

Regarding the Issues Related to the Acquisition of Scholarly Monographs

Speaker: SUZUKI Tetsuya, Kyoto University Press and AKAZAWA Hisaya, Kyoto University Libraries.

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The following report summarizes the lectures given by Mr. Tetsuya Suzuki and Mr. Hisaya Akazawa.

"The Change in Scholarly Communication and University Presses"
by SUZUKI Tetsuya, Associate Managing Editor, Kyoto University Press

Despite their active appearance, Japanese university presses are in a poor, even critical situation from the viewpoint of the activation of scholarly communication and the worldwide development of Japanese scholarship.

University Presses Increasing

The number of university presses in Japan has been increasing despite the general depression in the publishing business, but the continuation of this trend is questionable. The background of this phenomenon is the so-called "*daigaku kaikaku* (university reform)" initiated in 1991, with its revised university establishment standards, which, while encouraging the diversification of university curricula, intensified competition among universities. The competition was accelerated among the public universities, which became independent administrative institutions in 2004. While Japanese universities are expected to become nationally or internationally competitive, the depression in the publishing trade hinders researchers in distributing their works through publication. Hence universities are led to establish their own presses to secure the means to distribute the works of their faculty members and help promote the standing of the university itself. However, such an inflation of university presses, without the understanding of and solutions to the problems academic publications face, may lead to low-quality publications. The three problems are identified as follows: 1) the lack or insufficiency of publication in English; 2) the lack of infrastructure needed to publish cutting edge/narrow-focused/specialized works; and 3) the poor prospects of scholarly communication in the age of digitization.

1) Lack or Insufficiency of English Language Publication

The Japanese government has proceeded with the "Center of Excellence (COE) Program" which aims to create internationally competitive research centers in Japan. In order to receive financial assistance from this program, researchers are further encouraged to publish scholarly monographs in English to receive international recognition. Nonetheless, the number of publications in English in Japan remains extremely low, and even university presses "pay no attention to English publications." This is partly due to the insufficient infrastructure in the Japanese publishing business, which lacks editor capable of assessing and reading English manuscripts as well as a system for distributing selected publications to the overseas market.

2) The Lack of Infrastructure to Help Releasing the Cutting Edge/ Narrow-Focused/Specialized Works

The Japanese publication business leans toward mass production and mass consumption, and the economics of publishing makes it extremely difficult to publish scholarly monographs for small audiences. Also, because many editors lack advanced knowledge of the subject matter, they are unable to comprehend the content of the manuscript and fail to employ an appropriate editing and publication strategy for the effective distribution of scholarly discourse.

3) The Poor Prospects of Scholarly Communication in the Ages of Digitization

The Internet revolutionized the world of information-communication by making possible the instantaneous search and retrieval of information. However, "scholarly" information available via the Internet lacks credibility and such digitized information allows instant revision and elimination. The digitization of scholarly discourse seems inevitable and perhaps self-evident, but both publishers and scholars have not paid enough attention to such problems.

Attempt of Kyoto University Press (KUP) and Proposal for New Scholarly Communication Model

KUP is attempting to meet the demands of the scholars and the readers of today; for example, KUP has been actively publishing scholarly works in English in selected fields. By forming an affiliation with Trans Pacific Press and Cactus Communication Pvt. Ltd., KUP has developed an overseas market. Also, KUP has published scholarly monograph supplemented with CD-ROMs. Scholarly discourse is moving toward internationalization as well as digitization, and university presses should seek for a new business model to meet the demand of time.

"A Way to Acquire Scholarly Monographs: Collection Development of Periodicals in University Libraries, focusing on "kiyo."

By AKAZAWA Hisaya, Librarian, Dept. of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Library, Kyoto University

What is "daigaku kiyo"?

"*Daigaku Kiyo* ("university journals") is usually defined as a collection of articles periodically published by a university or department or attached research institute. It is a means through which affiliated faculty members publish their scholarly works. Effective acquisition and dissemination of *daigaku kiyo* has been a difficult task for university libraries.

Uniqueness and Problems

Daigaku kiyo provide younger researchers with the opportunity to publish their works; thus it has become an important medium of scholarly discourse, especially in the humanities and social sciences. On the other hand, since acceptance standards tend to be lax or low, the articles available through *kiyo* show a great variety in quality. Also, there is no standard for their acquisition and preservation, largely because *kiyo* are usually distributed on a gift or exchange basis. A university library may collect *kiyo* published by its parent university or those that are related to the parent university's research areas. However, *kiyo* published by junior colleges and those that are outside the research programs of the parent university or are have brief periods of distribution tend to go uncollected. Moreover, many *kiyo* have generic titles, which may be changed from time and time, and the publication tends to be irregular. Such characteristics make it hard for a library to adequately manage the acquisition, preservation and retrieval of *kiyo*.

Contents Distribution of Kiyō

Traditionally, a university library's involvement in its parent university's *kiyō* has been limited to acting as depository. Recently, however, some libraries have taken a more active role by creating indexes to the articles and thereby promoting the dissemination of information. Efforts are also being made to create a so-called "electronic library" in which the articles are digitized and available for use through the library's web page. However, such attempts are limited to a few university libraries; so easy access and reliable acquisition, storage and delivery of *kiyō* content remain challenging.

Acquisition of Kiyō Contents

The following databases are useful for searching articles in *kiyō*.

- Zasshi kiji sakuin database: provided by the [National Diet Library OPAC](#); also available through MagazinePlus (commercial database provided through Nichigai Associates)
- Kokubungaku bunken mokuroku database by Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryokan ([National Institute of Japanese Literature](#)): a journal index database for Japanese literature; 60-70% of records are cited from
- CiNii: Ronbun jōhō nabigeta, an index database for journal articles by the [National Institute of Informatics \(NII\)](#): a free text database which contains approx. 10,000,000 records as of August 2004. Some records provide links to the articles to which the searched records refer. Abstracts and full-texts are partially available.

[Handout](#)

[Prepared by Michiko Ito.]