Collection Policy for Japanese Studies

1. Overview

General coverage of subject in OULS

Collections in support of the teaching and research undertaken by Oxford Japan specialists are found at the Bodleian Japanese Library at the Nissan Institute (BJL), the Oriental Institute Library (OIL), and Eastern Art Library (EAL) located in the Sackler Library.

The BJL houses the University’s principal research collections for Japanese studies and a teaching collection in the history and social sciences in Japan since the Meiji Restoration built up in response to the teaching requirements of the staff of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies. The OIL provides a teaching collection on the pre-modern history and society of Japan. The EAL houses a research collection of works on Japanese art and archaeology.

Until 1979, the Bodleian’s acquisition policy for Japanese studies had been followed fairly consistently; much emphasis was placed on the development of collections in the humanities, reflecting the teaching and research programme. Since 1979 the scope of selection has been expanded, as research into modern period has developed with the establishment of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies. The Library has undertaken to provide material in support of the new research interest, and has built up one of the best collections of works in the fields of modern Japanese studies in Europe.

Selection, acquisition, and cataloguing of all material for Japanese studies have been conducted at the BJL under a single administration. This has been facilitated by the entirely automated catalogues. All western material is recorded on OLIS catalogue, whereas Japanese language material is searchable in the Allegro Japanese catalogue (http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/oriental/allegro.htm) in both original script and romanization. Further development is expected when the new library catalogue system replace the current OLIS, into which all Japanese records shall be integrated.

Legal deposit

Legal deposit material relating to all subjects (apart from art and archaeology) of Japan is housed in the BJL. When the Library was established in 1994, earlier titles already held by the Bodleian under legal deposit were transferred to the BJL, provided they were published after 1760.

Works on Japanese art and archaeology are housed in the EAL.

Electronic resources

A large number of databases are networked to Oxford libraries (including those important to Japanese studies – such as various E-journal titles, the Bibliography of Asian Studies, GeNii, Nikkei Telecom21, Asahi Kikuzo database and JapanKnowledge) and access to
external information of all kinds is through OXLIP+ and SOLO, the interface for electronic resources.

Notes about particular formats or collections

The BJL holds a collection of Japanese leading daily newspapers, microform collections, and a selective collection of government publications, including white papers and committee reports. Relevant working papers and other examples of grey literature, including a good numbers of pamphlets, are also held.

The SSL holds key Japanese statistical series.

The BJL selectively collects video tapes and DVD, and currently holds a collection of over 250 video tapes, consisting of educational materials on Japan (for anthropologists), Japanese feature films/documentaries, TV dramas, and traditional theatre recordings.

Other audio material held in BJL includes collections of Japanese dialect recordings (for linguistics studies), Japanese traditional songs, and others.

Languages

More than 80 % of the titles held by BJL are in Japanese, the majority of the rest are in English, but there is also material in German, French, and Italian, with lesser amounts of material in other European languages (including Russian). A small amount of material on Japan in Chinese or Korean is housed in the Department of Oriental Collections in the main Bodleian.

2. Teaching collections

Text books

The BJL provides copies of Japanese studies reading list material relevant to the modern studies and the social sciences. Certain titles are duplicated for inclusion in the Reference collection, in cases where these come to the Library under the terms of copyright deposit.

The OIL provides lending copies of text books on the pre-modern history, literature and linguistics of Japan in support of teaching and research conducted there.

Oxford Japan specialists expect the BJL and OIL to remain alert to trends in historical scholarship and to keep abreast of shifts in the way Japanese studies are taught.

Journal articles

The BJL provides copyright cleared copies of individual journal articles for teaching purpose on request.

Levels of provision

The BJL would normally acquire one copy of each title for the Reference collection.

As for the BJL lending collection, the library normally buys one copy. If there is a higher demand for a title, and circulation and reservation
activities indicate high use, then additional copies have been bought. Personal copy of reading list material may be added by teaching staff members to a reserve shelf collection.

Certain titles are duplicated for inclusion in the Reference collection, in cases where these come to the Library under the terms of copyright deposit.

The OIL provides one copy of each title in the loan collection.

Other

Some colleges where Japanese studies students are taken, their libraries provide a collection of basic text books.

3. **Research collections**

**Research books**

The BJL extensively acquires Japanese scholarly material in support of research as undertaken by Oxford specialists in Japanese, both in the general humanities and social sciences, in which works are acquired which relate to the history and culture of Japan from the dawn of her civilization to the present day.

As far as finance permits, all major works of reference are acquired.

Special efforts have been made to build up the collection of Japanese local histories, now amounting over 5,000 titles, probably the foremost such collections outside Japan.

Important titles for Japanese studies in English and other European languages are comprehensively acquired.

**Monograph serials / standing-orders**

The BJL has standing-orders for OECD country publications, key monographic series relevant to Japanese studies (e.g. Brill, Michigan)

**Journals**

The BJL holds a substantial collection of journals, both current and non-current, received by legal deposit, subscription and donation.

Other

The Bodleian Law Library, the Social Science Library, the Social and Cultural Anthropology Library and the Educational Studies Library selectively hold Japan-related research works in their respective fields.

4. **Special Collections**

The BJL houses a collection of the Bodleian’s historical collections in Japanese, including some unique treasures acquired in the very early history of the Library. Great rarities, 6 titles of the *Kirishitan-ban* (16th century missionary literature of the Jesuit Mission Press in Japan), together with a rich collection of other pre-1850 European language material dealing with Japan, are held in the main Bodleian.
Other BJL Rarebook collection comprises Japanese manuscripts (c. 100 titles, including fine examples of nara-e picture scrolls) and early printed books, including those made from the library of Orientalist scholars and other scholars, such as Alexander Wylie, F Max Müller, S C Malan, and Sir Ernest Satow, many of which were added to the stock by donation or purchase in the early years of the 20th century.

5. **Subject coverage of selected purchased material**

The BJL covers the following research subjects for Japanese studies in the fields of the humanities and social sciences: linguistics, literature, history, religion, philosophy, intellectual history, politics, sociology/anthropology, and economics.

In addition the OIL covers the humanities subjects, such as literature, linguistics and pre-modern history, whereas the Eastern Art Library covers art and archaeology.

(See also 3.4 above)

6. **Name of subject consultant(s) responsible for collections**

Izumi Tytler (Bodleian Japanese Librarian)

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