

Effective ways to access Japanese newspapers and magazines in Finland: the 2nd edition

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1. Introduction

Accessing Japanese research materials effectively is one of the most important tasks for researchers who conduct their research on Japan. This paper focuses on a case of researchers who conduct their study on Japan in academic institutions outside of Japan. Although researchers may have various opportunities to visit Japan for their research through the support of academic institutions and funding bodies, material collection can be hindered by limited time, high costs and restrictions in access. It is obvious that most materials could be more easily accessed in Japan. However, not all researchers who are affiliated with foreign academic institutions have the right conditions to conduct material collection in Japan; some might not be able to obtain enough time and financial resources to stay in Japan in long term for the purpose of collecting materials. To save time and energy, effective strategies to collect materials and literature are necessary for scholars who conduct their research on Japan abroad.

This paper presents effective methods to particularly access Japanese newspapers and magazines in Finland by utilizing digital strategies. The paper aims to contribute to the effective collection of Japanese data sources for researchers from Finnish academic institutions. First, the paper presents available databases to remotely access Japanese newspapers articles in Finland, such as AsiaPortal E-Recourses by the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), the National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog (NDL-OPAC) and interlibrary loan. Second, it presents available databases to access Japanese magazine articles, such as CiNii Articles and National Diet Library Digital Collections. It also shows some supportive methods to obtain copies of Japanese magazine articles in Finland, using online service by NDL and Web OYA-bunko. The paper aims to contribute to effective ways to access Japanese materials outside Japan, particularly in Finland.

2. Accessing Japanese newspapers in Finland

Japanese newspapers are available in Finland in the following locations:

- AsiaPortal E-Resources by the Nordic Institution of Asian Studies (Asahi Shinbun Kikuzo II Visual, Yomidasu Rekishikan, Nikkei Telecom 21)¹
- NDL-OPAC
- Interlibrary loan by the National Library of Finland and Finnish universities' libraries

Table 1. Japanese newspapers available for gaining in Finland

Services	Institutes	Cost	Access	Notes
AsiaPortal E-Resources	Nordic Institution of Asian Studies (NIAS)	No fee	NNC member institutions (University of Helsinki, University of Turku, University of Tampere ² , University of Jyvaskyla, Aalto-Helsinki School of Economics)	
NDL-OPAC	National Diet Library	Partially fee-based	Registrants of NDL	Mail delivery service: User registration is needed
Interlibrary loan	National Library of Finland, Finnish universities' libraries	Fee-based	Registrants of Finnish universities' libraries	

¹ In addition to these four databases, the following databases, online information sites, and archives related to Japan are included: Asahi Shinbun (English), Asian Newspapers-Japan, Fuzoku Gaho, Gunsho Ruiju, J-STAGE, Jairo-Japanese Institutional Repositories Online, Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, Japan Times Archive and Japan Times Current Issues, JapanKnowledge, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library Asian Recourses Room, The Hyakugo Archives, The World and Japan database projects. Some e-books and journals are also contained in the site.

² Remote access is limited to only journals.

2.1 Databases provided by AsiaPortal E-Resources

Table 2. Databases for Japanese newspaper by AsiaPortal E-resources

Database Name	Publisher	Main scope	Full text
Asahi Shinbun Kikuzo II Visual 開蔵ビジュアル	The Asahi Shimbun 朝日新聞社	Asahi Shimbun (1879-); AERA and Shukan Asahi (1985-)	Available as PDF text; Free
Yomidasu Rekishikan ヨミダス歴史館	The Yomiuri Shimbun 読売新聞社	Yomiuri Shimbun (1874-)	Available as the original print editions; Free
Nikkei Telecom 21 日経テレコム 21	Nikkei Digital Media Inc. 株式会社日本経済新聞デ ジタルメディア	Nihon Keizai Shimbun (1975-)	Available; Free

Asahi Shinbun Kikuzo II Visual is the Asahi Shimbun online database in Japanese, containing:

- Asahi Shimbun 1985～; Shukan Asahi; AERA (朝日新聞 1985～; 週刊朝日; AERA)
- Asahi Shimbun Reduced-size Facsimile Edition (朝日新聞縮小版) (1879–1999)
- Chiezo Keyword Database (知恵蔵)
- Who's Who Database (人物データベース)
- Historical Photo Archive (朝日新聞歴史写真アーカイブ)
- Asahi Graph (アサヒグラフ) (1923–1956)
- English-Language News Database (英文ニュースデータベース)
- Contemporary Dictionary *Chiezo* (知恵蔵)

All articles are searchable by heading, keyword, and category, available to read as PDFs and the full text can be accessed for free.

Yomidasu Rekishikan is the Yomiuri Shimbun online database service, including:

- *Yomiuri Shimbun*: Meiji, Taisho and Showa (1874–1989)
- *Yomiuri Shimbun*: Heisei (1986–present)
- The Japan News (1989–present)
- The Contemporary Who's Who (現代人名録)

The newspaper archive is divided into sections: the section including the Meiji, Taisho and Showa Eras contains scans of the original articles. The Heisei Era section includes articles in a text view. All articles are searchable by keywords and category.

Nikkei Telecom21 is a group of database services that provides news and newspaper and magazine articles, and access to Nikkei's extensive news archive, business information, and corporate profiles. It contains:

- News: Nikkei Newsflash and Nikkei Flash News Archive
- Newspapers: *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* (日本経済新聞); *Nikkei Sangyo Shimbun* (日本産業新聞); *Nikkei MJ* (日本流通新聞 MJ); *Nikkei Local* (日経地方経済面); *Nikkei Plus One* (日経プラスワン); *Nikkei Magazine* (日経マガジン); Nikkei Shimbun from Meiji to Post-WW II (日本経済新聞 明治から戦後 1876–1974)
- Company Information: Nikkei Company Profile (日経会社プロフィール); Company Earnings (企業決算)
- Personnel Information: Nikkei WHO's WHO (日経 WHO's WHO)
- Data and Ranking (データ&ランキング)
- Legal and Intellectual property Archive (法務・知財アーカイブ)
- English : Nikkei English News, Nikkei Major Articles, Nikkei Asian Review

Articles are available as PDF full text and searchable by keywords.

2.2 National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog (NDL-OPAC) by the National Diet Library

NDL-OPAC is a database of the National Diet Library, which contains the following services that can be used remotely: Search materials held by the NDL,³ electronic resources services, and photoduplication services⁴. If a researcher knows which materials and pages you want, a user can request copies via the NDL-OPAC. Copies will be sent to the user by mail. The English version of the NDL-OPAC provides only search functions, not the photoduplication service.

2.3 Interlibrary loan at the National Library of Finland and Finnish universities' libraries

Registrants of the National Library of Finland and Finnish universities' libraries can order loanable or replicated materials that may be unavailable in the researcher's institutions. They supply items from other libraries in Finland and abroad. An interlibrary loan can be ordered electronically, by e-mail, or with a printed form. All

³ Materials whose copyright has expired can be used.

⁴ It is within the limits of copyright law.

loans will be accompanied by a fee.

3. Accessing Japanese magazine articles in Finland

3.1 Databases for accessing Japanese magazine articles

Japanese magazine articles can be found in Finland in the following locations.

Table 3. Databases for Japanese magazine articles available for gaining in Finland

Database Name	Publisher	Main scope	Full text
CiNii Articles- Citation Information by National Institute of Informatics (Nii), Japan	National Institute of Informatics (NII) through AsiaPortal E-Resources 国立情報学研究所	Academic journal articles, university bulletins, and books held by Japanese universities	Limited
National Diet Library Digital Collections 国立国会図書館デジタルコレクション	National Diet Library 国会図書館	Digitized materials and online publications	Limited

CiNii Articles—Citation Information by National Institute of Informatics (Nii), Japan

CiNii is a database service which can be searched with academic information of articles, Books, Journals & Dissertations. CiNii Articles is a database service which provides information on articles published in academic journals, university research bulletins and articles in National Diet Library’s Japanese Periodicals Index Database (国会国立国会図書館雑誌記事索引データベース). Some contents are available online free of charge.

National Diet Library Digital Collections

National Diet Library Digital Collections offer a user to view resources stored by the National Diet Library. It is available to access magazine articles digitized by the NDL or its partner institutions and articles on online publications collected by the NDL.

3.2 Databases for searching Japanese magazine articles

Although most of newspaper articles from around 1985 could be directly accessed from databases, and it is easy to do so (e.g., Asahi Shimbun Kikuzo II Visual, Yomiuri Rekishikan, Nikkei Telecom 21), for some popular magazine articles and scholarly articles, it is necessary to visit libraries to obtain copies, or to use a fax or mail delivery service. If a researcher has information on specific materials and pages to be copied in this database, a researcher can request mail delivery through Web OYA-Bunko, the NDL-OPAC or interlibrary loan. The application requires contact address in Japan.

Table 4. Databases for searching Japanese magazine articles in Finland

Database name	Publisher/Institute	Scope	Full text	Notes
Web OYA-Bunko	Oya Soichi Bunko 大宅壮一文庫	The popular, non-academic magazines from the Meiji period to the present; over 640.000 volumes of magazine titles since 1988	Not available; fax and mail service; charged min.10000 yen per year; 20 yen per one search; online fax service 280 yen per a page plus 400 yen per each request	Contact address in Japan is necessary for application.
NDL-OPAC	National Diet Library	Partially fee-based	Registrants of NDL	Mail delivery service: User registration is needed
Interlibrary loan	National Library of Finland, Finnish universities' libraries	Fee-based	Registrants of Finnish universities' libraries	

Web OYA-Bunko is a citation index database for magazines held by the Oya Soichi bunko, a private library in Tokyo. The library holds the popular, non-academic magazines and books collected by Oya Soichi, a Japanese social critic. Web OYA-Bunko is a useful database for searching Japanese popular magazine articles from the Meiji period to the present.

The database offers the capacity to search by title, keywords and people (as authors or subjects) of magazine articles from 1988 to the present on topics. Considering that most other databases focus on mainly academic magazines and most publishers do not retain all of back issues of magazines due to limited space and high

costs, this is one of the largest databases to search for Japanese popular magazine articles⁵.

References

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North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (Last updated in 2015) *Your Guide to Japanese Library and Information Resources*. Available from: <http://guides.nccjapan.org/homepage> [Last accessed on 22 June 2017]

Smith, H.D. (1995) *Doing Research in Japan*, Available from: <http://www.columbia.edu/~hds2/BIB95/appendix.htm> [Last accessed on 28 July 2017].

Troost, K. (2007) *Japanese Studies Research Guide*. Duke University. Available from: <http://guides.library.duke.edu/c.php?g=289731&p=1930971> [Last accessed on 22 June 2017].

Valaskivi, K. (2007) *Mapping Media and Communication Research: Japan*. Helsinki: Communication Research Center, University of Helsinki. Available from: <http://www.helsinki.fi/crc/Julkaisut/ReportJapan.pdf> [Retrieved on 1 December 2013]

Home pages of institutions and libraries

National Diet Library (国会国立図書館)

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/index.html> [Last accessed on 22 June 2017]

⁵ According to the OYA bunko homepage, the library faced financial difficulties by the reduction of users due to the decline of the publishing industry and the expansion of the Internet.

Nordic Institute of Asian Studies

<http://nias.ku.dk/> [Last accessed on 20 June 2017]

Oya Soichi bunko (大宅壮一文庫)

<http://www.oya-bunko.or.jp/> [Last accessed on 22 June 2017]

Databases

AsiaPortal E-Resources: A Nordic Information Resource Portal for Asian Studies

<http://www.asiaportal.info/> [Last accessed on 8 June 2017]

NDL-OPAC

[https://ndlopac.ndl.go.jp/F/79862L788R5EJCVMFXALADGKRQ1MVCYMPFC
NT4D2E8GDEL93EHQ-07410?func=file&file_name=login&CON_LNG=jpn](https://ndlopac.ndl.go.jp/F/79862L788R5EJCVMFXALADGKRQ1MVCYMPFCNT4D2E8GDEL93EHQ-07410?func=file&file_name=login&CON_LNG=jpn)

[Last accessed on 22 June 2017]

Web OYA-Bunko

http://www.oya-bunko.or.jp/web_oyabunko/tabid/73/Default.aspx

[Last accessed on 22 June 2017]