

# THE WORDPRESS BLOGS AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TEAM-BUILDING TOOL

The Gordon W. Prange Collection, an archive of Japanese publications issued between 1945-1949, launched blogs (in English and Japanese) in July 2013. In the past 6.5 years, over 400 posts have been published.

The blogs are now more than just a simple way to broadcast information. They function as a tool for team building and professional development for Prange staff members, interns and student assistants.

## TIPS to make blogs less time-consuming...

- Be clear about who is responsible for writing each post
- Brainstorm with students and staff members frequently for ideas
- Create a series that will showcase many related items from your collection and will make it easy to create a stock of blog posts
- Pre-schedule as many posts as possible
- Be organized!

(We use a shared Google Doc to monitor the status of each post)

### Prange Collection Blog Schedule

Scheduled (3/1/2020) Handwritten manuscripts [TREASURE]  
Scheduled (3/8/2020) Prange Photographs [PRESERVATION]  
Scheduled (3/15/2020) Spring Break Announcement  
AW edited [Images needed] (4/12/2020) Featured Magazine 15 [Chiba] [TREASURE]  
Placeholder Available ( ) lobby artwork repair

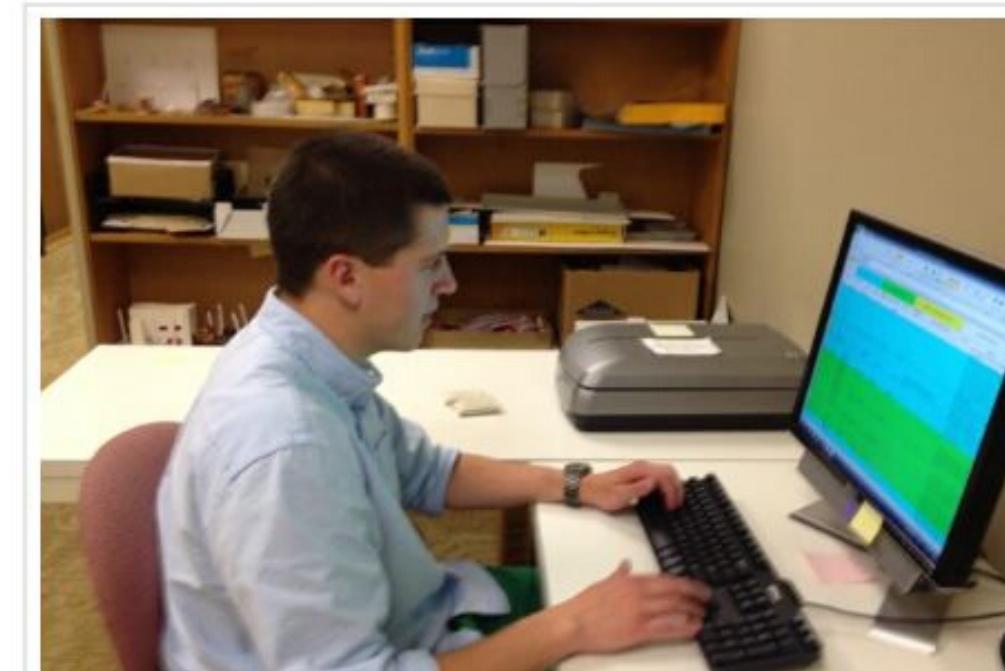
Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) 2020  
Kana Jenkins (jenkins1@umd.edu)  
Gordon W. Prange Collection  
University of Maryland Libraries

## ENHANCE STUDENTS' RESUMES

Give interns and student assistants an opportunity to author blog posts

### Mayo Oral Histories Internship

Posted by prangecollection on June 22, 2014 in News



The Prange Collection, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Department of History, established the Marlene J. Mayo Oral History Internship to process the 100 oral histories in the Mayo Collection. The internship was first offered in Spring semester 2014.

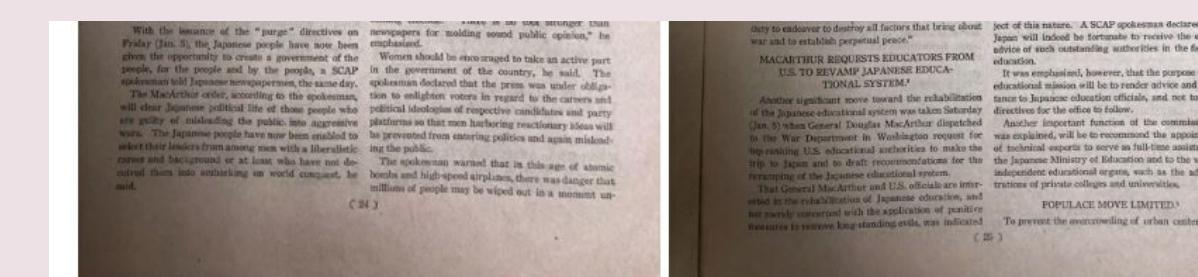
Joe was an intern from the History Department. He worked on an oral history collection to gain releases from the interviewees or their family members.

### 教育関係図書: 韓国語図書

Posted by prangecollection on May 26, 2014 in Treasures

[本記事は、ミカ・アダムソン (2013-2014年学生アルバイト)による寄稿です]  
Prange文庫所蔵の教育関係図書のなかには韓国語で書かれた図書が38タイトルあり、それらのほとんどは小学校の教科書です。在日本朝鮮人聯盟中央總本部などによる出版の

Mika was an undergraduate student pursuing a double major in Japanese and Korean. She wrote a blog post on Korean-language education books in the collection.



As part of the reconstruction, the Japanese adopted a new constitution. The new Constitution of Japan was ratified on November 3, 1946 and came into effect on May 3, 1947. Even to this day, historians have various views on how much the General Headquarters (GHQ) influenced the writing of this constitution.

Japanese students who want to study this topic may have a hard time reading the original documents in English or even locating them (successive drafts of the constitution can be found [here](#)). The student assistant position at the Gordon W. Prange Collection (I am also a Government and Politics major with an International Relations Concentration and as member of the [East Asian Studies Certificate program](#) at the University of Maryland, College Park) has offered me a great opportunity to conduct in-depth research on the Constitution of Japan. Through this research, I have discovered the uniqueness of the situation and the obstacles that the Japanese government faced in ratifying the constitution.

Nari was a Government & Politics major who published a series of blog posts on the Japanese Constitution.

### Raising a Child: Then and Now (Part V – Raising a "Good" Baby)

Posted by prangecollection on August 20, 2019 in Treasures

[This is a guest post written by Risa Tanji, a Student Assistant in Special Collections & University Archives, who works primarily in the Prange Collection. This is the last post of

Risa is a current student assistant. She wrote a series of blog posts comparing child rearing during the Occupation period and the present day. She analyzed several "how to" books on raising children from the collection.

### An iSchool Student Reflects on her Field Study in the Prange Collection

Posted by prangecollection on February 11, 2018 in News

[This is a guest post written by Ashley Victoria Haddix, an iSchool Field Studies Intern for Fall 2017 in the Prange Collection.]



During my time with the Prange Collection, I was given the opportunity to process the [Mead Smith Karras Papers](#), a gift collection of her personal and professional papers given by her husband George Karras. I had never fully processed a collection before, and was excited not only to learn more

Ashley was a MLIS student in the UMD's iSchool. She fulfilled her field studies requirement by working in the Prange Collection. She created an extensive finding aid for one gift collection. She wrote her posts in English and Japanese.

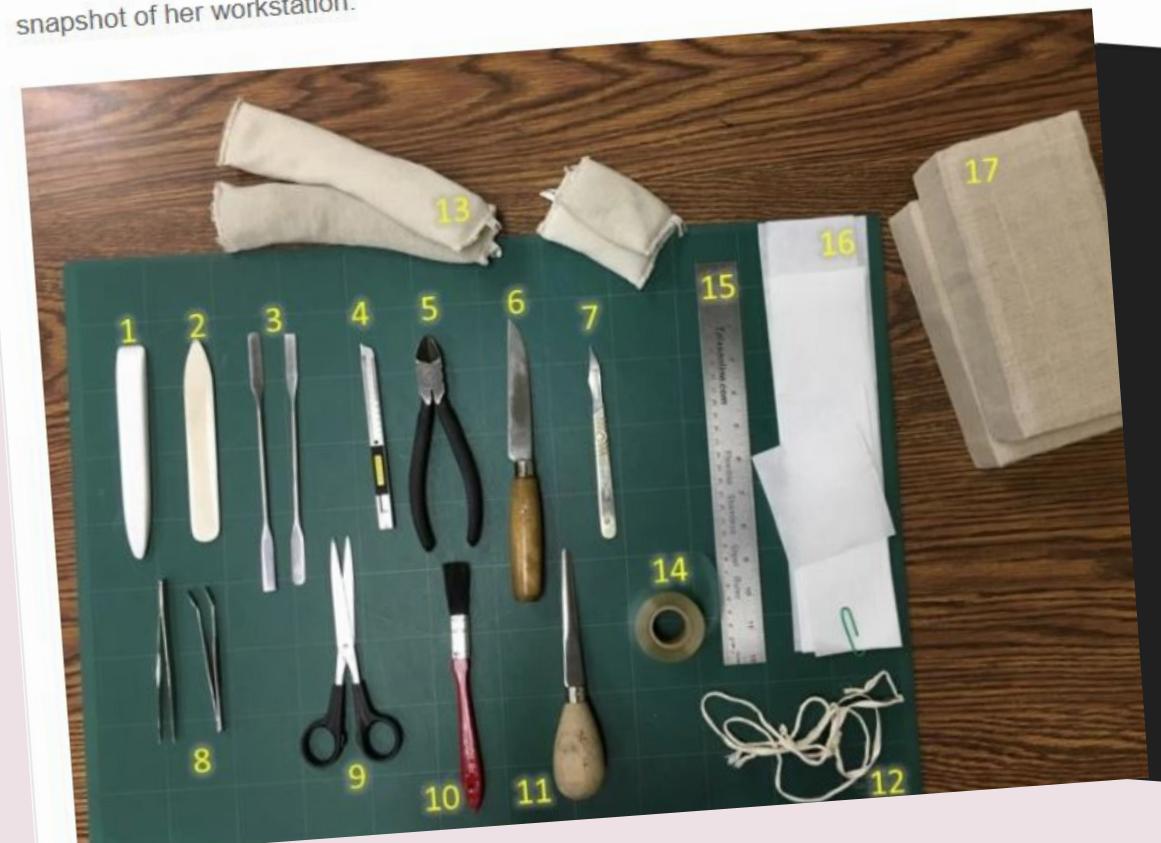
## HIGHLIGHTS THE EXPERTISE OF STAFF MEMBERS

Each staff member is doing great things behind the scenes!

### Preservation: Tools

Posted by prangecollection on October 16, 2017 in Preservation

In order to prepare all materials so that they are ready for the digitization project, the staff member who does preservation at the Prange Collection uses many tools. Here is a snapshot of her workstation:

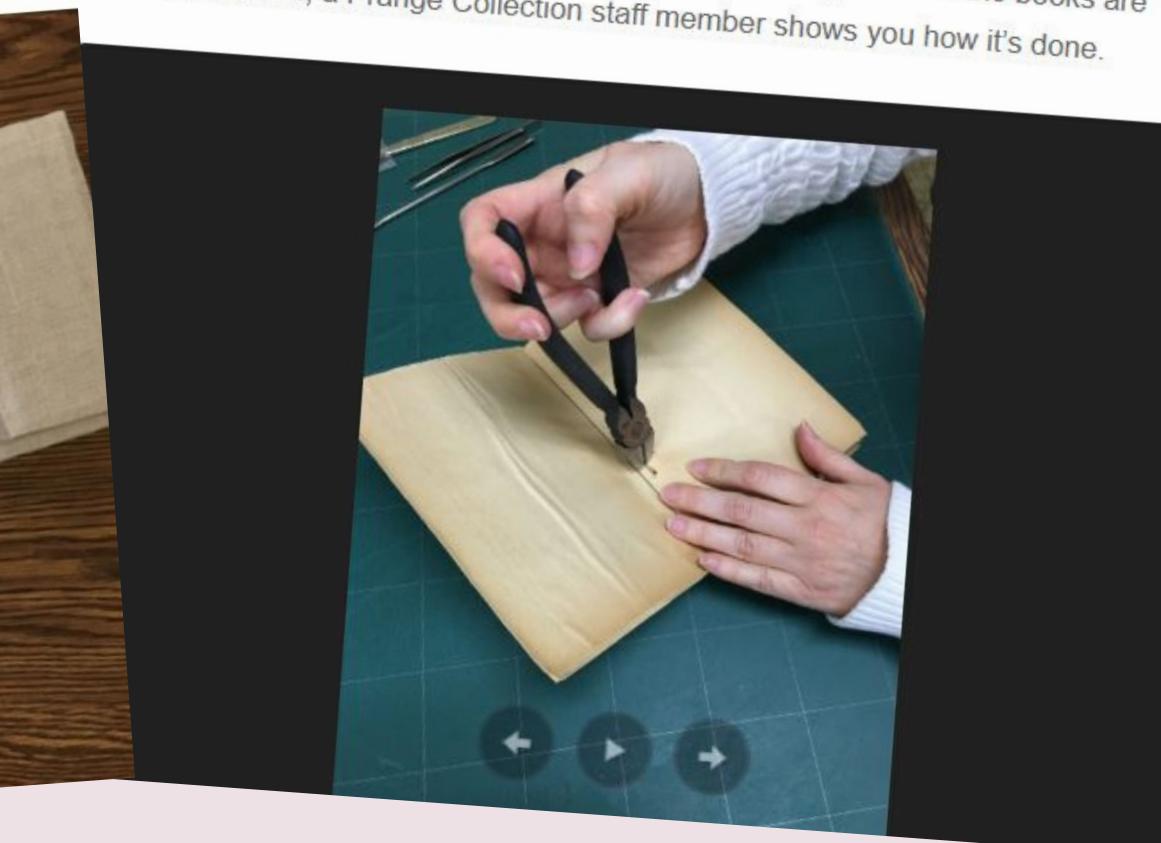


A staff member who specializes in preservation tasks publishes slideshows on how she conducts her work, including unstapling, cutting cords, and paper-smoothing.

### Preservation: Unstapling of books prior to scanning

Posted by prangecollection on June 10, 2018 in Preservation

Many books in the Prange Collection are bound using side staples. In order to fully capture the text and to minimize damage during scanning, some of the books are unstapled. Below, a Prange Collection staff member shows you how it's done.



### On this day in 1948... (January 18)

Posted by prangecollection on January 18, 2020 in Treasures

This post is part of a continuing series on the [Censored Newspaper Articles \(CNA\)](#).



A staff member who created metadata for the digitization of newspaper manuscripts and documents (Censored Newspaper Articles - CNAs) writes "On this day..." posts featuring the CNAs.

### Prange Staff Pick from the Exhibition – Bassin Photographs

Posted by prangecollection on February 12, 2019 in Events, Exhibits

The Prange Collection exhibit, "Crossing the Divide: An American Dream Made in Occupied Japan, 1945-1952," will be on display in the Maryland Room Gallery, Hornbake Library North, University of Maryland, through July 2019. In our series, "Prange Staff Picks from the Exhibition," we will share with you our personal favorites from the exhibit.

The Prange Collection mounted an exhibition in 2018-2019 that was on display for a year. After the exhibition was installed, each staff member chose a favorite item from the exhibition and published a blog post about it.

### An Interview with Raymond Vernon from the Marlene J. Mayo Oral Histories

By prangecollection | September 1, 2019 | Leave a comment | Edit

This post is the tenth in a series featuring interviews from the Marlene J. Mayo Oral Histories. Current 29 of the oral history transcripts are available online. The remainder are available onsite in the Maryland Room, the reading room for Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Maryland. For other featured oral histories, see this [...] .

### An Interview with Marius Jansen: From the Marlene J. Mayo Oral Histories

By prangecollection | April 1, 2019 | Leave a comment | Edit

A staff member who is transcribing oral histories writes a series of blog posts featuring each interviewee on their birthday.

### Featured Movie-related item: Gaslight (1944)

Posted by prangecollection on February 9, 2020 in Treasures

The 92nd Academy Awards are just around the corner! They'll be televised on Sunday, February 9!

This is our second installment of the year on Oscar-winning movies. Seventy-five years ago, *Gaslight* (Japanese translation – ガス燈), starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer, was nominated for ten awards and walked away with two wins: Best Art Direction and Best Actress in a Leading Role for Bergman.

The movie is based on the play, *Angle Street*, by

A staff member who is interested in films writes a movie-related post every year in the lead-up to the Oscars.