

The Center of the Academy



The University Library: Built through the Pride of Hitotsubashi Students

A university's library is an important indicator of the level and unique characteristics of that university's research and education. Hitotsubashi University aims to both specialize in the various fields of the social sciences and to take a broad approach to those fields at the same time, and the University Library has collected academic writings and materials in step with that. Today we are ranked first among Japan's university libraries in the "overall evaluation" category, which looks at the size of the library collection, the number of volumes newly acquired, the types of periodicals, the book circulation, and the budget for new purchases (Asahi Shimbun's 2001 survey). The assessment of the Hitotsubashi University Library would be even higher if the evaluation were to take into account our collection of rare book libraries and historical literature in the social sciences, including the Carl Menger Library; the workshops the library offers on Western historical social science literature; and the library's expertise in the restoration and preservation of materials.

How was the Hitotsubashi University Library developed? What are its goals for the future? We will look at these questions in the next four issues of *Hitotsubashi Quarterly*. In this first installment, Hitotsubashi University Library Director Makoto Ikema gives an overview of the Hitotsubashi University Library, focusing on its history.



After Surviving Several Threats of Closure, the Library Has a Spirit of Self-Sufficiency and Independence

Hitotsubashi University was incorporated in April 2004. With this, a new entity called the Hitotsubashi National University Corporation replaced the national government as the administrator of the university. Looking over Hitotsubashi's past history, however, we find that the entity in charge of the school has changed many times and the school has even had threats of closure several times in the process. If the worst case scenario had played out, Hitotsubashi University would not exist today. I think that such a history has heightened the solidarity of the school community, and, in turn, has become the cornerstone for developing the library into a unique university library. Before looking at the history of the library, though, let's first survey the history of the university.

Hitotsubashi University traces its roots back to the

Commercial Training School, which was founded by Arinori Mori in Owari-cho, Ginza, Tokyo, in September 1875. This private educational institute was placed under the administration of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce in November that same year and then became a Tokyo prefectural school in May 1876. In less than a year of its founding, therefore, the school administration changed hands twice.

I think that this was also planned by founder Arinori Mori. Mori believed that education was the responsibility of the national or local government. He thought that if he suggested to the national government that a school of commerce be established, they would readily agree. The government had a different idea, however, and rejected his proposal. Mori decided he would set up the school as a private institute and have it upgraded into a government-run educational institute at an appropriate time. Transferring administration of the school to Tokyo Prefecture was one step toward that goal. Some people say that the history of Hitotsubashi is one of advancement through blood, sweat, and tears, and this process indeed start-



ed immediately after its founding.

The administration of the school continued to change hands after that as well. In 1884, it became a national school under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and was renamed Tokyo Commercial School. The following year, it was placed under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Education, and it absorbed the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages, which had been a government-run school from the time of its founding, and the Higher Commercial School, which was affiliated with the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages. With this merger, the school took over the school building and library of the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages, which were located in Kanda-Hitotsubashi. The school continued to use the name Tokyo Commercial School.

The school was renamed the Higher Commercial

School in 1887. Around the turn of the century, there was increasing demand and momentum both within the university and in society at large to create a university of commerce based on the school. The Imperial Diet passed a bill to establish a university of commerce. The Ministry of Education, however, announced a redrafted bill under which an economic department and a law department would be set up in the College of Law of Tokyo Imperial University (today's University of Tokyo), and the specialized course at the Higher Commercial School would be closed. This was equivalent to feeling a tap on one's shoulder during corporate restructuring! This move by the Ministry of Education set off the Shinyu Incident, a revolt by the school community from 1908 to 1909.

We survived that restructuring bill, but another restructuring bill was announced in 1913. It was proposed that the university be merged with Tokyo Imperial University. This was not carried out, and the school finally reached its longtime dream of gaining university status in 1920. At that time, the Tokyo University of Commerce was born. The university was still flush with excitement over its new status when the Great Kanto Earthquake struck in 1923; most of the university's buildings collapsed and burned to the ground.

Surviving this setback, the university moved from Kanda-Hitotsubashi to its current location in Kunitachi in 1927. In 1930, a new library was completed on the Kunitachi Campus. In this way, the foundations of today's Hitotsubashi University were set. In 1931, however, the Ministry of Finance issued another restructuring bill, calling for the separation of the university's preparatory course and Business College and the discontinuation of the preparatory course. Once again, the school was threatened with closure. The entire school pulled together to stop that bill from moving forward. The opposition movement is known as the Rojo Incident.



Books from the collection held by the
Institute for Business Training

Then, the nation was put on a war footing. Despite the tight university budget, the university diligently continued its research and education activities. In the end, however, most of the university's grounds and buildings, except for the library, were lent to the military, and the university was pushed into a situation where it could no longer function as a university. Because the campus had been converted into a munitions arsenal, the university was threatened to be a bombing target. The university was even forced to change its name to the Tokyo University of Industry at one point. Research and education on commerce are simply irrelevant in wartime!

I will skip the history concerning the development of the university as “Hitotsubashi University” after the war. As you can see, though, we have been threatened with closure several times. That is what has developed the Hitotsubashi spirit of relying on itself, not others—a tradition that is uncharacteristic of a national university.

Library Enhancement Leads to Promotion to the Status of University, the Highest Institution of Learning

How has the university library developed over the course of this history?

When administration of the Commercial Training School was transferred from the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce to Tokyo Prefecture in 1876, the books that were part of the property transferred numbered a mere 55 volumes. Original-edition books on book-keeping and mathematics brought in from the West were used in classes. Such books were not very easy to obtain in those days so it may have been quite a feat for the Commercial Training School—which had fewer than 50 students when it started up as a private educational institution—to obtain them.

The school came to have a facility that could properly be called a library when it absorbed the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages and inherited its book collection. The Tokyo School of Foreign Languages had a collection of about 7,000 volumes of Western and Chinese books that it had inherited from Kaiseijo and its predecessor, Yogakusho (Institute for Western Learning). After its opening in 1874, the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages purchased almost 1,000 volumes a year. All of these became our collection. Most of these were returned to the Tokyo School of Foreign

Languages when it was separated and once again became an independent institute, but there are quite a few rare books that were not returned and remain in our University Library collection to this day.

In any event, a two-storey wooden building was completed in 1894 to serve as the library to house these books. It was a small library of about 222 m² in total area with stack rooms and reading rooms. The history of the University Library can be said to start here.

Around the turn of the century, a move to raise the status of the school to that of a university of commerce gained momentum, and there was increasing interest both within the school and in society at large to enhance the library. In 1902, three professors were assigned as library committee members and tasked with improving the administration of the library. Welcoming this, many people outside the school community also donated personal libraries to commemorate the occasion, and a scholarship fund for the purchase of books was donated in 1906. I will talk about this again later, but it is because this spirit of making donations to the library has continued since then that our library has in its collection many rare books that would have been impossible to purchase using national funds alone. This is also why the library has been able to acquire internationally renowned collections.

I must admit, though, that a library collection that was just passing the 50,000 volume mark was somewhat meager for an institute seeking to be acknowledged as the highest seat of learning in commerce education. That was in 1909, and around that same time we were hit with the Ministry of Education bill that included restructuring our school.

We were again at an important crossroads: We either gained status as a university or we would be



Reading room at the Commercial Training School



Top: Library of the Commercial Training School
Middle: Emperor Taisho Memorial Library
(Kanda-Hitotsubashi)

Bottom: The current library was built in the middle
of the campus with the university's relocation to
Kunitachi in 1930

absorbed by another school. But this also further increased the sense of solidarity among the school community. In 1914, Professor Zensaku Sano was installed as principal of the school, the first graduate of the school to serve in that office. He put in place a framework for moving toward self-sufficiency and independence. He substantially improved the departments and programs in the preparatory course, main course, and Business College, worked to create independent specializations in key departments, and also opened the path toward integrating the departments by creating an economics program in the Business College. At the same time, our graduates formed the Josuikai Club to support their alma mater. In cooperation with the alumni association that was already in place, they decided to donate a university library to the school calling it a project to commemorate the enthronement of the Emperor Taisho. This naming shows their great foresight: they knew that the government would not be able to flatly reject the plan if it were a library to commemorate the enthronement of the emperor. Viewed from the opposite perspective, however, it also shows the degree to which they saw the situation as life or death.

In any event, construction of a modern library was completed in 1917. The library had stacks housed in a four-storey reinforced concrete structure and reading rooms in a two-storey timber-frame structure with a brick exterior. A budget of 50,000 yen was compiled for the construction of this new library with Josuikai donating 35,000 yen and the alumni association contributing 15,000 yen. In fact, however, the construction cost almost 60,000 yen, and the difference was covered through donations from individuals. Thus, the library was built through our own means, without depending on the national government.

In 1920, the school achieved its long-sought dream of being promoted to the status of a university and was renamed the Tokyo University of Commerce. This library was a key factor in that advancement.

The University Library Is Placed at the Center of Research and Education in the Social Sciences

Of course, a library is not something that can be talked about as just a building that serves as a storage facility. Although this library was second to none as a structure, the collection still numbered fewer than 60,000 volumes at the time of the school's promotion to the status of university, and library administration and cataloguing were still being performed by people without library science training.

Modern library administration techniques were introduced at the university library in 1921 after Shinshichi Miura, who was head librarian at the time, invited Tamesaburo Ota to essentially be director of the library. Ota was an expert in library science and had served as director of the main library in Taiwan, which was a colony of Japan at that time. The Ministry of Education was also trying to attract Ota to work at its newly built librarian training institute, so the university essentially headhunted Ota. Ota brought in other fine librarians, including Keikichi Onagaya who was an expert in cataloguing and compiling, and full-fledged work to get the books and the library in shape commenced. I just glossed over that in a single sentence, but we must remember that much of the collection was composed of specialized books that had been brought in from the West on a range of different fields and book classifications had not been set up yet. Trying to develop the library under these conditions was incredibly difficult work.

Effort was also put into improving the book collection, too. Through the good offices of Professor Hideharu Sonda, who was studying in Germany, the library of Professor Otto Friedrich von Gierke, a prominent figure in early Germanic law, was added to our university library in 1921. Thanks to Associate Professor Kinnosuke Otsuka and five others who were studying abroad in Germany, the library of Carl Menger, founder of the Austrian School of economics, was acquired in 1922. The Gierke and Menger Libraries are two key collections that bring our university library international respect even today. It is unbelievable to think that it was study-abroad students in their twenties and thirties who proposed to the university that the libraries be purchased and negotiated the transactions. We also must admire the boldness of the university authorities at that time, including President Zensaku Sano and Head Librarian Shinshichi Miura, who gave the go-ahead for the purchases with no idea where the funds for them would come from. By the way, the Menger Library cost about 70,000 yen. This figure exceeds even the cost of the construction of the library, and it was covered by donations from graduates.

Just as this modernization of the university library was starting in earnest, the school lost most of its buildings to the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. Many research materials and books, including the Murase Library, were lost. The library collection and the recently purchased Gierke and Menger Libraries, which were being stored in Mitsui Hall, however, were spared from the fires of the earthquake by people at the university who rushed to the scene and



promptly extinguished the fire. We can never thank them enough for doing this.

Because the library collection survived the fires, there were more and more requests from both inside the university and from society at large to use our library collection for research work. The book cataloguing turned into a joint project of the library staff and the entire university teaching staff. At the same time, libraries of members of the university community were donated, including that of Dr. Kiichiro Soda, one of Japan's leading book collectors. This further spurred the enhancement of the book collection from around this time.

It was then decided that the university would be moved to Kunitachi and the preparatory course would be moved to Kodaira. A new library was to be built. The library was built in the central front section of the campus and housed professors' offices and classrooms, as can be seen even in the building today. This library thus is a physical expression of the consensus of our university community that the library is the center of research and education in the social sciences. Our school was able to put this philosophy into practice before other schools.

The stack rooms of the new library were designed with sights set on twenty years in the future. The five-level all-steel stacks are about 10,000 m in total length and can hold 300,000 volumes. They were state-of-the-art in their day.

The Great Depression started to impact Japan just at that time, and graduates had trouble getting jobs. I understand that in that era the new library was always filled with students from the time it first opened. Perhaps this was also because there were no places in Kunitachi at that time to go out for entertainment.

The Library That Developed Hitotsubashi Students Is Also the Library That Hitotsubashi Students Developed

During the prolonged economic recession and the wartime years from the Manchurian Incident in 1931 through the Potsdam Declaration in 1945, students and faculty had difficulty purchasing books and were drawn more and more to the library. The library's budget for book purchases, however, gradually grew stringent, and, as if to kick the library when it was struggling, the Ministry of Education issued an official notice that the library was to minimize the purchase of foreign books. In response, the library committee launched initiatives to compensate for the shortage in funds to purchase books. They solicited donations from Josuikai and graduates and asked graduates living overseas to donate foreign books. Many special collections that give distinction to the university library were donated, including the (Yuichi) Nakanishi Library, the (Zensaku) Sano Collection, the (Sosuke) Ishihara Library, and the (Teijiro) Ueda Collection.

In addition, Kobe University of Commerce, Osaka University of Commerce, and our school formed the Three Commerce University Library Council and blazed a path toward inter-library loan of books and materials.

Students also assisted in their own way. They gave up their summer vacations and lent their services to the administration of the library, including making index cards for papers published in Japanese periodicals in the library collection. In those days, these cards were highly valued because the cataloguing of

papers published in journals had progressed only up until 1930.

The library must do more than simply store books. All books and materials in the collection must be classified based on set classifications. If you don't know where the various kinds of book are stored in the stacks, they are just useless treasures. Thus, even in wartime, donated library collections were usually cataloged instantly upon receipt. I take my hat off to the library staff for this work.

We then entered a time where enemy planes attacked the Kunitachi Campus virtually every day. About 50,000 rare books were evacuated from the end of 1944 through 1945. The rare books were able to be selected quickly even amid this crisis situation because book cataloging had been done beforehand.

I would like to make special mention here that among the books evacuated were not only the Menger, Gierke, and Soda Libraries, but also the dissertations of all graduates. Even today, the university library continues to hold the dissertations of all graduates. These dissertations were deemed to be precious documents equivalent to world-class rare books. This is a core principle of our library.

The Hitotsubashi University Library has developed the students who have studied at our university, and the university library has been developed by the students as well. Students see the university library as a symbol of the university even after graduation and so they take interest in its improvement. The university library today holds 1.74 million volumes, and the dreams of our graduates lie within the pages of each. (Article based on interview with Professor Makoto Ikema, the former Director of the University Library, conducted in 2004.)

Main reading room of the Hitotsubashi University Library (Kunitachi)



Commercial Training School (1875—1884)

- 1875 Founded by Arinori Mori in Owari-cho, Ginza, Tokyo.
- 1876 Moves to new school building in Kobiki-cho, Kyobashi, Tokyo.
- 1879 Lending and handling of textbooks stipulated in school regulations.

Tokyo Commercial School (1884—1887)

- 1884 Becomes national school under direct supervision of Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and renamed Tokyo Commercial School.
- 1885 Placed under direct supervision of Ministry of Education. Absorbs Tokyo School of Foreign Languages (today's Tokyo University of Foreign Studies). First library (stack room: about 58 m²; reading area: about 52 m²) opened with staff of three librarians.

Higher Commercial School (1887—1902)

- 1887 Renamed Higher Commercial School.
- 1890 School facilities improved, starting with construction of library.
- 1894 Library (area: about 222 m²) completed. Professors assigned to serve as librarians in addition to their teaching responsibilities.
- 1897 Library system of having head librarian inaugurated. Professor Tadayuki Nasa, who had been serving as librarian in addition to his teaching responsibilities, becomes first head librarian.
- 1899 Separated from Tokyo School of Foreign Languages. Most of book collection formerly held by that school transferred back to it.

Tokyo Higher Commercial School (1902—1920)

- 1902 Renamed Tokyo Higher Commercial School. Library administration strengthened (three professors become library committee members).
- 1905 People at school and in society at large call for improvement of library.
- 1906 Scholarship fund donated by Yotaro Handa for purchase of books.
- 1908 Reading room facility (two-storey wooden building with area of about 454 m²) completed, raising reading room capacity to 100 people. Ministry of Education bill to close specialized course division with establishment of economic department and law department at Tokyo Imperial University sets off opposition movement known as Shinyu Incident.
- 1912 Professor Shinshichi Miura becomes head librarian.
- 1913 Graduates of school form organization to support their alma mater (Josuikai Club). School structure improved by reorganization into preparatory course, main course, and Business College.
- 1915 Wilhelm Lexis Collection acquired.
- 1917 Construction of Emperor Taisho Memorial Library (four-storey reinforced concrete stack rooms: [area: about 512 m²]; administrative offices, reading room, timber-frame structure with brick exterior [total area: about 654 m²]) completed.

Tokyo University of Commerce (1920—1944)

- 1920 Becomes Tokyo University of Commerce.
- 1921 Tamesaburo Ota, former director of main library in Taiwan, which was colony of Japan at that time, becomes deputy director. Keikichi Onagaya, former librarian of that same main library in Taiwan, assigned temporary position to perform book cataloguing and compiling. Otto Friedrich von Gierke Library acquired.
- 1922 Carl Menger Library obtained.
- 1923 Library suffers only partial destruction in Great Kanto Earthquake. Library collection survives.
- 1924 Preparatory course branch library established in temporary facilities for preparatory course in Shakujii, Tokyo.
- 1926 Library established at university as national institution by imperial edict.
- 1930 University library (reinforced concrete structure [building area: about 2,407 m²; total area: about 6,096 m²]) completed on new campus in Yaho Village in Kita-Tama County (today's Kunitachi).
- 1930—1943 Collections from Japan and overseas acquired to expand library collection.
- 1931 Proposal by Ministry of Finance's Administrative Finances Adjustment Committee to discontinue preparatory course and Business College sets off Rojo Incident.
- 1936 New school buildings for preparatory course completed in Kodaira Village, Kita-tama County (today's Kodaira). Preparatory course Branch Library (later renamed Kodaira Branch Library) completed.
- 1944 February: Buildings of preparatory course and Business College lent to Japanese military in response to urgent request by military.

Tokyo University of Industry (1944—1947)

- 1944 September: Renamed Tokyo University of Industry.
- 1945 March to June: Rare books evacuated to Ina and Tatsuno Towns in Nagano Prefecture.
July: Library building bombed by U.S. military planes.
August: War ended while second shipment of books is being packed up for evacuation.
November: Evacuated books return from Ina Town.
- 1946 February: Evacuated books return from Tatsuno Town.

Tokyo University of Commerce and Hitotsubashi University (1947—present)

- 1947 Revert to name of Tokyo University of Commerce.
- 1949 Hitotsubashi University inaugurated with promulgation of National School Establishment Law. Library regulations partially amended. Detailed enforcement regulations revised. With promulgation of National University Establishment Law, library's administrative structure established: one secretary general and four sections at main library (general affairs section [later renamed administration and acquisition section], Western book section, Japanese and Chinese book section, Circulation area section), and one section at branch library. Library committee reestablished.
- 1955 Library of late Harvard University professor Joseph Schumpeter donated.
- 1964 Official directive of Ministry of Education orders that Kodaira Branch Library be established at university. Second stack room completed (area: 1,035 m²).
- 1969 New Kodaira Branch Library (area: 1,580 m²) completed and opened.
- 1976 *History of Hitotsubashi University Library* published.
- 1977 University Library Rare Books Stacks (today's Center for Historical Social Science Literature wing; area: 1,110 m²) completed.
- 1978 Administrative system of division managers and section chiefs introduced, and Management Division and Circulation Division established. Center for Historical Social Science Literature inaugurated.
- 1979 Completion of new stacks at Kodaira Branch Library (area: 550 m²). Hitotsubashi University Library newsletter, Kane (Bell), launched.
- 1980 New library wing (today, lower floors of Periodicals Annex; area: 870 m²) completed.
- 1981 Computerization of reading room operations at new library wing commenced using Computer Center's general-use system.
- 1983 Third stack room completed (885 m²).
- 1985 National Center for Overseas Periodicals (Humanities and Social Sciences areas) launched. Computerization of periodicals operations commenced using Computer Center's general-use system.
- 1988 Management Division renamed Information Processing and Management Division, and Circulation Division renamed Information Service Division.
- 1991 Hitotsubashi Educational and Research MEdia Service (HERMES) introduced. Almost all operations computerized. EC Documentation Centre established within University Library.
- 1994 EC Documentation Centre renamed European Documentation Centre with formation of European Union (EU).
- 1995 Through support from Josuikai, network search service launched with introduction of JOINT catalog information search system. Expansion and remodeling work completed on new library wing (today's Periodicals Annex; area: 4,246 m²). Launch of Hitotsubashi University Library official website.
- 1997 Online catalog information search service launched. Kodaira Branch Library closed; Kodaira Book stacks established. East Campus Reading Room opened.
- 1999 Digitalization of cataloging operations at Institute of Innovation Research Library commenced using HERMES system.
- 2000 Expansion and remodeling work on library main building completed (area: 6,693 m²). Digitalization of operations at Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy Library commenced using HERMES system.
- 2001 Hitotsubashi Digital Archives (HDA) system introduced. Exhibition Room created.
- 2002 Transfer of materials stored in Kodaira Book stacks to the main library building completed.
- 2004 With incorporation of university, Library Administration Department reorganized into Department of Library and Information. Library Affairs Division, Research Support Division, and Information and Communication Technology Division created.