

## Basic Reference Works for Japanese Studies: Princeton



Compiled by Martin J. Heijdra (Chinese and Western Bibliographer; Head, Public Services). With the permission from the compiler, excerpted from (<http://libweb2.princeton.edu/gest/guidesframeset1.htm>) and distributed for Seminar.

The bibliographies for Western-language works mentioned under General works for East Asian Studies should be supplemented by the six volumes of

Oskar Nachod, *Bibliographie von Japan* (Z3301.W471/2)

which run from 1906 to 1937, and the

*Catalogue of Books in English on Japan 1945-1981* (Z3309.C37q).

Good and manageable **introductory bibliographies**, without annotations, are given by

John W. Dower, *Japanese History and Culture from ancient to modern times* (Z3306.D69)

Richard Perren, *Japanese studies from pre-history to 1990: A bibliographical guide* (Z3301.J36 1992)

For **literature** there is

Yasuhiro Yoshizaki, *Studies in Japanese literature and Language a Bibliography of English materials* (Z7072.Y87)

The best annotated reference guide to **material on Japan in English** is

Yasuko Makino and Mihoko Miki, *Japan and the Japanese: a bibliographic guide to reference sources* (Z3306.M33 1996)

Annotations are also given in

Frank Shulman, *Japan* (Z3301.S475)

and

Ria Koopmans-de Bruijn, *Area bibliography of Japan* (Z3306.K86 1997)

For an introductory **research guide** on different subjects of Japanese material which offers much detailed help with special problems, see

Makino Yasuko, *A student guide to Japanese sources in the humanities* (Z3301.M32)

or you can ask her yourself...

Unfortunately rather old, but still useful, is

Herschel Webb, *Research in Japanese Sources: a guide* (1965; Z3306.W4)

and

*A guide to reference books for Japanese studies* (rev. ed., Z3306.G84).

An extensive guide in English to Japanese materials is the

*Introductory Bibliography for Japanese studies* (Z3306.I57),

which is divided into Humanities and Social Sciences parts, from 1969 to 1985, and which supplements the

*K.B.S. Bibliography of standard reference books for Japanese studies* (1959-70; Z3306.K794)

which has parts in Generalia, Geography and Travel, History and Biography, Religion, History of Thought, Education, Language, Literature, Arts and Crafts, Theatre, Customs and Folklore, Politics, Law and Economics. Finally, see also the

Fukuda Naomi, *Bibliography of Reference Works for Japanese Studies* (Z3306.B48)

which includes mainly Japanese works with annotations in English. Your first **Japanese articles** should be searched for on the Web, through the Princeton University Library Web page. Princeton currently subscribes to one major collection of Japanese databases, available through >Princeton University Library>Databases>Area/Ethnic Studies. The general title is [MagazinePlus](#).

MagazinePlus consolidates five separate databases (the Zasshi Kiji Sakuin (an index to academic journals), the Jânaru Indekkusu (an index to general journals), Joint (an index to periodicals on economics), KSK (an index to 60 foreign journals on industries), and the Gakkai Nenpô and Gakujutsu Ronbunshû (an index to yearbooks of academic societies).

*MagazinePlus* currently indexes 8,500 journal titles in the humanities, social sciences and sciences, and includes over 5.2 million items from 1975 to the present. It is updated weekly.

You can access these databases from any computer which has a fairly recent browser installed, alongside a Japanese input enabler such as the Japanese

Language Kit, UnionWay or Twinbridge. To use these databases from outside campus, you might have to log in through the *Library Proxy Server* at <http://pulproxy.princeton.edu/>, or alternatively, you can dial into the Princeton virtual network.

For **translations**, see the

*Japanese literature in foreign languages 1945-1995*  
(Z3308.L5J354; an earlier edition goes to 1990 only)

For Japanese **names**, see in English:

P.G. O'Neill, *Japanese Names* (CS3000.O53 1972),  
Wolfgang Hadamitzky, *Japanese, Chinese, and Korean Surnames  
and How to Read Them (3 vols.)* (PL683.H33)

and in Japanese,

*Nihon jinmei daijiten* (Heibonsha; CT1836.N52)  
*Shinchô Nihon jinmei jiten* (CT1832.S53)  
*Jinbutsu refarensu jiten* (Nichigai; RJ2281.1/8221)

and

*Nihon seimei yomifuri jiten* (Nichigai; CS3000.N53)

For the latest information, see also the

*Who's who in Japanese government* (JQ1651.W48)

**Biographic information** can, in addition to the Kodansha encyclopedia, be found in

Tazawa Yutaka, *Biographical dictionary of Japanese Art*  
(N7350.B56)  
Hisamatsu Sen'ichi, *Biographical dictionary of Japanese Literature*  
(PL723.B5)  
Laurance Roberts, *A dictionary of Japanese artists* (N7350.R59)  
Chieko Mulhern, *Japanese women writers: a bio-critical sourcebook*  
(PL725.J37) Iwao Seiichi, *Biographical dictionary of Japanese  
history* (DS834.B56)  
*Gendai Nihon jinmeiroku* (Nichigai; CT1836.G419)

If you need **statistics**, refer to the

*Nihon tôkei nenkan/ Japan statistical yearbook* (HA4621.N54; bilingual)  
*Nihon no tôkei* (RJ4040/6522)

For many subjects, the first step for research will be the

*Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan* (DS805.K633; with color illustrations: *Japan: an illustrated encyclopedia* DS805.J263 1993; text also available on the Web)

which has very small bibliographies attached to most entries. Also do not forget, if you can read Japanese, Japanese encyclopaedia's such as

*Heibonsha dai hyakka jiten* (AE35.2.H44 1984)  
*Nihon dai hyakka zensho* (AE35.2.N53 1984).

For authoritative entries on historical subjects, see the

*Kokushi daijiten* (DS833.K64)  
*Nihonshi kôjiten* (DS833.N546)  
*Nihonshi daijiten* (DS833.N543q).

Finally finished is the

*Dictionnaire historique du Japon* (DS833.D5, 20 vols., in French)

For **place names** use the Japanese

*Zenkoku chimei yomigana jiten* (RJ3406/8642)  
*Gendai Nihon chimei yomikata* (DS805.G39)

There is a gap in the market here, and no general standard work exists. For the moment, use the relevant chapter (nine) in

*The Princeton Companion to Classical Japanese Literature* (PL726.1.M495 1985)

For **chronology and calendar**, see

(*Shinpan*) *Nihonshi nenpyô* (DS833.N535)

and the

*Koyomi no hyakka jiten / Encyclopedia of Calendar* (CE61.J3K69)