

Digitization of *Shūkan Shōnen Magajin* (1959–1995) for Enhanced Scholarship and Preservation

Hyokyung "Carrie" Hwang, MLIS, MA, Institutional Repository & Digital Scholarship Coordinator, SJSU
 Dr. Ying Zhang, Research Librarian for Asian Studies, UCI

BACKGROUND

- Overview of the *Shūkan Shōnen Magajin* (1959–1995)
 - A significant resource for Japanese cultural and visual art studies, this weekly magazine was first published by Kodansha on March 17, 1959.
 - This manga magazine caters to a broad readership, specifically targeting young adult males.
 - The magazine had some early success in 60s and 70s with sports series such as *Tomorrow's Joe* (あしたのジョー) by Asao Takamori and Tetsuya Chiba, post-apocalyptic superhero series such as *Devilman* by Go Nagai, and cyborg superhero series such as *Cyborg 009*.
- Significance within UC Irvine Libraries' East Asian Collection
 - The UCI Libraries have secured this manga magazine collection through the generous donation of Mrs. Sawako Noma, President and CEO of Kodansha Ltd.
 - It is located on the 1st floor of Langson Library along with other East Asian collection resources.
 - It serves as a valuable primary source facilitating interdisciplinary research across diverse fields, such as Japanese cultural studies, art history, and media studies.

OBJECTIVES

- Preservation of Fragile Original Copies
 - The digitized copies will be preserved in dark archives.
- Broadening Access to a Valuable Primary Source
 - Gateway to Japanese Cultural and Visual Art Studies
 - Facilitating Research on Popular Culture, Manga Industry, and Specific Manga Artists

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Magazine inventory

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
150				ワタリ	白土三平				63-94	
151				ミヤムツマン	マール	久米のる			159-173	
152				黄色い手袋	藤田次郎	川内康範			149-158	
153				ハリスの猫	ちげてつや				13-30	
154				狂犬	石塚重太郎				190-204	action (mystery)
155				コナン	横山光輝				31-45	
156				偉大なる王	石塚重太郎				175-189	animal protagonists
157				宇宙少年ソラン	宮藤昌雄	梶原一騎			223-236	
158				肉面	横田かずお				239-269	yokai/horror
159										
160	15	224		丸出だめ夫	森田幸次				142-155	comedy/slice of life
161				ワタリ	白土三平				17-51	action (historical drama/ninja)
162				ミヤムツマン	マール	久米のる			191-205	action (SF)
163				黄色い手袋	藤田次郎	川内康範			69-84	hero (secret identity)
164				ハリスの猫	ちげてつや				21-36	sports
165				コナン	横山光輝				53-68	hero (secret agent)
166				宇宙少年ソラン	宮藤昌雄				129-141	action (SF)
167				悪魔の鬼太郎	妖 水木しげる				175-189	yokai/horror
168				ネンダラ小僧	滝田ゆう				207-222	comedy/slice of life
169										
170	16	224		丸出だめ夫	森田幸次				55-68	

- Size and Scope
 - This project aims at digitizing 1850-70 issues, each ranging from 80 to 300 pages.
 - Each issue has 8-13 manga titles.
 - Items will need dis-binding before digitization.
- Target Audiences
 - This collection will be digitized mainly for the purpose of preservation and be used by Manga fans and scholars who study Japanese popular culture and visual arts.
- Project phases
 - This project consists of 3 phases: Preparation, Digitization, and Dark Archiving.
 - Currently, we are at the Preparation phase.
 - Examining physical condition
 - Identifying missing/damaged pages
 - Creating inventory at issue- and title-level
 - Developing detailed metadata including information about the writers and illustrators, their pseudonyms, the physical condition of each issue, details on missing or damaged pages, genre classifications, whether the content was adapted into a Japanese TV animation series, etc.
 - Genres span the spectrum from sports, historical drama, SF, mysteries, and heroes with secret identities, yokai/horror, animal protagonists, and comedy/slice of life.
 - We plan on calculating the digitization cost for the entire collection based on the pricing structure recommended by the [Southern Regional Library Facility Imaging Services Lab](#).
 - Elements needed to be discussed further include: duration of the project, staffing resources, dark archiving matter, data management and delivery plan, and potential sources of additional funding, both internal and external.
- Hyokyung Hwang interned at UCI Libraries during the Fall 2023, under the guidance of Dr. Zhang, dedicating 6-7 hrs weekly to meticulously review the collection and update the inventory. She achieved notable progress up to volume 20 of the year 1968 by the conclusion of the internship.

Can AI Enhance Discovery and Cataloging Services?

- The digitization of *Shūkan Shōnen Magajin* goes beyond mere preservation, actively elevating scholarly pursuits by increasing accessibility and broadening the audience reach.
- Khan et al. (2023) state that "AI generative tools such as ChatGPT, AI Perplexity, and iAsk.AI can enhance library services by improving search accuracy, refining metadata, and providing personalized recommendations in academic library discovery services."
- Heng et al. (2023) notes that ChatGPT understands the basic MARC formats but "does not fully understand MARC cataloging rules, unable to perform subject analysis, did a poor job searching for authorities in the Library of Congress Authority File."
- Additional deliberation is required to embrace generative AI tools for enhancing the discovery and cataloging services and classification of digitized manga magazine collections.

LITERATURE CITED

Heng, G., Hovoet, K., & Linsey, N. (2023, June 25). *Can OpenAI Be Taught to Catalog?* [Poster Session]. ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. <https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/concern/presentations/sq87c223n>

Khan, R., Gupta, N., Sinhababu, A., & Chakravarty, R. (2023). Impact of Conversational and Generative AI Systems on Libraries: A Use Case Large Language Model (LLM), *Science & Technology Libraries*. DOI:10.1080/0194262X.2023.2254814

CONTACT INFORMATION

hyokyung.hwang@sjsu.edu
yingz@uci.edu



Thank you for visiting our poster!