizen and History Hub are very useful as well as Smithsonian Institutions' Digital Volunteer.

Method

Now I would like to introduce some examples from my own experience. The followings are research topics.

- the Backstage of the Peace treaty of Portsmouth which ended the Russo-Japanese War Recently, I wrote a paper on the Backstage of Russo-Japanese War. This research was based on and developed from my poster at Research Forum 2012 titled Portraits in the Alice Roosevelt Longworth Collection⁴ and the Imperial Household Archives' documents.



Alice Roosevelt was in a mission to Philippine with William H. Taft Secretary of War (later 27th US President). This is an official photograph from the foreign guests' album in Imperial Household Archives⁵.



Portrait of Shogo Nagasaki from Alice Roosevelt Longworth Collection

FSA A2009.02 07: Portrait of the Nagasaki Shōgo circa 1890-1905

<https://sova.si.edu/search/ark:/65665/dc35027eda5c6184d288ef91b6055b1e9ee>.

Shogo Nagasaki, who was the right side of Taft in the official photo, was an interpreter between William H. Taft and Emperor Meiji. He was enrolled in University of Michigan. When I asked about his letters to the third President Angell, I was quickly informed that his papers are on-line. Archivists of Bentley Library gave me more information, even though they worked with limited staff under Covid-19 situation. Two project archivists did reference works for me.

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⁴ Collection of Alice Roosevelt Longworth Collection of Photographs from the 1905 Taft Mission to Asia ,1905. Gift of Joanna Sturm, granddaughter of Alice Roosevelt Longworth, 2009 Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives Local No. A2009.02, <https://sova.si.edu/search/ark:/65665/dc350df6179e9244d08b6b28888808913d6>.

⁵ Imperial Household Archives. Call number 65153 1904-1910 the foreign guests' album, <https://shoryobu.kunaicho.go.jp/Kobunsho/Viewer/4000651530000/>. Page 21/89 . The album contains photographs of Taft's visit in 1906.



Letter to University President James B. Angell from Shogo Nagasaki
 From James B. Angell Papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/angell/>.

This letter dated April 1st, 1875 from New York
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/angell/851644.0001.020/54#?s=0&cv=54>.
 Image number 54-56

Another letter dated December 27, 1878 from London is also digitized.
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/angell/851644.0001.042/73#?s=0&cv=72>.
 Image number 72-80

Archivist of Bentley Library gave me information about his activities in Japanese Alumni.
 (Nagasaki's papers in National Diet Library is digitized as
<https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/entry/nagasakiyougo.php>.)

History hub indicates that Theodore Roosevelt Papers contains important information about Russo-Japan War. President Roosevelt led to the Peace Treaty of Portsmouth between Russia and Japan.

Telegram sent by Taft to White House was forwarded to Roosevelt's Summer House referring to conversation with Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Katsura, which is so called Taft-Katsura Agreement.

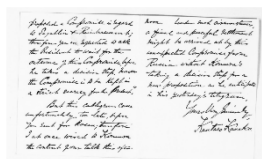


The report of telegram from Taft to the President (Theodore Roosevelt)
 Image 460 of Theodore Roosevelt Papers: Series 1: Letters and Related Material, 1759-1919;
 1905, July 19-Aug. 8

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/ms009253.mss38299.0057>.

Image number 460-463.

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Letter from Kentaro Kaneko, who studied in Harvard University, to the President Roosevelt during the negotiation with Russia.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/ms009253.mss38299.0058>.

Image number 441-442.

· early photographs of Japanese Castles

When I worked for collecting materials related to castles for reconstruction in wood structure, I searched online images of Japanese castles some of which were demolished around 1873 and destroyed during WWII.

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This stereo photo is pictured Himeji Castle which is still existing National Treasure from Library of Congress Collection.

Many-storied Himeji Castle, the largest ancient feudal strong hold in Japan

Digital ID: (digital file from original) stereo 1s30431 <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/stereo.1s30431>.

Library of Congress holds some stereo images of castles in Japan. We can search from Cultural Japan⁶ (portal site).



<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97504644/>.

from LOC Travel views of Japan and Korea

LOC Photography Collection holds some Felice Beato's photos.

We can find Castles' photos including lost ones.

The next photo is assumed as Fukuyama Castle lost by fire on Aug. 8, 1945.



1908Genthe, Arnold, 1869-1942, photographer <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/agc.7a04865>.

Other institutions hold photos of Japanese Castles

-National Anthropological Archives

Nijo Castle



<https://sova.si.edu/search/ark:/65665/nw3e4a57ed51263464bbc7658ed32e41eb2>.

Rikyu (Nagoya Castle)



<https://sova.si.edu/search/ark:/65665/nw3d6d9aff0cb3e45d0a2cc154910d6bc94>.

Castle, Built by Hideyoshi, 1583-1585 AD (Osaka Castle)



<https://sova.si.edu/search/ark:/65665/nw34d9eada0be15405fac2be3361b1cd8ed->

⁶ Cultural Japan. <https://cultural.jp/en>

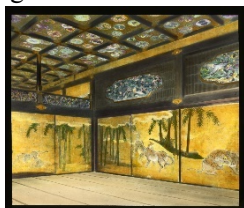
Castle, Built by Hideyoshi, 1583-1585 AD (Osaka Castle)



<https://sova.si.edu/search/ark:/65665/nw31a858c24ef9e4ffbb721fb957fd93869>.

-Smithsonian Gardens

[Nagoya Castle]: interior view in Honmaru Palace showing painted shoji screens of leopards and tigers.



<https://learninglab.si.edu/resources/view/5668362>.

-Harvard University Library Digital Collection

<https://library.harvard.edu/digital-collections>.

-New York Public Library Digital Collections

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>.

and so on.

· war records during WWII

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Photograph of “Fat Man” Nuclear Weapon in NARA



<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/175539928>.

“Fat Man” destroyed the city of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. Before this attack, Pumpkin bombs were used for testing⁷.

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Photograph of National Archives and Record Administration

Nagoya - Dense Clouds Of Smoke Roll Up From Nagoya, Japan During A B-29 Superfortress Raid On The Mitsubishi Aircraft Engine Plant. The Attack Was An Operation Of The 21St Bomber Command Of The U.S. Army 20Th Air Force. (U.S. Air Force Number 57003AC)



<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/204836921>.

According to Peace Aichi⁸, many young students worked this factory. School children evacuated to

⁷ Campbell, Richard H. *The silverplate bombers: a history and registry of the Enola Gay and other B-29s configured to carry atomic bombs*, McFarland & Company, 2005.

Atomic Heritage Foundation shows the video of Little Boy and Fat man

<https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/ahf/location/tinian-island/>.

⁸ War and Peace Museum PEACE AICHI.

nearby temples.

As the result of co-work with Peace Resource Center of Wilmington College as reported the last year poster⁹, I joined the Association for Documenting Air Raids and War Damages in Japan¹⁰, of which Peace Aichi is the member. This researchers and citizens group acts variously. Several institutions and citizens identify and analyze aerial photographs and moving images of US military records including Navy Gun Camera views. One of the members reached the facts of a video scene from Army Air Forces of NARA online catalog using both US and Japan records¹¹. They consume tremendous hours. These efforts are important to realize the true peace.

· captured technical documents and other materials in the National Air and Space Museum Archives related my poster presentation 2017

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Returned document in 1974 from US to Japan held in National Archives of Japan

(Digitized image with English caption in Japan Center for Asian Historical Records)

Report on the performance of research: experiment of model 1 ground attack plane type 11



<https://www.digital.archives.go.jp/img/pdf/1725169>.

This document was captured during WWII and carried to Wright Field, Ohio where captured documents were microfilmed. We can find the microfilm in National Air and Space Museum Archives and NARA (not distributed) as I reported on the poster 2017. Recently Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) transferred about 1500 documents around 1930s to the National Archives of Japan. It might be the returned documents from US in 1958. After I requested the 8 of them and waited for a month to be screened, I could find trace under US custody in half of them.

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NARA RG331 Box 5864

I took this image by myself. It seems not to be digitized yet. This document in Japanese is found in GHQ SCAP records in NARA II which include the survey reports of Japanese archival institutions. It tells the establishment of “Archives”, which was realized as the Historical Documents Hall in Ministry of Education, now National Institute of Japanese Literature. Of course, NIJL holds the same document. I showed the story of this institution under occupation in the poster 2013. Hideo Inumaru, a bureaucrat belonging to the Ministry of Education, promoted to establish an archival institution in 1947. When I asked Haverford University about his father, I could obtain his records in 1902 and much more information which led me to find out about his son’s background.

Accepting archival theory and practice in Japan, the US archival policy has affected to establish

https://peace-aichi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/English_guide.pdf.

⁹ SAA Research Forum Poster 2021. This presentation bore fruit the article of *Archival Outlook* Nov./Dec. 2021 issue.

<https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=30305&i=728963&p=14&ver=html5>.

¹⁰ Kushu・Sensai wo Kiroku suru kai (only in Japanese). <http://kushusensai.net/>.

¹¹ The video can be download from: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5541>.

His blog tells the story:

https://mt1985.cocolog-nifty.com/naval_strike/2020/05/post-982e9f.html.

Japanese archives.

Results

As a researcher in Japan, I received a lot of benefits from US archival institutions. I am so grateful. As an archivist, I have plenty of opportunities to get the knowledge and discuss the issues, especially in Research Forum. I appreciate high-minded archivists.

Findings

My experience is a little and partial, however, I could learn the following.

- Clear concepts of records and archives
- Roles of archivists and their specialties
- Effective cataloging under digital circumstances
- Good retrieval system
- Procedure of digitization
- Being Professionals
- Archivists who know their holdings thoroughly
- Networking of archivists
- Educational systems and Training opportunities
- Openness of archives
- Core values and Ethical code
- Prompt reference work
- Advocacy
- Risk management and damage control under COVID-19 situation
- Provide the place to share of information and discuss the issues such as Conference, Forum, SNS, list-serv, and so on.

Conclusion

After WWII, Japan always pursues after America's back. In archival discipline, we would like to pursue correctly. Reference and digitization are a boon for Japanese researchers. It is time to think about giving as well as receiving. Compared to the great power of the U.S., we must admit that our country's is still in progress. It is hoped that Japan will allocate more personnel and budgetary resources to archives, and archivists will be granted full-time position. We will learn more and more about archival management and advocacy from US experience.

Resources

SAA. "Research Forum", <https://www2.archivists.org/publications/research-forum>.

All the URLs are December 20, 2022.