



10-1-1998

Japanese Art Catalog Project Report

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Matsudo, Yasuko (1998) "Japanese Art Catalog Project Report," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1998 : No. 116 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1998/iss116/16>

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JAPANESE ART CATALOG PROJECT REPORT

Acquisitions

The JAC project, owing to the concerted efforts on both the Japan side and the U.S. side, has in general been carried out well. From what we hear from ACE Japan, funding for the project is sound. Since the fall of 1996, one year after the project was founded, Freer Library has received four shipments of the project materials: two shipments each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The numbers shown below indicate what Freer has acquired as of August 1998.

Exhibition catalogs:		
Modern Japanese art:	1010 v.	(59.8%)
Pre-Modern Japanese art:	230 v.	(13.6%)
Western art:	327 v.	(19.3%)
Asian art:	82 v.	(4.9%)
Others:	41 v.	(2.4%)
Subtotal:	1690 v.	
Collection catalogs:	282 v.	
Non-catalog publications:	127 v.	
Grand total:	2099 v.	

In addition, the Art Catalog Library of Japan shipped about three hundred volumes in early August for fall arrival in the U.S.

Processing

True to the original intent of the project, the first priority in processing JAC materials received at the Freer Gallery has been given to current exhibition catalogs of modern Japanese art. This is followed by pre-modern Japanese art, collection catalogs, and Asian art. Western art exhibition catalogs have been put aside for the time being as a low priority, both because of their unexpectedly large number as well as their being out of the project scope. As of this writing Freer has cataloged more than 1,000 records into the RLIN database to full cataloging standard. Sixty per cent of these records required original cataloging. In each record a local corporate added entry, "JAC Project" is added so that bibliographic records of all the project materials may be retrieved at once.

In this connection we are pleased to point out that we have made JAC Project records available on OCLC for the items cataloged from 1998 on. Freer has changed its local heading "JAC Project" to a regular corporate heading so that this added entry can be transferred to the OCLC database. As a result, all the JAC project items cataloged after 1998 are now searchable in the OCLC database. Freer and OCLC will work together on the conversion of pre-1998 records.

Housing and Services

The JAC Project materials are housed in the designated section of the library stacks at Freer and each call number is prefixed by "JAC." Users can browse them upon request. Since the Freer

Library, except for JAC Project materials, is a non-circulating collection, Freer has set up a separate RLIN interlibrary loan account with a separate identifier (DEFX) for the JAC Project materials in order to provide interlibrary loan services. Although they have received only a few loan requests, the project materials have been used on-site by many library visitors and also they received a number of inquiries from various art history scholars, curators and museum professionals.

The JAC Committee publicized the JAC Project nationally at each stage of its development via RLIN's EAMEMNET, Eastlib listserv, Japanese Art History Forum listserv, etc. More recently after the number of project materials cataloged into the RLIN database by Freer grew into the hundreds, we also introduced the project through articles such as those in RLIN's "Focus 26," June 1997 and in "The Research Library's Group News Issue 41," fall 1996. We expect that more use of the JAC Project materials will come in the future.

(Excerpted from the report prepared by Yasuko Matsudo, JAC Chair, for the September 1998 meeting of the National Coordinating Committee)