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## Preservation and Public Access to the Ex-Colony-related Materials in Cultural Institutions

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### Abstract:

*In Japan's past history, colonial rule was exercised over many neighbouring Asian countries, including the Korean Peninsula, China, the Philippines, and Southeast Asian countries, as well as military invasions of Asian countries during World War II. It is important to preserve and open to the public the various documents from these periods so that many researchers and citizens can obtain information to prevent similar mistakes from happening again in the future. Furthermore, it is an important role of cultural institutions such as libraries, archives, art galleries, and museums to preserve and open to the public the various materials of their times. The digitization and open access of various materials has been progressing in recent years in Japan. The materials from the Korean Governor-General's Office, the Taiwan Governor-General's Office, and the Manchukuo State which were the governing institutions during Japan's colonial period in the past have been digitized and made available to the public. In this paper, the authors would like to clarify the overall status of preservation and open access of materials related to ex-colonial areas in Japan and discuss future issues about preservation and open access of materials in some representative institutions collected many materials related to ex-colonial areas.*

**Keywords:** former colonial rule, cultural institutions, ex-colonial areas in Japan, preservation and open access of materials, digital contents.

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### Introduction

Currently, there is a growing movement toward the return of cultural properties between former sovereign states and former colonial countries (Van, 2022). In Japan's history, colonial rule over many neighboring Asian countries, including Korea, China, the Philippines, and Southeast Asian countries, as well as military invasions of Asian countries during World War II, was conducted.

During those periods, many books and cultural assets from each region and country were seized by the Japanese military and brought to Japan (Arai, 2012 and Igarashi, 2019). Some books confiscated in occupied China and brought into Japan have been returned to China by the occupying forces after the war's end (Tomotani, 2019), but in regions that were colonized

before the war, such as Korea and Taiwan, the return of books and cultural properties has been discussed after the Japanese rule was removed. Some books and cultural assets have been returned to Korea (Nakauchi, 2011).

It is important to preserve books and various cultural properties for a long time (Arai, 2012), and to digitize and widely disclose them so that many researchers and citizens can access the information. Furthermore, preserving, digitizing, and publicizing various materials and cultural assets related to the period of Japanese colonization and military occupation will continue to be an important role for cultural institutions such as libraries, archives, art galleries, and museums.

The digitization and publication of various materials in Japan has been progressing in recent years. Materials from the Governor-General of Korea (Nakauchi, 2011 and Horiuchi ,2008), the Governor-General of Taiwan (Saito, 2014 and Horiuchi ,2008), Manchukuo and the Manchurian Railway (NDL, 2023, Shiraishi, 2008 and Horiuchi ,2008), which were the governing bodies of Japan's colonies in the past, have been digitized and made available to the public. The number of digital contents related to these former colonial materials has been increasing in recent years. In addition, after World War II, various materials seized by the U.S. were returned to Japan, and some of them have since been digitized and made available in the Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan in NDL Digital Collections <sup>1</sup>.

In the study, the ratio of materials with only paper original materials to those with digital versions and how to open the digital images of original materials on paper to the public were investigated by using several leading services which collect and digitize original materials on paper related to former colonies in Japan, such as Japan Search<sup>2</sup>, NDL Online<sup>3</sup>, NDL Digital Collections<sup>4</sup>, Digital Archive of National Archives of Japan<sup>5</sup>, and Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAR)<sup>6</sup>. The paper also discusses future challenges for cultural institutions in preserving original materials on paper and making publicly available digitized materials related to Japan's former colonies and neighboring countries that were militarily controlled by Japan.

### **Ex-Colony-related Materials in Cultural Institutions**

It is important to preserve and make available various policy and administrative materials from colonies or occupied territories during the World War II and prewar periods to the public. In such a manner, many citizens will be possible to access them and avoid making the same mistake of starting wars with neighboring countries again. Many public institutions and individuals in Japan are currently preserving various policy and administrative materials in colonies or occupied territories during the World War II and prewar periods. These materials have been increasingly digitized and made available on the Internet in recent years. With such a change, citizens and researchers would become even more possible to access these materials.

Figure 1 shows the relationship among institutions serving materials related to the former colonies. When the materials have been digitized, the potential for their wide availability around the world will increase. In Japan, as in many other countries, the materials are stored in a decentralized manner by many libraries, archives, museums, art galleries, and other cultural institutions and individuals.

The individual organizations are labeled as ③Organization shown at the bottom of Figure 1. In recent years, institutions collecting similar subject materials have formed networks under or in cooperation with national or regional centers of institutions. These national or regional

networks of a particular subject are indicated as ②Aggregator shown at the middle of Figure 1. The Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAR) by the National Archives of Japan is an Aggregator that collects materials related to former colonies.

Japan Search as a ①National Portal shown at the top of Figure 1. was officially launched in 2020. Japan Search is a platform for searching, browsing, and utilizing metadata of content in various fields such as books, official documents, cultural properties, art, humanities, natural history/science and engineering, academic assets, broadcast programs, and films from libraries, archives, museums, research institutions, and universities across Japan, with metadata provided by 129 institutions. Japan Search is a priority to explore a wide range of documents. When it is important to search in more detail, it is necessary to use an individual service of each organization or aggregator in a comprehensive manner.

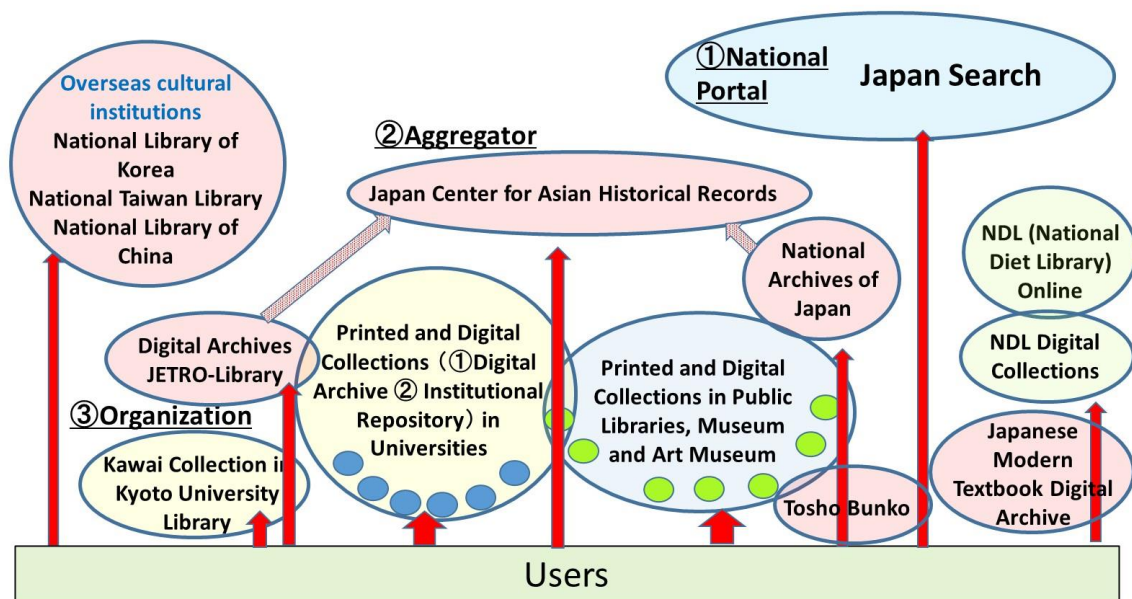


Figure 1. Relationship among institutions serving materials related former colonies.

### Accessibility and Openness of the Ex-Colony-related Materials

What institutions and in what quantities the relevant materials are stored and digitized under the names of former colonial governments are retrieved in Japan Search. As of June 2023, Japan Search contains 210 linked databases, 129 linked institutions, and 28,558,010 metadata items.

As shown in Figure 2, when Japan Search is searched by the name of the former colonial government, for example, the Office of the Governor-General of Korea, the NAJ Digital Archive has the largest number of records, followed by NDL Digital Collections. It seems that the number of materials retrieved by these two services is very large compared to the other services, such as university digital collections of the UTokyo Academic Archives Portal and the Kobe University Library Digital Archive Newspaper Clippings Collection, as well as regional digital collection of the Digital Archive Fukui as a local Aggregator service. Thus, Japan Search is a useful tool to check what kind of institution has the information you are looking for.

NDL Online allows users to simultaneously search materials on paper and digitized ones, such as journals, books etc. that are held in the collection of National Diet Library. Table 1 shows

the ratio of materials on paper and digitized ones held in the collection of National Diet Library at searching by former colonial government name such as the Governor-General of Taiwan, the Governor-General of Korea, Manchukuo in Japanese on NDL Online.

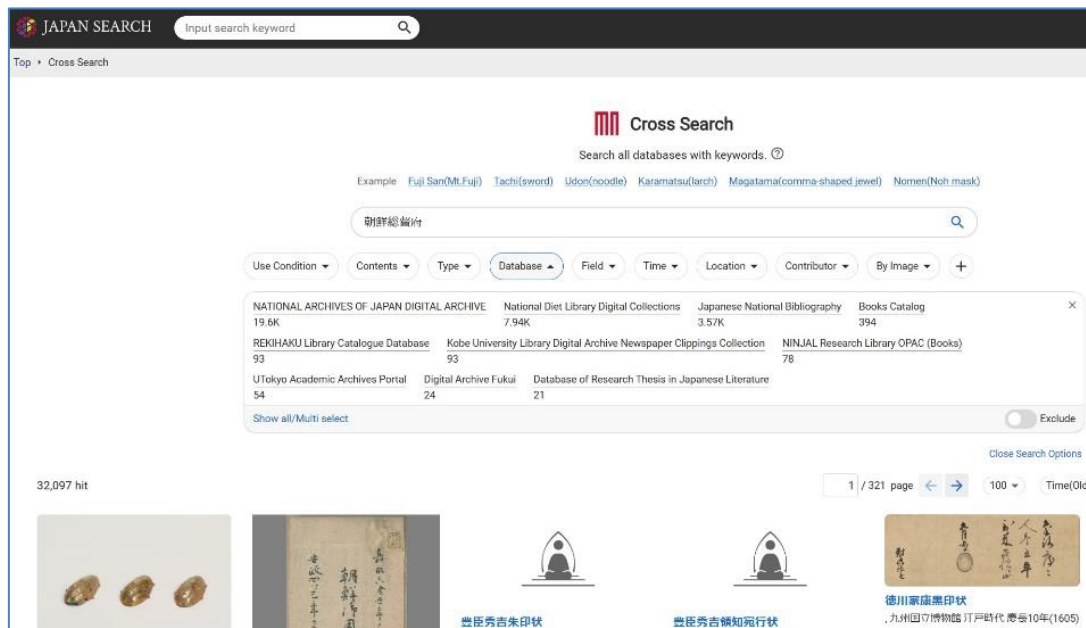


Figure 2. Search screen of Japan Search by using the keyword of “朝鮮総督府” (Office of the Governor-General of Korea) in Japanese.

Search results in Table 1 also show that there are three types of digital materials. The first type of digital materials is freely available on the Internet for all users. The second type of digital materials is made available on the Internet only to registered users. And the third one can only be viewed on computers located within the National Diet Library.

Table1. Accessibility and Openness of the Ex-Colony-related Materials in NDL Online.

Accessibility	Keyword					
	台湾総督府 (Governor-General of Taiwan)	(%)	朝鮮総督府 (Governor-General of Korea)	(%)	満州国 (Manchukuo)	(%)
Available Online	8,249	84	8,112	71	12,424	77
Via the Internet	6,714	68	5,869	52	3,717	23
Only at the NDL	1,535	16	2,243	20	8,704	54
Only at the NDL and its partner libraries or to official registered users in Japan	1,343	14	1,987	17	7,521	47
Not Available Online	1,555	16	3,254	29	3,639	23
Number of total records	9,804	100	11,366	100	16,063	100

1) The number of records was searched in NDL Online on June 16, 2023.

The keyword of “Governor-General of Taiwan” in Japanese has a total of 8,249 digital materials available online, which is 84% of the total. The search results indicate the following, 84% of all materials have been digitized, and 68% of the materials are readily accessible to anyone via the Internet. However, on the other hand, they also imply the following that 14% of the digitized materials cannot be viewed without registration, and 16% of the digital materials can only be viewed on computers located within the National Diet Library, which is not a small number. The same situation can be said of the keyword of “Governor-General of Korea” in Japanese, although the percentages are slightly different. In the case of the keyword of “Manchukuo”, however, the situation differs slightly from the first two, in that 77% of all materials have been digitized, but a substantial 54% of digital materials can only be viewed on computers located within the National Diet Library. The reasons for this need to be further studied.

Table 2 shows the results from NDL Online limited to materials before the year of 1945. Since World War II ended in 1945, the search is limited to materials published during the period when Japan had retained its former colonial governments. The ratio of accessibility for the pre-1945 period in Table 2 is examined by comparing them with the accessibility ratio for the entire period in Table 1. The keyword of “Governor-General of Taiwan” had a total of 8,028 digital materials available online, 93% of the total, a very high ratio compared to 84% for the entire period. When limited to the materials during the period of former colonial rule, more than 90% of the materials have been digitized. In addition, the percentage of digital materials which can be readily accessed by anyone via the Internet is 10% higher than the one for the entire period. The percentage of freely accessible digital materials has been increasing from 68% to 78%. The same trend can be seen in the keywords of “Governor-General of Korea” and “Manchukuo”.

Table 2. Accessibility and Openness of the Ex-Colony-related Materials before 1945 in NDL Online.

Accessibility	Keyword					
	台湾総督府 (Governor-General of Taiwan)	(%)	朝鮮総督府 (Governor-General of Korea)	(%)	満州国 (Manchukuo)	(%)
Available Online	8,028	93	7,586	77	11,363	95
Via the Internet	6,694	78	5,811	59	3,593	30
Only at the NDL	1,334	15	1,775	18	7,770	65
Only at the NDL and its partner libraries or to official registered users in Japan	1,245	14	1,700	17	6,974	58
Not Available Online	582	7	2,259	23	570	5
Number of Total records	8,610	100	9,845	100	11,933	100

1) The number of records was searched in NDL Online on June 16, 2023.

### Collections of the Ex-Colony-related Materials

The characteristics of two services, the Digital Collections of the National Diet Library (NDL Digital Collections) and the Digital Archive of the National Archives of Japan (NAJ Digital

Archive) that have the large collections of materials from the period of former colonial rule, were investigated.

Table 3. Access Restriction in NDL Digital Collections.

Access Restriction	Keyword					
	台湾総督府 (Governor- General of Taiwan)	(%)	朝鮮総督府 (Governor- General of Korea)	(%)	満州国 (Manchukuo)	(%)
Available without login	32,393	38	27,823	32	27,871	17
Available with Digitized Contents Transmission Service	44,118	51	46,678	54	101,331	63
Available only at the NDL	9,403	11	11,482	13	30,408	19
Number of total records	85,914	100	85,983	100	159,610	100
Available without login	6,701	82	5,857	73	3,641	30
Available with Digitized Contents Transmission Service	1,312	16	1,956	24	7,306	61
Available only at the NDL	144	2	201	3	1,069	9
Number of records without full text	8,157	100	8,014	100	12,016	100

1) The number of records was searched in NDL Digital Collections on June 20, 2023.

The NDL Digital Collections has enabled searches of the full-text data of many digital materials since the end of 2022, allowing users to explore a very large number of digital materials using the same keywords compared to conventional searches of titles and bibliographic data shown at the top of Table 3. This feature is called Full Text Search. When a keyword as the “Governor-General of Taiwan” in Japanese is used for searching, the number of materials increased more than 10-fold to 85,914 in the search for bibliographic data plus full text at the top of Table 3, compared to 8,157 in the conventional search for bibliographic data at the bottom of Table 3.

The same situation is also observed for the keywords of “Governor-General of Korea” and “Manchukuo” in Japanese. We are now enabling access to a great deal of information that was not previously available through searches of bibliographic data in digital materials, and further developments of research on the period of former colonial rule hope to be expected in the future. The new feature of full text search also makes it easier to answer the broad interests of citizens.

Table 4 shows the search results in NAJ Digital Archive which collects many materials from the period of former colonial rule. A search for the keyword of “Governor-General of Taiwan” in Japanese yielded 14,448 total materials, of which 14,080 are publicly available, accounting for 97% of the total materials. It can be said that most of the materials held in NAJ are open to

the public. This situation is similar for the keywords of “Governor-General of Korea” and “Manchukuo” in Japanese.

Table 4. Access Restriction in NAJ Digital Archive.

Types of Access Restriction	Keyword					
	台湾総督府 (Governor-General of Taiwan)	(%)	朝鮮総督府 (Governor-General of Korea)	(%)	満州国 (Manchukuo)	(%)
Image exists	12,620	87	15,836	86	2,797	58
Open	14,080	97	17,750	96	4,661	97
Partial open	15	0	42	0	16	0
Number of total records	14,448	100	18,444	100	4,788	100

1) The number of records was searched in NAJ Digital Archive on June 20, 2023.

Table 5. Number of materials retrieved from each organization constituting JACAR.

Organization	Keyword					
	台湾総督府 (Governor-General of Taiwan)	(%)	朝鮮総督府 (Governor-General of Korea)	(%)	満州国 (Manchukuo)	(%)
NAJ Digital Archive	12,281	56	13,784	62	3,591	17
Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2,312	10	2,391	11	8,091	37
The National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense	7,004	32	1,725	8	6,311	29
Hoover Institution, Stanford University	88	0	106	0	3,249	15
Research Support Office, Faculty of Economics, Oita University	309	1	4,177	19	263	1
Number of total records	22,082	100	22,235	100	21,712	100

1) The number of records was searched in JACAR on June 20, 2023.

Furthermore, in 2001, the JACAR was established as an organization of the National Archives of Japan. Table 5 shows search results from JACAR as an aggregator that provides digital materials from multiple institutions via the Internet. When searching for the keyword of “Governor-General of Taiwan” in Japanese, the National Archives of Japan has the largest number of materials, 12,281, or 56% of the total, followed by the National Institute for Defense Studies with 7,004, or 32% of the total, and then followed by the Diplomatic Archives with 2,312, or 10% of the total. The number of materials in universities and other collections which can be searched in this cross-search is considerably smaller.

### Case Study of Kawai Collection

The Kawai Collection<sup>7</sup> is one of the typical examples of public disclosure of materials collected during the former colonial period through international collaboration. The Kawai Collection consists mainly of documents and books collected by Dr. Hirotami Kawai who is a Japanese researcher of Korean history. The documents and books related to Korean history were

collected during the period when Japan was a colonial power in Korea. It must be kept in mind that even today, the collection of materials has been criticized for some inappropriate collection due to the colonization of Korea (Arai, 2012). The materials collected by Dr. Kawai were donated to the Kyoto University Library by the bereaved family after his death.

The contents of Kawai Collection are diverse, including public and private documents, politics, economics, religion, customs, etc., and are useful for research on the social and cultural history of Korea. It is an essential and valuable resource for research on Korean financial history.

As for the types of document records, there are a wide variety of items related to the purchase and sale of land, houses, properties, etc., items related to public rice and public trees, and other items related to diplomacy and tribute. There is an abundance of materials on the finances of the Yi Dynasty. Dr. Kawai also collected many books, and the scope of collection is not limited to the historical field. The books in the collection cover the entire field of classification of “Keishishishu”, a typical classification system for Chinese classical books.

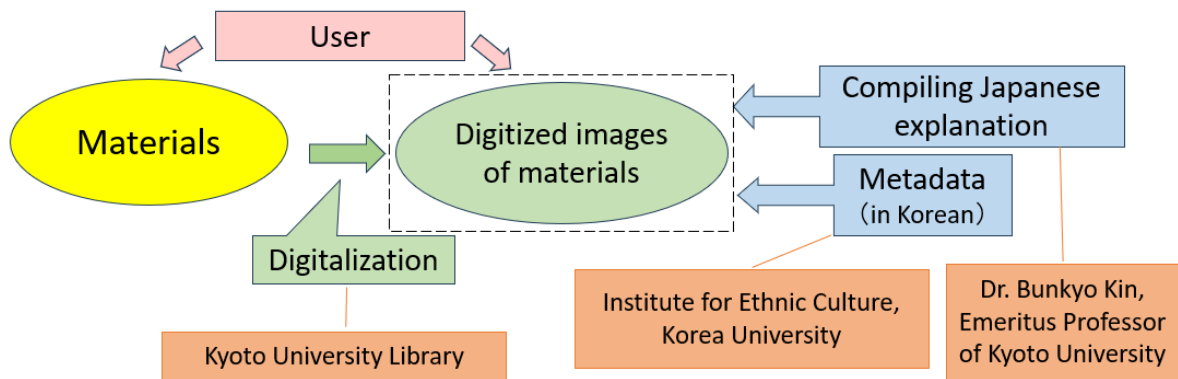


Figure 3. Process of creating digital materials in the Kawai Collection

In 2015, the Kyoto University Library, the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University and the Research Institute of Korean Studies, Korea University signed an agreement to cooperate in researching, digitizing, and creating metadata on classic literature in Korean held by the Kyoto University Library.

Figure 3 shows the process of digitizing the materials in the Kawai Collection through a shared collaboration between Korea and Japan to make them available to everyone on the Internet. At the time, Korea University is creating the metadata in Korean, Dr. Kin is creating the explanation in Japanese and Kyoto University Library is creating digitized images of materials. Kawai Collection is considered that one of the most advanced examples of a collaborative effort between multi-institutions in Korea and Japan to make digital materials available to the public.

Figure 4. shows a typical output record sample from Kawai Collection. Users can browse the digitized materials on the website and then check the metadata and explanation in Japanese. Users can also view metadata in Korean by following the link.





<p><b>別タイトル</b> 1607년 양인(良人) 신직남(辛直男) 토지매매명문(土地賣買明文)</p> <p><b>著者</b> 高大文, 辛直男, 田殿宇, 金富同, 金應龍</p> <p><b>参照形</b> 高, 大文  고, 대문 辛, 直男  신, 직남 田, 殿宇  전, 관우 金, 富同  김, 부동 金, 應龍  김, 응룡</p> <p><b>注記</b> 文書 1607年(万曆35、宣祖40)11月10日、ソウルに居住する良人の辛直男が、保人の高大文から田地18畝6束を買い、受け取った売買明文。価格は木綿20疋。(注) 畝・束-租税を計算するための土地面積の単位。量田尺の一尺平方を把、10把を束、10束を負(ト)、100畝を1結と言った。ただし1結の実際の広さは、一等田から六等田までの区分によって異なる。一等田は3畧、二等田は4畧7分、三等田は5畧2分、四等田は6畧、五等田は9畧、六等田は15畧である。(『経国大典』2「戸典・量田注」)</p> <p>別駕図書館・人文科学研究所・韓国高麗大学校「韓国古文書の調査及び解題及びデジタルイメージの構築事業に関する協定」により電子化</p> <p><b>その他リンク</b> 高麗大学校民族文化研究院の書誌情報</p>	<p>1607년 양인(良人) 신직남(辛直男) 토지매매명문(土地賣買明文)</p> <p>자호UICH 10K5+CSMA+KSA+KL3002.2017-2018051807.A.2015 <a href="#">[PDF 열람]</a></p> <p><b>기본정보</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 분류 고문서·양문문기류-토지매매명문   경제·세제/교역-토지매매명문</li> <li>· 작성주체 발급 : 고대문(高大文) 수취 : 신직남(辛直男)</li> <li>· 작성지역 강화(江華)   전강리(横江里)</li> <li>· 작성시기 만력 35(1607)</li> <li>· 형태사항 1종   종이   현자</li> <li>· 전소장처 일본 권도대학 가와이문고</li> <li>· 청구기호 15</li> </ul>
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*the explanation in Japanese* (points to the Japanese note section)

*The link will take you to bibliographic information in Korean* (points to the 'Other Links' section)

Figuer4: Example of a typical output record from Kawai Collection

### Case Study of Former Colonial School Textbooks

In considering the preservation and disclosure of materials related to former colonies at cultural institutions, it is important to preserve and pass on to future generations the school textbooks and related materials that were used in former colonies to implement Japanese language education. Making former colonial school textbooks available to the world via the Internet so that citizens and researchers can become to access them, is an important role for cultural institutions to avoid repeating the same mistakes that led to colonial rule and wars.

The Japanese Modern Textbook Digital Archive, Library of Education in the National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER)<sup>8</sup> and the Tosho-Bunko<sup>9</sup> of a textbook library affiliated with Tokyo Shoseki Co., Ltd. that is a publisher of school textbooks in Japan will be introduced as a typical institution which preserves many school textbooks and related materials used in the former colonies. Tosho-Bunko was established in 1934 as the first textbook library in Japan, the Tosho-Bunko's collection of 76,420 modern textbook-related materials was designated as an "Important Cultural Property" by the Japanese government in 2009.

Table 6 shows the number of textbooks and related materials in each region and total number of textbooks and related materials in the collection is more than 1,200 items. The textbooks in the regions such as Manchukuo, Taiwan, and Korea were used more than the ones in other regions. Although not listed on the Tosho-Bunko website, most of these materials were microfilmed around 2001 to preserve the original paper materials and then were converted from microfilm to digital format in 2002. Only the front and back covers were photographed in color, while the text is in black and white. Currently, the materials can be viewed as image data on the library's PCs. When considering the use of these materials, we hope that they will become available on the Internet in the future.

Table 6. The textbooks of the former colonies in the Tosho-Bunko collection

Former colonies	Number of textbooks
Manchukuo	407
Kwantung Province, Manchuria for Japanese	61
Kwantung Province, Manchuria for Manchurians	96
Taiwan	204
Korea	492
South Sea Islands	16
Total	1,276

1) Number of textbooks was surveyed on June 29, 2023

Table 7. The textbooks of the former colonies, etc. in the Japan Modern Textbooks Digital Archive, Library of Education in NIER

No.	Former Japanese colonies, etc.	Call number for school textbooks	Number of books	Open to the public	Limited in Education Library
1	Governor-General of Korea	K710*	91	73	18
2	Governor-General of Korea(Textbooks for Teachers)	K711*	1	1	0
3	Manchukuo	K720*	49	31	18
4	Manchukuo(Textbooks for Teachers)	K721*	12	6	6
5	Taiwan	K730*	20	20	0
6	Taiwan(Textbooks for Teachers)	K731*	12	11	1
7	Mongolia	K740*	7	0	7
8	Republic of China	K750*	16	8	8
9	Republic of China(Textbooks for Teachers)	K751*	1	0	1
10	Territorial Government of the South Seas	K760*	3	3	0
11	Foreign Language Textbooks	K79*	4	1	3
	Total		216	154	62

1) Number of textbooks was surveyed on July 1, 2023.

Table 7 shows that the PDF files on the full text of textbooks and textbooks for teachers in Korea, Manchukuo, Taiwan, etc. in the Japanese Modern Textbook Digital Archive can be viewed on the Internet. In addition, a small number of textbooks from Mongolia, Republic of China, Territorial Government of the South Seas, etc. are also available. Sixty-two books, or 29% of the total, including those for which the author's year of death cannot be verified, are restricted to viewing within the Library of Education.

## Discussion

As shown in Figure 1, a conceptual diagram of how libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions in Japan are preserving old books and various cultural assets from the former colonial period, digitizing them, and making the information widely available to the public.

The Japan Search launched as a national portal in 2020 has created the first site for obtaining information although there are still many issues to be addressed. An important feature of the JACAR as an aggregator enables cross-search of several related sites. The conceptual diagram shows an importance of individual organizations which collect old materials from the former colonial period, especially the organizations such as the National Diet Library and the National Archives of Japan which hold many materials during the former colonial period. These organizations were investigated in detail in this study. The National Diet Library which contains various materials such as books and gazettes from the former colonial period is studied in Tables 2 and 3.

The second half of the paper focused on an importance of the materials in two specific cases. The first case of Kawai Collection shows an importance of further promoting cooperative relationships with neighboring countries. In the second case of school textbooks of the former colonies, it became clear that a private textbook company is preserving Japanese textbooks used in the former colonies and digitizing them for future preservation of paper materials. The authors strongly hope that our joint relationship between cultural institutions in Japan and those in neighboring former colonial countries will be further strengthened in the future.

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the librarians of Tosho-Bunko and the Library of Education in NIER for sharing so much with us about the former colonial textbook service.

## Notes

1. Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan in NDL Digital Collections <https://dl.ndl.go.jp/collections/A00016?pageNum=0> (accessed 2023-07-07)
2. Japan Search <https://jpsearch.go.jp/> (accessed 2023-07-07)
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