

Archiving and Utilization of Manga Materials: in the case of Kyoto International Manga Museum

Abstract[†]

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1 INTRODUCTION

Kyoto International Manga Museum is a communal project of Kyoto Seika University and the city of Kyoto; it opened in November 2006 and aims to collect, preserve, and exhibit *manga* (comics) and related materials, and its project is to research manga culture. From the perspective of regular visitors, it is a cultural facility that combines the function of a library specialized in manga and a museum that regularly holds exhibitions. The aim of this presentation is to consider the meaning of this facility's organization as a library and its efforts to archiving manga materials.



Figure 1: The exterior of the Kyoto International Manga Museum

2 MANGA MATERIALS AT THE KYOTO INTERNATIONAL MANGA MUSEUM

As a manga archive, the Kyoto International Manga Museum currently holds over 300,000 manga materials. Most of them are primary sources like single manga volumes, manga magazines, but there are also books on manga research. This is where it is different from Western comic museums who archive original comic art as a primary resource. Our museum doesn't put much effort into collecting original art, and we don't have much in our holdings. There is a public library space where visitors to the museum can peruse 50,000 of our 300,000 manga. These volumes were mainly

published between the 1970s and 2005, and fill the books shelves you can find against almost all walls in the museum, what we call the "Wall of Manga".



Figure 2 and 3: "Wall of Manga" in a public library space of the Kyoto International Manga Museum

These collection of the Kyoto International Manga Museum is made up from donations for the most part. Therefore the most of the manga related materials Kyoto International Manga Museum collects are not original manga art, but manga books. That we are able to build a collection out of donations from the general public shows how many people enjoy manga as popular culture in Japan. Our mission to collect manga magazines is also very important given that most of the time. Manga magazines do not just contain manga, but also background information of manga as popular culture. It is very hard to gain this sort of background from one page of original art.

One of our most important policies on collecting manga materials is that when collecting, we don't discriminate based on content. We do not limit our collection to manga and the work of manga artists that has historical value, we also collect the work of manga artists forgotten by history, works that have arguable, or little to none artistic and literary value, equally. Of course, we also collect works of adult nature not collected by general libraries. We even collect illegal material such as pirated books, because of their cultural historical value.

This presentation shall introduce on detail of our effort to collect and utilize manga materials as mentioned above, and examine current issues on archiving manga culture comprehensively.