

Books on the Red List in Japanese Public Libraries

Keita Tsuji^{a*} and Yuhiro Mizunuma^b

^aFaculty of Library, Information and Media Science, University of Tsukuba,
1-2 Kasuga, Tsukuba-city, Ibaraki, 305-0821, Japan

^bFaculty of Media and Information Resources, Surugadai University,
698 Azu, Hanno-city, Saitama, 357-8555, Japan

*Corresponding Author: keita@slis.tsukuba.ac.jp

ABSTRACT

By using (1) search records in Calil.JP (i.e., a free online service that enables federated searching in online public access catalogs [OPACs] in Japan), (2) OPACs of Japanese public libraries, (3) the OPAC of the National Diet Library ([NDL] i.e., a legal deposit library), and (4) CiNii Books, etc., we found 21 Japanese books that are held by only a small number of public libraries. These are likely the “last copies,” as they are not held by the NDL or university libraries too. They may be regarded as books on the Red List. However, most of them were published after 1990 by popular publishers and are not historical rare books. Therefore, it is highly probable that their rarity or scarcity are not properly recognized by the librarians and thus are not under special protection. The search records in Calil.JP indicated that they were searched in many public libraries and, in that sense, there is a strong need or demand for them. Public libraries should find such Red Listed books in the collection and pay special attention to them. When they have to weed such books, they should donate them to the NDL.

Keywords: Weeding, public libraries, National Diet Library, legal deposit, Calil.JP

1. Introduction

In this paper, we examine Japanese books that are only held by a small number of Japanese public libraries, which are likely the “last copies,” as neither the NDL nor Japanese university libraries have copies. They may be regarded as books on the Red List.

We assume that every book is part of a precious cultural heritage and therefore, all kinds of libraries should cooperate to provide them. According to this position, if a book is held by only one public library, but not by any other libraries in the country,¹ it should not be weeded from the collection. If the library must weed it (e.g., space limitation), it should donate the book to a legal deposit library, which holds all the books published in that country. In Japan, some books are not held by the NDL or university libraries,

¹ We restrict “all the libraries” to those in one country. We leave it for future research to deal with all the libraries in multiple countries or all on earth.

but rather, they are held in public libraries. This paper contributes to the literature by presenting the results of concrete quantitative research concerning books that are solely held by Japanese public libraries.

2. Related Studies

There is only a small number of studies that have conducted quantitative research on the “last copies” of books. Furthermore, we have not found any literature that recommends donating these books to a legal deposit library. Kisling et al. (2000) pointed out that there was a lack of “last copy policies” among academic libraries and proposed “a regional cooperative depository for the last copy of English language titles held at the region’s academic/research libraries.” However, no quantitative data was presented.

A taskforce on the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) proposed the establishment of archival repositories that would retain a “last, best copy” of American imprints (Nichols and Smith 2001). They recommended the cooperative collection, storage, and management of information resources by utilizing multiple libraries. To implement these recommendations by the CLIR taskforce, Reilly and DesRosiers (2003) examined shared repositories: the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF; one of California’s two state-funded regional repositories), the Southern Regional Library Facility (SRLF; the second of California’s two regional repositories), the Five-College Library Depository (a repository that served four liberal arts colleges and Amherst’s University of Massachusetts. Please note that we use ‘repositories’ interchangeably with ‘depositories’), CONStor (a repository that was formed under the aegis of the Five Colleges of Ohio, Inc.), Washington Research Libraries Consortium (WRLC; a repository for eight institutions), Research Collections Access and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP; a repository for Columbia University, the New York Public Library, and Princeton University), as well as Southwest Ohio Regional Depository (SWORD; a repository for the University of Miami, Wright State University, the University of Cincinnati, and Central State University). Reilly and DesRosiers (2003) stated the importance of collecting and preserving these “last copy” imprints, or “items that are rare and possibly unique.”

Connaway et al. (2006) showed that the WorldCat contained 24 million records for items held by only a single Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) member library. More precisely, as of January 1, 2005, WorldCat found 54 million bibliographic records, indicating holdings at more than 953 million library locations. 24 million (i.e., 44%) of these bibliographic records represent items that are held by a single library. Connaway et al. (2006) examined the materials held exclusively by Vanderbilt University Libraries. Among those materials, Connaway et al. (2006) pointed out that manuscripts were

readily identifiable and most libraries are very aware of the uniqueness of their manuscripts. In that sense, manuscripts are “only copies” rather than the “last copies.”

Connaway et al. (2006) distinguished work, expression, and manifestation based on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) model. In this model, a work is considered an abstract concept that the creator wants to convey. When the work becomes realized, it becomes an expression. Then, after this expression is published, it becomes a manifestation of the work. Using FRBR concepts, Connaway et al. (2006) extended the “last copy” concept to define a “last expression,” which represents the last known manifestation of the expression (i.e., the only remaining copy of specific intellectual or artistic content).

O'Connor and Jilovsky (2009) outlined some issues and approaches regarding the preservation of last copy materials in academic libraries. Soma and Sjoberg (2011) reported a weeding project in Concordia College's Carl B. Ylvisaker Library. The weeding criteria was primarily based on circulation data as well as the usefulness and uniqueness of the books. The rare titles, which fewer than five libraries owned worldwide, were retained unless they were no longer useful. Gillies and Stephenson (2012) reported the collaborative weeding projects among the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the University of Guelph (Tri-University Group of Libraries [TUG]). They described how the “TUG Preservation of Last Copy Agreement” was developed and how specific weeding projects (e.g., monographs deduplication, the weeding of STM journals, and a JSTOR journal's last copy project) were conducted. Lynd (2015) introduced how to carry out weeding in academic libraries and emphasized donating (rather than discarding) books to organizations, such as Better World Books, Books for Africa, and Book Aid. However, a legal depository was not included in her list of organizations. Also, there was no quantitative data presented. Busch et al. (2019) reported the weeding of the engineering collection at the University of Tennessee's Martin's Paul Meek Library. In this process, the student workers used WorldCat FirstSearch to see how many other libraries owned the books that were candidates for removal. They adopted weeding criteria, which included keeping titles that were held by fewer than ten libraries worldwide or fewer than four libraries within the state of Tennessee.

Regarding Japanese libraries, Hori (2015) reported on the current cooperative preservation efforts by Japanese public libraries, especially Tama Deposit Library. Yoshimoto (2015) also mentioned this endeavor, and Saito (2015) reported that public libraries in the Tama area held approximately 320,000 books that were “last one or two copies.” Yoshii (2019) clarified the characteristics of the books weeded by the Edogawa City Library and their weeding procedure.

3. Method

As of April 1, 2018, there are 1,380 local governments (in prefectures, cities, special wards, towns, and villages) with public libraries in Japan (Japan Library Association 2019). Some local governments have multiple public libraries, so there are a total of 3,277 libraries. Most of these local governments provide OPACs that can search the entire collections of their public libraries (i.e., library systems).

Calil.JP is a free online service that enables the federated searching, marshaling, and integration of the abovementioned OPACs (Yoshimoto 2012, 2015). They are recording which books in which libraries were when searched by ISBN. In this study, the search results are formally represented as R_{ilt} , where i , l , and t represent ISBN, library system, and the time of the search, respectively. R_{ilt} can have two values: “1” when the book was held by that library system, and “0” when it was not held. It is important to note that Calil.JP does not have R for all the combinations of ISBNs and library systems, but only for those that were searched by the Calil.JP users. For example, it does not have R for books that have never been searched.

We purchased the abovementioned search results, which were recorded from December 1, 2014, to September 24, 2019. However, due to a limited budget, only the most recent data for each combination of ISBNs and library systems were purchased. For example, if a book with ISBN X was searched in library system Y on January 1, 2015, 2017, and 2019, only the search result R_{XY} for January 1, 2019, was purchased. The total number of records purchased for this study was 561,574,537.

In the data from Calil.JP, we identified 8,513 books that were searched in 1,000 or more library systems (i.e., popular books or books that were in high demand) and only one library system held.² By submitting the ISBNs of these books into the NDL’s OpenSearch (from October 13–14, 2019), we identified 1,654 books that were not held by the NDL. Among these, there were 52 books with ISBNs that began with “4” (meaning that they are in Japanese). Then, we manually searched these books by title in the NDL’s OPAC to ensure that they were not held. Next, we manually searched them by their ISBNs and titles in CiNii Books, which was able to search the entire collection of the Japanese university libraries.

4. Results and Discussion

Among the abovementioned 52 books, 27 were held by the NDL (i.e., ISBNs were not

² As we previously mentioned, there are 1,380 public library systems in Japan, as of April 1, 2018. We identified books that were searched in 1,000 or more library systems and that were held by only one library. Therefore, the books we identified may also be held in other library systems than the abovementioned 1,000 or more systems. In the worst case, 380 library systems may also hold them, which is why we avoided calling them “last copies” (as other studies had). Instead, we called them “books that were held only by a small number of public libraries.” We leave it for future researchers to search each book in the OPACs of the remaining library systems.

included in their bibliographies and thus were not found by the ISBN search). Among the remaining 25 (=52-27) books, 21 were not found in CiNii Books, which means that they were not held by Japanese university libraries.

Table 1 shows the abovementioned 21 books that were held by public libraries, but not by the NDL or university libraries. In Table 1, “NDC” represents Nippon Decimal Classification. Among these 21 books, about 43% (nine books) had NDC class “7” which represents “Arts.” We can see in “Note” column that four books are musical scores. Similarly, two books include CDs or cassette tapes (“Audio”). These music or audio related books may tend to be Red Listed books. Another two are “mooks” (which are physically similar to magazines but are intended to be dealt with as books) and comics.

We can see in “Year” column that 18 books out of 21 were published in and after 1990. Many of their publishers are popular in Japan. They are not historical rare books. Therefore, it is highly probable that these books’ rarity or scarcity are not properly recognized by the librarians and thus are not under special protection. As we previously mentioned, these books were searched via Calil.JP in 1,000 or more library systems. In that sense, there is a strong need or demand for them although they are not held by many libraries. Public libraries should find these books in the collection and pay special attention to them. Because NDL should hold all the books published in Japan, public libraries should donate the abovementioned Red Listed books to the NDL when they have to weed the books.

Table 1. Books held by public libraries that were not held by the NDL or university libraries

ISBN	Local Government Name	Type of L. G.	NDC	Note	Title	Publisher	Year
4636819977	Aichi_Toyota	City	763	Score	ピアノソロ 中上級 華麗なるピアニスト:ステージを彩る豪華アレンジクラシックセクション	YMM	2007
4884753003	Hiroshima_Kure	City	748		ひとえ—大竹—重写真集	竹書房	1994
4048713825	Hiroshima_Onomichi	City	911		赤い魚—津久井紀代句集	角川書店	1992
4860676912	Hokkaido_Kamikawa	Town	499	Mook	ハープ生活 2019 spring (CHIKYU-MARU MOOK 自然暮らしの本)	地球丸	2019
4046026278	Kumamoto_Yamaga	City	810		センター試験国語古文・漢文の点数が面白いほどとれる本 改訂版	KADOKAWA	2014
4117002015	Miyagi	Prefecture	—	Score	二声聴音351 専門コースへの必須	全音楽譜出版社	1998
426901010X	Miyazaki	Prefecture	933		アリスの地下の冒険	英宝社	1988
4257200308	Niigata_Sanjo	City	—	Audio	暗黒邪神教の洞窟—[録音資料] (ソノラマ文庫 カセット版 30)	朝日ソノラマ	1989
4871889262	Okinawa_Itoman	City	—	Audio	CD スーパーマリオRPG オリジナル・サウンド・ヴァージョン	エヌティティ出版	1996
4046009292	Osaka_Higashiosaka	City	188		小池龍之介 1日を大切に作る気づきの手帳2015	KADOKAWA/中経出版	2014
4420137282	Shiga_Higashiomi	City	726	Comic	はなつたれBoogie (ジャンプスーパーコミックス)	創美社	1990
4901250523	Shiga_Otsu	City	913		極北 私がいなくても、あなたがいれば	櫻門書房	2016
4636859847	Shiga_Otsu	City	763	Mook	極上のピアノ 2010 秋号 (参考演奏CD付) (ヤマハムックシリーズ 70)	ヤマハミュージックメディア	2010
4991042402	Tokyo_Bunkyo	Special ward	673		選ばれる条件 -こうやれば、突き抜けられる	DMM PUBLISHING	2018
463674246X	Tokyo_Katsushika	Special ward	763	Score	エレクトーングレード5~3級 STAGEA パーソナルシリーズ 2 安藤禎央エアーマインドスケープ3	ヤマハミュージックメディア	2005
4636830199	Tokyo_Meguro	Special ward	767	Score	ヴォーカル&ピアノ 今井美樹 / Love a Piano	YMM	2008
4939138933	Tokyo_Meguro	Special ward	705		フリースタイル40「ポップとは何か」江口寿史×大根仁	フリースタイル	2018
4907319134	Tokyo_Nerima	Special ward	494		歩き方が人生を変える! -臨床現場からの治療家たちの声	グッドタイム出版	2013
4860521250	Tokyo_Shinjuku	Special ward	726		かいじゅうずかん	ロッキング オン	2016
4924727059	Toyama_Kurobe	City	376		試験に強い子がひきつる本—偏差値40でも東大に入れる驚異の和田式受験法88	潮流出版	1986
4812451108	Wakayama_Aridagawa	Town	726	Comic	青沼真子の「マダム花子」(バンブー・コミックス)	竹書房	1996

5. Conclusion

By using (1) the records from Calil.JP, (2) OPACs of Japanese public libraries, (3) OPAC of NDL, and (4) CiNii Books, etc., we found 21 Japanese books that are held by only a small number of public libraries. These are likely the “last copies,” as they are not held by the NDL or university libraries too. They may be regarded as books on the Red List. Public libraries should pay special attention to them. At least, when public libraries weed a book, they should search NDL’s OPAC to verify that the book is held there, and if it is not, then they should donate it to the NDL.

In this paper, we investigated only books that were searched in 1,000 or more library systems via Calil.JP. In the future, we will randomly extract books from the abovementioned 561,574,537 search records of Calil.JP and examine whether they are the last copies or not. Through such researches, the total number of last copies held by Japanese public libraries will be estimated.

REFERENCES

- Busch, H., Nance, J. and Teague, J. 2019. Collaborative Weeding of an Engineering Collection: Two Perspectives, *Collection Management*, 43(4), 276–282.
- Connaway, L. et al. 2006. Last Copies: What’s at Risk? *College and Research Libraries*, 67(4), 370–379.
- Engeldinger, E. A. 1999. Weeding ‘Naturally.’ *College & Undergraduate Libraries*, 6(1), 47–51.
- Gillies, S. and Stephenson, C. 2012. Three Libraries, Three Weeding Projects: Collaborative Weeding Projects Within a Shared Print Repository, *Collection Management*, 37(3-4), 205–222.
- Hori, W. 2015. The Current State of Collection Development: Constructing Holding of the Public Libraries and a Cooperative Preservation, *Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 65(9), 397–403. (text in Japanese).
- IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. 1998. Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report. Munich: K.G. Saur, 136p.
- Japan Library Association. 2019. *Statistics on Libraries in Japan 2018*. Japan Library Association, 509p. (text in Japanese).
- Kisling, V. N. Jr. et al. 2000. Last Copy Depository: Cooperative Collection Management Centers in the Electronic Age, *Collection Management*, 24(1-2), 87–92.
- Levenson, H. N. 2015. Michigan Shared Print Initiative and GreenGlass for Groups for Data Analysis in Developing a Collaborative Collective Collection, *Journal of*

- Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery & Electronic Reserve*, 25(3-5), 89–105.
- Lynd, H. B. 2015. Managing Print-Based Weeding Projects in Academic Libraries, *Dalhousie Journal of Interdisciplinary Management*, 11, 1–18.
- Maskell, C. et al. 2010. Collaborative Print Repositories: A Case Study of Library Directors' Views, *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 36(3), 242–249.
- McHale, C. et al. 2017. Weeding without Walking: A Mediated Approach to List-Based Deselection, *Collection Management*, 42(2), 92–108.
- Nichols, S. G. and Smith, A. 2001. The Evidence in Hand: Report of the Task Force on the Artifact in Library Collections. Washington, D.C.: Council on Library and Information Resources, 114p.
- O'Connor, S. et al. 2002. A Study of Collaborative Storage of Library Resources, *Library Hi Tech*, 20(3), 258–269.
- O'Connor, S. and Jilovsky, C. 2009. Approaches to the Storage of Low Use and Last Copy Research Materials, *Library Collections, Acquisitions, & Technical Services*, 32, 121–126.
- Ontario Council of University Libraries 2009. Thunder Bay Last Copy Agreement. Agreement.
- Payne, L. 2007. Library Storage Facilities and the Future of Print Collections in North America. Dublin, OH: OCLC Programs & Research.
- Reilly, B. F. Jr. and DesRosiers, B. 2003. Developing Print Repositories: Models for Shared Preservation and Access. Council on Library and Information Resources, 66p.
- Saito, S. 2015. Collaborative Research by Tama Deposit Library and Calil toward the Cooperative Deposit Library, *Current Awareness-E*, (281), <https://current.ndl.go.jp/e1673>. (text in Japanese).
- Slote, S. J. 1971. Identifying Useful Core Collections: A Study of Weeding Fiction in Public Libraries, *The Library Quarterly*, 41(1), 25–34.
- Slote, S. J. 1997. *Weeding Library Collections: Library Weeding Methods: 4th ed.* Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 240p.
- Snyder, C. E. 2014. Data-Driven Deselection: Multiple Point Data Using a Decision Support Tool in an Academic Library, *Collection Management*, 39(1), 17–31.
- Soma, A. K. and Sjoberg, L. M. 2010. More than Just Low-hanging Fruit: A Collaborative Approach to Weeding in Academic Libraries. *Collection Management*, 36(1), 17–28.
- Su, G. 2006. Print Repository Initiatives at Canadian University Libraries: An Overview. Ottawa, Ontario: CARL-ABRC.
- Yoshii, J. 2019. Analysis of a List of Weeded Books: A Case of Edogawa City Library. *Proceeding of the Spring Conference of Japan Society of Library and Information*

Science, 9–12. (text in Japanese).

Yoshimoto, R. 2012. CALIL.JP, A New Web Service that Provides One-stop Searching of Japan-wide Libraries' Collections. *Journal of Information Processing and Management*, 55(2), 97–105. (text in Japanese).

Yoshimoto, R. 2015. Information Service Improvement based on Data Analysis, QoS Management Using the Data Analysis: Case of “calil.jp.” *The Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 65(10), 430–433. (text in Japanese).