

# Digital Archiving of Printed Books and How to Use the Archive:

A Case Study of the British Museum's Japanese Art Collection

Ph.D. Candidate Ritsumeikan University Zengxian LI

## ITP Program Schedules

- 22 September 25 November, 2012
- University of London (SOAS)
- Supervisor: Prof. Andrew Gerstle

#### Purpose

- To survey printed books in the British Museum Collection.
- To digitize paper-based materials in the Collection.
- To process the digital photographs and register them in a database.
- To protect cultural heritages from disaster in case of accident.

#### Achievements

- 103 titles of illustrated theatrical programs (\*\*\*\*\*\*\*).
- 41 titles of printed books.
- 83 ukiyo-e.
- Over 5500 photographs, taken.
- 152 entries registered to the database.

# About the photograph processing

- Convert the photographs from digital camera RAW to normal file format.
- Trim the photographs.
- Convert the trimmed photographs into another file format which is suitable for web browsing.
- Register the photographs in a database.
- Add metadata to the database.

Image Developing

Converting

Trimming

Web Publishing









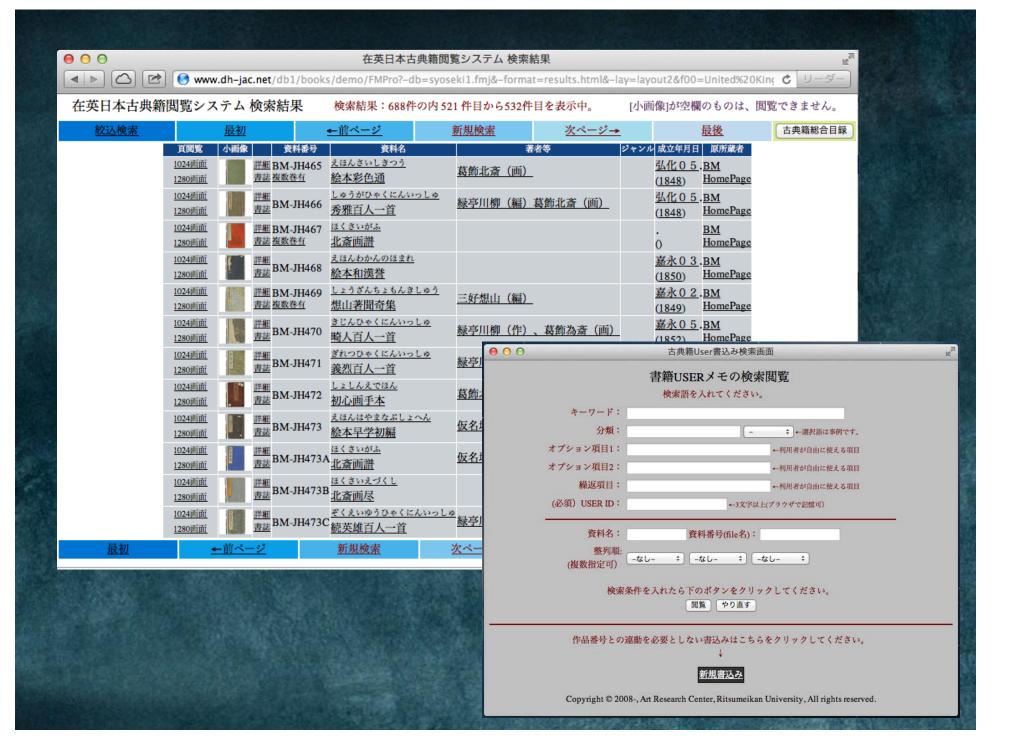
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#### Database for Viewing Japanese Antiquarian Books in the U.K.

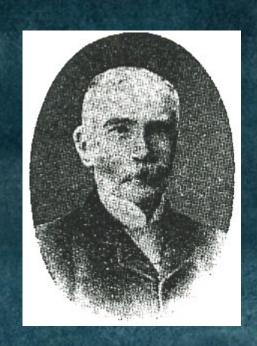
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http://www.dh-jac.net/db1/books/demo/search.html



### William Gowland

- Chemist
- Metallurgist
- Stayed in Japan from 1872 to 1879, working for the Ministry of Finance (大蔵省).
- Also an archaeologist.
- Spent his spare time for studying archaeology.
- Investigated 406 tombs in the Kofun period.



1842 - 1922

#### Articles & Books

- The Dolmens and Burial Mounds in Japan, *Archaeologia*, Vol.55 (1897)
- The Dolmens of Japan and their Builders, *Transactions and Proceedings of the Japan Society*, Vol.4 part 3 (1897)
- The Burial Mounds and Dolmens of the Early Emperors of Japan, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol.37 (1907)
- The Dolmens of Japan & Their Builders, by William Gowland (1923)

## William Gowland Collection





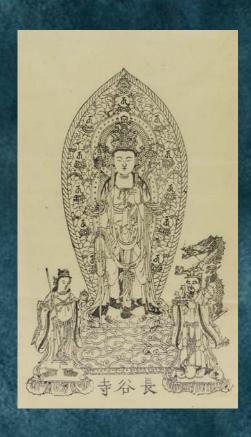


## William Gowland Collection









### Conclusion

- Digital archive is a very reliable way to protect cultural heritages from disaster.
- Adding metadata to a database is a very complicated process, while subjective metadata may be another approach.
- The British Museum's William Gowland collection has *jisha engi* and amulets from the early Meiji era.
- The W. Gowland collection is important for cultural anthropological studies.