

# NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS FOR JAPANESE INFORMATION RESOURCES

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## Current collection

The National Library of Australia (NLA)'s current budget for Asian Collections is A\$772,000. Of this A\$319,500 is for Japanese language materials or 41 percent of the total. As at 30 June 1999 the Japanese language collection included 72,986 monograph titles in 101,567 volumes and 5,924 serial titles of which 2,423 are current. During the year to June 1999 the collection of monographs grew by 1,728 titles in 2,340 volumes.

Collecting is based on the Library's Collection Development Policy (1999) which assigns a high priority to collecting on Japan. A long-standing and successful *Agreement for Japanese Materials* with the Australian National University Library (ANU) which began in 1955 assigns primary responsibility for collecting in the humanities and pre-1868 Japanese history to the ANU and collecting in the social sciences and post-1868 history to NLA. Both libraries have been cooperative and flexible in maintaining this agreement and the ANU Library's Japanese Librarian, Mr Toshio Takagi, and his predecessors deserve considerable praise for their cooperation over many years.

Bibliographic control of the collection is reasonably good with about 90 percent of all holdings accessible on the Library's online catalogue and the National CJK Service, and therefore accessible through the Internet. However a few older collections are still only accessible through the card catalogue.

Japanese material is among the most heavily used Asian material on interlibrary loan. During 1998/99, of 2766 loan and copy requests 1046 (38 percent) were for Japanese. Demand for photocopies of journal articles was particularly strong with 619 articles copied accounting for 49 percent of total Asian photocopies.

## **Asian Accounts of Australia : Change, Comparison and Analysis**

The NLA is a partner in a successful application to the ARC under the SPIRT scheme by a group of Asian studies researchers, principally ANU and Griffith University and with support from LaTrobe University. It is for three years starting in 2000. The project is to concentrate on Japanese and Chinese perceptions of Australia based on printed and special materials held by the National Library. Outcomes include: publication, including a book of translated readings and a research monograph; Internet resources via website; a research conference in the final year of the project (2002) at NLA with an exhibition.

## **Harold S Williams Collection**

A detailed guide to the papers and manuscripts of Harold S Williams is expected to be published early in 2000. Harold Williams (1898-1987) was a distinguished Australian who spent most of his life in Japan as a businessman, writer and collector. He built up an extensive library of books, manuscripts, pictures, journals and other materials dealing with foreigners in Japan. He later donated the collection to the National Library. A major project is also under way using funding from the Harold Williams Trust Fund for the preservation of the Harold Williams Collection books. This includes repairs and microfilming of brittle and vulnerable items.

## **Treasures book**

For a book to be published for the centenary of the National Library in 2001 Professor David Walker of Deakin University, author of *Anxious Nation: Australia and the Rise of Asia* is preparing a chapter on the history and current state of the Japanese and other Asian Collections.

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