MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC RESOURCES IN JAPAN:

An Overview and Problems in Cataloging and Utilization

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The aim of this presentation

To outline and visualize:

- What kinds of resources are in Japan, and their availability
- Efforts in cataloging and activities for effective utilization
### MIDDLE EAST / ISLAMIC STUDIES BEFORE WWII

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Translation of Humphrey Prideaux’s <em>Life of Mahomet</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910’s</td>
<td>Researches and translations in Japanese were published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930’s</td>
<td>Major institutions for Middle East Studies were established. The first mosque was built in 1935 in Kobe, followed by Tokyo Camii in 1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>The end of WWII. The above institutions were dismissed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tokyo Camii (rebuilt in 2000)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950’s-1960’s</td>
<td>Restart of Middle East / Islamic Studies by major universities, institutions and academic societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Joint research project on “Islamization”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-2002</td>
<td>JRP on “Understanding the Dynamism of Muslim Societies” aka “Islamic Area Studies”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2016</td>
<td>JRP named “Islamic Area Studies” promoted by National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TYPES OF MIDDLE EAST / ISLAMIC STUDIES

## INFORMATION RESOURCES IN JAPAN

1. **Resources in Middle Eastern languages**
   - Manuscripts, documents and rare books
   - Printed materials (books, periodicals, etc.)
   - Digital resources

2. **Resources in Western languages**
   - Research books and papers
   - Translations, revised texts of 1.
   - Dictionaries and reference books, etc.

3. **Resources in Japanese**
   - Research books and papers
   - Translations of 1. and 2.
   - Dictionaries and reference books, etc.
   - Official documents, *manga* (comic books), grey literature, etc.
Hans Daiber Collection (The University of Tokyo, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia)

URL: http://ricasdb.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/daiber/db_index_eng.html

Collection of Arabic manuscripts previously owned by Dr. Hans Daiber. 367 volumes with color images and 153 with monochrome images are open to the public on the website. The Institute also holds Müteferrika collection (17 titles). For its catalog search for “Turkish incunabula collection” in the University’s OPAC. https://opac_dl.itc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/opac/opac_search/
Islamic Rare Materials, Kyoto University

URL: https://edb.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/exhibit/index.html
(description in Japanese)

Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish manuscripts, lithographs and old books including 2 titles of Ottoman Turkish commentaries on Rumi’s *Mathnawi* (19c).
Toyo Bunko is one of the largest Asian research libraries in Japan which continuously collects Asian materials.

Two Qur’an manuscripts: one from the 14c Mamluk Syria (photo). Another one from South Asia has Persian translation.

Toyo Bunko also has good collections of rare books, including 60 lithographed books from Iran.
Sultan Hamid Collection purchased in 1975. It includes 123 Arabic, 69 Persian and 39 Ottoman Turkish manuscripts. The oldest one is dated 787A.H./1385C.E.

Catalogs are available in book form.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Periodicals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>72,374</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>17,842</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>17,563</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottoman Turkish</td>
<td>4,264</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>22,445</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>5,492</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Searched by text language, as of June 15, 2018.
OTHER RESOURCES IN JAPANESE

- **Official documents**

  Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, National Archives of Japan (JACAR) (https://www.jacar.go.jp/english/) provides digitalized documents from the National Archives of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and the Ministry of Defense of Japan. Example: diplomatic document on Persia changing its name to Iran.

- **Manga (comic books), grey literature, etc.**

  can be found in CiNii and NDL Search but usually libraries do not positively collect them. An example of manga teaching Qur’an: https://www.amazon.co.jp/exec/obidos/ASIN/4781612695/
Launched in 1984, adopted Arabic scripts in 2003

Provides Japan’s largest union catalog DBs to which 1,334 libraries are connected (as of March 3, 2018)

Searchable through CiNii Books [https://ci.nii.ac.jp/](https://ci.nii.ac.jp/)

About 12 million catalogs of books, 349 thousand catalogs of magazines (as of Jun 3)

Normalization system for accurate retrieval
## Example of Normalization in NACSIS-CAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UCS code</th>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Normalized in &quot;index keys&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0622</td>
<td>۝</td>
<td>ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH MANDDA ABOVE</td>
<td>0627, ا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0623</td>
<td>ۤ</td>
<td>ARABIC LETTER ALEF WITH HAMZA ABOVE</td>
<td>0627, ا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0624</td>
<td>ۣ</td>
<td>ARABIC LETTER WAW WITH HAMZA ABOVE</td>
<td>0648, و</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0626</td>
<td>۲</td>
<td>ARABIC LETTER YEH WITH HAMZA ABOVE</td>
<td>064A, ی</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06CC</td>
<td>۵١</td>
<td>ARABIC LETTER Farsi YEH</td>
<td>064A, ی</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06A9</td>
<td>۵۰١</td>
<td>ARABIC LETTER KEHEH</td>
<td>0643, ك</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROBLEMS IN CATALOGING

Lack of human resources

Process for cataloging Middle Eastern materials in Japan:

1. **Find an excellent part-timer**

2. **Secure working hours of a librarian**

3. **Let them work together for a certain amount of time**

   Repeat each time the cataloger quits
MARC cataloging became harder than card cataloging. As the results, catalogers sometimes--

can not get at classification, subject headings, making authority files

create misspelled names such as “مهمدد”
70% OF THE RECORDS DO NOT HAVE ANY CLASSIFICATION NUMBER

The ratio of bibliographic records with at least one classification number of NDC, NDLC, LCC, DC/DDC to records without any number (as of Jan 2017).
Based on search result in CiNii (as of April 14, 2017).
Jointly established by National Institutes for the Humanities and Toyo Bunko in 2006, as one of five centers of “Islamic Area Studies” program

Gatherings of librarians concerned with Arabic script materials

Islamic Area Studies information retrieval seminar for students

TBIAS’ website: http://tbias.jp/
Bibliographical Database of Islamic and Middle East Studies in Japan

Cataloging guides and tools on the website http://tbias.jp/

Researches on the Ottoman civil code (mecelle), the Persian bookkeeping system, seminars on Central Asian legal documents, seminars on Ottoman documents, etc.
UEHIRO PROJECT FOR THE ASIAN RESEARCH LIBRARY (U-PARL), THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO (SINCE 2014)

http://u-parl.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en

- collects Asian research resources for the Asian Research Library (to be opened in 2020)
- Seminars on retrieval method, workshops on cataloging Asian materials, talk sessions on Asian Studies, etc.
- Pursues the possibility of subject librarianship in Japan

Photo: General Library of the University of Tokyo. The 4th floor will be the Asian Research Library.
FUTURE ISSUES

- Resource sharing beyond the bounds of organizations
- Securing quality human resources
- Visualization and transfer of the cataloging know-how to ...
- International cooperation and sharing
Thank you for your attention \(^{ (^o^) } \) /

Photo: Tatar Muslim cemetery in Tama Cemetery, Tokyo
BIBLIOGRAPHY


- Miura, Toru and Sato, Kentaro, eds. *The Vellum Contract Documents in Morocco in the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries: Part I*. (Toyo Bunko Research Library (TBRL) ; 15), Tokyo: The Toyo Bunko, 2015. PDF available at its repository: http://www.i-repository.net/il/meta_pub/G0000171kenkyu (In English)


CiNii: cross-search for books and periodicals, articles, dissertations in (mostly university and academic) libraries. [https://ci.nii.ac.jp/](https://ci.nii.ac.jp/)

NDL Search: searches bibliographic data of major public libraries and National Diet Library. [http://iss.ndl.go.jp/](http://iss.ndl.go.jp/)

NDL Online: OPAC of NDL. Searchable by original text language code. [https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/](https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/)
