News from the

Asia Library Japanese Studies Collection

Between March 31, 2020 and August 23, 2021 (when it was discontinued), U-M users had emergency temporary access to the HathiTrust Digital Library and its digital copies of in-copyright works — including nearly 109,700 Japanese digitized titles. Usage statistics shows our Japanese language materials were accessed and used frequently as course and research materials.

During the Covid-19 restrictions, Zoom library resource instruction was offered to undergraduate and graduate students. More than one hundred students interacted with the librarian via email and Zoom, posing reference questions on research themes and materials. 46% of the inquiries about Japanese language resources at Michigan came from outside of the university, and from scholars both domestic and international. Canada, France, Switzerland, Italy, Czech Republic, Lebanon, Turkey, Korea, and Japan were all represented. Many of these inquiries were about the content in the HathiTrust Digital Library. Unfortunately, not every item is accessible globally due-to copyright law, but the librarian assisted them with the best option to support their research needs. The experience convinced me of the global reputation of Michigan's Japanese studies and of the high expectations for our library collection and service.

Our collection – third largest in North America

We acquired 3,974 monograph volumes and 752 media materials in the FY2021, bringing the total to 353,299 volumes with 29 digital databases and approximately 5,500 media materials related to Japan. Our collection is now the third largest among university libraries in North America (via the Council of East Asia Libraries statistics, 2020). These new acquisitions were not easily made under the Covid-19 library closure and restrictions. Both the shipment of books from Japan and our ability to process the arrived materials were limited.

Since October, 2020, the Japanese technical staff—Mari Suzuki, Kazuko Anderson, and Etsuko Kosuge—and librarian worked onsite to process our acquisition regularly once a week or every other week, depending upon the current university public health safety measures. Our work would not have been possible without the assistance of the staff of the library facilities, the technical services, and information technology departments. It is our teamwork that brought resources into the hands of our patrons.

Digital resources continue to grow to meet the remote access needs of our faculty and students under this crisis. Among them are *Tōyō keizai* (東洋経済) archives, *Eiga geijutsu kenkyū* (映画芸術研究), and *Kokusai josei* (國際女性 一占領期女性雑誌メディア). *Morohashi Daikanwa jiten* (諸橋大漢和辞典) will be added to our collection this fall, after Japanese Studies librarians in North America cooperatively negotiated with the Japanese platform provider for almost two decades.



"*Mushi no uta awase emaki*", © 2021, Regents of the University of Michigan

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Japanese Studies Collection

Aligned with U-M Library aspirations, collection efforts have been made in the studies of Ainu people, Okinawa, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, survivors of disasters, and other under-represented groups. Materials are also being acquired from specialized advocacy organizations.

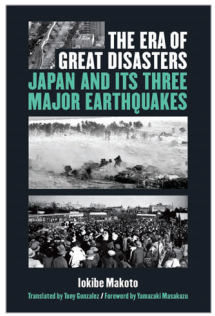
To increase accessibility to digital image collections for visually impaired users, text description of images read by screen reader were added to two digital collections; "*Mushi no utaawase emaki* 虫歌合絵巻" and "*Japanese Constitution slides–Jinken* 人権". Text description also makes the digital images discoverable by search engines for everyone globally. This was a collaborative project in the summer of 2019, among Dorothy Ma, a Michigan Library Scholar (undergraduate student), Stephanie Rosen, Accessibility Strategist & Librarian for Disability Studies, Ben Howell, User Experience and Accessibility Specialist, Robert James McIntyre, Digital Asset Management Consultant, Natsu Oyobe, Curator of Asian Art at the U-M Museum of Art, and the Japanese Studies Librarian. In 2020, Michigan's *Mu-shi no utaawase emaki* was added to *Cultural Japan*, the National Diet Library's platform to collect over a million global digital image collections.

KeikoYokota-Carter
Japanese Studies Librarian

News from the

Publications Program

The Era of Great Disasters: Japan and Its Three Major Earthquakes

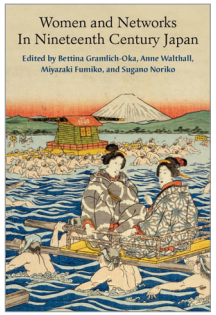


Volume 89
Makoto IOKIBE; Translated by Tony GONZALEZ
Foreword by YAMAZAKI Masakazu. In collaboration with the Japan Library.

The Era of Great Disasters examines modern disaster response in Japan, from the changing earthquake preparations and regulations, to immediate emergency procedures from the national, prefectural, and city levels, and finally the evolving efforts of rebuilding and preparing for the next great disaster in the hopes of minimizing their tragic effects. This book focuses on three major earthquakes from Japan's modern history. The first is the 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake, which struck the capital region. The second is the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, affecting the area between Kobe and Osaka. The third is the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the magnitude 9.0 quake that struck off the Pacific coast of the Tōhoku region, causing a devastating tsunami and nuclear accident. While the events of (and around) each of these earthquakes are unique, Professor Iokibe brings his deep expertise and personal experience to each disaster, unveiling not only the disasters themselves but the humanity underneath. In each case, he gives attention and gratitude to those who labored to save lives and restore the communities affected, from the individuals on the scene to government officials and military personnel and emergency responders, in the hope that we might learn from the past and move forward with greater wisdom, knowledge, and common purpose.

IOKIBE Makoto is Chancellor of the University of Hyogo and President of the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute. He is also Professor Emeritus of Japanese political and diplomatic history, Kobe University and Former President of the National Defense Academy of Japan. After the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Professor Iokibe was appointed Chairperson of the Reconstruction Design Council in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, a government-established advisory panel of scholars and experts for formulating governmental reconstruction guidelines. Following the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, he served as Chairperson of the Expert Group for Reconstruction and Recovery from the Kumamoto Earthquake. Among his many publications, his volume *Nichibeikankeishi* (Yuhikaku, 2008) has recently been translated by the Japan Library and published as "The History of US-Japan Relations: From Perry to the Present" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

Women and Networks in Nineteenth-Century Japan



Volume 90
Edited by Bettina GRAMLICH-OKA, Anne WALTHALL, MIYAZAKI Fumiko, and SUGANO Noriko

Although scholars have emphasized the importance of women's networks for civil society in twentieth-century Japan, *Women and Networks in Nineteenth-Century Japan* is the first book to tackle the subject for the contentious and consequential nineteenth century. The essays traverse the divide when Japan started transforming itself from a decentralized to a centralized government, from legally imposed restrictions on movement to the breakdown of travel barriers, and from ad hoc schooling to compulsory elementary school education. As these essays suggest, such changes had a profound impact on women and their roles in networks. Rather than pursue a common methodology, the authors take diverse approaches to this topic that open up fruitful avenues for further exploration.

Most of the essays in this volume are by Japanese scholars; their inclusion provides either an introduction to their work or the opportunity to explore their scholarship further. Because women are often invisible in historical documentation, the authors use sources (e.g., diaries, letters, and legal documents) to reconstruct the familial, neighborhood, religious, political, work, and travel networks that women maintained, constructed, or found themselves in—sometimes against their will. In so doing, most but not all of the authors try to decenter historical narratives built on men's activities and men's occupational and status-based networks, and instead recover women's activities in more localized groupings and personal associations.

Bettina GRAMLICH-OKA is Professor of Japanese History at Sophia University (Tokyo); **MIYAZAKI Fumiko** is Professor Emerita at Keisen University (Tokyo); **SUGANO Noriko** was Professor at Teikyo University (Tokyo); **Anne WALTHALL** is Professor Emerita at the University of California, Irvine.