

FY2019 Annual Report for International Joint Research with Research Fund
International Joint Digital Archiving Center for Japanese Art and Culture (ARC-iJAC),
Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

Date (year/mm/dd): 2020/04/17

1. Title of the Research Project	
Providing descriptive metadata and transcriptions for Collection of correspondence and poems from various officials from the Kumamoto domain	
2. Research Leader	
Name	Organization and title
Mieko MAZZA	East Asia Library, Stanford University
3. Co-researcher (Total: 0 persons)	

4. Overview of the Research Project (About 150 words) Note: If you have changed your project since the time of application submission, please write clearly where you made changes.
<p>Stanford University East Asia Library holds “Kumamoto-han bunjin shojoshu” (Collection of correspondence and poems from various officials from the Kumamoto domain) which is a collection consisting of 31 separate sheets with letters and poems affixed on them. Currently, this collection’s metadata consists of minimum information provided by the dealer. This manuscript collection is in characters written in the cursive style and is very difficult to read by a non-specialist. By using the ARC’s Kuzushiji AI database, I hope to provide transcriptive metadata to this collection that allows me to identify senders/receivers of letters and contents so that I could add subject matter to each manuscript in order to enhance discoverability of this collection. I hope to use this collection as a pilot project for future planning of manuscript transcription projects utilizing AI databases such as this.</p>
5. Overview of the Research Results Note: We may use this section for the Center’s PR.
<p>As this research project request had been submitted in mid-January 2020 (1), the time I was able to spend on this research prior to the March 2020 deadline was less than a month. Due to this time constraint (2), I was not able to archive the initial goal, which was the transcription of all manuscripts in the collection. I plan to apply for the renewal of the project with ARC. During the research of the collection, I made some interesting discoveries as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of 100 manuscripts, 17 items are Kanshi poems. • Out of 83 letters, 27 letters were addressed to UNO Kihachiro. • Vendor-provided sender information needs to be thoroughly verified (some of the vendor-provided sender information turned out to be incorrect. example: eal0014_07_01). • AI database transcription pages and image pages both load very quickly and are very easy to use. • The AI transcription assistance results are better for those manuscripts with printed style writing than cursive writing style. <p>If my application for the 2020 project is approved, I plan to double my efforts to provide full transcription of this collection. I also plan to contact local historians from Kumamoto City to help me understand the subject matters mentioned in the letters. I am optimistic to achieve these goals by March 2021 based on the progress I made during this year’s short research period.</p>

(1) I would like to express my deep gratitude to Assistant Professor KANEKO Takaaki, Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University for his technical assistance. Advice given by Dr. Regan Murphy Kao (Curator for Japanese Collections/Head of Special Collections, East Asia Library, Stanford University) on digitization projects has been a great help. I am particularly grateful for the technical support given by Ms. Yumi Igarashi (Special Collection's Assistant, East Asia Library, Stanford University), who painstakingly scanned each item and manipulated the image quality using Photoshop software for uploading to the ARC database.

(2) Due to Santa Clara County's COVID-19 shelter-in-place order, Stanford University Library closed on March 10, 2020.

6. Research Activities

(1) Books

(2) Articles

(3) Presentations

(4) Symposiums and/or research meeting you organized

(5) Other research activities (Lectures to the general public, and appearances in/contributions to mass media)

(6) Academic award

(7) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI

(8) Competitive grants other than KAKENHI

(9) Other achievements