

Result of EAJRS preservation* survey
Simple tabulation of 20 responses from Europe

1. How is the size of your Japanese old book collection and what types of materials you have?

size: (4) large (6) medium (9) small (1) unknown () other

type: (17) rare books (9) manuscripts (12) maps (11) woodblock prints (8) photos
(3) other (album style ukiyoe prints / not-rare old Japanese books, fragmentary Buddhist sutra
/ picture cards)

2. How do you see the general condition of your Japanese old book collection?

() excellent (9) good (9) fair (2) bad () don't know

3. How is the general usage of your Japanese old book collection?

() heavy (6) medium (10) low (3) none
(1) other (personal use only)

4. Please answer by yes or no to the following questions.

Have you done a conservation survey of your Japanese old book collection?

(11) yes (year:1992/2005 and 2012 for old maps only/since2007/2009 and
2010/2011-2014/2012/2012/2013/ 2012 - 2013/2013/2014- present)

(9) no

Do you have a preservation plan for your Japanese old book collection?

(9) yes (11) no

Do you have a disaster plan for your Japanese old book collection?

(12) yes (8) no

5. Please describe any preservation/conservation projects you have carried out on your Japanese old book collection. (Please specify the project and year)

/ Japanese conservator's visiting project for conservation assessment, repair, protective enclosures, advice etc.

/ Repair of Nara-ehon at the Far Eastern Conservation Centre, Leiden

/ Conservation assessment and advice for Meiji-era photo albums by Japanese photographic conservator

/ Japanese old books collections surveys by Japanese experts

/ Preparation of online catalogue

/ Protective boxing with acid-free cardboard

/ Restoration and digitalization project of manuscripts (Continuing)

/ Additional bookbinding

/ Storing in chitsu (帙)

/ Microfilming

/ Reboxing (1000 items done since 2005)

/ Rebinding in original Japanese style (50 items rebound since 2005)

9. If you wanted support from or cooperation with Japanese institutions or organizations regarding the preservation of your Japanese old collection please specify what kind of support/cooperation you would want.

- (1) preservation /conservation advice (3) preservation /conservation seminar at your institution
- (8) preservation /conservation seminar in Europe (7) conservation treatment
- () funding for microfilming (8) funding for digitalization (6) cooperation on digitization
- (7) training of conservation staff in Japan
- (2) other (Support for database creation/funding to have the print album dismantled)

10. Please feel free to make any other comments regarding the preservation and conservation of Japanese old book collections in your institution and/or in Europe.

- / In order to carry out conservation and digitization of the Japanese old books, external funding and support including from Japan is indispensable. The supports from Japan would be beneficial for Japanese counterparts as it would contribute for the conservation of Japanese cultural assets and for the access improvement of Japanese collections via internet.
- / Exchange of conservators between European and Japanese institutions would be beneficial to both sides.
- / Beside digitalization, support or cooperation for database creation is much needed.
- / It is hoped the conservation information such as of conservation vendors for Japanese books is shared among the Japan study librarians in Europe.
- / It is important to cooperate with similar institutions and experts cross countries, especially in the small countries.

* “ISO 5127-2000: Information and documentation - Vocabulary” defines preservation as ‘all measures taken, including financial and strategic decisions, to maintain the integrity and extend the life of document or collections’, conservation as ‘intervention techniques applied to prevent, arrest or delay deterioration’ and restoration as ‘action taken to return a document which has suffered deterioration or damage as closely as practicable to its original state’.