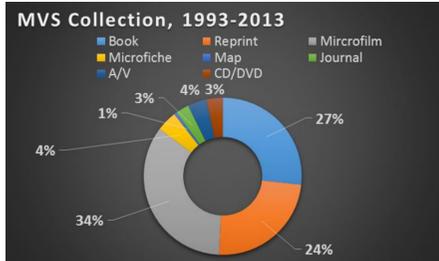# NCC's Comprehensive Digitization and Discovery Grants

Regan Murphy Kao, Stanford University
Toshie Marra, University of California, Berkeley

Introduction

Since 1992, the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) helped to build a national collection of Japanese research materials in the United States through its Multi-Volume Sets Project (MVS)[1] with funding provided by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and supplemental support from Japan Publications Trading Company, Ltd. (JPT). MVS provided grants for the purchase of expensive multi-volume sets of Japanese language materials, primarily in print, with consideration to each applicant institution's 1) areas of specialization, 2) research and teaching needs, and 3) readiness to freely share the funded sets locally and nationally.

MVS Collection, 1993-2013

- Book — 27%
- Reprint — 24%
- Microfilm — 34%
- Microfiche — 4%
- Map — 1%
- Journal — 3%
- A/V — 3%
- CD/DVD — 4%

Funding for MVS was suspended in 2018 so that NCC could update and align its mission to fit the evolving technologies and 21st century needs of the field. NCC has formed a task force to help transition toward a comprehensive digitization and discovery grant program to replace the MVS Project. The purpose of this poster is to introduce an overview of the new digitization/discovery grant program that is in development and obtain feedback on it.

Digitization/Discovery Grant Task Force members:
Regan Murphy Kao, Stanford University (Chair)
Toshie Marra, University of California, Berkeley
Haruko Nakamura, Yale University
Setsuko Noguchi, Princeton University

New Grant Program in Development

Goals:
- Bring to light hidden, academically useful Japan-related materials through digitization
- Enable more robust use of these items
- Promote collaboration nationally and internationally
- Foster training in developing digitization projects
- Help to build an international infrastructure for digitized Japan-related materials

Criteria for evaluating applications:
- Demonstrates how digitized materials will benefit the national and international scholarly community of Japanese Studies
- Provides robust and comprehensive plan for digitization, discovery and promotion
- Ensures open public access to the digitized materials
- Demonstrates how the resources will be used in Japan-related courses and otherwise engage the next generation of scholars
- Describes how the digital surrogates will be maintained for long-term availability and discoverability
- Promotes collaboration across complementary collections at institutions in the US and Japan

Grant application should include:
- Description of material to be digitized
- Narrative on value and academic significance of the proposed project (potential use), noting related digital collections and collaborating institutions, if applicable
- Principal investigators (librarians or scholars partnering with a library) and list of other individuals who will be involved
- Timeline (tiered funding for one or two-year projects with proof of progress each year)
- Expected deliverables, including digital surrogates and metadata
- Technical plan (tools, systems, standards, and technologies employed)
- Digital preservation and discoverability plan (must be available to anyone worldwide)
- Outreach and plan for promoting the digitized materials
- Budget details (such as digitization, metadata creation, promotion costs within a range of approximately $1,000-$15,000) This may include an argument for acquiring material to be digitized.

Supplemental material may include:
- Any training or internship plans
- Any extra features of digital projects (e. g., transcription and translation)
- Any future development plans

Pilot Projects

In recent years, with the support of JUSFC and JPT, NCC has funded the following four projects involving digitization as pilot cases.

Pilot Case 1: Princeton University Library purchased and digitized:
Shōun Oshō Kobun shinpō no shō 笑雲和尚古文真宝之抄[2]: A set of 10 volumes in 13. Keichōban (published 1525) A commentary of canonical prose works, used widely as a textbook in medieval Japan. Edited by Shōun Seizan 笑雲清三 who was a Rinzai monk active in Kyoto and Kamakura. Published by a Kyoto book merchant, using wooden moveable type printing. Red-ink marginalia are shown in many pages which testify to its role in the popularization of classical learning.
Access: In Princeton University Library's Catalog
Funded Year: 2014-2015
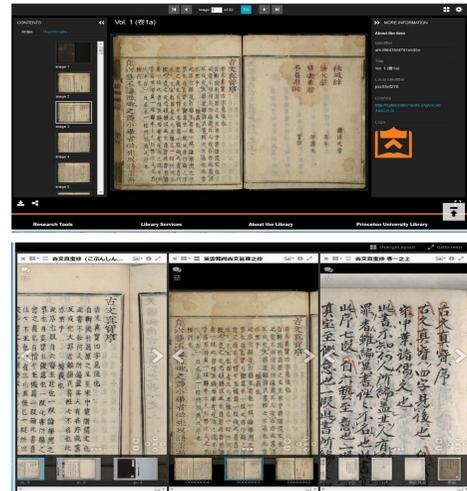
Pilot Case 2: Yale University Library purchased and digitized:
Jūjun kagetsujō 十旬花月帖[3]: The original manuscript of *Jūjun kagetsujō* (1827), as well as the 1883 woodblock print edition of the same title. It is a collection of notes from a trip, including poetry and paintings of places in Kyoto, as well as on the route from Hiroshima to Kyoto, by Rai Kyōhei 頼杏坪, uncle of Rai San'yō 頼山陽, who was a prominent Japanese poet, historian, and artist in the late Edo period. The discovery of this original work was major news among early-modern scholars of Japan Studies. Yale University was able to acquire the manuscript and print edition successfully through a generous MVS grant and digitized them to ensure their discoverability and accessibility.
Access: In Yale University Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library's Digital Collection page
Funded Year: 2015-2016

Pilot Case 3:
University of California, Berkeley C. V. Starr East Asian Library digitized own holding of: *Kadenshū* 家伝集[4]: Consists of 146 volumes (ca. 3,600 leaves) of hand-written manuscripts produced in the 19th century in Japan. Contains genealogies and biographical information for over 3,100 individuals from some 140 aristocratic families up to the 19th century, including birth and death dates, marriages, official ranks and promotions.
Access: In HathiTrust (PDF files downloadable) and in "Japanese Special Collections in the C. V. Starr East Asian Library, University of California, Berkeley" digital projects portal
Special Feature: 3,160 personal names listed in *Kadenshū* are searchable in Japanese in 家伝集人名検索 database
Funded Year: 2017-2018

Pilot Case 4:
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library will digitize own holding of: *Hōrai no makimono* 蓬莱巻物: A scroll of Nara ehon, illustrated manuscripts produced as trousseau books using bright colors. A 16th century vernacular tale about the origins of Mount Hōrai. One of rare items of Yamagiwa Collection, originally assembled by Joseph K. Yamagiwa (1906-1968).
Access : (in progress)
Funded Year: 2018-2019

NCC's Future Plan

We anticipate the following steps for implementing the proposed new funding program for digitization/discovery:

2019 Mar.-Apr.: Digitization/Discovery Grant Task Force collects feedback from the community through surveys, etc.

2019 May: Collected data is evaluated and recommendation is composed

2019 June-Nov.: NCC seeks funding to implement digitization/discovery program

2020: New digitization/discovery program begins (if funding is secured)

Imagine the possibilities!

The task force would like to hear your comments on these pilot cases and solicit innovative suggestions for future funding possibilities that meet the criteria listed above. Talk with the task force members to discuss your ideas!

How you can help:

Make sure to participate in the NCC survey on the New Digitization/Discovery Grant Program by April 15 by visiting: https://guides.nccjapan.org/mvs/newproject

Or submit the paper survey available at this session and throughout the conference.

We seek your participation in developing a global collection of Japanese research materials in digital form! If you wish to get involved with this new initiative, please contact any of the Digitization/Discovery Grant Task Force members.

Contact:
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References:
1. Multi-Volume Sets Project (MVS) website: https://guides.nccjapan.org/mvs
2. Digitized contents are viewable in Princeton University Library's Catalog at: https://catalog.princeton.edu/catalog/8941435
3. Digitized contents are viewable in Yale University Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library's Digital Collection at: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4206669?image_id=15790850 https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4207120?image_id=15790931
4. Contents of 146 volumes are listed in UC Berkeley Library's catalog record at: http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b24281394~S1; digitized contents are viewable in HathiTrust (https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102405194) and in "Japanese Special Collections in the C. V. Starr East Asian Library, University of California, Berkeley" digital projects portal hosted by Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University at: http://www.arc.ritsumei.ac.jp/lib/vm/UCB/B0/b3/

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NCC creates programs and online services to support the research needs of anyone in the field of Japanese Studies and for users with an interest in Japan, anywhere. The NCC site also provides links to instructional and topical sites related to Japan.

https://guides.nccjapan.org/homepage