# Digitization of Shūkan Shōnen Magajin (1959-1995) for Enhanced Scholarship and Preservation

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### **BACKGROUND**

- Overview of the Shūkan Shōnen Magajin (1959-1995)
- A significant resource for Japanese cultura 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**

- Size and Scope

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- 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 projects 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, yōkai/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 <u>Southern Regional Library</u> <u>Facility Imaging Services Lab.</u>
- 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 Al 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 "Al generative tools such as ChatGPT, Al Perplexity, and iAsk.Al 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

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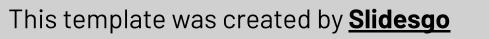
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**Magazine inventory** 

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