

# SUMMARIES

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## The Role and Potential of Women's Archives

KURUSHIMA Noriko

The women's archives treated in this paper mean an organization that systematically collects, organizes, stores and releases documentary information in order to verify historical facts about women, which is separate from organizations that prepare materials themselves. In Japan today, collected document about women's history and gender studies by existing organizations has been focused on writings and compilations, but an organization with the function of women's archives which systematically collects primary sources about women does not exist yet. There exists an urgent need to establish an organization to collect various material such as (1) literary documents, (2) images, (3) oral histories, and (4) actual articles to prevent them from getting scattered and lost, especially those of the modern age or later. In particular, oral histories (3) are the most useful materials relating to women, while literary documents (1) are rarely recorded. Women's archives in the form of a continuous organization will assume a heavy responsibility for storing accumulated material, as well as collecting new data. In addition to data collection, women's archives have another important function as an information hub to connect in a cross-sectional manner and on the data level diverse documentary material about women dispersed from and collected by region and by field. On the way to collecting material, the research aspect must be strengthened at all costs. An expert staff is necessary, with seasoned knowledge of the whereabouts of material and research information about women's history and gender studies, which can support a series of functions from collecting to disclosing information. On the issue of linkage of research and collecting data, it is easy to understand the case of feudalistic documents, because material to be collected by women's archives will be discovered along with the progress of research activities. In the last chapter of this paper, I summarized several points to remember for women's archives according to a series of functions to collect, organize, store and release material that absolutely require research funds and a firm national policy for women's archives.

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## The Present State of Women's Archives in Britain and the Problems They Face

TOMIDA Hiroko

The main objective of this article is to discuss what kinds of women's archival materials are available in Britain, where they can be found, how they have been preserved, and the current situation and problems in maintaining them. Women's archival deposits in Britain can be divided into a variety of categories. There are written documents of many sorts, oral recordings, film material, and artifacts like postcards, photographs, sketches, posters, banners, costumes and badges. Most collections relating to women are part of larger archives or museums, but some archives are specifically focused on women. Compared to Japan, archives with significant holdings on women in Britain are abundant, and material is carefully preserved in them. One can find them in university libraries, town and county record offices, local and national museums, the National Archives, the British Library, the BBC Archives, the Royal Archives, the British Film Archives, the National Sound Archives, the Imperial War Museum, the Archives of the Wellcome Institute, and archives of national and local newspaper companies.

I will introduce the main characteristics and collection policies of some well-known archives, and then discuss their funding, staff and the services that they provide. In order to find out about the current situation of women's archives in Britain, and their problems in maintaining their collections, I visited them, viewed their catalogues and policy statements, consulted some of their records, and interviewed archivists and academics who frequently use them.

There are some women's archives in Britain which specialize in certain fields. These include the Women's Library, the Glasgow Women's Library, the Feminist Archive South, the Feminist Archive North and the Women's Archives of Wales. I will discuss their major characteristics and collections, introduce their services and outline links between them. I will then focus on the Women's Library in London, which used to be called the Fawcett Library, named after Millicent Fawcett, a well-known suffragist campaigner and leader of the NUWSS. The Women's Library is the oldest and largest women's archive in Britain, and has special collections on female suffrage, prostitution and immigration. I will explain the history of the library, its holdings and importance. The major reasons for the success of the library, its collections policy and future projects which are being planned will also be mentioned.

## **Research on the Present State of the Digital Archives, and the Construction of the Women's Archives at the National Women's Education Center**

**ADACHI Kazuhisa**

This article reports a series of research projects on women's archives, namely a survey on historical materials about women, research on the functions of the women's archives, and a study on organizing the materials and research for the construction of a digital archiving system, which has been conducted by the National Women's Education Center with the aim of constructing a women's archive at the Center.

The projects began with the study of research trends in digital archive systems, and then the procedures for constructing a women's digital archive at NWECC were determined. In addition, a survey was conducted on collections of historical materials about women in Japan, in order to examine the functions of the NWECC women's digital archive. These studies revealed three essential functions for the archive: to undertake a role as a national center; to provide digital archives and to construct nationwide networks.

A system of women's digital archives was designed in accordance with the fundamental principles of the archives, that is, the collection and provision of archival materials for the realization of a gender-equal society. The issues related to organizing materials in the archives included, for example, targeted subject areas, periods, geographical areas, hierarchical structures and catalogue data, which were all reviewed during the design process, with consideration on the targeted users.

The women's digital archive system was developed based on this design. The system has the functions of registering catalogue data and images, and managing and maintaining them in addition to retrieving and browsing for data via the Internet. The system will be fully operational and will open to the public from FY 2008.

The article concludes with a discussion on ways of utilizing the archives, and future challenges from the perspectives of promoting utilization of the archives, developing an analysis and evaluation system for materials, restoration and preservation, and the construction of nationwide networks.

## **OKU Mumeo Collection: Tracks of the Women's Movement Rooted in Daily Lives**

**UEMURA Chikako, SAITOH Keiko, SHIBUYA Haruko**

The aim of this paper is to make a bibliographical introduction for the 'Oku Mumeo Collection', from the view point of her life of social participation.

Mumeo Oku (maiden name: Wada, 1895-1997) was a woman who played a prominent leadership role in the progress of the women's movement, rooted in daily lives.

In 1920, Oku took up her post as one of the directors of the Shinfujinkyokai and did her best to amend the Public Order and Police Law which had limited the political participation of women. But later, she left the women's suffrage movement and made a change of direction to stimulate awareness in the needs of the people. In 1923, she organized the Shokugyofujinsha to publish a bulletin, and then organized the 'Women's Settlement' and 'Hatarakufujin no Ie' (House for Working Women) in order to support working women. During wartime, she was elected to public office, and worked to accomplish rationalization and equality of living conditions, and to realize women's emancipation.

After the World War II, she continued to develop her ideas and activities from before and during the war. In 1947, being elected a member of the House of Councilors, seeking to 'link the kitchen with politics' for 18 years. In 1948, she established the Shufu-rengokai (Housewives Alliance), and in 1956, the Shufukaikan (Housewives' Center). She stimulated self-awareness among women as consumers, and developed the consumer movement.

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### **The Inatori Experimental Women's Class Archive: Learning Records of "Housewives"**

**YAGUCHI Etsuko**

This is a brief guide to the collections relating to an experimental women's class held at Inatori town in Shizuoka prefecture from 1955 to 1957. This class was prepared in a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the town educational authority for the purpose of promoting women's education thorough group work and participative learning methods. This collection contains about 150 items including draft programs, correspondence, learning records, study reports, class news paper, diagrams and graphs of daily expenditure, fishery, and prices of agricultural produce at that time. And there are many reports made through oral history interviews with older people in the town. These are very interesting living histories. Some records show how hard they studied, two or three nights a week in the farmers' and fishermen's off-season. Most of the items have not been examined, so there is a possibility that some new facts regarding their learning methods, learning process, the role of teachers and leaders inside, and the results of the experiment by the Ministry of Education may be found. This collection is not complete, and will be supplemented with items that might be kept in the homes of the women who attended the class.

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### **Documents Related to Prostitution Prevention Law: Women's Anti-prostitution Movement in Postwar Japan**

**HATANO Keiko**

The aim of this paper is to introduce the collection concerned with the Prostitution Prevention Law constituted in 1956, which is contributed by the "Baibaishun-mondai to torikumu kai (the association for the promotion of the prostitution issue)" and "KYOFUKAI (Japan Christian Women's Organization)". KYOFUKAI is a private sector women's group which played the most important role in the campaign for constituting the law against prostitution. Japan's national prostitution system was abolished by the General Headquarters/ Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers right after WW II, while the existence of prostitution was connived. The anti-prostitution movement led by KYOFUKAI, aimed to constitute a comprehensive law to prohibit prostitution, and was finally successful. This collection shows that KYOFUKAI continued to act as the main private organization in the anti-prostitution movement in postwar Japan.

## “The National Women’s Journal” Photograph Collection: A History of Women’s Empowerment

KATSUNO Masako

“The National Women’s Newspaper” Photograph Collection consists of over thirty years of photographs taken for “The Women’s News, Japan” (formerly “The National Women’s Journal”), a newspaper specializing in women’s issues. “The Women’s News, Japan” announced its closing in its 20 June 2006 issue and their photographs were donated to the Women’s Archives Center at the National Women’s Education Center when it was establishment.

Although some of the photographs were scattered and destroyed before they were housed at the center, there are an estimated 35,000 monochrome and color photographs in the collection dating from 1979 (some of them date back as far as 1976) to June 2006.

The photographs in the collection may not be so-called archival news photographs; however, it can be said that these are an original record of the grassroots women’s movements in Japan, and the history of the advancement of the status of Japanese women, which has received little coverage in the mass media.

## The Theories and the Literary Representations on Cosmetic Surgery: Reading Ira Levin’s *The Stepford Wives*

HANABUSA Miyuki

In contemporary theoretical trends, the body is regarded as a social/cultural construction and is brought to the forefront in studies of gender, sexuality, race, and class. The recent interest in women’s concern for their physical appearance, taking such forms as dieting, fashion, and cosmetics, is, from the perspective of such studies, an attempt to explore the power relationship between the genders. The aim of this paper is to argue that the pursuit of beauty, and the rise of plastic surgery as an extreme form, both related to the feminine gender, reflect the asymmetrical position of the genders in modern societies.

The first section traces back the historical background of plastic surgery mainly in the United States and makes clear the tendency for the medicalization of women’s appearance. The second section surveys two theories that discuss a woman’s body; one regards a woman’s body as an object of suppression, and the other stresses the ideas of agency and subversion. The last section deals with Ira Levin’s novel, *The Stepford Wives* (1972) and two film versions, as the works exploring plastic surgery, and examines how the theories mentioned above lead to different treatments of this novel. That is, one theory reads the body of women who undergo plastic surgery as revealing the structural sexual suppression, and themselves, as victims of a male dominant society. On the contrary, the other theory situates women who have plastic surgery not only as victims of society but as those who decide to have surgery by an active and knowledgeable choice, and finds the possibility of subverting the unsymmetrical gender relationships of society.

## A Proposal and Practice of a Social Networking Service for Supporting Alumnae’s Career

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TERADA Matsuaki, MIYAURA Chisato

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has started a support plan from 2006, for woman researchers to manage both research and family responsibilities in a balanced way. Our project, ‘Empowerment of women in scientific fields’, has been adopted, and has begun to support women researching in our university and alumnae. In this paper, as one of the activities of the project, we propose a Social Networking Service (SNS) as a tool for alumnae to get information,

technological skills, and knowledge for reemployment.

The SNS is a service on the world wide webs to establish social networks such as relationships among friends or people who share the same work, hobby and living environments. Generally, most SNS have a registration system, so that anonymous users can not access to the contents. By doing so, members can communicate in a reliable and secure environment. Offering such an environment for members is the main purpose of the SNS. Taking into account these merits, we have proposed that our university can give our alumnae information about help-wanted ads and opportunities. At the same time, they can also acquire technological skills and knowledge easily through their connection with the university via the SNS. The reliability and security of the SNS is suitable especially when they get information that requires reliability, such as help-wanted ads. Additionally, alumnae can communicate and help each other in the SNS, not only for reemployment, but also child-bearing or parent-nursing care. In this paper, we introduce our SNS for alumnae as a new style of support for women in the university.

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## What Do Parents Really Expect from Their Children? :Expectations to Be Masculine/Feminine

OTSUKI Nami

This paper considers parental expectation of children to “be masculine/feminine” based on results of the International Comparative Research on “Home Education” 2005, carried out by the National Women’s Education Center (NWECC), Japan, in 2005. According to the survey findings, the following 6 points were revealed: First, the expectation to be masculine/feminine decreased in between 1994 and 2005 in all six nations, with a considerable reduction in Sweden. Second, in decadal changes of Japanese parental expectation, fathers’ expectations of sons were invariable, while mothers’ expectations of sons and parental expectations of daughters were reduced. Third, in the relationship between expectations to be masculine/feminine and other parental expectations of children in Japan, according to the 2005 findings, parental expectations of sons to be masculine/feminine were associated with the expectation to “outpace others in competition”, while parental expectation of daughters to be masculine/feminine was associated with expectation of her to “obey her parents at once.” Fourth, the relationship between expectations to be masculine/feminine and other parental expectations of children in six countries, the former was associated with the expectation to “outpace others in competition” in all countries except Thailand. Fifth, as to what sort of parents have greater expectations of children to be masculine/feminine, the tendency of greater expectations of sons has been strengthened, especially in Japan, South Korea and Thailand. Sixth, taking into consideration what kind of parents have greater expectations of their children being masculine/feminine in Japan, fathers have greater expectations than mothers, sons are expected to more than daughters, and the degree of expectation is not made different by the age of the parents, the age of the child, the profession of the parents, or living standards. Based upon the facts mentioned above, all in all, expectations to be masculine/feminine have been decreasing, while expectations of sons have been increasing, and it can be said that sons were expected to be masculine/feminine, not daughters. And expectations for sons to be masculine/feminine are associated with expectations to “outpace others in competition.” In conclusion, it was revealed that expectations to be masculine/feminine of sons are involved with expectations to “outpace others in competition.”

## Korean Wave Dramas' Popularity in East-Asian Countries

LEE Sooyeon (Translated by CHEON Ilhwa)

This research tries to explain why Korean Wave dramas are popular in 5 east Asian countries. To do so, the methodologies of audience analysis and text analysis are used. All together 84 women were interviewed.

The popularity of Korean Wave dramas seems to be attributable to their abilities of providing fantasy and emotional realism to the audience. The coexistence of these two elements may seem contradictory, however they really complement each other. Emotional realism is a very effective tool for maintaining fantasy. As long as the audience can emotionally identify with the drama's world, events, and characters, fantasy can be maintained.

Interviews with Korean drama fans allow us to conclude that Korean Wave dramas have realistic aspects, centered on their ability of communicating emotions. They enable the audience to identify with the characters or situations in the drama. Korean Wave dramas provide the audience with emotional realism through subtle and detailed scenes, dialogue, and acting while they construct a world of fantasy unrealizable in reality.

Another appeal of Korean Wave dramas is the diversity of fantasies. Korean Wave dramas' fantasies can be categorized into fantasies of love, for an ideal man, for idealistic relationships, for a women's career capability and success, and for beautiful people and lifestyles. As such, these fantasies are comprised of various heterogeneous elements and therefore can appeal to various people and the various needs of any one person depending on the moment. The fantasies for love and an ideal man are the ones that seem to appeal almost universally.

Even though the commonalities in the readings of Korean drama fans in these five countries are important in delineating the appeal of Korean Wave dramas, differences between the countries are also interesting.