Tohoku University after 3.11, 2011

—Focusing on the Library and Archives

SONEHARA Satoshi
Tohoku University Archives

Tsunami near Sendai airport
photo by Mainichi Newspaper
The location of Tohoku University

Tohoku University is 10 miles away from the shore.

* The colored portion of the area along the shoreline is a flood zone.

Pasco Production Map is used.
# Previous Serious Earthquakes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Magnitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 9, 869</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>Jogan earthquake and tsunami</td>
<td>M8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2, 1611</td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Keicho Sanriku earthquake</td>
<td>M8.1</td>
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<td>June 15, 1896</td>
<td>19:32</td>
<td>Meiji-Sanriku earthquake</td>
<td>M8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12, 1978</td>
<td>17:14</td>
<td>Miyagi earthquake</td>
<td>M7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 15, 1998</td>
<td>16:24</td>
<td>Southern Miyagi earthquake</td>
<td>M5.2</td>
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<td>May 26, 2003</td>
<td>18:24</td>
<td>Sanriku south earthquake</td>
<td>M7.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26, 2003</td>
<td>7:13</td>
<td>Northern Miyagi earthquake</td>
<td>M6.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 16, 2005</td>
<td>11:46</td>
<td>Miyagi earthquake</td>
<td>M7.2</td>
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<td>June 14, 2008</td>
<td>8:43</td>
<td>Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake</td>
<td>M7.2</td>
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<td>June 13, 2010</td>
<td>12:33</td>
<td>Fukushima earthquake</td>
<td>M6.2</td>
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<td>March 9, 2011</td>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Sanriku earthquake</td>
<td>M7.3</td>
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<td><strong>March 11, 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>14:46</strong></td>
<td><strong>East Japan great earthquake</strong></td>
<td><strong>M9.0</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7, 2011</td>
<td>23:32</td>
<td>Miyagi earthquake aftershock</td>
<td>M7.4</td>
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</table>
The damage situation in a Library

• No injuries within the Library and University grounds

• Building damage
  – Many breakages and damage to walls and ceilings.
  – Distortion of window frames (opening and closing made impossible, leaving a gap for air to come in.)
  – Air-conditioners pipe breakages and leaks (making them unusable)
  – Elevator breakages (making them unusable)

• Bookshelves: Many were bent or broken (repair required)

• Collection of books: Hundreds of thousands of volumes have fallen. Some were damaged badly (including valuable books.)

• Library information system and PC: No significant damage

• Share file server: RAID disks broken
Damage situation $\rightarrow$ repair work (1)
- Student reading room (160,000 volumes)

March 14 (Mon.)

March 16 (Wed.)

March 29 (Tue.)

TOHOKU university LIBRARY since 1911.
Damage situation $\rightarrow$ repair work (2)
- Bookshelves of bound periodicals (400,000 vols.)

March 14 (Mon.)

March 31 (Thu.)

Student volunteer group “HARU”

May 2 (Mon.)
The Issues Facing the Library after the Earthquake

- Gathering, Keeping, Presenting records of the quake

An excellent precedent set: “The Kobe Univ. Library Earthquake Collection”

→ More records than the 1995 Hanshin-Awaji

- Broad in scale (not limited to the 3 prefectures of the Tohoku region)
- Variety of subject matter
  (relating to the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster)
- An increased amount of digital data

• Working with a number of libraries to gather materials
- Joint campaign “Gather materials to libraries!”
  ex. public libraries = Local and local political materials
  university libraries = academic research related materials

For future disaster prevention

TOHOKU university LIBRARY since 1911.
Joint campaign poster and Newspaper article...

...entitled “The Continuing Restoration of Materials”
Damage to The Archives (External)

A blue plastic sheet has been placed over the roof

Before the earthquake

Many roof tiles fell down
Damage to The Archives (Internal)

• Mushrooms growing

Some of the roof and the lighting had fallen down

Materials were scattered by the quake

Some of the roof and the lighting had fallen down
Issues facing the Archives

• Taking on the task of gaining an understanding of the damage situation, mainly through its official papers.

• Cooperating with the “Michinoku-Shinrokedun” Tohoku University Digital Archives.
The university’s potential and possibilities as an institution open to regional society are greatly enlarged.

I am grateful for the assistance of works by two colleagues in the preparation of this report.


NAGATA Hideaki, “Saigai and Tohoku University Archives” in ‘Tohoku Daigaku Shiryokan Kiyo’ 7, March 2012

Citizens, professors and students have been working together with the “shiryo net” group.

Photo by SAITO Shuichi
Sendai Airport  March 11th 2012