

Occupation Period Magazine Database and Newspaper Indexing
Project

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During my struggle with articles as a graduate school student, I tried in my own way to devise a better method of searching for documents. In that process, I feel I have acquired a craftsman-like intuition for speedily discerning the value of materials and summarizing the vital points.

It was in the mid-1960s that I began my life as a scholar. Whenever I had time, I would research in places such as the Meiji Newspaper and Magazine Library at the University of Tokyo and the newspaper room at the National Diet Library. In a random but earnest manner, I tried to get hold of every newspaper article, advertisement and company publication, thesis and articles in magazines -- anything that had relevance to my field of study.

Back then, however, microreaders and microprinters did not exist. In fact, there were hardly any microfilms of newspapers. The Xerox copy machine had only just been developed. And the small indexed versions of newspapers published from around 1916 were nowhere to be found.

The only way to go about my research was to physically turn over every page of the documents I came across. It was an extremely time-consuming process, but I had no choice but to copy out the material by hand into notebooks and cards.

It took me more than an hour to transcribe a paragraph, and a whole day to copy out one page of newspaper. Even if I had had plenty of time and stamina I would have felt like screaming out of frustration.

I tried at least to cultivate a discerning eye, choosing articles that would be really useful, and copying only the most important parts.

By the 1970s, when I finished graduate school, the number of microfilms of newspapers and reprinted editions of magazines had increased. Printers and copy machines were increasingly widespread, and making copies had become much easier and cheaper. At last I was freed from copying out by hand and the proportion of hand-written cards in my files decreased drastically. I had high hopes that my research would take a big step forward.

After a while however, I reached a stage in my life when I grew conscious of falling eyesight and physical stamina. I was also able to spend less time on research. Once again, I began to wonder about more efficient ways to access articles and theses.

In the late 1980s, I came across microfiche reproductions of the internal documents of the GHG/SCAP kept at the National Diet Library. It was possible to easily make copies of these papers thanks to the printer, but it was hard to find the exact data one was looking for. Time and perseverance, as well as luck were necessary. I may be one of the last scholars of the analog age, but during the times I was in the reading room, I always felt that the computer, which was becoming more common, would help make research more efficient.

I sometimes wonder though, if this particular knack is no longer needed in the digital world of the 21st century where massive data can be accessed in a matter of seconds.

By the late 1990s, the University of Maryland and the National Diet Library had microfilmed all the censored magazines of the Prange Collection - the collection of newspapers, magazines and books published in occupied Japan after World War II. The magazine collection comprises an

estimated 13,700 titles, 6.10 million pages, 150,000 books, and 2 million articles. Most of the publications no longer exist in Japan.

Calling on other researchers to take part, I set up a study group to compile a database for a table of contents of the magazines in the collection. After applying with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science I was fortunately granted funding for studies for fiscal 2000. A five-year project was progressed, with the aim of preserving data on all the magazines into the computer under roughly 50 categories such as the titles of articles, the authors' names, the publishers and places of publication. At last this database was completed by March 2005. A project was thus launched to compile a CD-ROM database to preserve data on every issue of every magazine in the collection, ranging from the covers, indexes, authors' names, titles and subtitles of articles and theses, to reference numbers, category items, information on censorship and publishers as well as the places and dates of publication. **The data-base has been opened to the public via internet (<http://prangedb.kicx.jp/>) since November 17, 2002.** As of March 31, 2005, the data compiled consisted of **13,787** titles and **1,964,933** articles.

Below is a list of the contents of the magazines preserved in the database as of March 31 2005. Note that the figures in brackets following the genre of magazines represent the number of titles while the figures on the right represent the number of articles.

Fiscal 2000

Politics, Law, Administration (408) Economy (600)	320,050
Society, Labor(371)	47,417
Education(359)	

Fiscal 2001

Arts, Language, Literature (3,163)	454,625
History, Geology (512) Philosophy, Religion (230)	120,705

Fiscal 2002

Science & Technology (1,724)	360,293
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Fiscal 2003

Books, Library Science, General Magazines (971)	
Academic Magazines(19)Children's Magazines(508)	349,665

Fiscal 2004

Pamphlets (2,000)	311,678
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Total	1,964,933
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Fortunately we could find in registration box many researchers of different nations and countries. We are sending news of our data base to these researchers. Feedback of these newsletters Has been frequent and our magazine "Intelligence" has caught foreign contributors and subscribers.

We also propose magazine database to connect index database of other magazine collections. For example ,Waseda University will be devoted the late Fukushima Jyuro Magazine Collection. We are planning to apply same procedure making of Prange Collection to Fukushima Collection. In near future we are going to construct occupation period media database basing on Prange database.

Moreover new project of making newspaper index data-base has given financial assistance in fiscal 2006 from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. This new 5 years project from 2006 to 2010 has launched to preserve data on every issue of 120 influential newspapers in the collection, ranging from titles and subtitles of articles to advertising. By March 2007

the database of 12 newspapers in Kyusyu and Shikoku Islands will be completed and opened via same magazine database domain. Of course we use the censored newspapers of the Prange Collection.

We would like to develop our project to integrate research throughout magazine database and newspaper database. using keywords in database , we will be able to find the articles by same authors in various media.

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