

# Persistence of Misromanisation of Japanese Words/Phrases in Bibliographic Records through Copy-Assisted Cataloguing at North American Libraries

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# Introduction

Romanisation of bibliographic data in catalogue records

## Presentation Organisation

- Problem
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Limitations
- Findings/Discussion
- Conclusion

# Definition

Romanisation

Copy-Assisted Cataloguing (*aka*,  
copy cataloguing, derived  
cataloguing)

# Scope

Misromanised Japanese words/phrases in source bibliographic records contained in a major bibliographic utility database left uncorrected by North American libraries through copy-assisted cataloguing

# Scope--cont.

## Outside Scope

- other cataloguing mistakes than misromanisation  
*e.g.*, Appendix 1
- misromanisation introduced anew not stemming from source records

# Research Questions

RQ1. Extent of misromanisation of Japanese words/phrases appearing in source bibliographic records in a major bibliographic utility database

RQ2. Extent of misromanised Japanese words/phrases left uncorrected by North American libraries through copy-assisted cataloguing

# Literature Review

Jai-hsya Tsao, 1994

Fung-yin Simpson, 1998

David Bade, 2002

Jeffrey Beall and Karen Kafadar,  
2004

Lei Zeng, 1993

Hee-sook Shin, 2003

# Methodology

WorldCat, expert search:

ln=jpn and yr:2004- and dt=bks and  
cg:05

--> 1,097 records, 5/6/2005

- Misromanisation detection process  
*e.g.*, Appendices 2-3

Japanese romanisation standards  
within North American libraries  
context



# Methodology--cont.

## Misromanisation Categories

- RJ1: incorrect phonetic representation (including missing or superfluous phonetic value, but excluding diacritic errors)
- RJ2: incorrect word division (including hyphen usage)
- RJ3: incorrect, missing, or superfluous diacritic(s)
- RJ4: incorrect case (upper vs. lower)

# Methodology--cont.

## Record Source

- L: LC record (when DLC and/or DLC-R appeared anywhere in field 040)
- B: non-LC BIBCO record (when neither DLC nor DLC-R appeared anywhere in field 040, but when field 042 contained "pcc")
- N: neither LC nor BIBCO record

# Methodology--cont.

Set of 1,097 WorldCat master records

1,101 North American holding symbols attached, each checked in OPAC (rather than WorldCat)

- record source in OPAC field 040
- romanisation in OPAC records

# Methodology--cont.

## OPAC Situation

- m: incorrect romanisation intact
- a: incorrect romanisation introduced anew
- c: incorrect romanisation corrected
- i: incorrect romanisation changed but still incorrect
- e: correct romanisation from earlier version

# Methodology--cont.

- d: different source of record
- ?: no field 040 data displayed in OPAC
- 0: no corresponding record in OPAC
- 1: no OPAC access from outside

## Coding Examples, Appendix 4

# Limitations

WorldCat as source of sample set

Examination of OPAC records as approximation of copy-assisted cataloguing assessment

Unintended bias possibility from exclusion of records with no field 040 data in OPAC and OPACs inaccessible from outside

# Limitations--cont.

As long as misromanisation corrected in WorldCat before 5/6/2005, no copy-assisted cataloguing activities associated with earlier misromanised master record versions captured

# Findings/Discussion

1,097 - 53 - 78 - 1 = 965 WorldCat records

- exclusion example, Supplement 2

183 misromanisation cases in 136 WorldCat records (14.09%)

- Incorrect word division by far the most frequent misromanisation
- Breakdown: Table 2
- Selected Examples: Table 3



# Findings/Discussion--cont.

1,101 - 11 - 59 - 194 = 837 OPAC records

- Breakdown: Table 7
- Selected Examples: Table 8

# Findings/Discussion--cont.

over 90% of misromanisation cases were left uncorrected through copy-assisted cataloguing at North American libraries

48 North American libraries (71.64%) did not correct any affected misromanisation through copy-assisted cataloguing

# Conclusion

Persistence of misromanisation of Japanese words/phrases in bibliographic records through copy-assisted cataloguing at North American libraries established and analysed

# Conclusion--cont.

## Further Research Possibilities

- Causality
  - Local Cataloguing Policy
  - Complexity in Romanisation Rules
- Treatment of misromanised Japanese words/phrases in bibliographic records at libraries outside North America
  - e.g.*, Supplement 3