



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

2018





## 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, the General Library at the University of Tokyo's Hongo Campus is undergoing a large-scale renovation and expansion. This multi-year project includes several sub-projects, one of which is the development of a new Asian Research Library. In addition to collecting new materials, the Asian Research Library will bring together many of the thousands of volumes of Asia now scattered throughout the university to one location inside the General Library, in order to become a world-class facility for researching, teaching, and learning 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 Asian studies specialists.

U-PARL brings together specialists from a variety of disciplines, with expertise on East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, and other regions. As members of U-PARL, they make use of their individual expertise to contribute to the acquisition, organization, and collection of materials for the new library, to help draw-up floor plans, and to otherwise help realize the new library through research collaboration and exchange with libraries throughout Japan and overseas.

Beyond the design of the space and organization of materials, this project requires us to consider what a library can offer in today's world, how libraries can strengthen their role in research and education, and how to develop better ways to archive and disseminate the library's vast materials and resources.

U-PARL aims to bring together many different intellectual endeavors in order to enable the new library to act as a hub for research, bringing researchers together with the most cutting-edge resources and knowledge about Asia.



Concurrent Professors:  
**Kenryo MINOWA** (Project Leader),  
**Akio TANABE**, **Kazuo MORIMOTO**  
**Kyuichi UEHARA** (Deputy Project Leader)  
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**Kyosuke ADACHI**, **Hayato KONDO**,  
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Assistant Clerks:  
**Tomoko OZAWA**, **Hitomi YOSHIKAWA**

### 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

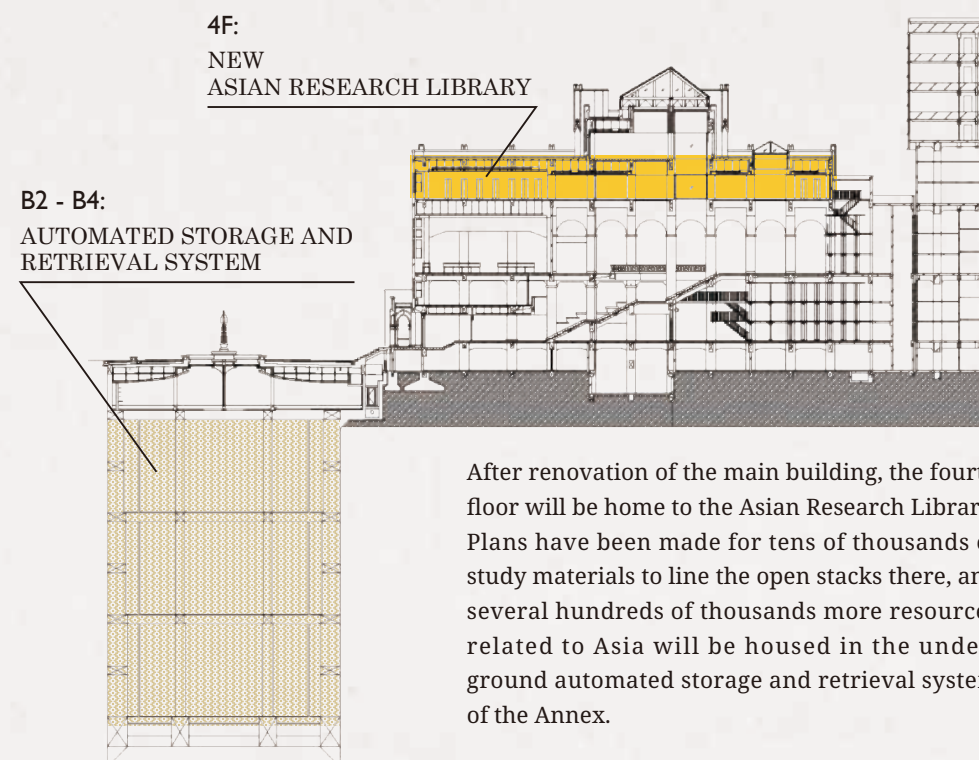
##### Symposia

##### Workshops

##### Publishing Databases

##### Web-based Academic Networking

### WHERE WE WILL BE



After renovation of the main building, the fourth floor will be home to 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 Annex.



Left: The front of the main library building after renovation. Work on the main building is scheduled to be completed in the 2020 academic year.



Right: The Annex' s Library Plaza, completed in 2017 .





# CONNECTING ASIAN STUDIES WITH LIBRARY SCIENCE

## Shaping the Library Collection and Layout

Although the library is now undergoing a great change in appearance, but its core is the materials it houses. U-PARL is growing the collection of the Asian Research Library through the three approaches of: purchasing new materials, accepting donated materials, and bringing together materials from the university's various libraries and reading rooms. While cooperating with many specialists from various fields, conversations are being held on the design and the operation plan for the open stacks of the Asian Research Library, which will open on the fourth floor of the General Library.



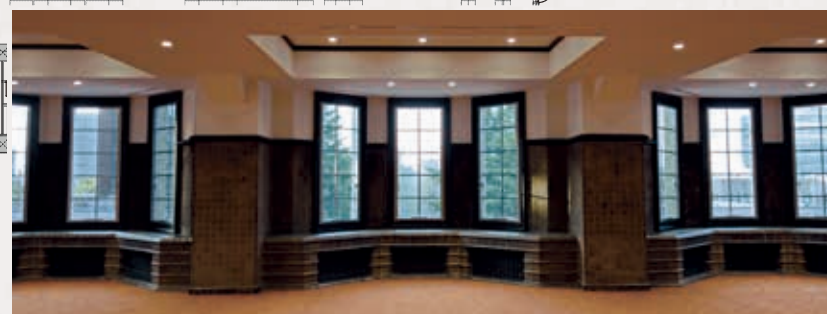
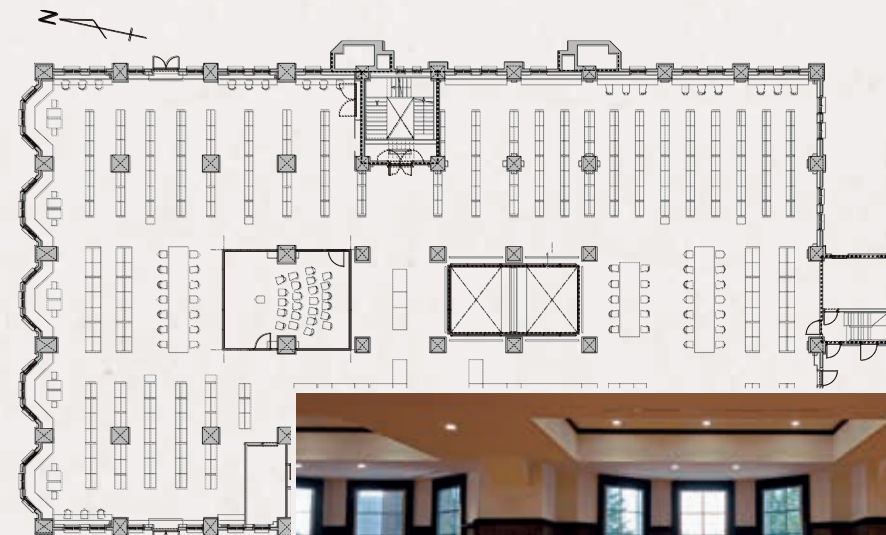
The Asian Research Library collection on temporary display. It received a visit from the chief librarian of the Japanese division of Berlin State Library East Asia Department.

## Putting Classifications to Use

In the Asian Research Library, materials from an extremely broad range of geographic areas, time periods, and fields of research are collected together under the term "Asia." U-PARL has worked in cooperation with specialists in both library science and Asian research to come up with a classification system that allows for a wide overview of the entire spectrum of Asian knowledge and which reflects the three aspects of region, language, and subject area. From early on, in the spring of 2017, practical use has been made of this system in the temporary shelving space secured in the stacks of the General Library.



Photographing rare works from the General Library collection to be made available for viewing on Flickr.



Working toward the opening of the new library, construction is progressing on the Asian Research Library open stacks on the fourth floor (pictured March 2018). Tens of thousands of resources on Asia, from East through to West, will be shelved by geographical region, with individual seating and study benches nestled among the stacks. Located in the center will be an atrium invoking the design of the original 1928 library and a new seminar room that can be used for small scale events. The seminar room will also function as an open space where researchers can freely engage in discussion.

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

Researchers at the University of Tokyo conduct a wide range of outstanding research on Asia in both the Humanities and the Natural Sciences. There has been progress in strengthening ties between researchers through initiatives such as the "Network for Education and Research on Asia (ASNET)." U-PARL is working to build on these initiatives, to carve out a new collaborative space based around the collecting and researching of materials, and to make the Asian Research Library a hub and gateway that widens the network of researchers on Asia both within and beyond the University of Tokyo.

## Realizing an "Intellectual Commons"

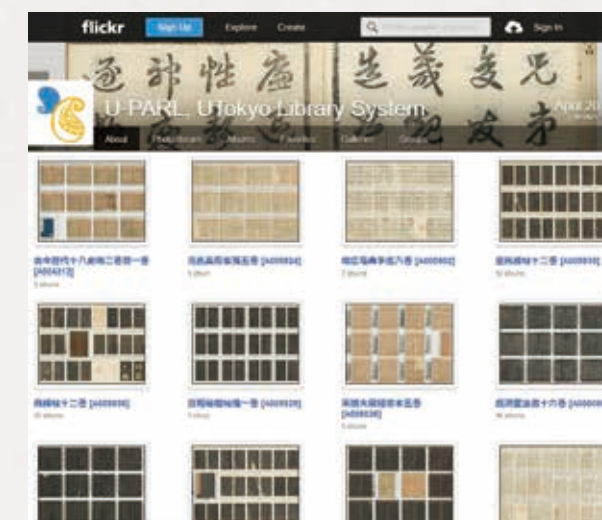
Today, a university library is not only a place for holding research materials, but also needs to function as a space where people can gather, interact, and create new knowledge. In order to create this "Intellectual Commons" both physically and virtually, U-PARL holds various seminars and workshops to learn about and exchange ideas on advanced Asian studies, and works to develop and expand access to digitized research materials.



"Asian Materials Cataloging Workshop: Ottoman Turkish Books." Many librarians and researchers from all around Japan attended, making it an opportunity for meaningful information exchange.

## Connecting Digital Materials with Asian Studies

Today, libraries are expected to take on the new role of archiving digital materials alongside those that are paper-based. At U-PARL, aiming at the realization of digital browsing of materials in the underground automated storage and retrieval system, photographing of the covers, title pages, and contents of materials is steadily being implemented. Also, while keeping a close eye on trends in open data, digital images of rare Chinese books purchased by U-PARL and calligraphic models from the General Library collection have been made public on the website "Flickr" under the terms and conditions of a Creative Commons license.



High-resolution digital images of rare Chinese classics and calligraphic models from the General Library collection, available for viewing on Flickr.

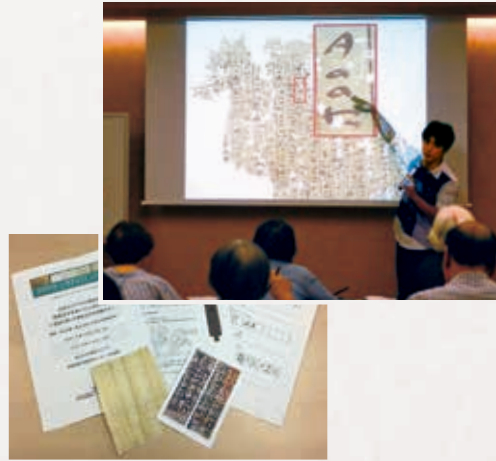
## Exploring the Functions of a Research Library

In world-class level research libraries, subject librarians equipped with specialist knowledge in each field of research are responsible for building the library collection and supporting leading-edge research activities. How can the Asian Research Library best support Asian studies at the University of Tokyo? In communication with research libraries inside and outside of Japan, U-PARL is exploring the types of roles specialist Asian research human resources can be expected to fulfil.





## OUTPUT & SHARING



No. 001 "Ancient Egyptian Scribes Didn't Use Hieroglyphs: Experiencing the Hieratics of Administrators"



No. 002 "Classical Documents on Flickr: Using a Photography Platform for Publishing Rare Chinese Books and Calligraphic Models"



No. 003 "Discussing Asian Languages"



Interview project on the various types of Asian research and libraries: "Galaxy of Asian Research Specialists." So far, we have interviewed researchers from The University of Tokyo, including from the School of Engineering, the School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University Museum, the School of Medicine, the Asian Natural Environmental Science Center, the Institute of Industrial Science, and the School of Arts and Sciences.

"Asian Library Café," an event making use of U-PARL research outcomes and networks to openly share information on Asia and libraries in a relaxed atmosphere. This event was held three times in the 2017 academic year.



Workshop on literature searches for Asian studies "Pan-Asian Information Collected in Japanese and English," held with guest lecturer from the Asian Resources Room, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library.



The automated storage constructed under the Annex. U-PARL has welcomed many library staff members, including those from the Harvard-Yenching Library, from around Japan and the world to come and visit them.



Exchange with Taiwanese universities: National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, and Tamkang University; and, with Thai university: Khon Kaen University



A visit to Harvard-Yenching Library (USA)



A visit to The Library of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations, Hebrew University, Mount Scopus Campus (Israel)

**U-PARL visits libraries, collects materials, and participates in conferences not only in Japan but also overseas. The center actively seeks out exchange with librarians and researchers from around the world.**



Online resources introduced by U-PARL. Clockwise from upper left: "People's Daily," newspaper *Shen Bao*, and the *Zhonghua jingdian guji ku* (Database of Chinese Classics)



U-PARL merchandise, developed and made with the help of the University of Tokyo Co-op



U-PARL's website, sharing information related to Asian studies



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

U-PARL Official Website

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



@U\_PARL  
[https://twitter.com/u\\_parl](https://twitter.com/u_parl)

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





東京大学  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



U-PARL



New Library  
Project



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