

Results of Special Exhibitions and Future Challenges (Tokubetsuten tennji jisseki to kongo no kadai ni tsuite)

By SHIOMITSU Masaya

After many reforming efforts that have been made since the National Archives of Japan was reorganized into an independent administrative institution, the annual exhibition program of the Archives became established as the one consists of two 20-day special exhibitions in spring and autumn, a summer special exhibition, and a series of permanent exhibition. Today, those exhibitions provide the Archives with good occasions to familiarize public records and other holdings to general users. In addition, since the end of the "Prime Ministers of the Meiji Period (Meiji Saisho Retsuden)" exhibition, digitized exhibitions have been released on the Internet and they have become important means of using historical public records. Furthermore, the National Archives work hard to present their exhibits as easy to understand as possible to visitors. For example, in preparation for the special exhibition, the Archives organize advisors meetings in order to have intellectual advices from experts. Also, in addition to the main exhibits chosen from the Archives' collection to suit the theme of the exhibition, now they ask for cooperation of related institutions for arranging wall exhibits.

The author of this paper was involved in planning three special exhibitions in the past, namely, "Railways (Tetsudo)" of 2003, "Measuring the State of the Nation (Kokusei wo Hakaru)" of 2004, and "Prime Ministers of the Meiji Period (Meiji Saisho Retsuden)" of 2005. Standing upon his own experiences with these exhibitions, the author frankly describes how he felt in the process of organizing exhibitions and future challenges to be solved for the exhibition planning of the Archives.

Details of Figures and Illustrations of "Kokon Yoranko" and "Shobutsu Ruisan Zuyoku" ("Kokon Yoranko," "Shobutsu Ruisan Zuyoku" Ezu Saimoku)

by UJIIE Mikito

This paper presents details of figures and illustrations that appear in the "Kokon Yoranko 古今要覧稿," an illustrated encyclopedia compiled by the retainer of the Edo Shogunate named YASHIRO Hirokata (屋代弘賢), and the "Shobutsu Ruisan Zuyoku 庶物類纂図翼" designated as an important cultural property of Japan, a collection of medical herb pictures painted by the retainer named TODA Sukeyuki (戸田祐之).

By the 13th Year of Tenpo (1842), 560 volumes of "Kokon Yoranko" were prepared and presented to the Edo Shogunate, all of which were destroyed by the fire of Edo Castle later. National Archives of Japan owns 178 volumes written by YASHIRO Hirokata himself purchased by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the government in the 13th Year of

Meiji Period (1880). *Shobutsu Ruisan Zuyoku*" was presented to the Edo Shogunate in the 8th Year of An'ei (1779). It is an illustrated encyclopedia of medical herbs consisting of 28 volumes in all, with one of them describing the process from the beginning of the encyclopedia project through the presentation to the Shogunate. The encyclopedia contains 529 illustrations of plants in total.

Introduction to Historical Public Records with "Bunzo," a Website for Learning Historical Public Records (Rekishi kobunsho tankyu saito "Bunzo" niyoru rekishiteki bunsho no shokai)

By SHIOMITSU Masaya, KODA Yuuta, KOBAYASHI Shigeko, MORITA Kenji

"Bunzo" was launched in July 2006 as a website to help learners of historical public records. Since then, the National Archives and the relevant institutions have been adding new contents and trying to enhance the website.

"Bunzo" was originally created for introducing public records with difficult contents to secondary school students in comprehensive and friendly manner. It carries subjects appealing to younger users and viewers can learn about public records through the dialogs with the characters of this site.

The website is designed to introduce a variety of public records held by national archival institutions to the general public. In addition to the records held by the National Archives, "Bunzo" also carries major archival records from the collections of the Archives and Mausolea Department, Imperial Household Agency, the Library of the National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense, the Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, National Diet Library.

This paper describes the history of "Bunzo" so far and how it is introducing historical public records to the general public, as well as the thoughts of the three researchers dedicated to preparation for this website. In those descriptions, the author tries to mention his idea of how to develop the website further to attract more users.

Information Services at the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAR): Current Status and Prospects (Ajia Rekishi Shiryo Senta ni okeru joho teikyo no jissai to tenbo)

by AIHARA Yoshiyuki, ISHIDA Tooru, KURAHARA Dai, KUROKI Nobuyori, NAKAMURA Moto, HIRANO Muneaki, MAKINO Motonori

In this paper, the authors describe the process of how JACAR has been building up its

database and the challenges to be solved from the point of view of the researchers working at JACAR.

Chapter 1: The contents of the catalog data and how they are collected" summarizes how JACAR collects the information for each item of the catalog data" (meta data) employed in the database and describes the things JACAR pays special attention for securing the accuracy of information in the course of actual work.

Chapter 2: Rebuilt the structure of records in the database" describes the issue of how to rebuild the intrinsic structure of records including categorization and hierarchy. With respect to this issue, the Chapter discusses the problems in the past, the efforts for the current situation, and future prospects.

Chapter 3: Principle and practice of the on-site special exhibitions" introduces the online special exhibition titled Japanese Society of the Showa Period Depicted in 'Shashin Shuho (Photo Weekly)' (Shashin Shuho' ni Miru Showa no Sesou)," released in the spring of 2007, as an example of the online special exhibitions held so far. The paper discusses the principle and practice of the process of planning and organizing online special exhibitions at JACAR, and presents the challenges for the future.

#### Evaluation and Selection of Public Records with Function-based Appraisal Theory (Kinobetsu hyoka senbetsu ni yoru gyosei bunsho no hyoka to senbetsu)

by TAJIMA Chihiro

This article considers effectiveness of function-based appraisal (macro appraisal), based on the results of the survey, Appraisal of Electronic Records of the Government from Their Creation or Before Creation Onwards," conducted by the National Archives of Japan in 2006 FY.

Commonwealth of Australia was renowned as a leader in implementing the function-based appraisal and it adopts DIRKS methodology. First, the paper explained the characteristics of the DIRKS in comparison with the appraisal methodology adopted in Japan.

Second, the applicability of the DIRKS methodology to Japanese cases was examined by the case study. The study was done with the trial appraisal of administrative records held by the Gender Equality Bureau at the Cabinet Office of Japan.

Among the eight steps described in the DIRKS manual, the study conducted Steps A through Step C. Step A investigated an organization's sources of information, Step B identified the organization's business functions, activities, and transaction, and Step C identified the requirements of recordkeeping. Taking into consideration such requirements of recordkeeping as well as risk analysis, the article analyzes necessity of records. Additionally, the records that had to be transferred to archival institution were judged based on the five criteria of selecting the Australian national archives.'

As a result, the important public records appraised by DIRKS methodology were similar to the records appraised by the current appraisal system in Japan, although the appraisal methodology of Australia and that of Japan were different. The several problems of the introduction of the function-based appraisal methodology were clarified by this case study. Those problems include: how to secure the human resources, how to clarify the relationship between a title of record file and its function, and the need of formulating the operation methods for general business functions among ministries and agencies of the government.

Intermediate Repository for Public Records at Administrative Organs of the State  
(Kuni no gyosei kikan ni okeru chukan shoko ni tsuite)

by YODA Takeshi

On June 22nd, 2006, the Panel Advising Chief Cabinet Secretary on Reviewing a System for Management, Preservation, and Use of Archives and Records of the Government" ( the Panel" hereafter) issued the Report on Centralized Management of Semi-current Public Records and Management, Transfer, and Preservation of Electronic Records" ( the Panel Report" hereafter).

This is the second report issued by the Panel, following the first one titled "Improving a System for Appropriate Management, Preservation, and Use of Archives and Records of the Government." The first report called for the early establishment of "intermediate repository system" as a necessary measure to be taken. The intermediate repository system is a centralized management system over semi-current records which are held by the various ministries and agencies across the government and expected to be transferred to the National Archives of Japan as historical records of importance. The proposed system is intended to prevent the historically important records from being scattered, improve the storage environment, and facilitate the early appraisal of those records.

In order to work for the establishment of this intermediate repository system proposed by the first report, the Study Group for the Centralized Management System of Semi-current Public Records" ( the Study Group" hereafter) was launched to make expert consideration and set up specific measures. The Study Group had several meetings and considered the relevant issues. The outcome of their study was reported to the Panel. The Panel had further consideration of the reported outcome and compiled the Panel Report mentioned above.

The Panel Report shows the medium and long term objectives of the ideal intermediate repository system regardless of the existing systems and laws. At the same time, the Panel Report makes some specific proposals on "parallel-use type of intermediate repository system" based on the existing systems of Japanese government administration, which is

encouraged to come into practice in five years or so.

This paper describes the further details of the specific proposals and summarizes the author's opinion on the intermediate repository system to be installed in the administrative organs of the state. The paper also refers to domestic and international examples of the management system for semi-current administrative records as well as the results of the report issued by the Cabinet Office in 2005 on the survey to estimate the current records held by governmental ministries and agencies.

A Consideration of Public Archives' Approach to "Designated Management System"  
(Kobunshokan no shitei kanrisha seido heno torikumi ni tsuitenno kosatsu)

by TAKAYAMA Masaya

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among Japanese archival community for introducing "designated management system" to the management of public archives. Influenced by the idea of New Public Management (NPM), introduction of the designated management system is mainly intended to reduce the cost and improve the quality of services. The key to successful implementation of the system with this intention is how to make the most of archivists, who are expert information professionals that play the central roles in the service provision. In Japanese public organizations, it is difficult to ensure the appropriate working condition for professionals. One reason for the introduction of the designated management system was not only to promote the efficiency among the organizations, but also to make archival services more stable and sophisticated by outsourcing a part of the operations which depend on such professionals outside the public organizations. However, Japanese public archives face many challenges to achieve the expected results and objectives for appropriate implementation of this system. First of all, the competent contractors to be designated managers have not been fostered. Besides, as outsourcers, the public organizations themselves have many problems. For instance, many organizations have not established the evaluation criteria and other conditions for selecting applicants in an open competitive bidding. Even if a public organization is able to make fair evaluation of applicants, still there is a problem of the lack of know-how in signing a contract with the contractors. The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the consideration of introducing the designated management system into the management of public archives. For this purpose, the paper pays special attention to treatment of archivists, who are expert professionals, and considers actual cases from the world of libraries, which is a step ahead of that of public archives in terms of designated management systems.