



U-PARL

東京大学附属図書館アジア研究図書館上廣倫理財団寄付研究部門

UEHIRO  
PROJECT  
FOR THE  
ASIAN  
RESEARCH  
LIBRARY





## ABOUT U-PARL

### OUR AIM

The Uehiro Project for the Asian Research Library (U-PARL) is a research institute established in April 2014 with a grant from the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education.

Currently, a large-scale renovation and expansion of the General Library at the University of Tokyo's Hongo Campus is underway, a project that includes several specialized sub-projects. The Asian Research Library is one of these projects. The aim of this project is to bring the thousands of volumes of works on Asia now scattered throughout the university and, as far as is possible, collect them in one location inside the General Library, while also working to collect new materials in order to build a research library dedicated to learning and thinking about Asia. U-PARL was set up to support the conceptualization, development, and eventual operation of the Asian Research Library through the input of a group of specialists on Asian studies.

At the present, U-PARL is made up of thirteen staff members who specialize in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, and Japan. Based on the results of their own research in the field, the staff of U-PARL collect and organize both donated and purchased works, digitize materials, draw-up floor-plans, and otherwise support the dozens of jobs leading up to the opening of the new library. Additionally, members of U-PARL also work on exchange and research projects between libraries within Japan and overseas in order to develop the intellectual base necessary to create the best research library possible. Such a project requires us to consider what a library should offer in today's world, how libraries can strengthen their connection to research and education, and how to develop better ways to store and transmit the knowledge found in a library.

U-PARL aims to bring together many different intellectual endeavors, and act as a hub for research, connecting the new library with the newest thinking about Asia.



Concurrent Professors:

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**Shin ARITA**, **Takahiro NAKAJIMA**

Project Associate Professor:

**Kana TOMIZAWA** (Deputy Project Leader)

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Project Research Fellows:

**Kyosuke ADACHI**, **Taku KIMURA**,  
**Wakako KUMAKURA**, **Masakatsu NAGAI**,  
**Kentaro NARITA**, **Yuki SHIBUYA**,  
**Warinthorn TERMARIYABUIT**

Assistant Clerks:

**Tomoko OZAWA**, **Kikue HIKIDA**

### WHAT WE DO

#### Supporting the Development of the New Library

##### Library Layout and Classification

- Developing a floor plan for the open-stack reading room
- Developing a classification system

##### Cataloging

- Creating and maintaining a system to organize and catalog materials, especially those in vernacular languages

##### Collecting Materials

- Expansion of the collection
- Arranging and incorporating materials received from other University of Tokyo Libraries
- Arranging and incorporating donated books

#### Research Activities

##### Research on Asia

- Supporting interdisciplinary work and collaboration with other Asian research centers

##### Research and Digitization

- Carrying out original research based on primary materials and ICT-based resource sharing

##### Library Science

- Implementing a new digital browsing system under the automated storage and retrieval system

#### Output & Sharing

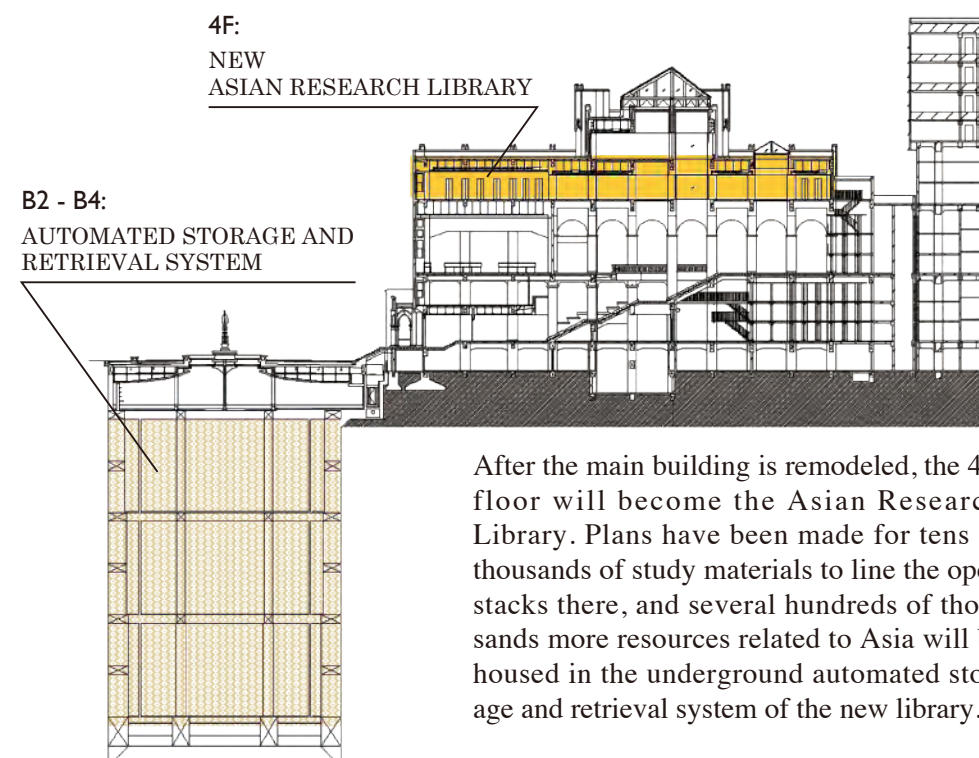
##### Symposia

##### Workshops

##### Publishing Databases

##### Web-based Academic Networking

### WHERE WE WILL BE



After the main building is remodeled, the 4th floor will become the Asian Research Library. Plans have been made for tens of thousands of study materials to line the open stacks there, and several hundreds of thousands more resources related to Asia will be housed in the underground automated storage and retrieval system of the new library.



▲ The fountain plaza in front of the General Library (on the left) and a picture of projected completion (to the right). At present, construction is continuing on the new library and large scale renovations are also progressing inside the main building. Completion of the new library is planned for the 2017 academic year and the main building in 2020.





## SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW LIBRARY

Connecting Asian Studies with Library Science



### Building a New Library: Thinking about Floor Plans and Library Operations

What should the Asian Research Library be like? Systems for requesting materials, rules for making photocopies and reproductions, the management of valuable items, the exhibition and circulation of information... There are many different questions to consider when planning a new library. Two especially large and interrelated problems are, first, how should the floor space of the Asian Research Library be used, and second, of the hundreds of thousands of items available, how should only a small percentage of these items be chosen and put on display in a limited space? To solve these problems, U-PARL brings Asian studies researchers together with librarians, and by sharing each other's expertise and opinions, work together to create a new library.



### Dealing with Many Different Materials: The Practice and Theory of Cataloging

The Asian Research Library will include materials related to Asia across many different languages. Moving and cataloging such a large volume of materials in the limited time before the library opens, especially across a variety of languages will be no easy task. Such work demands both an understanding of the language and content of the materials, as well as familiarity with complex library cataloging procedures. To solve these problems, U-PARL works closely with librarians to build and put into practice an efficient system for receiving and cataloging these materials.

### Building a Collection: The Structure and Content of the Asian Research Library

No matter how libraries may change, the fact that they are built on the materials available in their collection stays the same. The collection of the Asian Research Library will be made up of three main sources: first, materials that have been relocated from libraries and reading rooms from throughout the university, second, donated materials, and third, newly purchased materials. Aimed at covering all of Asian studies, this collection will encompass an extremely broad geographic area, many historical time periods, and a variety of academic fields. One objective of the U-PARL project is to decide what materials are necessary to create a collection relevant to research on Asia with the largest number of materials possible.



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Building a New Library, and a New Asian Studies

## Towards a New Asian Research Library

### The Future of University Libraries

#### Automated Book Storage

Dealing with an ever-increasing number of works needing to be stored is a problem that concerns any library. To deal with this problem, the new library is constructing automated book storage facilities that will be able to hold up to three million volumes. This totally new system is designed to keep a huge number of works in a limited storage space, and will bring fundamental changes to the traditional library along with it. One of the problems we deal with at U-PARL is how both automated storage space and open stack space should be managed in order to create the best research environment possible.

#### Classification and Search Methods for the Asian Research Library

With the introduction of automated book storage, the act of browsing will also change greatly. To deal with this problem, U-PARL also considers the classification and searching system – "the framework of knowledge" within the library – and how this framework should be developed and used in the future.

#### The Library as an "Intellectual Commons"

Today, a university library is not only a place to hold research materials, but also needs to function as an "Intellectual Commons" where people can gather, interact and create new knowledge. One of the questions posed to U-PARL is how the new library will best be able to fulfill its role as both a library and an "Intellectual Commons" where research on Asia can further develop.

### Research and Information Collection in the Digital Age

#### Advanced and Sustainable Digitization

In order to build a "hybrid library" that can deliver both physical and digital materials, one of U-PARL's research projects relates to the digitization of texts and other materials. In order to reduce the costs of digitization and create a sustainable system of management, we are constantly improving and testing out best practices for digitization.

#### The Special Needs of Digitization for Asian Studies

Additionally, a degree of specialization is required for each type of material to be digitized. To do this, we further analyze the materials within each specialty to consider the unique characteristics of each type of material and consider what is necessary to digitize and make the results of this digitization available.

### Connecting the Library to Research on Asia

#### Diverse Research in One Place

Although all of the researchers at U-PARL are connected by their research on Asia as a region, the time periods and sub-fields we study is extremely diverse. This diversity in itself is closely connected to the concept of the Asian Research Library. We hope that by bringing together the fruits of research and the perspectives of a variety of fields and sub-specialties, it will enable researchers who use this library to develop a new paradigm for Asian studies.

### Connecting the University of Tokyo to Asian Studies throughout the World

Researchers at the University of Tokyo do a wide range of research on Asia in both the Humanities and Natural Sciences. Prior to the establishment of U-PARL, an organization to strengthen ties between researchers in Asian Studies called the "Network for Education and Research on Asia (ASNET)" was established at the University of Tokyo in 2001. In association with other such organizations, U-PARL strives to create a new collaborative space with the new Asian Studies library based around the collection of primary source materials and research, in order to widen the network of researchers on Asia both within and beyond the University of Tokyo.



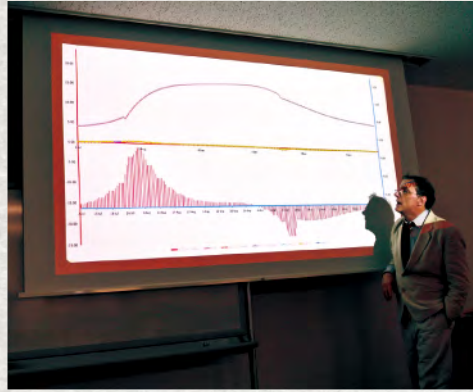


## OUTPUT & SHARING

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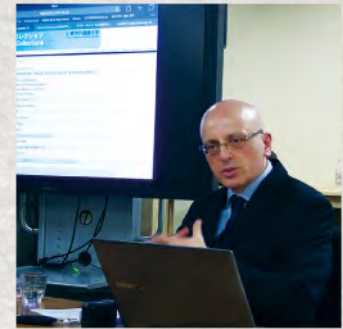
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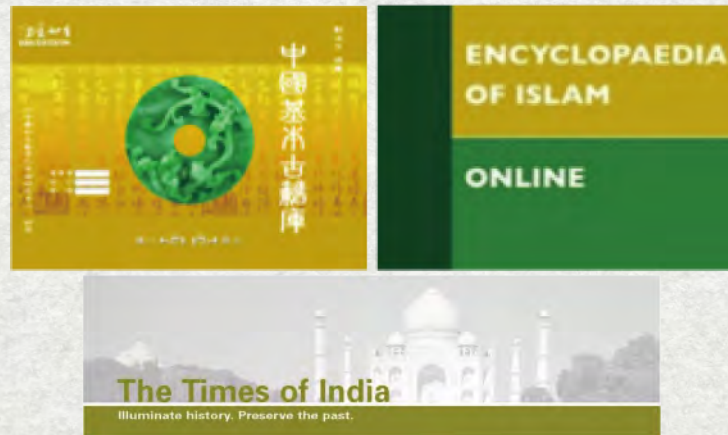
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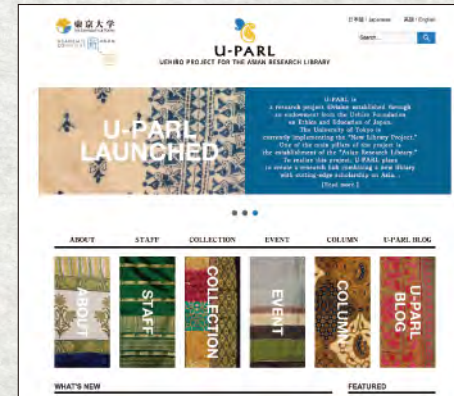
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U-PARL Official Twitter ▲  
Tweeting information on events, etc.



<http://u-parl.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/>

▲ U-PARL Official Website  
U-PARL shares all sorts of information  
on project activities, collections, events,  
and columns related to Asian studies.

- 01 At the inaugural TRCCS Taiwan Chinese Studies Lecture, U-PARL Research Fellow Kentaro NARITA explains current interactions between the University of Tokyo Library System and the National Central Library (Taiwan)
- 02 A lecture by Stuart BORSCH (Assumption College)  
“Nile Floods and Irrigation System Decay in Late Mamluk Egypt”
- 03 Held with invitees Yeong-hwan SHIM (The Academy of Korean Studies) and Tomoyuki MASUDA (Yasuda Women’s University)  
Open forum: “Cursive Script in Chosŏn Period Official Documents: Attempting Comparative Research on East Asian Writing Culture”
- 04 One of the materials U-PARL is digitizing: KIM In-hu’s “Thousand-Character Classic in Cursive Style” (Chosŏn period/woodblock)
- 05 Ferdinando SARDELLA (Stockholm University) was invited to speak at the “Archiving of Asia in Asia” workshop
- 06 Interacting with Ms. Sivaporn UTHAISIA (Thammasat University Library staff member) and others

- 07 Jointly held workshop between the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia and the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University  
“Making Connections—History and Research: Workshop Camp for Junior Oriental and Chinese Studies Researchers”
- 08 Interacting with Dr. Thi-Lan LE (Head of Institute of Social Sciences Information, Vietnam)
- 09 Arabic manuscript seminar featuring speaker Frederic BAUDEN (University of Liège)  
Lecturers and participants in “Looking Over al-Maqrizi’s Shoulder” (jointly held with Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia)
- 10 U-PARL merchandise, developed and made with the help of the University of Tokyo Co-op store
- 11 Online resources introduced by U-PARL  
Clockwise from top left are: the Database of Chinese Classic Ancient Books, the Encyclopaedia of Islam Online, and The Times of India
- 12 U-PARL’s website, sharing information related to Asian studies





東京大学  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



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New Library  
Project



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