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How did we get here? Present state of Advocacy and Education for Library Preservation in Japan

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Abstract:

Preservation is the primary mission of the library. Librarians must think of preserving all formats of library resources for future generations. New technology should be developed and informed to librarians. In addition, traditional conservation techniques are to be maintained and known by librarians.

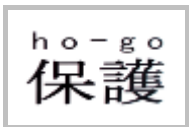
I would like to introduce several aspects of preservation and conservation in Japan, such as advocacy of acid-free paper achieved 96% use for published books, the campaign of “preventive conservation” after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (1995). In addition, universities have increased conservation courses for cultural property since Japan ratified the convention of World Heritage.

Library preservation has many aspects from repairing books to binding, microfilming, mass deacidification, digitizing library materials, disaster planning and so on. Librarians should know all countermeasures in an integrated manner in order to select adequate alternatives.

1. Conservation Education at Present



Preservation and conservation are called "ho-zon" and "ho-go" in Japanese. It literally means "to keep the existence" or "to maintain the present state". In this article, I use the "preservation" as a comprehensive, positive, and administratively broader word. The "conservation", "ho-go" in Japanese, is used as more practical and technical word for care, repairing, handling and so on.



(1) Traditional Conservation

The traditional conservation work for artistic works is called "hyo-so" or "hyo-gu" (paper hanging or picture framing). The restoration of books has been done with such techniques. Within several libraries such as the National Diet Library or the Archives and



Mausolea Department of the Imperial Household Agency (Kunaicho Shoryobu), paper conservation technicians are working with traditional techniques for damaged books. While usually librarians have

rare books repaired by outside private conservators.

Training for traditional conservation has been undertaken by conservators through an apprenticeship system for a long time. However, now they need to exchange different conservation techniques. There are now some organizations that have been established by traditional conservators. The Association of Conservation of National Treasures (Kokuho Shuri Sokoshi Remmei) is organized by ten conservation factories, having an annual meeting, symposiums, and workshops. Occasionally they have international meetings as well. Washi (Japanese handmade paper) is widely used among paper conservators around the world now.

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (Tokyo Bunkazai Kenkyujo http://www.tobunken.go.jp/index_e.html), is the main center where individuals and organizations can ask for suggestions about the conservation of cultural properties and rare books. In addition, it has a graduate school education program provided, since 1995, in collaboration with the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts School and the Music(Tokyo Geijutsu Daigaku). It also has an annual training program for museum

curators. It has a close relationship with ICCROM¹, ICOM², and IIC³.

National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties (2006)

Classification	National Treasure	Important Cultural Property
picture	157	1,946
sculpture	126	2,606
draft work	252	2,400
handwriting, book	223	1,851
archive	59	713
archeological material	40	552
historical material	1	141
	total: 858	total:10,209

(2) Private Conservation Services

In the 1990s, the number of private conservation services increased, applying modern conservation techniques and scientific knowledge, such as permanent paper boxing, leafcasting, backing and repairing with Washi, small scale deacidification, encapsulation, and so forth. Mass deacidification for libraries has been commercialized by larger companies. There are more than ten companies in the Tokyo area besides conventional book binders and library supplier companies. Quite a few conservators studied conservation education in U.S. or Europe. “Preservation and Conservation News”(Hobo Nikkan Shiryo Hozon. http://www.hozon.co.jp/hobo/hobo_top.htm) is prepared by a conservation company, and disseminating updated world wide information on preservation.



Boxing, repairing, and washing (photo by Shiryo Hozon Kizai Co.)

¹ ICCROM: International Organization for Conservation of Cultural Heritage.

² ICOM: International Council of Museums

³ IIC: International Institute of Conservation

(3) Academic Associations and Institutions

In 1995 the Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property (Bunkazai Hozon Shufuku Gakkai <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/jsccp/index-j.html> [Japanese]) was expansively reorganized from a former association. They are more than 1,000 membership strong, publishing journals, holding academic conferences, and they are active in the restoration for disaster damage of cultural properties as well.

The Japan Institute of Insect Damage to Cultural Properties (Bunkazai Chugai Kenkyujo, established in 1951) has been working for a long time regarding the biological damage of cultural properties. They have yearly workshops, training courses, and consulting services for museum curators, archivists, and librarians.

(4) Conservation Education in Universities

Since Japan ratified the convention of World Heritage in 1992, more and more universities have conservation courses on cultural property. There are about 20 conservation university courses in Japan at present. Following is the chronological list of university conservation courses at undergraduate or graduate level. The number of posts related conservation is gradually increasing, however, getting a job is not easy as the number of students is also increasing.

- 1964 Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music(Tokyo Geijutsu Daigaku) Graduate School of Fine Arts. Conservation Course.
(expanded in 1995 -)
- 1979 Nara University.
- 1988 Tokyo Gakugei University.
- 1989 Graduate University for Advanced Studies(Sogo Kenkyu Daigakuin Daigaku).
- 1991 Kyoto University of Art and Design.
- 1992 Tohoku University of Art and Design. Showa Women's University.
- 1994 Kyoto University. Nagaoka Institute of Design.
- 1995 Nara University of Education.
- 1997 Beppu University. Kyoto Tachibana University.
- 1998 Tokushima Bunri University. Tsurumi University.
- 2000 Osaka Ohtani University. Kanazawa Gakuin University.
Kyoto City University of Arts.
Institute of Technology (MonotsukuriUniv.). Rissho University.
- 2001 KIBI International University.
Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music.
- 2003-05 Taisho University. University of Tsukuba. Doshisha University.

Curriculum in the Master Course of Conservation at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music

Accelerated Aging	Materials and Techniques
Archaeometry	Museum Environment
Chemical Analysis of Cultural Property	Restoration Materials
Conservation Materials	Restoration Planning
Conservation Practice	Strategies in Conservation Environment
Experiments in Materials Science	Technology of Restoration of Historic Building
General Survey and Practice of Conservation	Theory of Preservation of Historical Heritage Policy
History of Modern Architecture	Traditional Techniques
Instrumental Analysis	Urban planning for the preserving of Historical Heritage

In general, conservation curriculum in universities is oriented to mainly artistic works and archeological finds. From the viewpoint of a librarian, there should be stronger focus on conservation of historical documents or rare books. On the other hand, there are no stand alone classes in conservation or preservation offered within the courses of librarianship in Japanese universities. Some of the discussion on preservation should, of course, be covered within the curriculum for librarianship.

As a private technical school, Istituto L'AMBIENTE in Tokyo was accredited by Istituto per l'Arte e il Restauro Palazzo Spinelli (Firenze) and they are teaching European restoration techniques for books, drawings, and print arts since 2001.

2. Advocacy of Library Preservation

(1) Programs by National Diet Library (NDL)

< Acid paper problem >

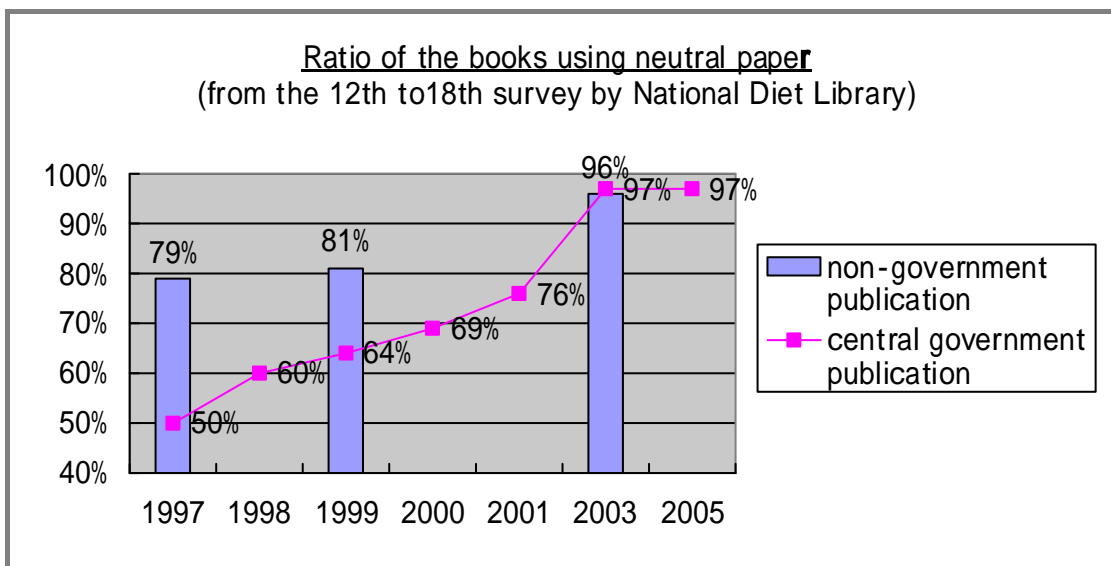
A small magazine “Yuzuriha”(published 1983-86) became a trigger of acid paper movements in the 1980s. The magazine explained about the deterioration of modern paper arising from acid chemicals and various countermeasures performed in U.S. etc. The problem of acid paper was reported widely through the TV and other media.

NDL soon carried out a condition survey for the first time on a broad scale. Twenty nine percent of its collection was estimated to be brittle. Then the NDL started preservation programs, such as the preservation microfilming project for the 160,000 volumes of books published in Meiji period(1868-1912), which was completed in 1991. Mass Deacidification using DAE (dry ammonia ethylene oxide) method developed by Nippon Filing Co. was

first performed in 1999 based on the examinations and research by paper scientists. Preservation of electronic resources was started in 1998 and 127,000 books have been digitalized and in 2006 they will be made opening accessible to the public.

< pH survey >

NDL has performed a pH survey almost every year since 1986 to examine the durability of the paper used for the text block of newly published books. The responsiveness of paper industries was rather quick. The percentage of neutral (pH6.5 more) paper was raised 74% in 1989. And it is now 96% in non-government publications, according to the 17th NDL'S pH survey in 2003.



< Raising awareness >

As one of its main purposes, NDL provides educational campaigns and awareness for libraries nationwide. Following are the titles of proceedings based on symposiums, held by NDL and published by JLA (Japan Library Association). The main concerns regarding preservation are changing year by year as is detailed below. Preservation issues are changing from paper deterioration to media reformat, environmental control, disaster preparedness, and preventive conservation.

1. **Library collections in crisis: Proceedings of the 1st Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1990.**
2. **Preservation and use of newspapers: Proceedings of the 2nd Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1991.**
3. **Cooperation for preservation: at home and abroad: Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1993.**
4. **Preservation of library materials and media conversion: microfilming in focus: Proceedings of the 4th Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1994.**

5. **Towards the cooperative preservation of library materials: Current Status and Future: Proceedings of the 5th Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1995.**
6. **Current status of conservation: how to apply preservation and restoration techniques: Proceedings of the 6th Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1996.**
7. **Preparing for preservation environment: against severe climate and various disasters: Proceedings of the 7th Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1997.**
8. **Paper! For future generations: Proceedings of the 8th Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1998.**
9. **Preservation of electronic information: what we should be thinking about now: Proceedings of the 9th Annual Symposium on Preservation, 1999.**
10. **Networks in Asia : preservation cooperation hereafter, 2000.**

Following are the titles from the "Forum of Preservation", the discussion meeting of preservation and conservation professionals.

14th : **Environmental Control in library and Archives (2001).**

15th : **Preparedness to Disaster (2003).**

16th : **Disaster and Information Network(2004).**

17th : **Prevention and Response for Disaster(2005).**

<International cooperation>

Since NDL became a PAC Asian Regional Center in 1989, they have been providing various international activities. Visiting librarians and trainees were invited from Malaysia, Australia, Thailand, UK, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Korea, and Taiwan. They dispatched librarians to Indonesia, UK, Mongolia, Egypt, Myanmar, and India for lectures, training programs, technical exchanges, etc.

In November of 2004, the first Preservation Conference by Korea, China, and Japan's National librarians was held. It was held in Seoul and they introduced and discussed library preservation policies of each country, techniques, and how to encourage cooperation.

In December of 2005, "Open seminar on the documentary heritage damaged by the Indian Ocean Tsunami" and the meeting of Directors of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centers in Asia was held. Ms. Varlamoff of the International Focal Point, others from the Oceania and Southeast Asia Regional centre, Regional Centre of China, National Library of Indonesia, National Library of Sri Lanka, and National Library of Korea gathered and discussed about networking and disaster plans. Asian cooperation is another keyword of library preservation.

In August of 2006, a pre-conference of IFLA Seoul Conference, entitled "Preservation and conservation in Asia" is held in Tokyo by NDL.

<Training program>

NDL provides conservation training programs for other librarians yearly from 1997.



Demonstration by NDL staff at a university library.

Minor repairing, making pamphlets, bookcase repairing, etc. are taught. The lecturer is a NDL conservator and each year the training has specific themes such as fixing pages, repairing adhesive binding, joint fixing, repairing picture books and so on. Nowadays books are bound using a Western style but are fixed with Washi and starch paste. They are planning an e-learning based conservation lecture in 2006.

<Other programs>

There are many other programs being carried out by NDL, such as preservation microfilming, condition surveys, environmental control in stacks, digitization and so on. I do not detail these topics in this article because the focus is on advocacy and education. However, through the NDL homepage and public relations, other libraries can access the state of the art preservation countermeasures developed by NDL. In particular, the Preservation Division of NDL is performing the role of nationwide clearinghouse.

(2) JLA : Committee on Preservation and Conservation

In 1990 the Committee on Preservation and Conservation was established within the Japan Library Association, succeeding the former activities of the preservation study group. They have annual open sessions at the annual meeting of the Japan Library Association (All-Japan Library Conference). The newsletter of 'Preservation Network' is continuously published by JLA committee from 1985 until today.

<Publications>

Following are the titles of the JLA publication series on preservation.

1. IFLA Principles for the preservation and conservation of library materials / Jeanne-Marie Dureau etc., 1987 [Japanese translation from English text]
2. Aspects of the preservation problem (Preservation in Denmark) / Hans Peder

- Pedersen, 1989 [Japanese translation from English text]
3. Preservation with the use of container: technique for paper conservation, 1991.
 4. Conservation of paper based materials / Eiji Suzuki 1993. [Japanese]
 5. Preservation and conservation in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin / Anthony Cains etc., 1993 [Japanese translation from English text]
 6. Preservation for access through pictures, 1998. [English & Japanese]
 7. Disaster Planning: preparedness and recovery for libraries and archives / Sally Buchanan, 1994 [Japanese translation from English text]
 8. Library and Archive Environment / Masamitsu Inaba, 2001. [Japanese]
 9. IFLA principles for the care and handling of library material, 2003 [Japanese translation from English text].
 10. Preservation of Photographs / Hiroko Arai, 2003. [Japanese]

The committee first advocated "Preservation for Access". Its positive meaning was well supported by librarians. They know the importance of knowing the correct care and handling in a rational and scientific way.

It was emphasized overwhelmingly to raise the number of borrowed book out of the library in the 60s and 70s. And there was tendency to ignore old materials. In the 80s, the committee advocated the importance of local historical records, archives, as well as current materials. Frequently even the small public library possesses very important documents related to local affairs and history.

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred in 1995. Reportedly the damage of stacks by the earthquake was severe followed by water damage due to fire sprinklers etc. The committee is now insisting "preventive conservation". *IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material*. (1998, Paris: IFLA PAC) was translated in Japanese and is efficient text for Japanese librarians. Recent publications on conservation by this committee include: *Fusegu gijutsu naosu gijutsu* [Basic manual for preservation of paper materials]. (2005). Tokyo: JLA. This is a very popular manual for repairing and protecting books at workplaces.



<Panels for the exhibition for preservation >

The Committee provides a kit for exhibition and display to advocate library preservation. It is composed of 19 panels, which any library can borrow and use for an exhibition or campaign. It describes acid-paper, storage environment, biological issues, disasters, and earthquakes.

<Preservation section meeting at All-Japan Library Conference>

Every year the committee provides a section meeting at the annual Library Conference.

Following are the titles of the meetings.

2003 Local Society and Preservation.

2004 Preservation matters recent years.

2005 Disaster and Preservation: what I must do and what I can do .

(3) Advocacy for Awareness of Disaster

<Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake>

Recently, the main concern of the library is disaster preparedness especially after the experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (1995 Jan) . More than 6,000 persons died in this earthquake. Although 40% of 111 libraries received some sort of damage, only two libraries could not be used afterward and no users were disadvantaged because it occurred in the early morning. As the architecture of the library did not receive so much damage, some libraries could serve as shelters for injured persons and librarians worked to assist the people. Especially for public libraries, 25%of additional strength of construction is obliged by the law of 1980.

Ten years later the architecture has been restored to its former state. However, librarians have realized the important role of the library to maintain the memories of the event and importance of awareness of disasters is increasing more than ever.

<Shinsai Bunko:EDMC>

Kobe University Library opened soon after "the Earthquake Disaster Materials Collection (EDMC)"(<http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/eqb/e-index.html>). The library holds over 40,000 items about the earthquake, including over 4,000 digital resources (2006). Many of them can be accessed via the Internet. The Volunteer Network for Historical Materials (Rekishi Shiryo Network) was founded in 1995 by several academic associations on history and is active for rescue and fund-raising for historical materials.

The Building Standard Law has basically not changed after the earthquake, however, rather many libraries carried out renovations for earthquake resistance, for example Hibiya Library (one of the Tokyo Metropolitan Libraries) carried out additional strength construction for earthquake resistance in 2001, and International Library of Children's Literature was fully opened in 2002 with renovations and quake-absorbing construction.

<JSCI: activities by archivists>

The Japan Society of Archives Institutions (Zen-shiryo-kyo) is active for disaster preparedness. There was a symposium entitled, "Risk Management for Historical and Cultural Heritage and Network: Museum, Library, Archives" was held in November 2005.

The resolution of that symposium, entitled "Tokyo Appeal" is below.

1. Local disaster system and plans must definitely include safe storage of local records.
2. Fundamental risk management is preventive action. Disaster prevention and reducing damage must be established.
3. Continuous collaboration and dialog are necessary between museums, libraries, and archives.
4. Continuous reexamination is necessary for a disaster prevention system, and taking account of international movements.

<Natural disasters in Japan and the world>

Year	Natural disaster	Action
1995 Jan 17	The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (6,400 victims, 100,000 houses collapsed)	JLA annual conference featured disaster and preservation, EDMC was started
1997 Sept.		"Disaster and Preservation" published by JLA
1999 Aug.	Earthquake in Turkey (17,000 victims)	Counter Disaster Planning in Libraries and Archives published by JLA
Sept.	Earthquake in Taiwan (2,000 victims)	
2000 Oct.	Western Tottori Earthquake	
2001 Jan.	Earthquake in West India (20,000 victims)	
Mar.	Geiyo Earthquake	
2002	Flood in Germany, Czech, and France	International Library of Children's Literature (full open with earthquake-resistance)
2003 July	Northern Miyagi Earthquakes	NDL Forum of Preservation : Disaster Preparedness
Sept.	Tokachi - oki Earthquake	
Dec	Earthquake in Bam, Iran (42,000 victims)	
2004 Sept.	Typhoon 18 (Itsukushima Shrine damaged)	JLA published "Risk Management Manual" Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel
Oct.	Mid Niigata Prefecture Earthquake	
Dec.	Indian Ocean Tsunami (220,000 victims)	
2005 Mar.	Sumatra Earthquake (1,300 victims)	NDL open seminar about "Sumatra Tsunami" JLA Journal featured "Disaster and Library"
Juy	Flood in Niigata and Fukushima	
Sept..	Hurricane Katrina in U.S.A (1,000 victims)	
Aug.	Miyagi-Oki Earthquake	
Oct.	Earthquake in Northern Pakistan (70,000 victims)	
2006 Feb.	Landslide in Philippine (1,600 victims)	
May	Earthquake in Indonesia (5,000 victims)	

3. Conclusion

(1) At present, advocacy of preventive measures is key for effective library preservation within Japan.

(2) Preservation has many aspects. Librarians should know them comprehensively to make adequate decisions.

(3) Preservation is philosophical and administrative. Not only technique and science, we must be thinking of why, what, and how we should preserve?

"6.1 It is not possible to reverse the process of decay. Restoration in the absolute sense is therefore not possible. The restoration of a decayed item in a library collection is the stabilization and reconstruction of the decayed and damaged object, using as much of the original material as is functionally possible but also new material where necessary. This process always means a change: some properties of the original materials will be preserved at the expense of others and it is for the librarian to decide whether this change is acceptable or not. The aim of restoration is to provide the new restored object with as many of the qualities as possible, functional, visual and tactile, as the original."

(From "*Principles of Conservation and Restoration in Libraries*" IFLA 1979, underlined by author.)

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