

Historical Reference Sources

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I. Bibliographies for Japanese History

General Bibliographic Sources in Japanese

There are many bibliographic sources for historical topics. Preliminary ones include [encyclopedia](#) entries which are often signed and have short appended bibliographies of key works, and articles in the various [survey histories](#) compiled by Iwanami and others. For more up-to-date surveys of current research it is best to consult:

1. [Shigaku zasshi](#). The May issue summarizes the previous year's scholarship, discussing trends.
2. [Rekishigaku kenkyu](#). publishes an annual meeting report that is a useful guide to current scholarship.
3. [Nihon rekishi](#). lists new books and articles; some books are annotated.
4. **An Introductory Bibliography for Japanese Studies.**
Tokyo: The Japan Foundation, 1974-.
An English language, evaluative and selective bibliography of Japanese scholarship. Excellent essays which survey the field written by experts. Part I covers the humanities and Part II the social sciences. Good place to start.

Japanese Language Bibliographies by Period

1. **Bunken risachi, Nihon kin-gendaishi**
文献リサーチ日本近現代史
Satō Yoshimaru hen.
Tokyo : Fuyō Shobō Shuppan, 2000.
The book is divided into 9 chapters: 1. jiten; 2. nenpyō; 3. bunken mokuroku, shiryō mokuroku, shozō mokuroku, shudai mokuroku, sakuin, 4. shinbun, zasshi bunken; 5. jinbutsu bunken; 6. kenkyū nyūmon; 7. kōza, sōsho (90 out of 168 pp); 8. shiryōshu; 9. shoshi no shoshi. It provides the tables of contents for individual volumes of many large sets.

II. Encyclopedias/ Historical Dictionaries

General/Comprehensive

1. **Kokushi daijiten 15v.**
国史大辞典
Yoshikawa Kōbunkan, 1979-97
2. **Nihon Rekishi daijiten**
日本歴史大事典
Asao, Naohiro, 1931-
Tokyo : Shōgakkan, 2000-

3. **Nihonshi daijiten 7 v**
日本史大事典
 Heibonsha, 1992-4.
4. **Iwanami Nihonshi jiten**
岩波日本史辞典
 Nagahara Keiji and Ishigami Eiichi.
 Iwanami shoten, 1999.
5. **Kadokawa shinpan Nihonshi jiten.**
角川新版日本史辞典。
 Asao Naohiro, Uno Shun'ichi, and Tanaka Migaku.
 Kadokawa shoten, 1999.
6. **Nihon shisōshi jiten = Dictionary of Japanese intellectual history**
日本思想史辞典
 kanshū Koyasu Nobukuni ; henshū iin Katsurajima Nobuhiro ... [et al.].
 Tokyo : Perikansha, 2001.
 Covers Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintō, Kokugaku, historical thought, warrior thought, Western learning, scientific thought, modern thought, the arts, linguistics, and folk religion. Includes ample cross-references and citations for every entry. Index at front is by type of thought, sources and people. Index at rear is alphabetical.

By Period and/or Topic

1. **Heian jidaishi jiten.3 v.**
平安時代史事典
 Tsunoda Bun'ei kanshū Kodaigaku Kyōkai, Kodaigaku Kenkyūjo
 hen.
 Tokyo : Kadokawa Shoten, Heisei 6 [1994].
2. **Edogaku jiten.**
江戸学事典
 Nishiyama Matsunosuke et al.
 Tokyo : Kōbundō, Shōwa 59 [1984].
 EA Ref: 952.025 E24 1984
3. **Sengoshi daijiten = Encyclopedia of Postwar Japan 1945-1990.**
戦後史大事典
 Sasaki Takeshi ... [et al.] ed.
 Sanseidō, 1991
4. **Taishū bunka jiten = Encyclopedia of popular culture**
大衆文化事典
 Ishikawa Hiroyoshi ... [et al.], eds.
 Tōkyō : Kōbundō, Heisei 3 [1991]
 Written by 300 specialists from a variety of fields, the dictionary aims at a broad understanding of mass (popular) culture; it aims to make it as concrete as possible, by looking at events, things, people and situations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Although it focuses on Japan, it is aware of the connections to Western and Asian popular culture. Covers folk culture and customs, popular music, movies, performing arts, games, comics, fashion, crimes, consumer life etc.

Each entry is signed and has suggestions for further reading and a link to a table at the end of the volume. Includes a bibliography of 8500 titles related to popular culture. With subject and personal names indexes Handbooks for Japanese History in Japanese and foreign languages. Well illustrated.

5. **Nihon josei jinmei jiten.**

日本女性人名辞典

Haga, Noboru (Kanshū). Tokyo : Nihon Tosho Senta, 1993
7000 women from ancient to modern times.

III. Handbooks for Japanese History

General

1. **Nihon "Nikki" sōran : "Nikki" kara Nihonjin no seikatsu to rekishi o saguru**

日本日記総覧：日記から日本人の生活と歴史を探る

Yoshinari Isamu, ed.

Tokyo : Shin Jinbutsu Ōraisha, 1994.

This book provides 2-page descriptions of 178 diaries written by authorities in the field. Each article is signed and includes a description of the author, the period covered, the contents, the condition of the original and information on any published copies. One page consists of selections from the diary which are then explained. Entries are by no means limited to literary diaries -- Hara Kei and General Nogi's diary are included. The diaries are arranged chronologically from ancient to the present, although women's diaries are considered a separate category. The introductory section has brief descriptions of commoner's diaries during the war, comparisons between diaries in the East and West, the psychology of diary writing, soldier's diaries from the Russo-Japanese war, postwar Japan through diaries and so on.

2. **Nihonshi sōran. 9v.**

日本史総覧。

Imai Takashi and others.

Shinjinbutsu Ōraisha, 1983-86.

EA Ref: 952 N691 1983

Consists of charts, graphs, lists and tables. arranged chronologically. Revised from Dokushi sōran and Dokushi biyo.

3. **Rekishi hakubutsukan jiten 歴史博物館事典**

Museums of historical collections in Japan : a directory

Nichigai Asoshietsu Henshubu hen.

Tokyo : Nichigai Asoshietsu : Hatsubaimoto Kinokuniya Shoten, 1999.

EA Ref: 069.0952 R381, 1999

Organized by prefecture;

includes information on exhibits, publications, address, hours, phone numbers, URLs and directions.

4. **Zukai tan'i no rekishi jiten.**
図解単位の歴史辞典
Koizumi, Kesakatsu.
Tokyo: Kashiwa shobō, 1989.
EA Ref: 530.8103 K79 Z94 1990
5. **Nihon gaikōshi handobukku: kaisetsu to shiryō.**
日本外交史ハンドブック：解説と資料
Shohan. Tokyo: Yushindō, 1995.
EA Ref: 327.5203 N691, 1995

IV. Chronologies for Japanese History

Calendars

1. **Japanese Chronological Tables, from 601 to 1872 A.D.**
Tsuchihashi, Yachita.
Sophia University, 1952.
EA Ref: 529.3 T882J
The standard source for converting Japanese date (reign year, month, day) to the Western calendar.

General

1. **Nenpyō Nihon rekishi, 6 v.**
年表日本歴史
Inoue Mitsusada, Kodama Kota, Hayashiya Tatsusaburo, eds.
Tokyo : Chikuma Shobō, Shōwa 55-Heisei 5 [1980-1993]
2. **Nihonshi nenpyō. Shinpan.**
日本史年表。新版。
Rekishigaku kenkyūkai.
Iwanami shoten, 1984.
EA Ref: 952 N692 1984
3. **Nihon shi nenpyō, chizu**
日本史年表地図
Kodama, Kota, 1909-, ed.
Tokyo : Yoshikawa Kōbunkan, 1995.
4. **Kindai Nihon sōgō nenpyō.**
近代日本総合年表
Iwanami Shoten Henshūbu
Edition: Dai 3-han.
Tokyo : Iwanami Shoten, 1991.
5. **Shakai rōdō undō dainenpyō. 4v.**
社会労働運動大年表。
Hosei Daigaku Ohara Shakai Mondai Kenkyūjo.
Rōdō Junpōsha, 1986.
new edition: Shinpan shakai rōdō undō dainenpyō
新版社会労働運動大年表。

Hosei Daigaku Ohara Shakai Mondai Kenkyūjo hen.
Tokyo : Rōdō Junpōsha, 1995.

V. Dictionaries for Reading Historical Texts

6. Kadokawa kogo daijiten.

角川古語大辞典, 5 vols.

Nakamura Yukihiko, Okami Masao and Sakakura Atsuyoshi.

Tokyo: Kadokawa shoten, 1982-

A comprehensive dictionary of 80,000 older words with illustrations. Includes obsolete terms, current words with a long history and proper nouns.

7. Iwanami kogo jiten

岩波古語辞典

Iwanami, 1974

Older words, 43,000 entries. The standard one volume “kogo” dictionary.

8. Hōyaku Nippo jisho. 1v +index.

邦訳日葡辞書

Uniform title: Vocabvlario da lingoa de Iapam. Japanese.

Morita Takeshi hen. Tokyo : Iwanami Shoten, 1989.

Based on a dictionary compiled by the Jesuits in the 16th century; useful for understanding 16th century words and pronunciation.

Definitions given in contemporary Japanese.

9. Kindai yōgo no jiten shūsei, 41 vols + 1 bekkann

近代用語の辞典集成

Jidai Kenkyūkai hen.

Tokyo : Ōzorasha, 1994.

A reprint of dictionaries published between 1913 and 1933.

VI. Survey Histories of Japan

Iwanami Survey Histories (*By Date of Publication, most recent first*)

1. Iwanami kōza Nihon tsūshi. 25 v

岩波講座 日本通史 25 v

Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1993.

2. Iwanami kōza Nihon rekishi. 26 v.

岩波講座 日本歴史 26 v.

Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1975.

3. Iwanami kōza Nihon rekishi. 23 v

岩波講座 日本歴史 23 v.

Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1962.

Other Survey Histories

1. **Shinshiten Nihon no rekishi. 7v**
新視点日本の歴史 7v
Suzuki Kimio and Ishikawa Hideshi, ed.
Tokyo: Shinjinbutsu Ōraisha, 1993.
2. **Sōten Nihon no rekishi 6v.**
争点日本の歴史 6v.
Suzuki Kimio, ed.
Tokyo: : Shinjinbutsu Ōraisha, 1990-1991.
3. **Nihon no kindai = A History of Modern Japan 16 v.**
日本の近代
Tokyo : Chūō Kōronsha, 1998-
4. **Nihon no kinsei 18v**
日本の近世 18v
Tsuji Tatsuya, Asao Naohiro, Kodama Kōta, Donald Keene.. [et al.]
Tokyo: Chūō Kōronsha, 1991-
5. **Nihon no rekishi (Kōdansha), 26 v.**
日本の歴史 講談社
Amino, Yoshihiko, et al.
Tokyo : Kōdansha, 2000

Japan & Asia

- III. **Ajia Kara Kangaeru = Series Asian Perspectives 7 v**
アジアから考える 7 v
Mizoguchi Yūzō, et al. ed.,
Tokyo: Tokyo Daigaku Shuppankai, 1994.
- IV. **Ajia no naka no Nihon shi. = A New History of Japan in Asia 5v.**
アジアのなかの日本史 5v.
Arano Yasunori, Ishii Masatoshi, and Murai Shōsuke, ed.
Tokyo: Tokyo Daigaku Shuppankai, 1992.

VII. WWW Sites

1. [History Pages: 歴史データ館](http://www.page.sannet.ne.jp/gutoku2/index.html)
<http://www.page.sannet.ne.jp/gutoku2/index.html>
These pages contain a wealth of information including a chart of ranks in the court system, pictures of castles with towers, information on Nobunaga's followers, as well as information on wars, politics, economics, society from Asuka to 1600. Links are well used to provide the maximum information. The author tells us nothing about himself, but obviously likes premodern history. The pages are described as intended for the lover of history. Uses frames.
2. [歴史学関係Webサイト調査](http://www.h-web.org/)
<http://www.h-web.org/>
Provides an indexed and searchable series of links intended for scholars of Japanese history. Also includes a searchable index to the back numbers of 歴史評論.
3. [Kyoto University Library Electronic Library](http://ddb.libnet.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/minds.html)
<http://ddb.libnet.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/minds.html> Includes full texts of many important literary texts (Kokin wakashū, Konjaku monogatari, Genji monogatari) as well as a searchable database of original materials from the Meiji restoration which can be enlarged and read on the web, and some Buddhist sutras (Daizōkyō, Shinshū texts and so forth).
4. [History Museums in Japan](http://www.page.sannet.ne.jp/gutoku2/rink.html)
<http://www.page.sannet.ne.jp/gutoku2/rink.html>
Links to history and art museums and history organizations maintained by a fervent practitioner of premodern history.
5. [Institute of Oriental Culture, 東洋文化研究所 \(Tōyō Bunka Kenkyūjo\)](http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/),
University of Tokyo. Focuses largely on China, Korea, South and Southeast Asia, but includes materials on Japan in the world.
<http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>
6. [The International Research Center for Japanese Studies \(Nichibunken\)](http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/graphicversion/dbase/database.html),
Kyoto, Japan (in Japanese and English) Databases:
<http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/graphicversion/dbase/database.html>

Premodern Japan

1. University of California Japanese Historical Text Initiative
<http://www.ecai.org/shinto/textinitiative/>
2. [Tokyo Daigaku Shiryōhensanjo \(Historiographical Institute\)](http://www.hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp/shipso/),
[東京大学史料編纂所](http://www.hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp/shipso/), University of Tokyo. Databases:
<http://www.hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp/shipso/>

Modern Japan

1. Japan Center for Asian Historical Records
アジア歴史資料センター<http://www.jacar.go.jp/>
In English and Japanese. JACAR was established to provide through the Internet indexes to and digital images of historical records about modern Japan-Asia relations held (and available to the public) by Japanese national institutions. At present, these include records held by the National Archives of Japan, The Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and The National Institute for Defense Studies of the National Defense Agency. Materials included cover from early Meiji times through World War II.
2. Exhibition of Prewar Japanese Political Posters, Hōsei University, Ōhara Institute <http://oohara.mt.tama.hosei.ac.jp/poster/english.html>
法政大学大原社会問題研究所所蔵資料2600点で見ると
戦前期日本の〈モダンの力〉
3. Internet East Asian History Sourcebook
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html>
Sourcebooks are collections of texts in the public domain that are available for copying for educational purposes. Compiled by Paul Halsall at Fordham. Particularly useful for WWII (headings: *The Greater East Asia Prosperity Zone*, *World War II*, *Use of the Atomic Bomb*) Pearl Harbor attack documents are also part of the broader Modern History Sourcebook.
4. International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Yale University Law School <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/imtfem.htm>
Searchable, full-text database