



Open Forum on Japanese Library Resources (Survey Results)

日本関連の図書館情報資源に関するオープンフォーラム (アンケート調査結果)

In recent years, information science specialists—those trained as Japan Studies professionals, as well as those who support faculty and students in the field—have struggled with resource availability, shifting institutional commitments and expectations, training opportunities, and more. In March 2026, the Japan Past & Present (JPP) Library Services Team put out a survey focused on needs and challenges pertaining to Japanese Studies resources. Surveys were conducted for both librarians and library Specialists as well as for researchers.

The information below is a summary of some of the quantitative and qualitative results of that survey, provided in more detail than is possible to cover at the [Open Forums on Japanese Library Resources](#) (held August 3/4 and 5/6, 2026).

近年、情報科学の専門家（日本研究の専門家として教育を受けた方々や同分野の教員や学生を支援する方々）は、情報資源の入手における困難、機関側のコミットメントや期待における変化、研修機会の不足など、さまざまな課題に直面しています。JPPの図書館サービス・チームは、日本研究の情報資源に関するニーズや課題に焦点を当てたアンケート調査を2026年3月に実施しました。このアンケート調査は図書司書及び図書館関係者、そして研究者の方々を対象に実施されました。

以下は、そのアンケートの結果から得られた定量的、定性的な結果の一部をまとめたものであり、2026年8月3、4日および5、6日に開催された[日本関連の図書館情報資源に関するオープンフォーラム](#)では紹介しきれなかった内容についてより詳しく報告するものです。

The data in this report was collected and curated by Risa Hatanaka, Nobu Kawaguchi, Kristen Luck, Billy Tringali, and Paula R. Curtis.

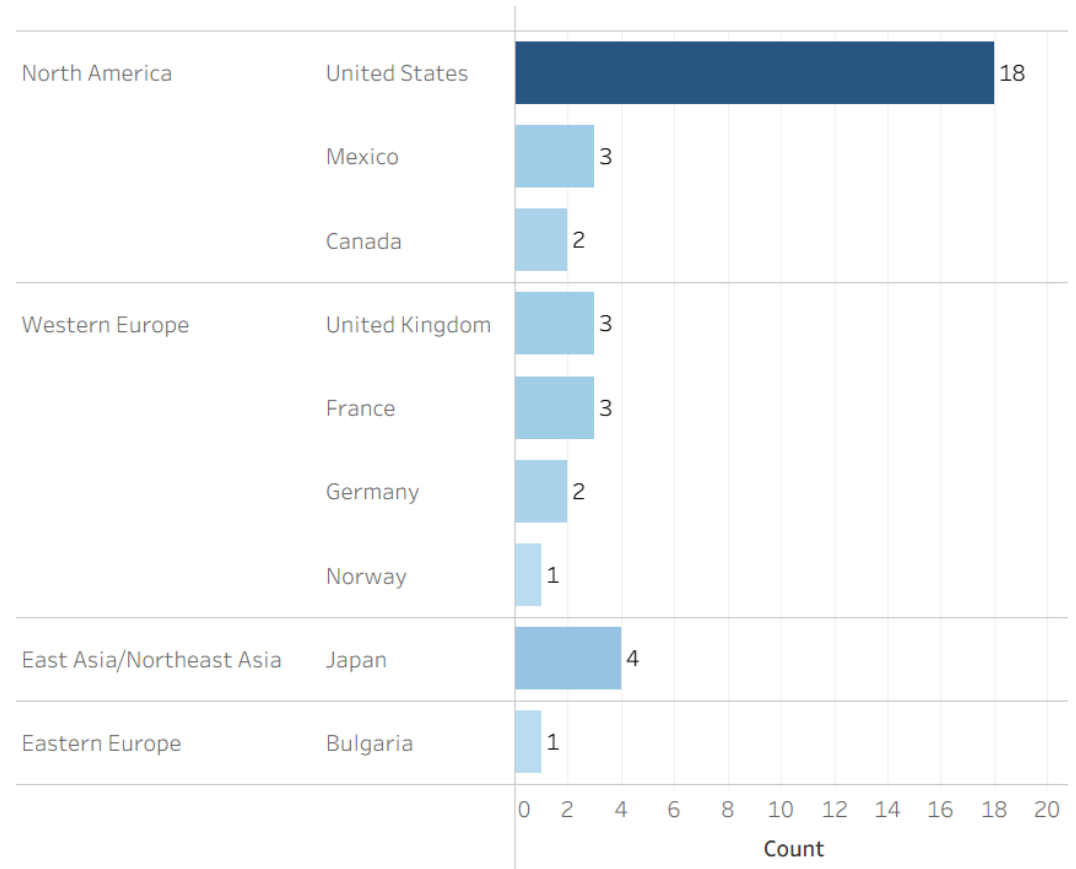
Librarians & Library Staff

Background of Respondents

There were **37 respondents** to the Librarian/Library Staff survey. 23 respondents were based in North America (18 United States, 3 Mexico, 2 Canada). 9 respondents were based in Western Europe (3 United Kingdom, 3 France, 2 Germany, 1 Norway). 4 respondents were based in East Asia/Northeast Asia (all in Japan), and 1 respondent was based in Eastern Europe (Bulgaria).

For the purposes of this survey, the overall location diversity of librarian/library staff responses was slightly low. We would welcome further insights from information specialists in various countries and regions (including South America, Africa, Eastern and Central Europe, and West Asia).

Regional Location & Employment Country of Library Respondents



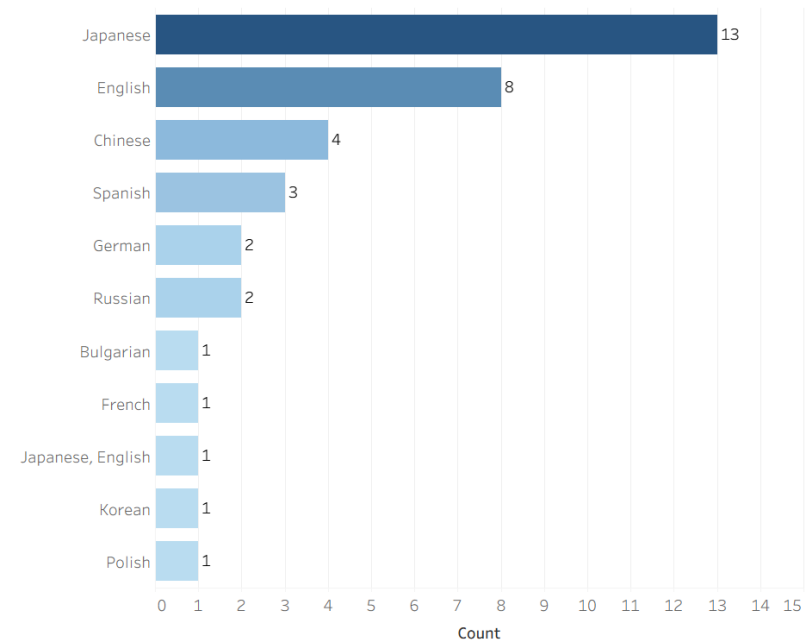
Languages of Respondents

The 37 respondents reported **10 different first/heritage languages**, with the majority being English (9) or Japanese (14).

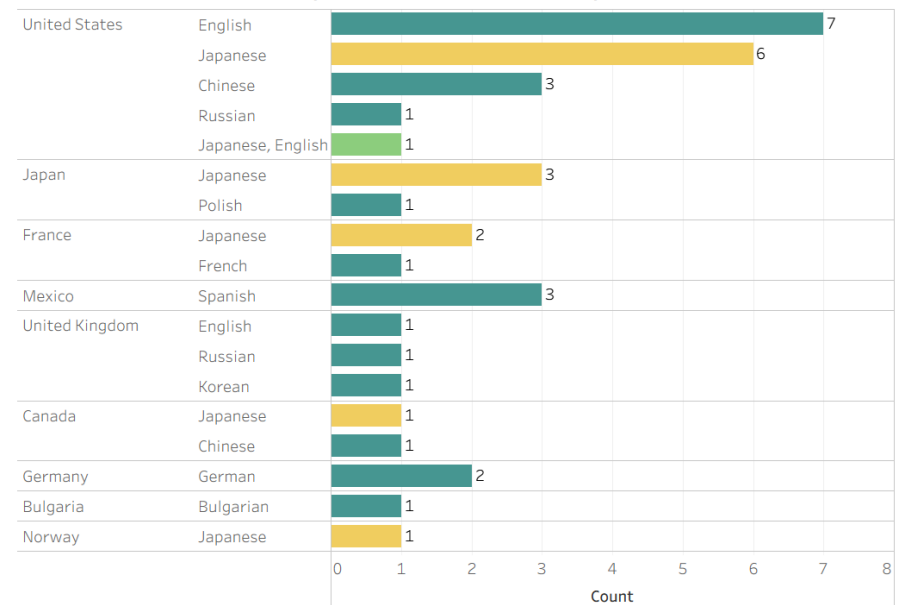
In the United States, the majority of respondents had English (8) or Japanese (7) as their first/heritage language, but Chinese (3) and Russian (1) were represented. The majority language in each country did not necessarily align with the language of its library specialists in all cases, but rather a great deal of linguistic diversity exists among library specialists.

First/heritage speakers of Japanese are present among library specialists in 5 of the 9 countries represented.

First/Heritage Language of Library Respondents



First/Heritage Language of Library Respondents, by Country
(Japanese highlighted)



Job titles & Functions

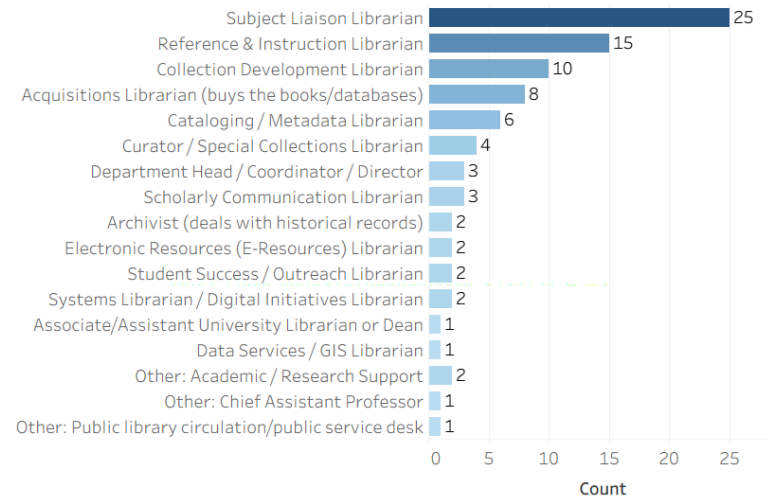
25 respondents of the 37 total identified themselves as a Subject Liaison Librarian, while 15 respondents identified themselves as a Reference & Instruction Librarian and 10 respondents identified themselves as a Collection Development Librarian. As can be seen in the image on the top right, the roles and responsibilities held by library specialists are various.

However, these numbers do not necessarily reflect the full scope of responsibilities an individual maintains. If you look to the image on the lower right, the total number of job titles and functions for which individual respondents are responsible are indicated with a total number (each number on the left is an ID).

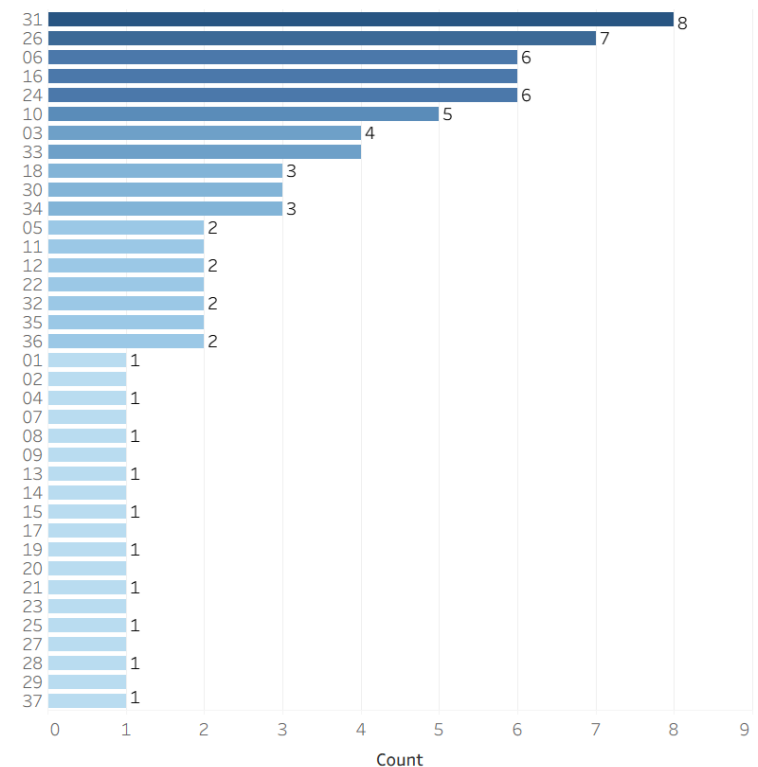
So in the case of Respondent 31 (based in France), **they are responsible for eight distinct functions within the scope of their job**. In this case, Reference & Instruction, Student Success/Outreach, Acquisitions, Cataloging/Metadata, E-Resources, Collection Development, Systems/Digital Initiatives, and Academic/Research Support.

11 respondents indicated their rank or status is tenured/tenure-track (or rough equivalent), and 11 respondents also indicated they had a continuing appointment/permanent status. 14 respondents identify as academic staff/professional staff, and 1 respondent identifies as paraprofessional/support staff.

Job Titles/Functions of Library Respondents (Overall)



Job Titles/Functions of Library Respondents (by Total Responsibilities)



Institutions, Consortiums, & Professional Organizations

Of the 37 respondents, 22 identified as having their library/institution participating in a consortium. 4 respondents said no, their library/institution was not part of a consortium, and 10 respondents were unsure. Of those who indicated they were part of a consortium, the following 22 organizations were identified:

- Big Ten Academic Library Alliance (BTAA)
- University of California
- Le Consortium européen de développement durable des ressources électroniques japonaises (CEDDREJ)
- NorthEast Research Libraries Consortium (NERL)
- Center for Research Libraries (CRL)
- Electronic Library Network (ELN)
- Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL)
- Europe consortium
- Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)
- Arbeitskreis Japanbibliotheken
- Minitex
- Lyris
- National consortium Friedrich Althoff Konsortium
- DEAL consortium
- Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries
- Nordic and Baltic Association for Asian Studies (NoBAS)
- Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation
- Association of Pacific Rim Universities
- Hawaii Library Consortium
- Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries
- College Research Libraries Consortium
- Couperin

Almost no respondents identified the same list of organizations in which they participated, reflecting the wide array of institutions as well as dissimilar affiliations/needs on the part of individual libraries.

Respondents identified themselves as members of 11 different professional organizations, indicating:

- Association for Asian Studies (AAS) - 15 respondents
- Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) - 4 respondents
- Japan Library Group UK - 2 respondent
- European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) - 1 respondent
- European Association for Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS) - 1 respondent
- German Japanese Studies Association (GJF) - 1 respondents
- Association for Social Sciences Research on Japan (VSJF) - 1 respondents
- American Literary Association (ALA) - 1 respondents
- Tang Studies Society - 1 respondents
- American Academy of Religion - 1 respondents
- Japan Art Documentation Society - 1 respondents

With the exception of 1 respondent based in Japan, all of the 15 respondents who indicated they were members of the Association for Asian Studies are based in North America (including the United States, Canada, and Mexico). Professional membership in these organizations, as reflected in the data, may be slightly misleading, as one may note that while only 4 respondents said they were members of the Council on East Asian Libraries, many more respondents indicated that they sought assistance from the organization (see below).

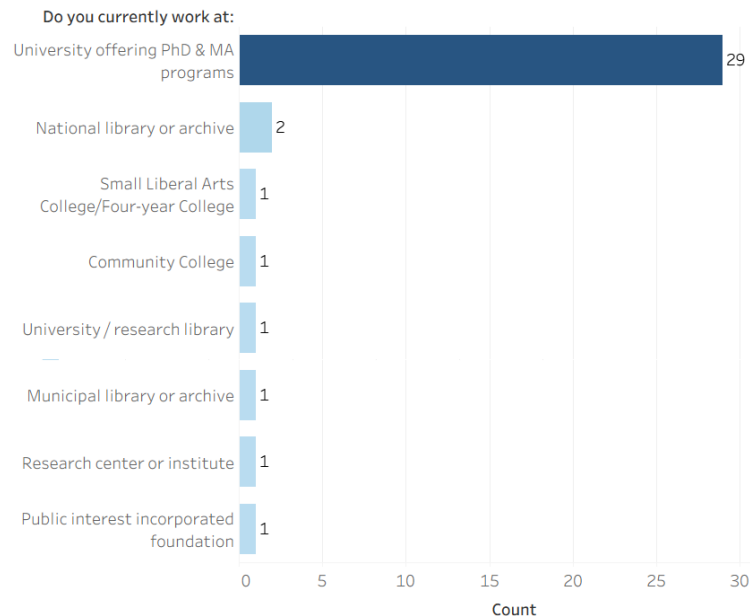
33 of the 37 respondents stated that they sought assistance from these organizations, while 4 respondents said they did not.

Employment Institutions & Library Content

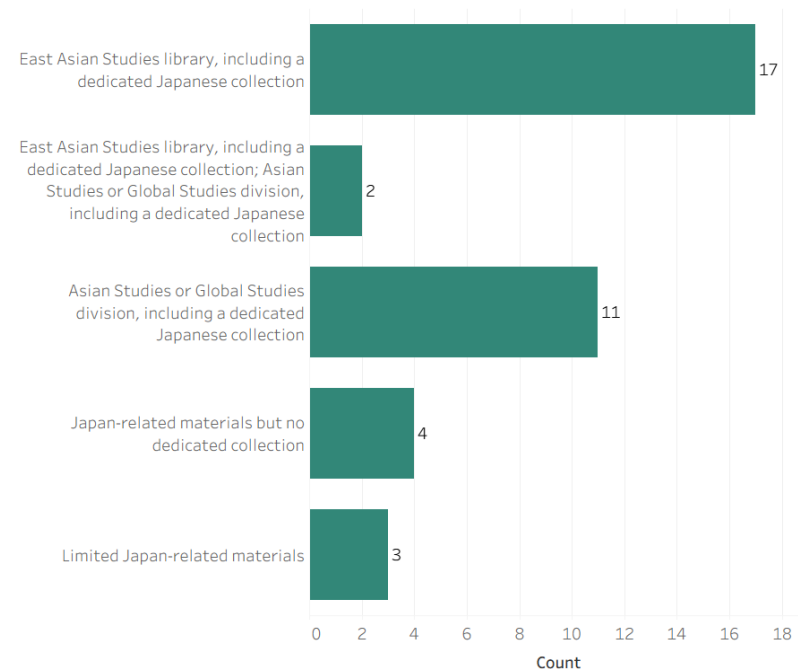
26 respondents are based at public institutions, while 9 respondents are based at private institutions (and 2 are N/A). **29 respondents of the 37 total are based at universities that offer both PhD and MA programs.** The remaining library specialist respondents were from various types of institutions, though the data throughout this survey should be understood with this emphasis on employees at larger institutions in mind.

17 respondents identified their institutions as having both an East Asian Studies library and a dedicated Japanese collection. 2 respondents have an East Asian library with a dedicated Japanese collection as well as an Asian Studies/Global Studies division. 11 respondents do **not** have an East Asian Studies library, but do have a broader Asian Studies or Global Studies division with a Japanese collection. 4 respondents (1 in Japan and 3 in the United States) indicated they have Japan-related materials but no dedicated collection, and 3 respondents (1 in the United States and 2 in Mexico) indicated they have limited Japan-related materials at their institution.

Employment Institution Type of Library Respondents



Institution's Library Contents of Library Respondents

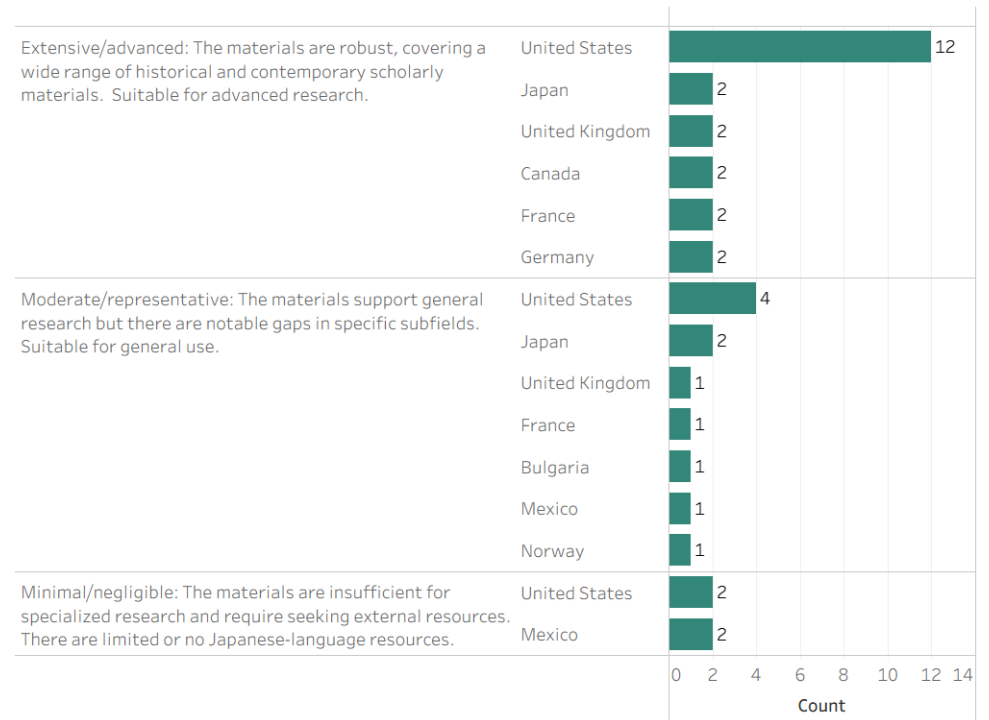


Collections Depth & Development

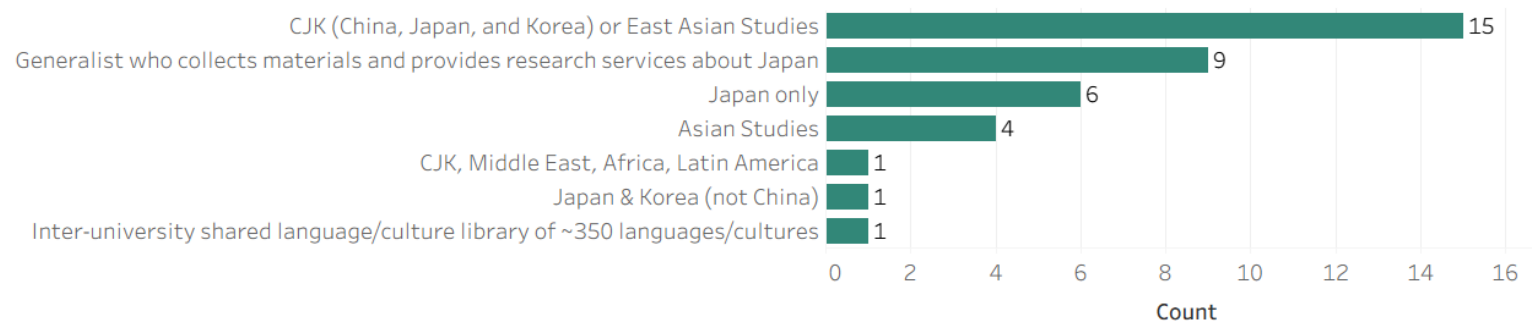
As to the depth and breadth of collections at each library specialist's institution, 22 respondents indicated that their collections were extensive/advanced, suitable for advanced research. The majority of these respondents were located in the United States (12). 11 respondents, half that number, indicated that their collections were moderate/representative, capable of supporting general research but with noticeable gaps in certain subfields. These respondents ranged across various countries in North America and Western and Eastern Europe.

4 respondents, 2 based in the U.S and 2 based in Mexico, indicated that their library collections were minimal/negligible, being insufficient for research and with limited or no Japanese-language resources. Of the 37 respondents, 15 specialists indicated that their focus in collections development and research was China, Japan, and Korea or East Asian Studies more broadly. 9 respondents identified themselves as generalists who are responsible for services related to Japan. Only 6 respondents are responsible for Japanese material alone, while 4 respondents cover Asian Studies broadly speaking. 1 respondent covers both Japan and Korea (but not China), 2 respondents suggested their responsibilities were more global in their designated collections development coverage.

Depth & Breadth of Collections of Library Respondents, by Country



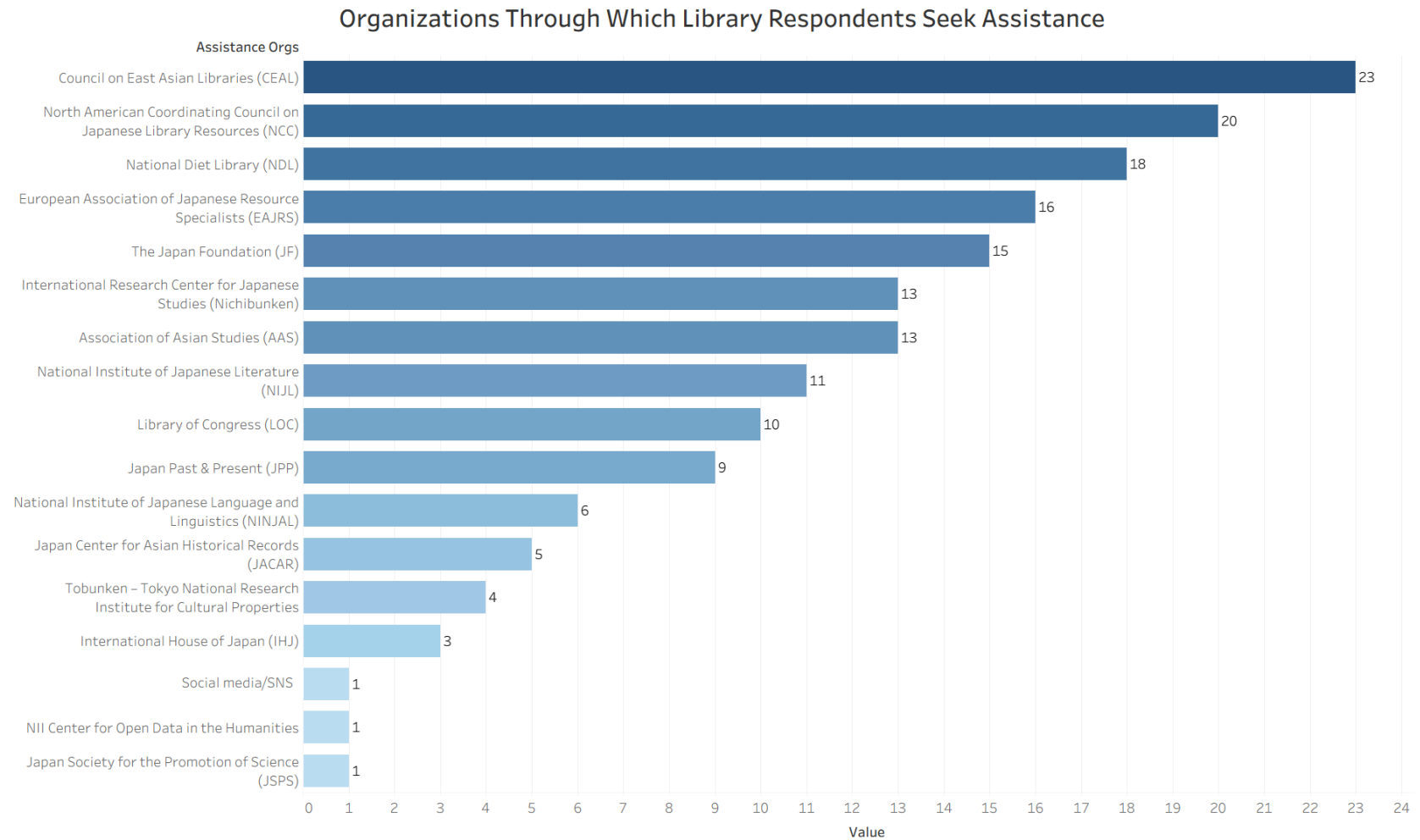
Collections Development and Research Services Focus for Library Respondents



Assistance & Needs

Organizational Assistance

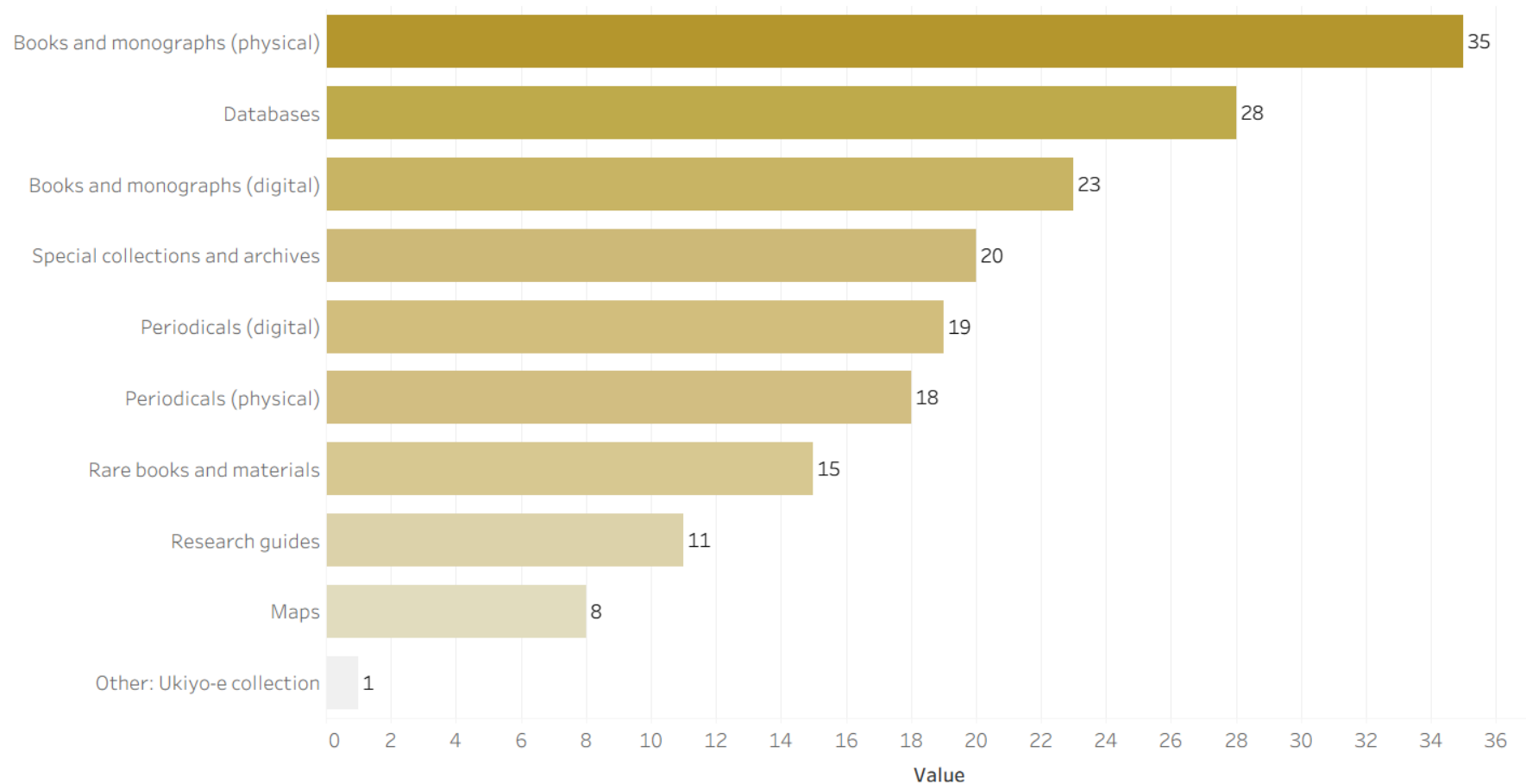
The majority of respondents (33/37) indicated that they seek assistance from a variety of organizations related to (and beyond) Japanese Studies that offer assistance for Japan-related research (research support, accessing materials or sites, workshops and training, etc.). The top three organizations listed are the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) (23), The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (20), and the National Diet Library (NDL) (18).



Materials Used by Patrons

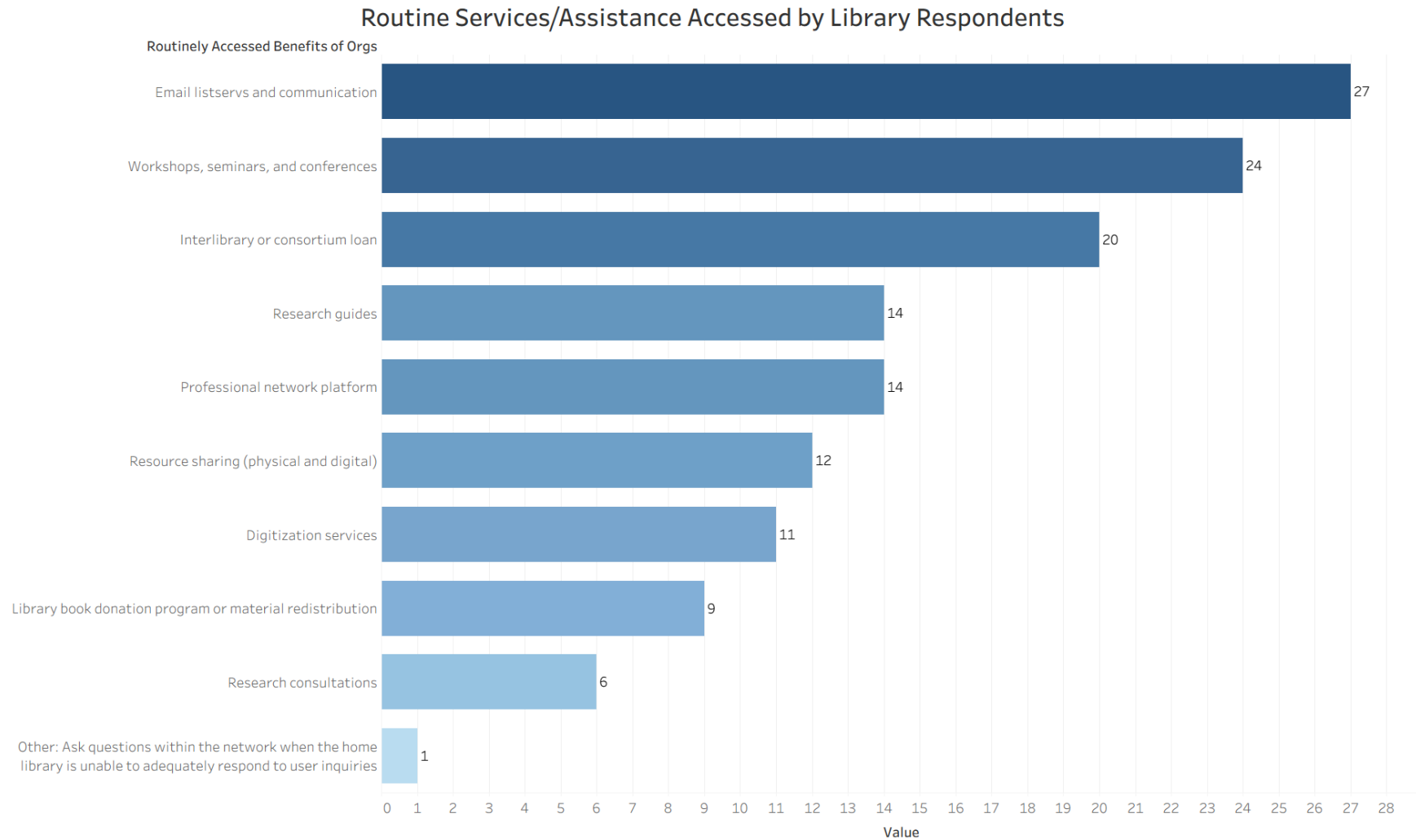
35 of the 37 respondents indicated that the library materials used most by patrons at their institutions are the physical books and monographs. This is followed by databases (28) and digital books and monographs (23). Notably, the most frequently used materials appear to be more or less evenly split between analog and digital contents, suggesting the utility of both forms of resource.

Materials Most Used by Patrons at Institutions of Library Respondents



Routinely Used Resources (Library Staff)

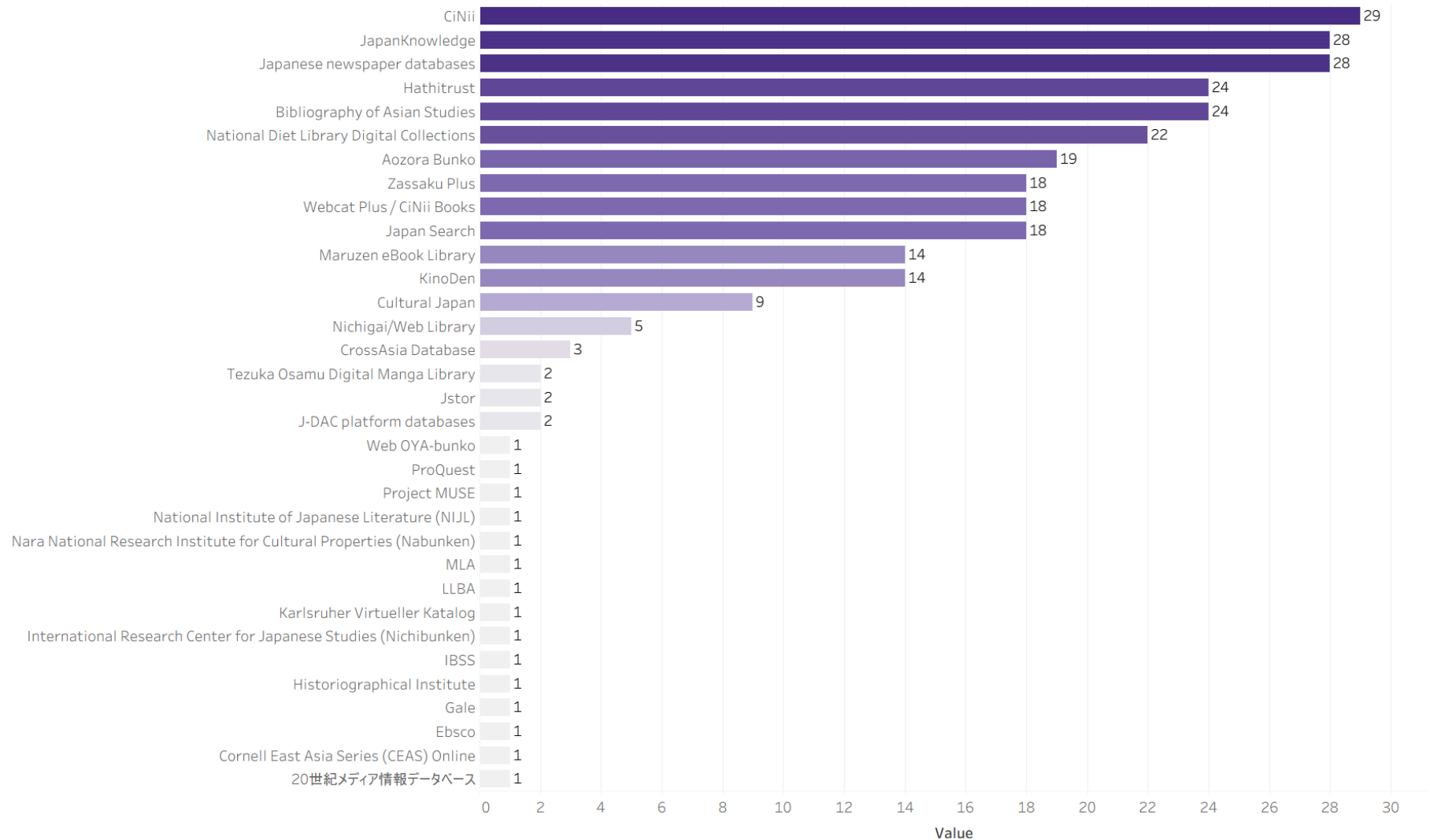
27 of 37 total respondents (~73%) indicated that as it relates to library associations and/or Japan-related research associations to which they belong or consult, they routinely take advantage of email listservs or communication. This was followed by workshops, seminars, or conferences (24 respondents), interlibrary or consortium loans (20). The preeminence of communication and opportunities to network is notable here, particularly as it pertains to the relatively small size of the library services community supporting area studies in comparison to the broader East Asian/Asian Studies researcher communities they support.



Subscribed Databases/Platforms

Respondents indicated the following platforms as subscribed to, offered, or promoted by their institutions.

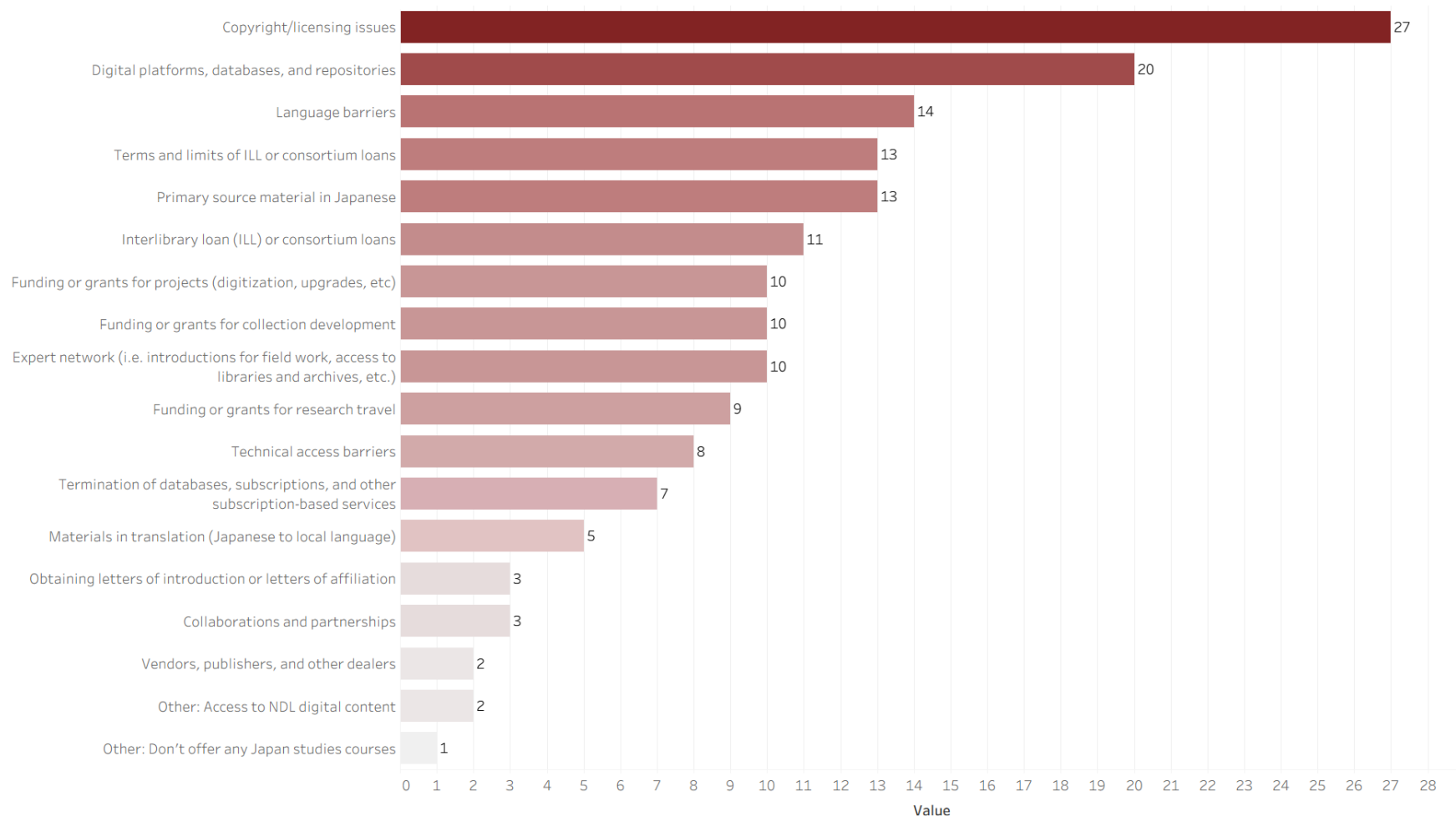
Which digital platforms, databases, and repositories does your institution subscribe to, offer, or promote?



Challenges to Access

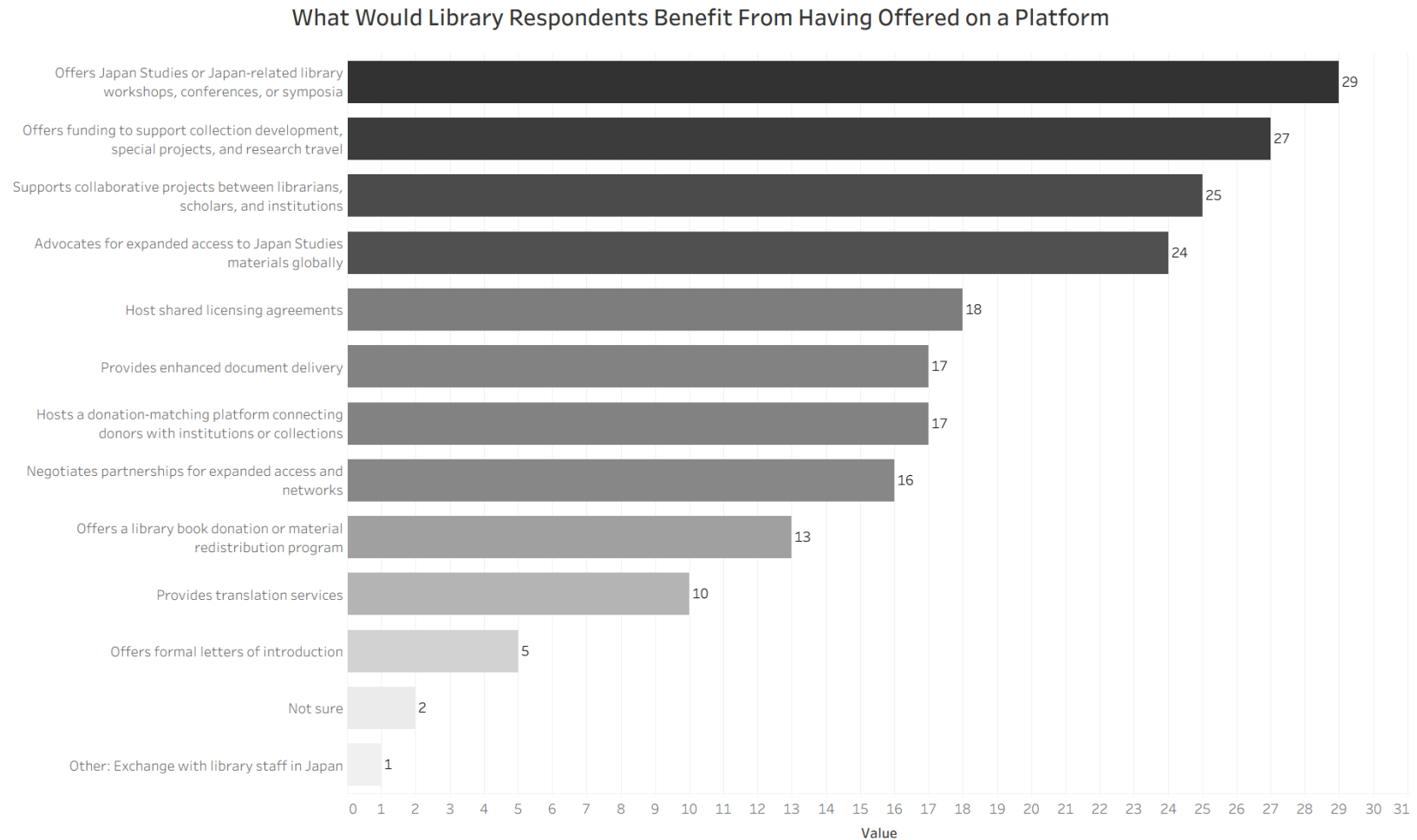
The 37 respondents identified services or benefits that they are unable to access or are not offered at their institutions that would be beneficial to Japanese Studies. The most commonly identified issue was related to copyright and licensing of resources (27 respondents), followed by challenges to accessing digital platforms, databases, and repositories (20 respondents). This was followed by language barriers (in other words, the accessibility of databases/digital platforms and/or materials in languages other than Japanese (14 respondents).

Patron Challenges to Access/Materials Identified by Library Respondents



Beneficial Offerings

When asked to identify what would be beneficial to resource facilitation in Japanese Studies, 29 respondents of 37 total noted that library workshops, conferences, or symposia would benefit them. This was followed closely by funding support for collection development, special projects, and research travel (27 respondents), support for collaborative projects (25 respondents), and advocacy for expanded access to Japanese Studies materials globally (24 respondents).



Qualitative Response Summaries

What factors do you believe are contributing to the current challenges to accessing materials for Japan Studies teaching and research?

The primary areas of focus of the qualitative responses:

- National Diet Library (NDL) access
- Copyright and licensing
- Budget and finance
- Technical limitations
- Other constraints

Select quotes:

NDL Access Issues and Copyright/Licensing

The strong publisher lobby in Japan and the strict copyright laws...The biggest challenge and complaint from patrons and librarians is the blocked access to digital content of the NDL for users outside of Japan... No library in Germany can afford or legally adhere to the conditions set by the NDL for the Digitised Contents Transmission Service. This is a major obstacle for accessing research material in Japanese Studies abroad...

The factors contributing to challenges in accessing materials for Japan Studies teaching and research, particularly in a UK context, relate to copyright and technical issues, notably NDL restrictions under Article 31(7). The NDL Digitised Contents Transmission Service offers secure on-site access to rare and out-of-print Japanese materials via dedicated terminals at approved institutions only, which conflicts with UK fair dealing provisions and GDPR data protection standards, plus high setup costs for compliant infrastructure.

Copyright terms differ from country to country. Access to the National Diet Library Digital Collections is restricted. International interlibrary loan is currently unavailable.

Budget and Finance

... recent cuts in public funding have resulted in the suspension of new database acquisitions and the cancellation of electronic journal subscriptions.

In our region [Mexico], it is very, very difficult, even impossible, to buy materials directly from Japan. The ship's cost is very high, and there are no vendors from Mexico. Additionally, the databases that require subscription are very expensive, and we might need to subscribe to 2 or 3 to cover different periods, titles, and types of documents.

For our institution, we have sufficient funds for collection development but NOT for processing.

- **Technical limitations**

The increasing complexity of cataloging standards, particularly the shift toward linked data, has created a hybrid environment that can lead to inconsistencies. Japanese materials present additional language-specific challenges, including romanization, multiple name readings, authority control, and broader language barriers. Gaps in training and varying levels of experience within the team further affect consistency. Together, these factors highlight the growing need for stronger collaboration and partnerships, as well as sustained funding for professional development, including research travel and conferences. Finally, time constraints and system limitations, especially in handling non-Latin scripts, continue to impact efficiency and accuracy.

Weak infrastructure for librarian education, training, and professional expertise, particularly in bibliography. Poor quality of bibliographic and authority data

Several factors contribute to the current challenges. The increasing complexity of cataloging standards, particularly the shift toward linked data, has created a hybrid environment that can lead to inconsistencies. Japanese materials present additional language-specific challenges, including romanization, multiple name readings, authority control, and broader language barriers. Gaps in training and varying levels of experience within the team further affect consistency. Together, these factors highlight the growing need for stronger collaboration and partnerships, as well as sustained funding for professional development, including research travel and conferences. Finally, time constraints and system limitations, especially in handling non-Latin scripts, continue to impact efficiency and accuracy.

For our institution, we have sufficient funds for collection development but NOT for processing. Limited access to NDL DCT continues to be a huge challenge for our researchers. Undergrads expect instant access to Japanese digitized articles + integrated translation tools.

Copyright/licensing issues: differences in legal frameworks and licensing norms between Japan and Canada; **Funding/grants:** general trends in budget cuts and relative lack of grant options in the field; **ILL:** geographic and logistical factors (i.e. postal strikes in Canada), institutional restrictions (i.e. NDL's restrictions on loans), own workload issues (our ILL office is short-staffed); **Translation:** lack of an English language interface in some databases, lack of English translations in desired resources, particularly in sciences; **Primary source materials:** unavailable digitally and physical archives may not be openly accessible. Often archives simply do not exist for certain materials (e.g., some television and radio programs)

Reading cultura in students

The distance between countries

Centralised information
strict copyright conditions in Japan
lack of knowledge about East Asia in this region [respondent based in U.S.]
In our region, it is very, very difficult, even impossible, to buy materials directly from Japan. The ship's cost is very high, and there are no vendors from Mexico. Additionally, the databases that require subscription are very expensive, and we might need to subscribe to 2 or 3 to cover different periods, titles, and types of documents. [respondent based in Mexico]
I've not heard of any grants dedicated to collection development and buying materials.
access gaps to digital resources (e. g., commercial databases and NDL's Digitized Contents Transmission Services for Libraries/Individuals) between researchers
The strong publisher lobby in Japan and the strict copyright laws...The biggest challenge and complaint from patrons and librarians is the blocked access to digital content of the NDL for users outside of Japan... No library in Germany can afford or legally adhere to the conditions set by the NDL for the Digitised Contents Transmission Service. This is a major obstacle for accessing research material in Japanese Studies abroad...
siloed departments, challenges advocating Japanese resources to collect in Western or data centric institutions. It takes double funding to acquire, process, and promote foreign language resources.
The factors contributing to challenges in accessing materials for Japan Studies teaching and research, particularly in a UK context, relate to copyright and technical issues, notably NDL restrictions under Article 31(7). The NDL Digitised Contents Transmission Service offers secure on-site access to rare and out-of-print Japanese materials via dedicated terminals at approved institutions only, which conflicts with UK fair dealing provisions and GDPR data protection standards, plus high setup costs for compliant infrastructure.
Access by overseas academic institutions is restricted because of the National Diet Library's strict copyright policies. Also, recent cuts in public funding have resulted in the suspension of new database acquisitions and the cancellation of electronic journal subscriptions.
1) A lack of understanding and cooperation in Japan regarding the educational use exception under copyright. 2) Weak infrastructure for librarian education, training, and professional expertise, particularly in bibliography. Poor quality of bibliographic and authority data
Copyright terms differ from country to country. Access to the National Diet Library Digital Collections is restricted. International interlibrary loan is currently unavailable.
The mindset of curators

How do you think these current and future challenges can be addressed?

The primary areas of focus of the qualitative responses:

- Alliances, partnerships, and relationships
- Technology
- Advocacy
- Digitization
- Centralization, integration, and streamlined processes
- Funding opportunities

Select quotes:

Technology

I'm highly ambivalent about AI but think that AI--not replacing but in combination with skilled technical services staff's work--might be able to help accelerate our processing efficiency amidst limited processing funds. Dedicated funds/grant opportunities could also help (e.g., for outsourcing cataloging for limited-scope projects)--but this can be a challenge because processing is usually logistically complex (e.g., getting stakeholder buy-in, figuring out whether cataloging can be done from photos and then digitizing first, or figuring out how to safely ship materials; hiring a full-time contract employee takes even longer even with external funds); and often projects have deadlines that can be difficult to meet. Improved access to NDL DCT would help address some of these challenges.

Advocacy

Address via policy advocacy (e.g., UK-Japan agreements through CILIP/IFLA), technical innovations (e.g., federated authentication, AI metadata), and collaborations (e.g., shared access via EAJIS partners).

North American librarians and information specialists need to work collectively to advocate for policy changes and framework shifts in scholarly communication in Japan. Internally, we also need to advocate for sustained investment in Japanese-language collections. It is important to note, though, that some of these challenges cannot be resolved quickly (e.g., copyright law, translation availability). We must continue a sustained conversation with Japanese institutions and publishers, as well as engagement with broader policy conversations around open access and resource sharing.

International negotiations with publishers and reforms to the scholarly publishing system are needed. There should be greater awareness that researchers pay to publish their work, while libraries must pay again to access the same content. Addressing this issue requires international policy-level agreement among academic institutions, with institutions worldwide presenting a unified position when negotiating with vendors.

Digitization

There are initiatives from academic associations and librarians all over the world who ask for a change and to get access to digitised content of the NDL Digital Library. Maybe more "gaiatsu" is needed?

Centralization, integration, and streamlined processes

*Making NDL's Digitized Contents Transmission Service available to overseas researcher;
Establishing a digital interlibrary loan (ILL) agreement with a Japanese institution could facilitate obtaining digital copies of articles from Japanese journals without the need to purchase and ship entire issues to the UK*

Establishing a system that allows users to access university libraries without requiring a reference letter

I'm highly ambivalent about AI but think that AI--not replacing but in combination with skilled technical services staff's work--might be able to help accelerate our processing efficiency amidst limited processing funds. Dedicated funds/grant opportunities could also help (e.g., for outsourcing cataloging for limited-scope projects)--but this can be a challenge because processing is usually logistically complex (e.g., getting stakeholder buy-in, figuring out whether cataloging can be done from photos and then digitizing first, or figuring out how to safely ship materials; hiring a full-time contract employee takes even longer even with external funds); and often projects have deadlines that can be difficult to meet. Improved access to NDL DCT would help address some of these challenges.

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The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC)'s collaboration with CULCON (United States-Japan Conference on Cultural & Educational Interchange) is an example of a fruitful, larger dialogue. Lastly, I commend Japanese institutions increased focus on making their primary sources openly accessible. Digitization partnerships improve access to these materials. Expanding fellowship and travel grant programs would help researchers bridge gaps that cannot be closed immediately.

Change in infrastructure and technology

Trying to forge alliances between institutions

While we have a wealth of information at our disposal, the primary challenge lies in its discoverability. I propose the creation of a centralized knowledge hub - a 'single source of truth' - designed to streamline access to critical resources and ensure staff/researchers can find the right information at the point of need
To talk about budget in libraries is always an issue, but vendors could offer special deals or discounts for countries whose economies are not based on dollars, and even more for public institutions.
I have thought about starting an endowment. But I'm not sure that's a reasonable approach.
"Making NDL's Digitized Contents Transmission Service available to overseas researcher; Establishing a digital interlibrary loan (ILL) agreement with a Japanese institution could facilitate obtaining digital copies of articles from Japanese journals without the need to purchase and ship entire issues to the UK"
exploring possibility of national-level licensing
Active campus use of fellowships/research funds, open access agreements, collaborations with local area museums, multi-year licensing pools
There are initiatives from academic associations and librarians all over the world who ask for a change and to get access to digitised content of the NDL Digital Library. Maybe more "gaiatsu" is needed?
Address via policy advocacy (e.g., UK-Japan agreements through CILIP/IFLA), technical innovations (e.g., federated authentication, AI metadata), and collaborations (e.g., shared access via EAJIS partners).
International negotiations with publishers and reforms to the scholarly publishing system are needed. There should be greater awareness that researchers pay to publish their work, while libraries must pay again to access the same content. Addressing this issue requires international policy-level agreement among academic institutions, with institutions worldwide presenting a unified position when negotiating with vendors.
Establishing a system that allows users to access university libraries without requiring a reference letter
Relaxing and simplifying regulations and policies
Generational turnover

What challenges do you anticipate in the future?

The primary areas of focus of the qualitative responses:

- Budget and resource reduction
- Talent loss
- AI
- Technological issues

Select quotes:

Budget and resource reduction

Budget cuts to acquisitions and/or physical storage, and a corresponding push toward e-books. Proprietary e-resources will place limits on resource sharing.

Shrinking budgets, which may limit professional development opportunities and hinder the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel.

The cost of subscriptions to the database will increase.

Decreasing support for area studies as academic discipline and library collection

Digitized materials may be altered or have content removed without users' knowledge. It is difficult to develop effective measures to address this issue.

Talent attrition

Shrinking budgets, which may limit professional development opportunities and hinder the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel.

One of the most pressing challenges is the retirement of highly skilled Japanese studies and Asian studies librarians in the immediate future. On top of this, there is a trend of declining positions for Japan specialists, as area studies roles are eliminated or consolidated. Without deliberate efforts to train and hire the next generations of specialists, capacity in this area will continue eroding significantly.

AI

In addition, the uncritical or inappropriate use of AI in cataloging workflows could lower the overall quality of metadata and, over time,

negatively impact both efficiency and accuracy.

Artificial Intelligence will become an important part of the development and use of databases, and these will represent an increase in subscriptions.

The widespread use of AI is leading to reduced use of library materials and a further decline in the professional status of librarians.

Confusion caused by AI.

Technology issues

Library and knowledge infrastructures in Germany often do not support non-Latin script data sufficiently. Therefore, primary sources or metadata in Japanese and other non-Latin scripts is not searchable and findable for users, although it is catalogued and the data is there. We call it a "monolingual fallacy" of academic knowledge infrastructures which prevent an open data exchange and access to materials in Japanese (and other languages...). It is hard to lobby for requirement lists of repositories and library catalogue software to be able to accommodate non-Latin scripts. Especially, as providers like ExLibris do not want to change their market strategies (German platforms for Germany... "why do you need Japanese?")...

Budget cuts to acquisitions and/or physical storage, and a corresponding push toward e-books. Proprietary e-resources will place limits on resource sharing.
Shrinking budgets, which may limit professional development opportunities and hinder the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel. In addition, the uncritical or inappropriate use of AI in cataloging workflows could lower the overall quality of metadata and, over time, negatively impact both efficiency and accuracy.
Decreasing support for area studies as academic discipline and library collection
One of the most pressing challenges is the retirement of highly skilled Japanese studies and Asian studies librarians in the immediate future. On top of this, there is a trend of declining positions for Japan specialists, as area studies roles are eliminated or consolidated. Without deliberate efforts to train and hire the next generations of specialists, capacity in this area will continue eroding significantly.
Awareness of the use of library spaces
More than challenges, I consider it negative that even having technology we don't share material
Dealing with AI in the field of library and science

The cost of subscriptions to the database will increase. Artificial Intelligence will become an important part of the development and use of databases, and these will represent an increase in subscriptions.
The continuation of those mentioned above; balancing between e-books/resources and physical resources
widening digital access gaps between researchers
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Future challenges for NDL services and sharing Japanese materials may include stricter AI and data regulations limiting access, technological changes conflicting with terminal-based systems, and growing user expectations for mobile availability.
Digitized materials may be altered or have content removed without users' knowledge. It is difficult to develop effective measures to address this issue.
The widespread use of AI is leading to reduced use of library materials and a further decline in the professional status of librarians.
Confusion caused by AI.
Sudden restrictions on access to electronic resources resulting from changes in policies by content providers or the government.

What opportunities do you see for Japan Studies regarding library resources and services?

The primary areas of focus of the qualitative responses:

- Resource sharing
- Collaboration
- Access to NDL
- Digitization

Select quotes:

Resource sharing

More resource sharing (esp. expansion of NDL digital contents), more digitization of rare and special collections material, and more online catalogs to centralize and improve searching for these digital resources.

Collaboration

More opportunities for digital collaborations (digital ILL, data sharing, etc.), making Japanese resources more accessible through digitisation, text recognition, annotation; it would be great to have a larger forum for the Japanese Studies librarians to share ideas, network, promote their collections.

Continuing to improve access to NDL DCT and other online platforms/repositories through individual and collaborative initiatives

NDL access

More resource sharing (esp. expansion of NDL digital contents), more digitization of rare and special collections material, and more online catalogs to centralize and improve searching for these digital resources.

Hopefully ongoing CrossAsia Databases support and development of NDL restrictions

Continuing to improve access to NDL DCT and other online platforms/repositories through individual and collaborative initiatives

The National Diet Library should relax copyright restrictions on materials for scholarly use internationally. This would require amendments to Japan's Copyright Act.

Making the National Diet Library Digital Collections accessible from overseas.

Digitization

More opportunities for digital collaborations (digital ILL, data sharing, etc.), making Japanese resources more accessible through digitisation, text recognition, annotation; it would be great to have a larger forum for the Japanese Studies librarians to share ideas, network, promote their collections.

Japan Studies scholars may benefit from ongoing digitisation of rare texts and periodicals across global libraries, increased shared

interlibrary loans and metadata collaboration through consortia such as EAJIS and NIJL, and AI-enhanced semantic search and multilingual access to specialised materials.

The rate of digitizing materials is truly impressive. At least for premodern materials.

Other/miscellaneous

The growing enthusiasm among new generations of students for Japanese pop culture (manga, anime, gaming, etc.) presents a genuine opportunity. These students arrive eager and motivated, and librarians can channel that energy toward deeper engagement with Japanese studies more broadly, using pop culture as an entry point into history, literature, politics, and society.

More resource sharing (esp. expansion of NDL digital contents), more digitization of rare and special collections material, and more online catalogs to centralize and improve searching for these digital resources.
Global collaborations and partnerships
Continuing to improve access to NDL DCT and other online platforms/repositories through individual and collaborative initiatives
The growing enthusiasm among new generations of students for Japanese pop culture (manga, anime, gaming, etc.) presents a genuine opportunity. These students arrive eager and motivated, and librarians can channel that energy toward deeper engagement with Japanese studies more broadly, using pop culture as an entry point into history, literature, politics, and society.
Interculturality
Hopefully, partially free databases will soon be available to help the community understand studies and culture.
Hopefully ongoing CrossAsia Databases support and development of NDL restrictions
Digitization is making more things available from outside Japan
Right now, it's easier to be updated about new publications related to Japan and publish in Japanese. And the other ones are metadata records; even though we do not have a cataloguer who speaks Japanese, we can copy and modify metadata records for other libraries.
The rate of digitizing materials is truly impressive. At least for premodern materials.
More opportunities for digital collaborations (digital ILL, data sharing, etc.), making Japanese resources more accessible through digitisation, text recognition, annotation; it would be great to have a larger forum for the Japanese Studies librarians to share ideas,

network, promote their collections.
more collaborations?
of course the online access to more and more digitised content or initiatives like the NDL Lab are fantastic chances for searching Japanese Studies materials. Also, CiNii Research is a great platform to retrieve metadata on publications, dissertations and research data.
Japan Studies scholars may benefit from ongoing digitisation of rare texts and periodicals across global libraries, increased shared interlibrary loans and metadata collaboration through consortia such as EAJIS and NIJL, and AI-enhanced semantic search and multilingual access to specialised materials.
The National Diet Library should relax copyright restrictions on materials for scholarly use internationally. This would require amendments to Japan's Copyright Act.
It depends on the availability of funding.
Making the National Diet Library Digital Collections accessible from overseas.

Would you benefit from more opportunities to collaborate with librarians and other researchers in Japan Studies? Please specify.

My institution is a large research library but not connected to a university. This means we don't have opportunities for extended collaboration and exchange with Japan Studies faculty and graduate students.
Since my responsibilities cover all CJK languages, additional opportunities to collaborate with subject experts would be highly beneficial. Their specialized knowledge would help deepen my work and enhance the overall quality and accuracy of cataloging and collection support.
Always a good thing to enhance collaboration in a global world
Collaboration with librarians and researchers in Japan studies would be very beneficial. The primary challenge, however, is capacity. Given the workloads that most librarians and researchers carry, finding the time to pursue collaborative projects in a sustained and meaningful way is difficult, even when the will and interest are there.
Global expansion
It would help to standardize many resources

As I do not speak Japanese or any other Asian language, it's essential to receive feedback from other librarians regarding search techniques for Japanese resources, methods to secure financial support or donations from libraries with Japanese collections.

Coming together seems to always inspire putting our heads together to solve problems. I focus on general workflow issues and if I had more time with people to solve problems.

Making NDL's Digitized Contents Transmission Service available to overseas researcher;
Establishing a digital interlibrary loan (ILL) agreement with a Japanese institution could facilitate obtaining digital copies of articles from Japanese journals without the need to purchase and ship entire issues to the UK.

colleagues who work on ukiyo-e implementation in Japanese Studies Courses

As databases and digitised content as well as tools to work with it are developing constantly, a regular exchange with updates and best practices sharing is important. There should be more opportunities for such an international exchange, online or with self-learning materials and tutorials (videos).

More time with librarians in Japan Studies to discuss challenges, sector developments, resources, training opportunities, funding opportunities, etc.

Sharing challenges and exploring possible solutions.

Promoting more practical information-sharing among librarians about actual work practices, including technical and operational matters.

Exchanging up-to-date information and developing digital resources that can be used without restrictions from overseas.

In what ways do you believe the JPP Library Services Team could support Japan Studies librarians and scholars

Trainings in using Japanese-language databases. There are so many to which we subscribe (or are OA/free), and which are constantly updating, and I'm so busy that I lack sufficient time to train myself in all of them. It would be very beneficial to have support and training in these. This could be in person but doesn't have to be--e.g., I could envision a series of workshops with different themes of databases (like general, history, religion, newspapers, AV materials, etc.), or just single platforms (like NDL Search).
Create a new way of working
As a link or mediator between libraries, vendors or specialist related to japanese collections
This is the first time I have heard about you, but it would be great to have an opportunity for exchange.
The NDL research navi is a great source for librarians and researchers in Japanese Studies. For my work research guides are fundamental and I hope the JPP Library Services Team can support this in the future as well. However, as mentioned above, one of the greatest obstacles for Japan research at the moment is the blocked access to digitised content of the NDL digital library. Can the JPP Library Services Team support all researchers and librarians outside Japan in this regard?
I think what you are already doing is great. Thank you. The needs for librarians versus scholars may be different.
The JPP Library Services Team could perhaps support Japan Studies librarians and scholars further through targeted services and resources, such as by developing a dynamic resource finder tool with filters for topics, formats, and availability, by offering webinars and downloadable guides on e-resource licensing, or by moderating a community forum where users share access tips and vote to prioritise digitisation requests—helping by collecting and ranking submissions based on votes or research impact criteria, then coordinating with partner libraries or digitisation vendors to action the top priorities.
I would definitely apply if there were a grant program to support the digitization of library materials.
Organizing workshops on necessary issues and providing financial support

In what ways do you believe the JPP Library Services Team could be inclusive and embody diversity, equity, and inclusion?

As a first step, increasing opportunities for connection and consultation would be highly valuable. Although we are a large public university, our Midwestern location means we have fewer nearby specialists compared to colleagues on the East and West Coasts. As a result, I sometimes encounter complex issues without easy access to subject experts. The JPP Library Services Team could help by facilitating regular virtual meetings or office hours with specialists, organizing workshops or training sessions, developing shared documentation or best practices, and supporting peer networks. These efforts would strengthen collaboration and provide more consistent support for Japan Studies librarians and scholars.

Transfer forms of library work

Just take a look at different regions, not just Europe, the US, and Canada. There is a very high interest in Japanese studies, and a very interesting collection related to it in Latin America.

As not all patrons are fluent in Japanese, translations into English would be very helpful and important to include more user groups like students or experts from other disciplines who cannot read Japanese.

The JPP Library Services Team could be more inclusive and embody DEI by, for example, expanding guides, webinars, and tools beyond English and Japanese; curating content that spotlights underrepresented perspectives; and developing forums, consultations, and training for early-career librarians, non-specialist librarians, independent scholars, and those from smaller or global institutions.

Spaces for information exchange and workshops

Researchers

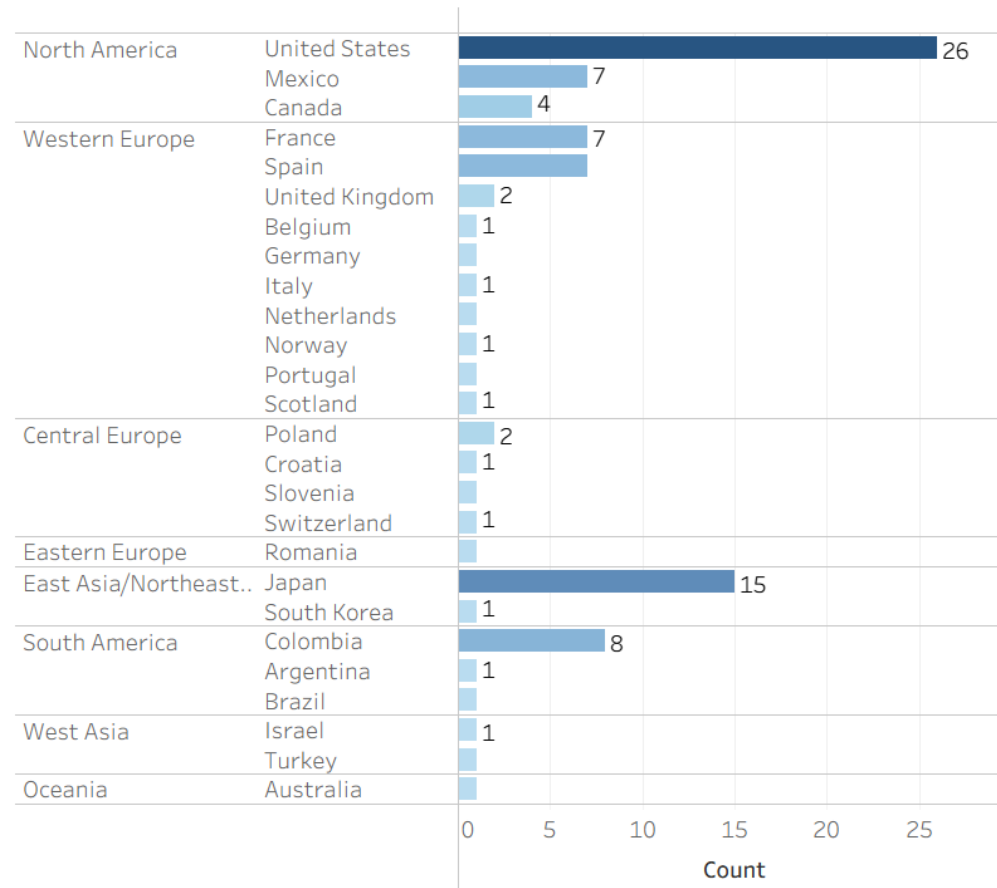
Background of Respondents

The researcher survey received a more substantial number of responses, with 95 total respondents. Of those respondents, 37 (roughly 40%) were based in North America, 23 respondents (~24%) were based in Western Europe.

16 respondents were based in East Asia/Northeast Asia, 10 respondents were based in South America, 5 respondents were based in Central Europe, and 1 respondent each were based in Eastern Europe and Oceania respectively.

26 countries in total were represented in the responses, with a noteworthy number of responses from Colombia, Mexico, France, and Spain.

Regional Location & Employment Country of Researcher Respondents

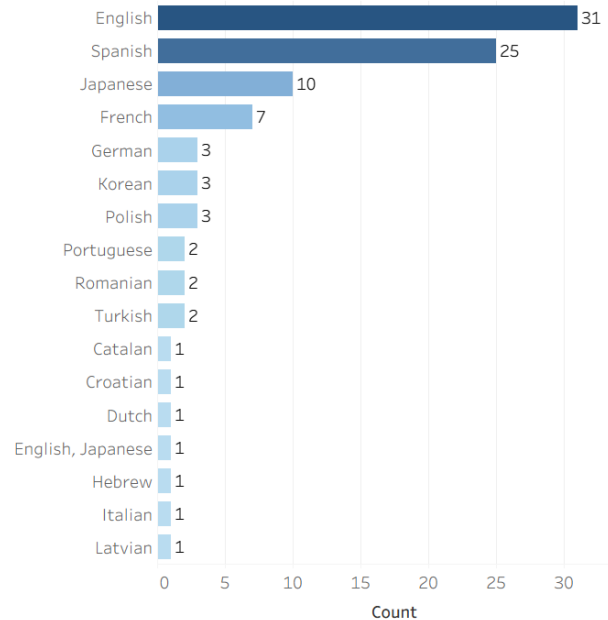


Language of Respondents

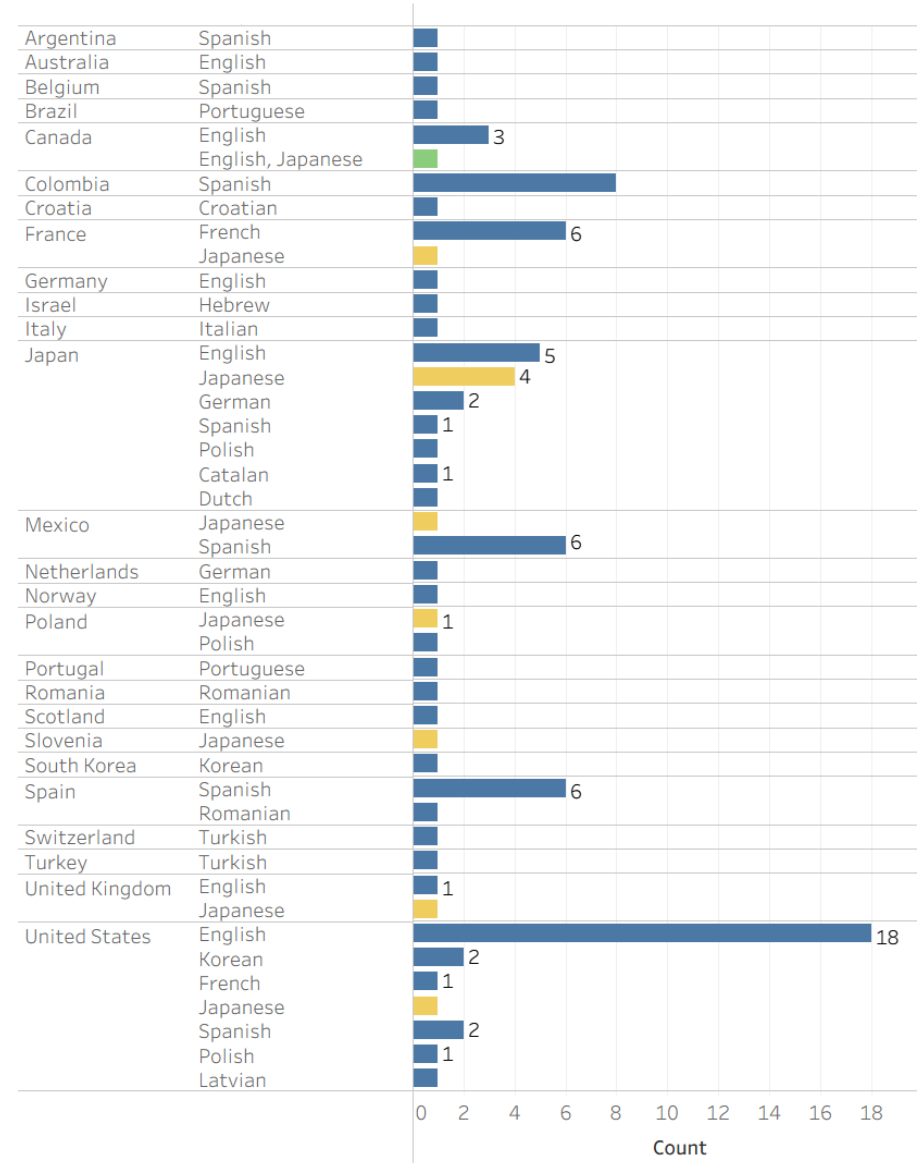
English is the most common first/heritage language among respondents, accounting for 32 of the 95 responses (roughly 34%). This is followed by Spanish, with 25 respondents (~26%). The 95 respondents represent 16 distinct first/heritage languages, reflecting a great amount of diversity among global Japanese Studies researchers.

English tended to be the primary language for researchers working in North America (U.S. and Canada) as well as Western Europe and Japan. Spanish-speaking first/heritage speakers had a greater breadth of work locations, including Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the U.S. Those with Japanese as a first/heritage language operate in equally diverse locations.

First/Heritage Language of
Researcher Respondents



First/Heritage Language of Researcher Respondents,
by Country (Japanese highlighted)



Research Languages & Disciplines

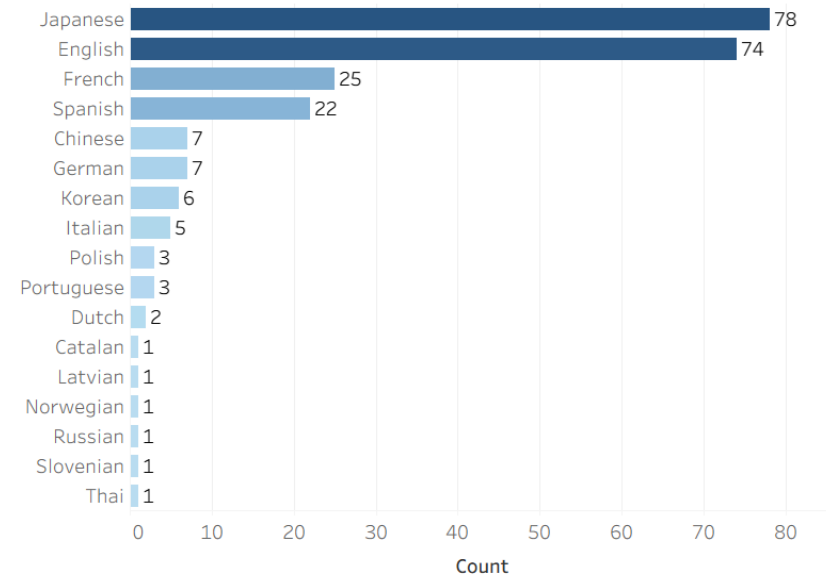
Respondents identified 17 different languages as those which are used in their research regularly, with the majority being Japanese (78 respondents) and English (74 respondents). This was followed by French (25 respondents) and Spanish (22 respondents).

5 respondents identified themselves as working in five languages; 11 respondents identified four research languages. 27 respondents stated they work in three languages (typically Japanese, English, and one other language). 36 respondents work in two languages for their research (21 respondents identifying Japanese and English). 16 respondents stated they only work in one language (8 respondents for Japanese, 5 respondents for English, 2 respondents for Spanish, and 1 for French).

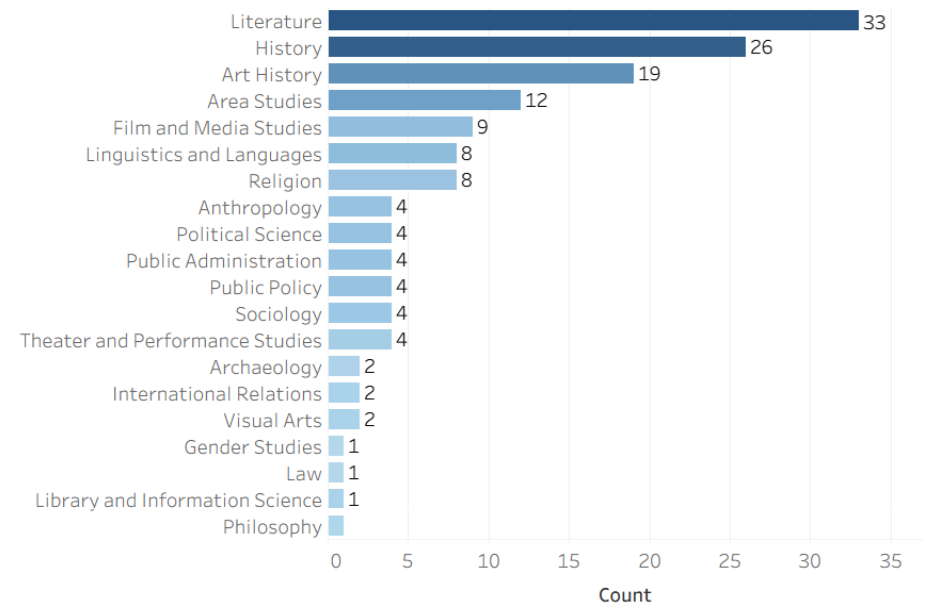
33 respondents of the 95 total identified their primary discipline as Literature. This was followed by History with 26 respondents, and Art History with 19 respondents. Most respondents identified with more than one discipline (several as many as five or six), so the data should be understood in this context.

Every country included a variety of fields, with no particular trends emerging. However, the overall disciplinary results suggest the present strengths of Japan Studies in the humanities, rather than the social sciences.

Research Languages of Researcher Respondents



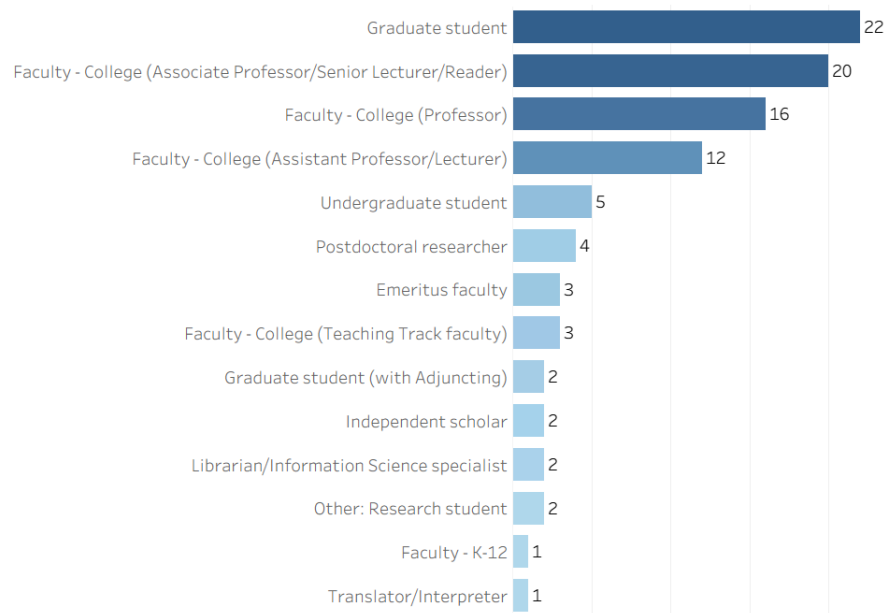
Primary Disciplines of Researcher Respondents



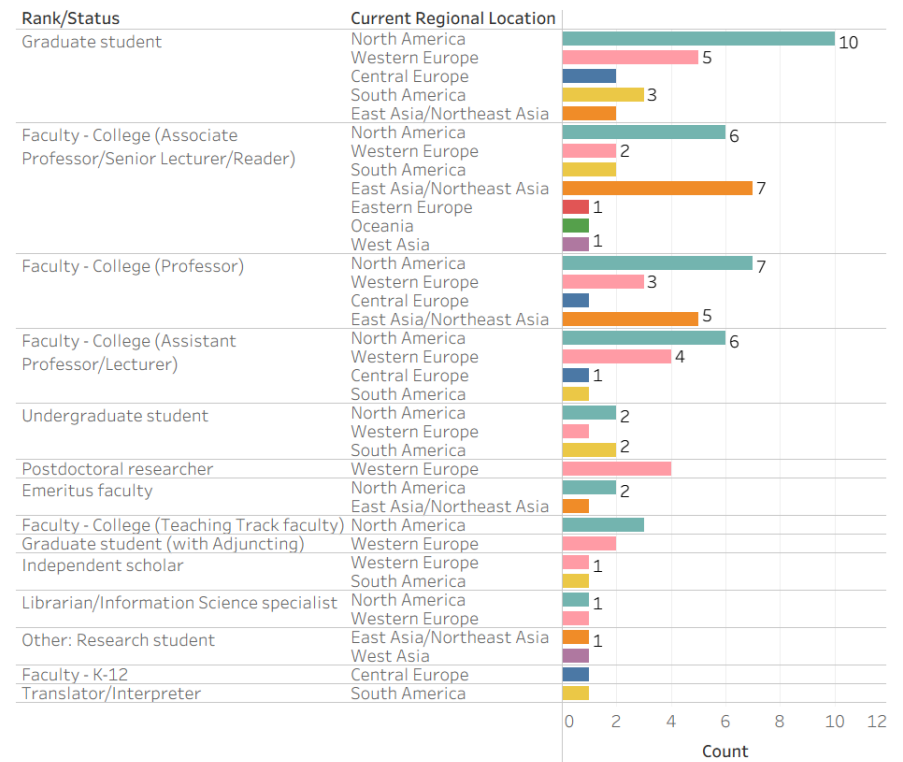
Academic Status/Rank

Over half of respondents were from tenure track or tenure-track equivalent researchers, though the majority of respondents (22) were graduate students. If we consider Assistant Professors/Lecturers among junior scholars, the survey represents a rough split between early career individuals and senior scholars. Broken down by region (as seen on the bottom right), the survey received responses of various academic levels across various regions.

Academic Status/Rank of Researcher Respondents



Academic Status/Rank of Researcher Respondents

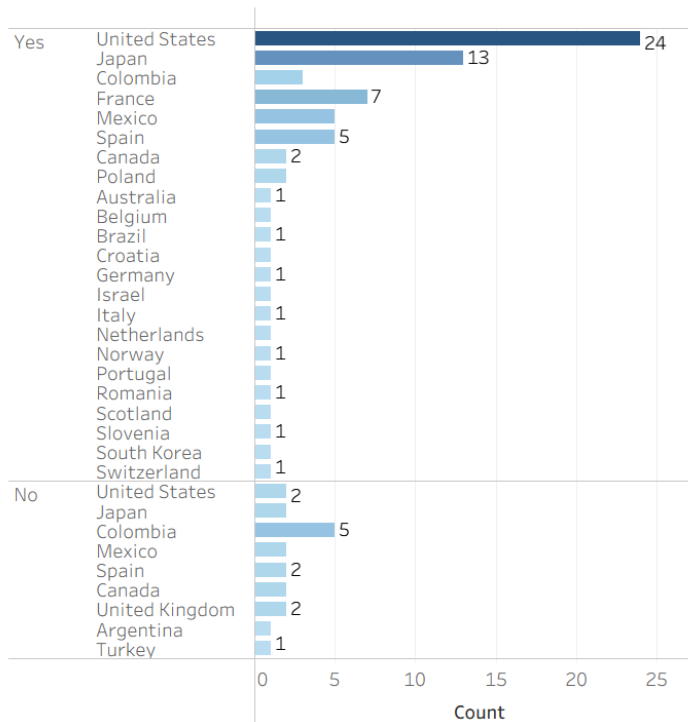


Institutions, Consortiums, & Professional Organizations

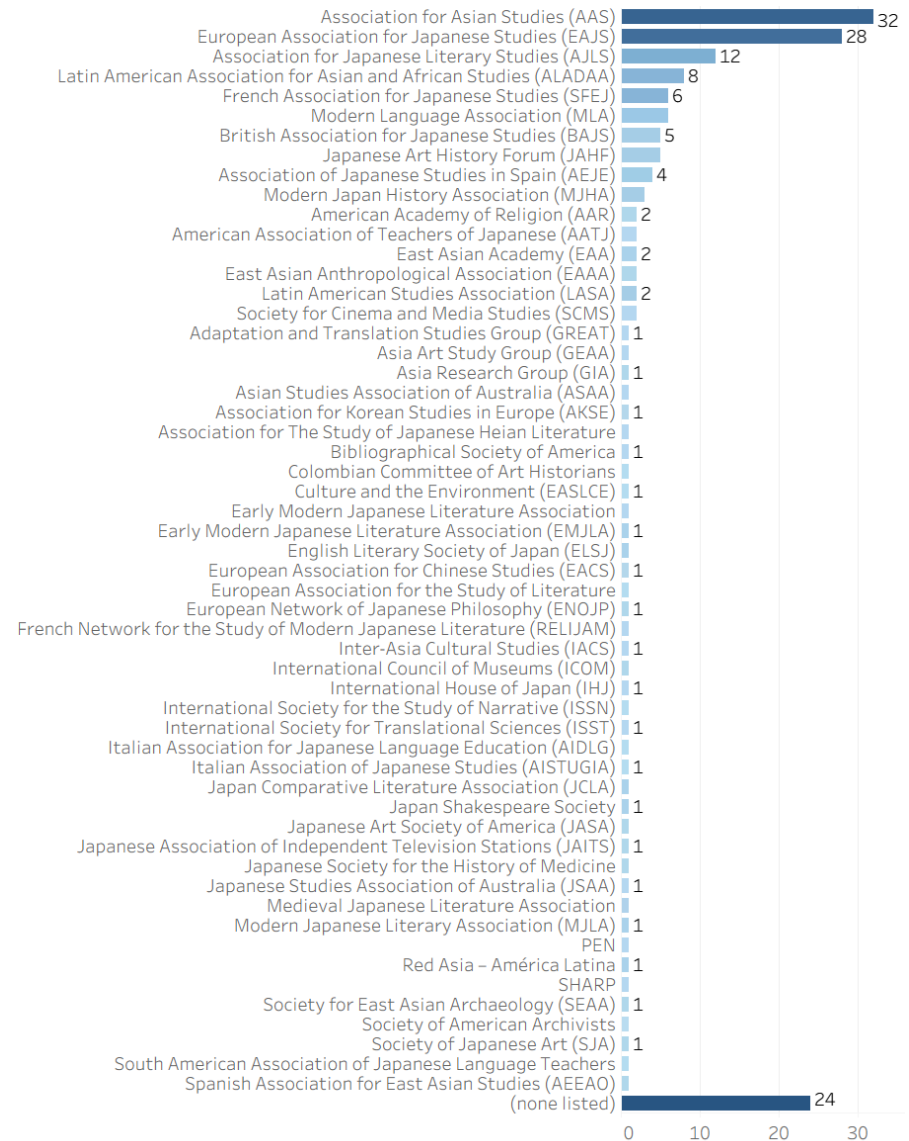
A full 80% of respondents (76 of 95 total) indicated that they are a member of some form of academic or institutional professional organization. 19 respondents said that they were not.

Among respondents, the most significant number of organizational memberships are the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) (32 respondents) and the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) (28 respondents). The sheer number and variety of organizations, both Asia/East Asia-centric and not, is notable.

Organizational Membership of Researcher Respondents, by Country



Organizational Memberships of Researcher Respondents

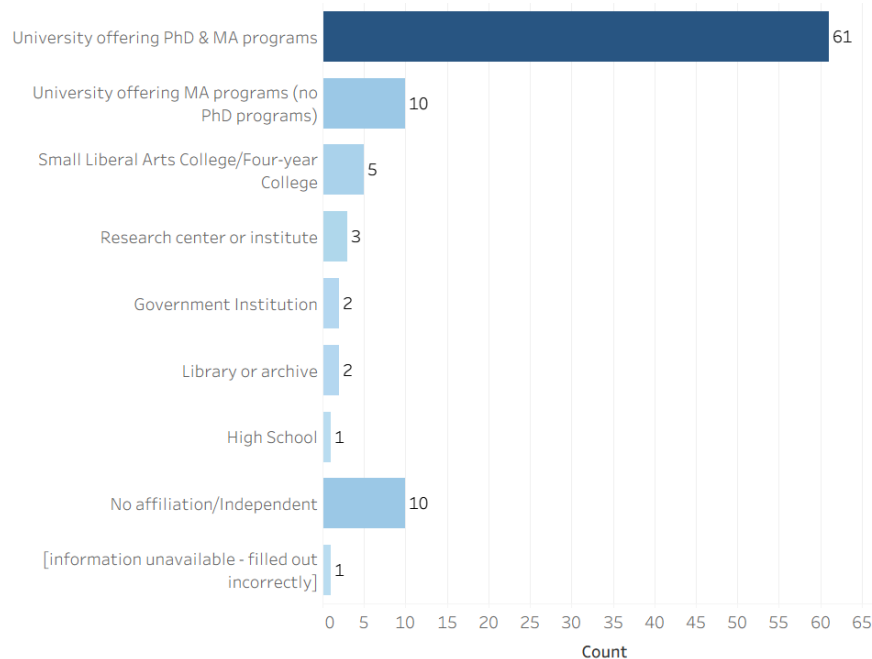


Institutions of Researchers

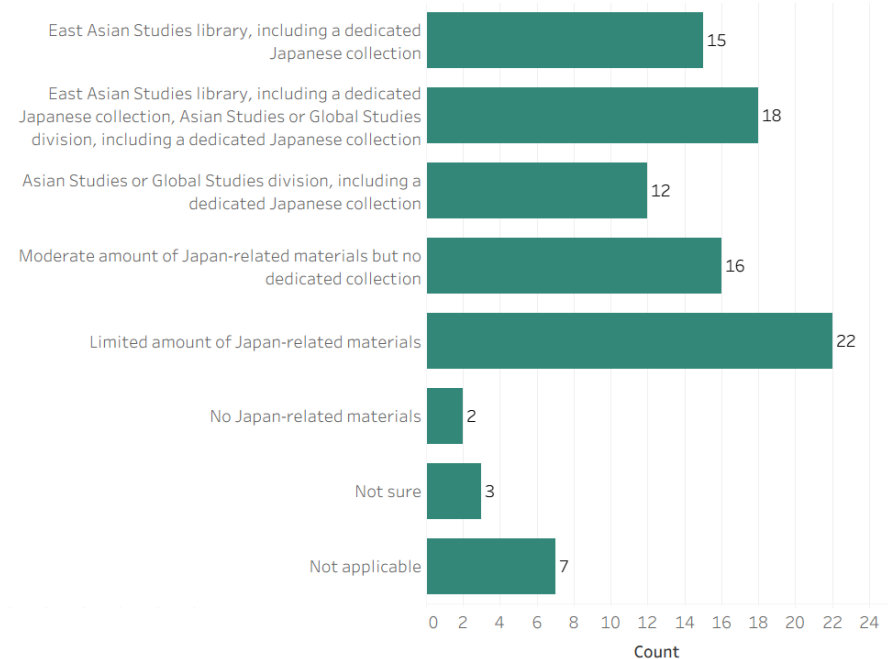
The majority of researcher respondents (61) are based at universities with both PhD and MA programs, with an additional 10 respondents being based at institutions that offer MA degrees (but no PhDs), and 5 respondents at small liberal arts colleges/four-year institutions. 10 respondents were also independent researchers with no affiliation. A smaller number of responses were from people at research centers, government institutions, libraries/archives, or high schools. As for the nature of the collections at these various locations, the majority (22 respondents, or about 23%), indicated that they had a limited amount of Japan-related materials available to them at their institution. By contrast, 33 respondents identified their institution as having both an East Asian Studies library along with a dedicated Japanese collection, with 18 of those 33 also having an Asian Studies division. 12 respondents indicated they have an Asian Studies division that includes a Japanese collection, while 16 respondents indicated their libraries have a moderate amount of Japan-related materials but no dedicated collection. 2 respondents (one based in Spain and one in the U.S.) have no Japan-related materials at their institution.

Those sites with limited Japan-related materials are based in Australia, Canada, Colombia (3), Croatia, Germany, Israel, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Turkey, and the U.S. (8). Moderate materials (but no dedicated collection) were in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, France, Mexico (3), Romania, South Korea, Spain (4), and the U.S. (3), reflecting the global nature of library resource issues

Institution Type of Researcher Respondents



Institution's Library Contents of Researcher Respondents



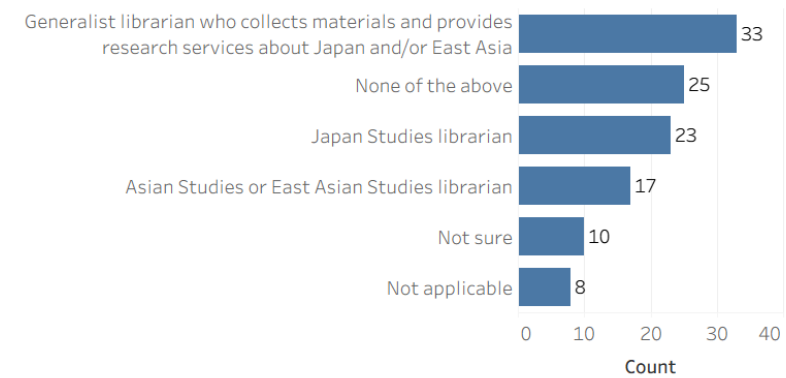
Library Staffing

The 95 respondents indicated that among them there are 33 who benefit from a generalist librarian who provides support for Japan and/or East Asia (~35%), 23 respondents (~24%) who have a Japan Studies Librarian, 17 respondents (~18%) who have an Asian Studies or East Asian Studies librarian covering broader regional specialization, and 25 respondents (~26%) who have no library staff supporting their research and teaching.

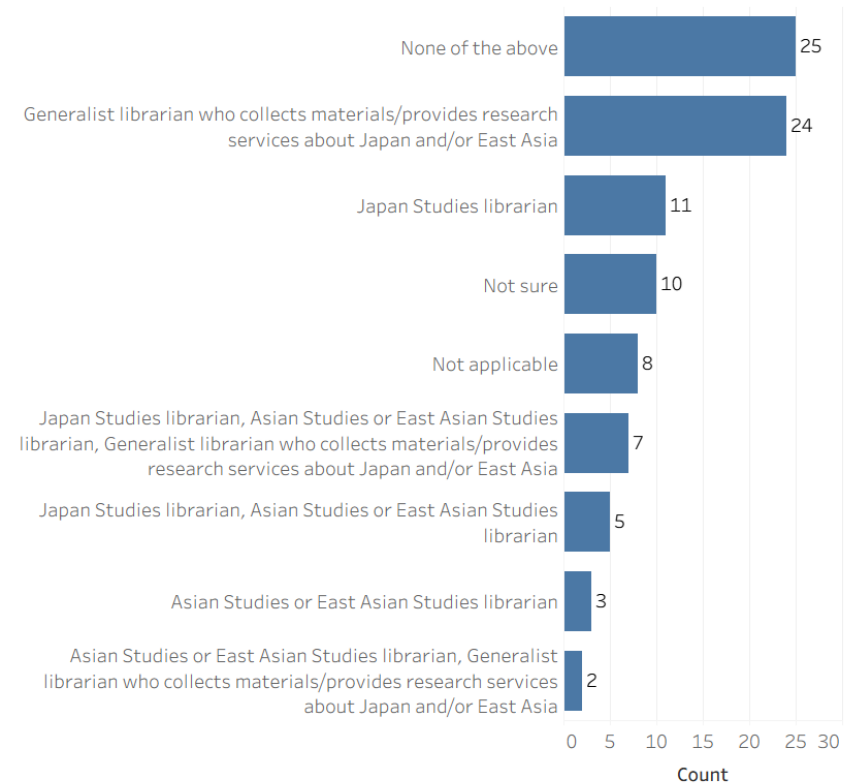
In some cases, individual respondents may have access to more than one of these library staff specialists. The image on the bottom right shows that 24 respondents have only a generalist librarian, while 7 respondents have a Japan Studies librarian, generalist librarian, and Asian/East Asian Studies librarian.

Those who indicated they have no library staff to support their work are based in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia (3), France, Japan (2), Mexico (3), Poland, Slovenia, and the U.S. (7).

Library Staff Employed at Respondents' Institutions



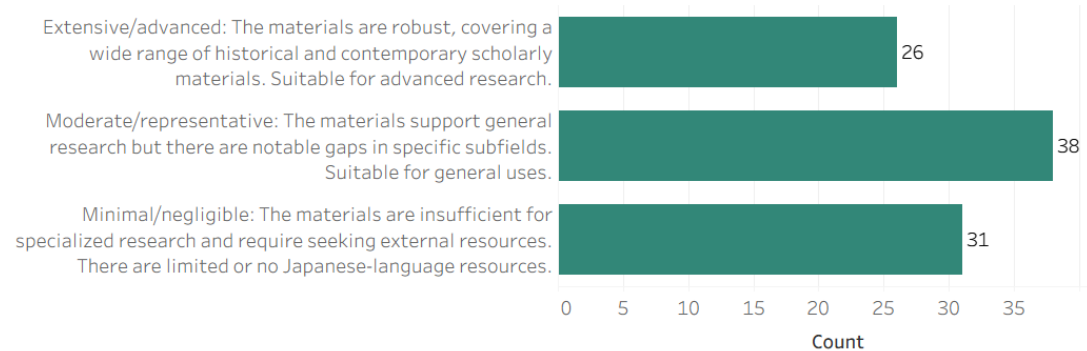
Library Staff Employed at Respondents' Institutions (combined)



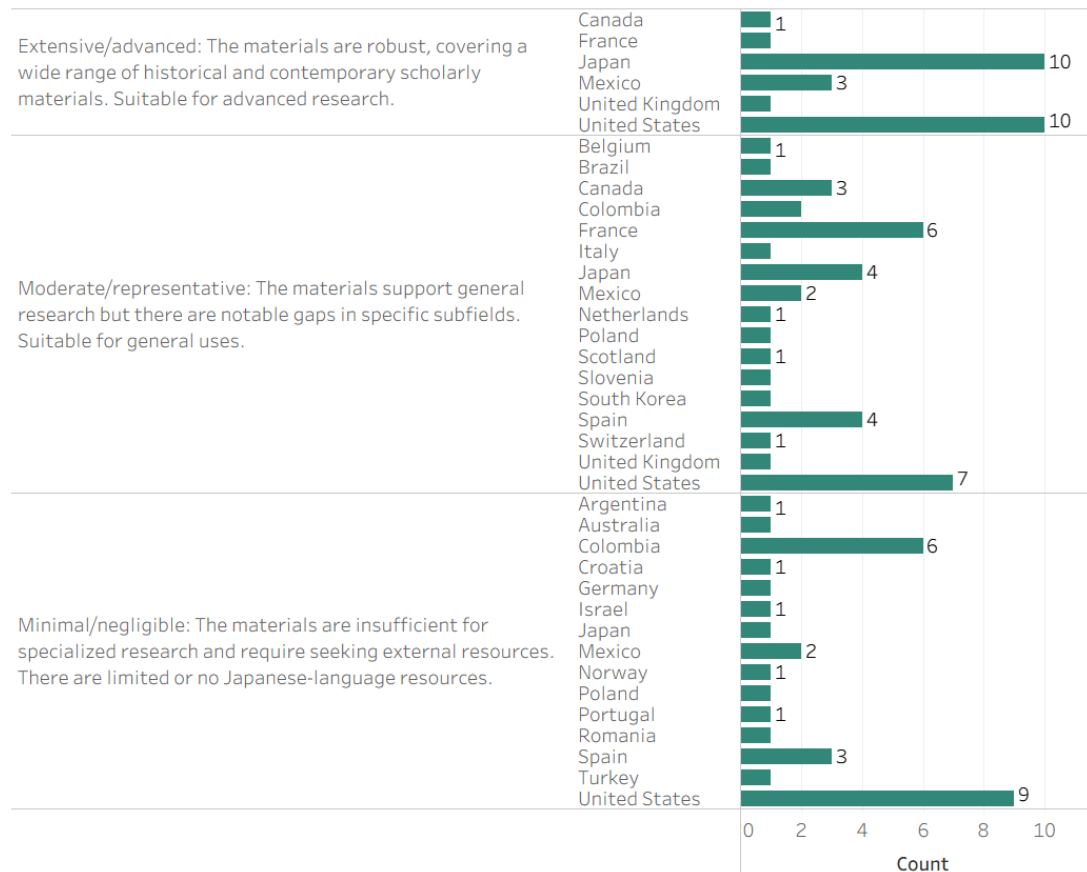
Collections Depth & Breadth

Of the 95 respondents, 26 (27%) indicated that the depth and breadth of their institution's collections were extensive/advanced and suitable for research. 38 (40%) stated that their collections were moderate/representative, suitable for general use. 31 (33%) indicated their collections were minimal/negligible, with limited or no Japanese-language resources.

Depth & Breadth of Collections of Researcher Respondents



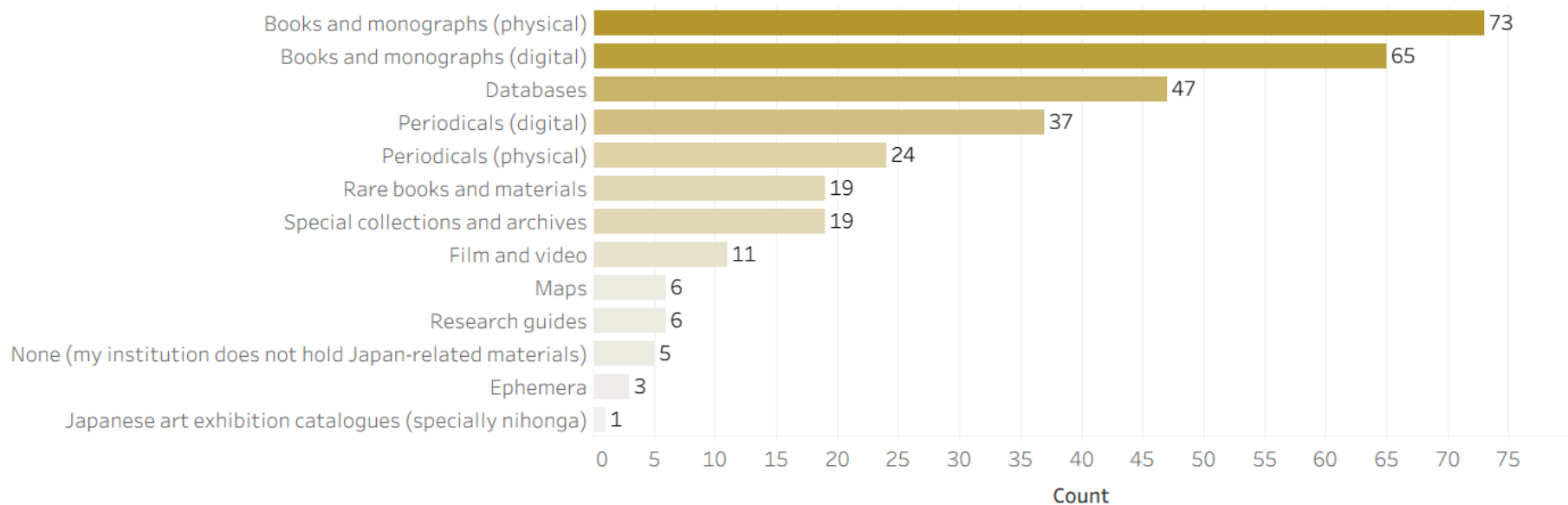
Depth & Breadth of Collections of Researcher Respondents



Materials Used by Researcher Respondents

When asked what Japan-related or Japan Studies library materials they most use at their institution, researchers identified books and monographs both physical and digital as the top materials. 73 of 95 respondents (~77%) indicated physical books were what they used most, while 65 respondents (~68%) indicated digital books. These responses are more or less in keeping with what library staff noted in their responses, with physical and digital books, along with databases, being the top three categories. The utility of physical books is noteworthy, as many libraries are now pushing librarians not to purchase physical copies of books, despite their usefulness to researchers.

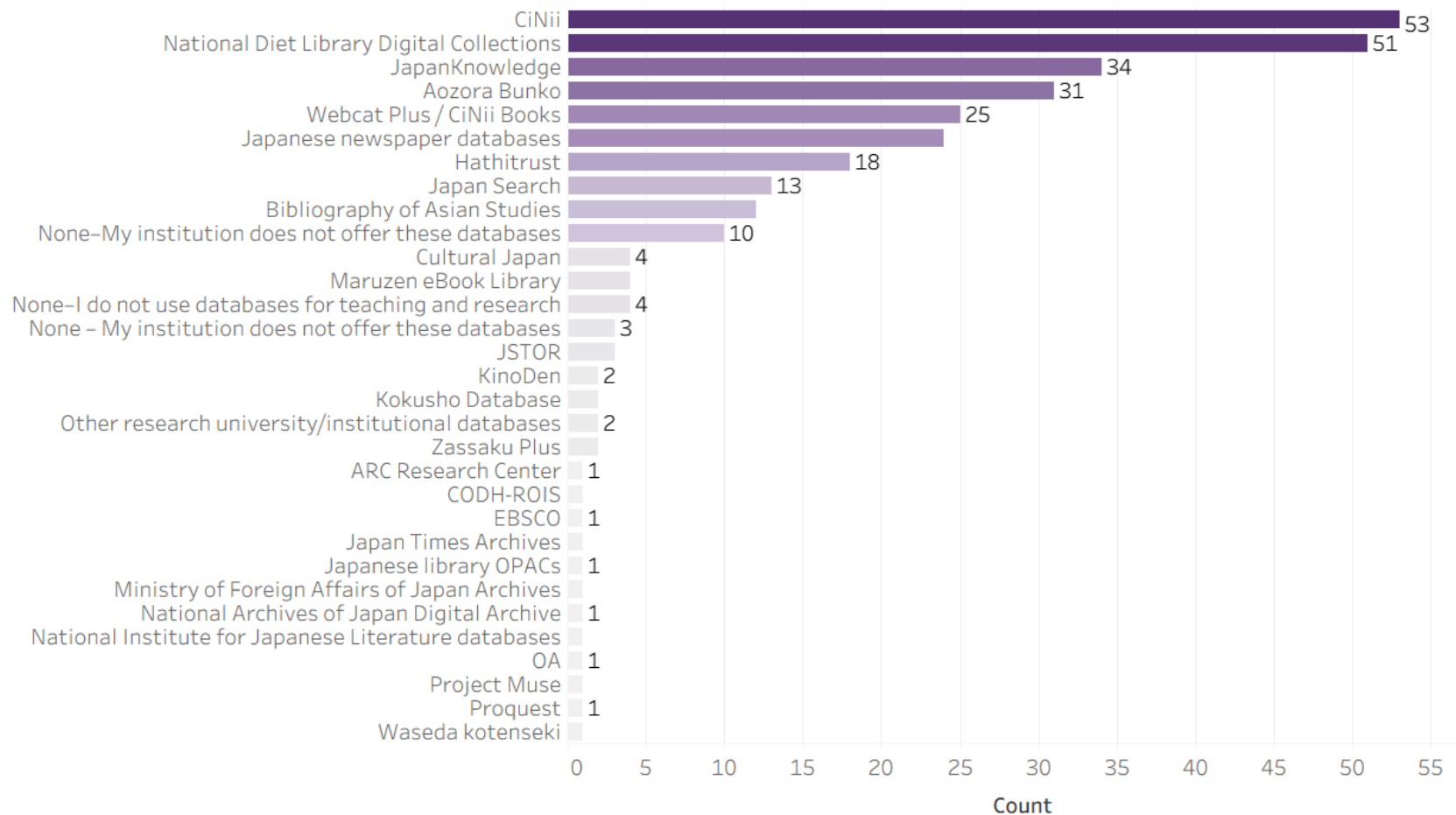
Materials Most Used by Researcher Respondents



Platforms Used

53 respondents of 95 total (~56%) indicated they regularly use CiNii for their research and teaching, while 51 respondents (~54%) indicated that they regularly use the National Diet Library's digital collections. These were the top two digital platforms/databases/repositories identified, with nearly every country represented selecting them as their top used digital resource (if not one among several). NDL was identified by respondents in 18 countries, CiNii by respondents in 15 countries.

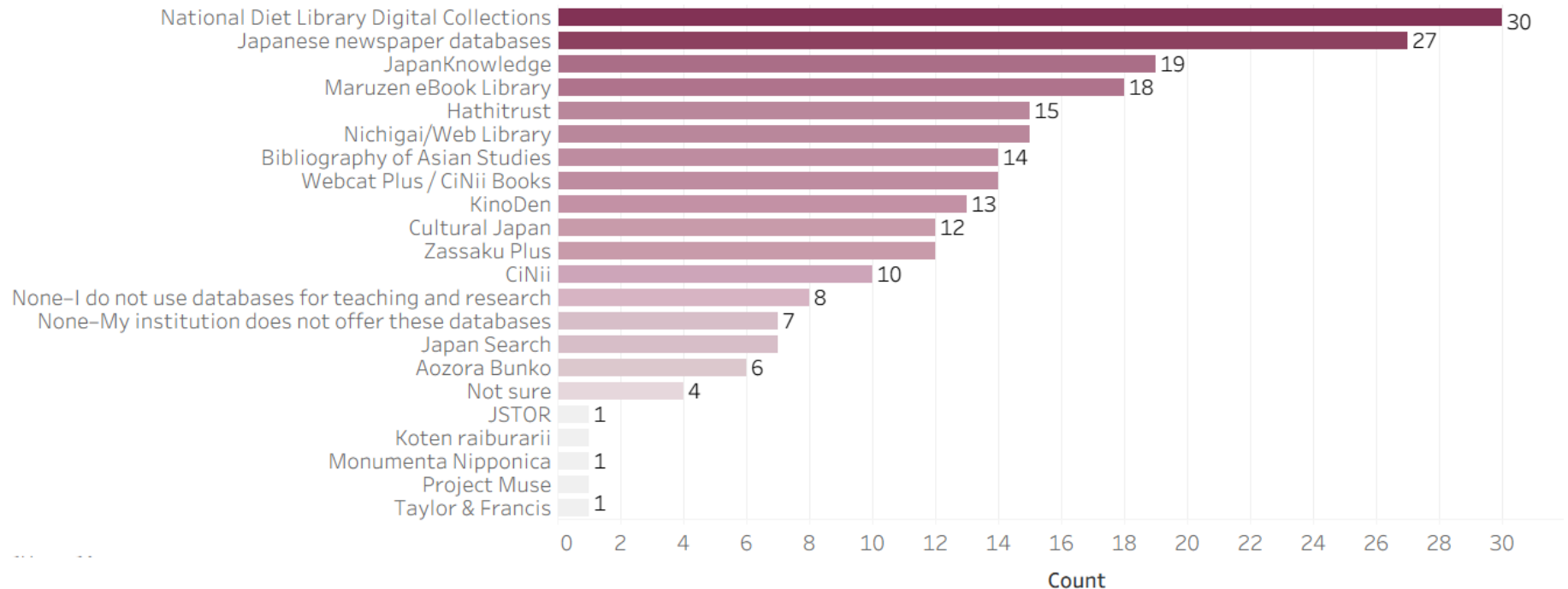
Digital Platforms, Databases, & Repositories Regularly Used by Researcher Respondents



Platforms Unable to Access

When asked what digital platforms, databases, and repositories they were unable to access but need for their research, respondents identified the National Diet Library collections (30) and Japanese newspaper databases (27) as the most needed. This was followed by JapanKnowledge (19) and the Maruzen eBook Library (18). Issues surrounding access to these four digital resources coincide with researchers' responses about copyright/licensing issues as their top challenge to conducting their research and teaching. There was no particular regional trend to inaccessibility.

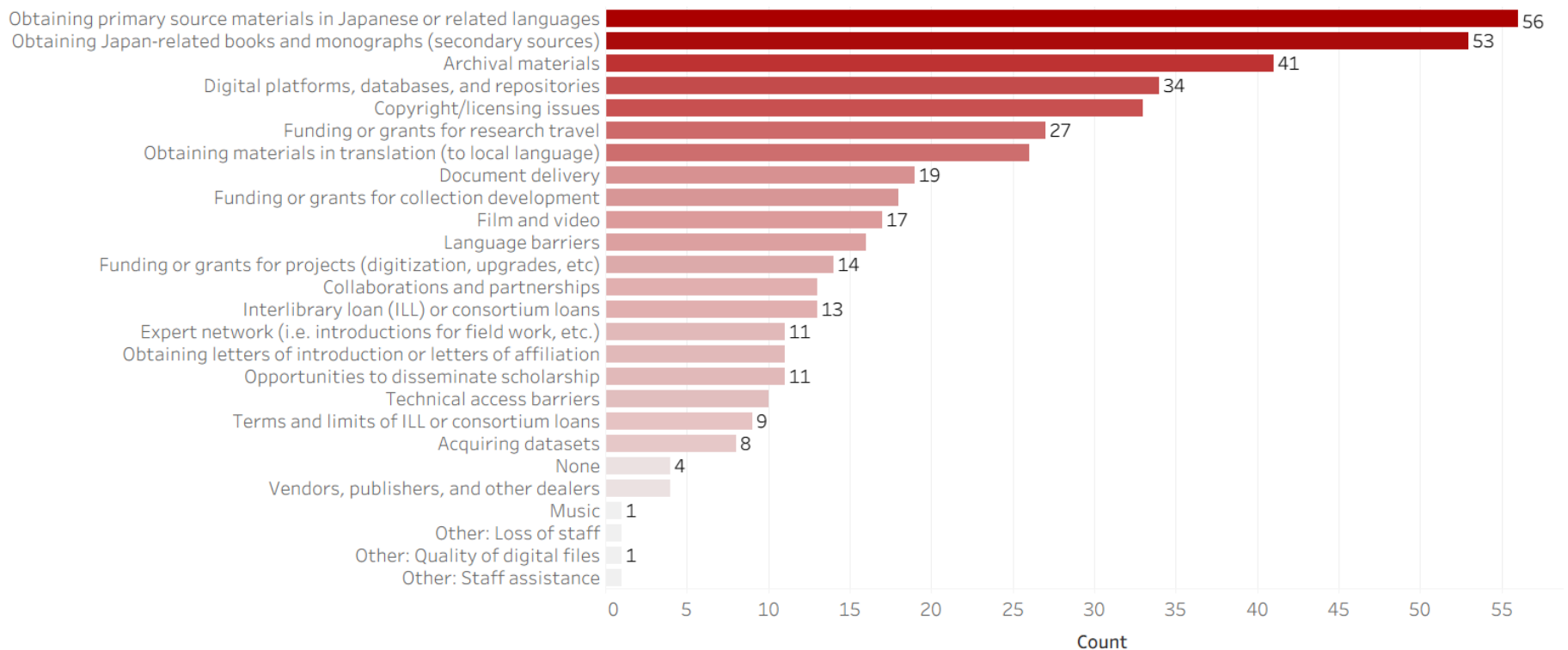
Digital Platforms, Databases, & Repositories Unable to be Accessed but Needed by Researcher Respondents



Challenges to Access

Among the 95 total respondents, 56 respondents (59%) indicated that obtaining primary sources was a prevalent access challenge for their research and teaching; 53 respondents (56%) said the same for secondary sources, and 41 respondents (43%) said the same for archival materials, suggesting the significant access gap in acquiring all resources for their work. These issues were followed by access to digital platforms, databases, and repositories (34 respondents) and the related copyright/licensing issues (33 respondents) that would enable them to obtain those resources digitally, rather than physically. The distribution of these access issues was fairly global in nature.

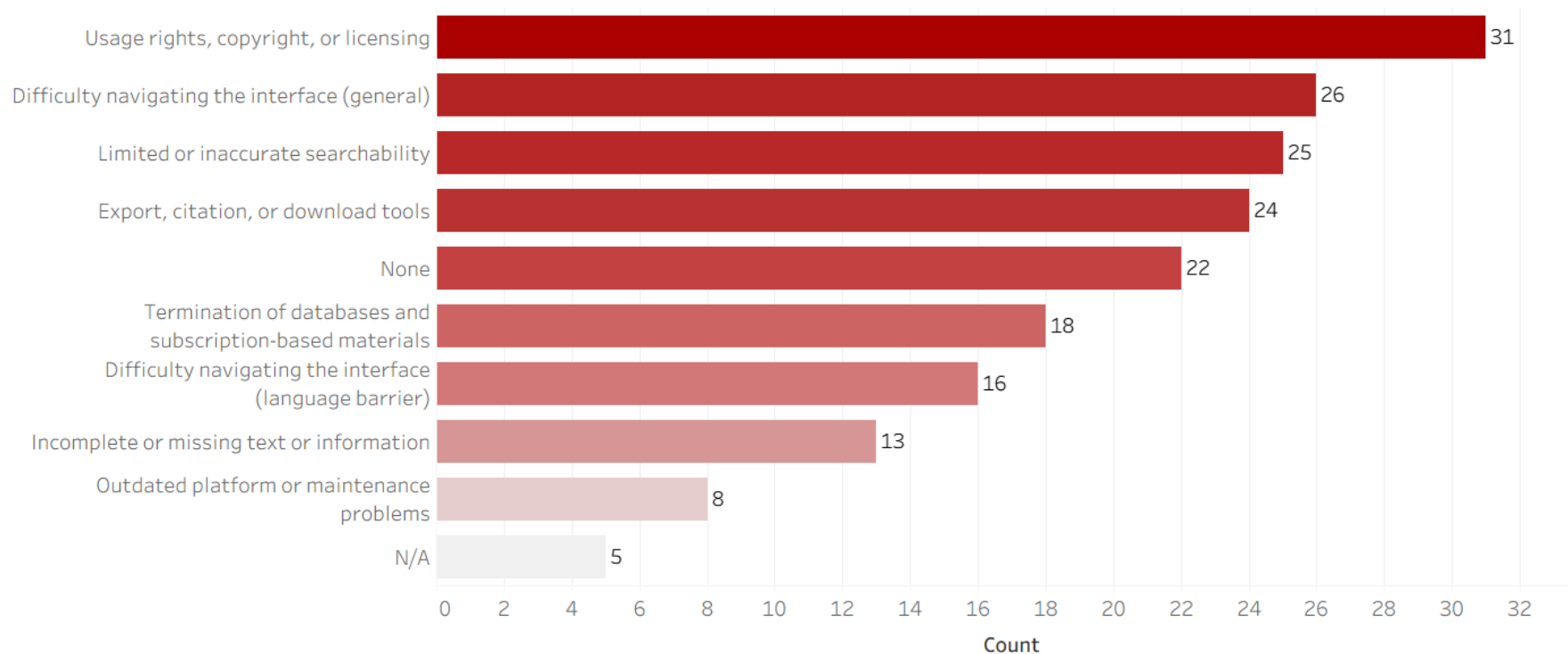
Access Challenges Encountered by Researchers for Teaching/Research



Specifically for digital database use, approximately 25–35% of respondents identified their top issues as obtaining usage rights, copyright, or licensing (31), difficulty in general navigating the interface of their databases used (26), and limited or inaccurate searchability (25). These issues highlight that general access is not only an issue but also upon access the interfaces may not be user friendly or their metadata inaccurate or lacking, hindering search functionality.

Note that 18 respondents (19%) indicated that their use of databases and other subscription materials has been terminated by their institutions.

Researcher Challenges Encountered with Digital Databases Used

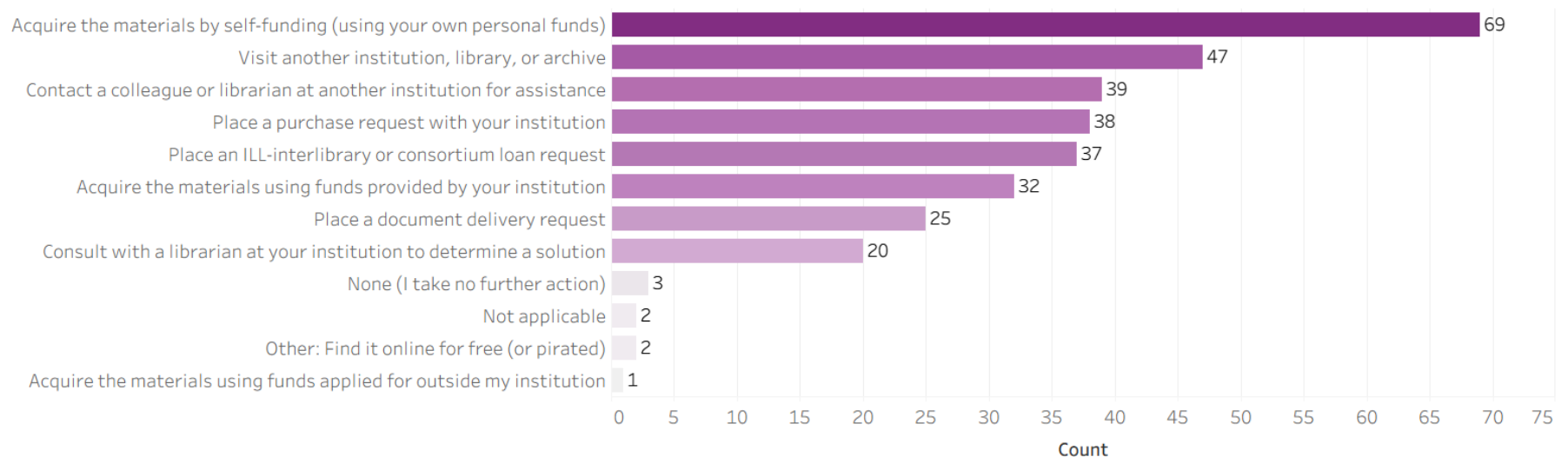


Methods to Acquire Unavailable Resources

Nearly 73%, or 69 of 95 respondents, indicated that when they encounter issues obtaining resources for research or teaching they use their personal funds to obtain them. 47 respondents, about 49%, indicated that they visit alternative institutions, libraries, or archives (including travel directly to Japan). 39 respondents of the 95 total, 41%, stated that they contact a colleague or librarian for assistance. These options were followed by placing purchases with their institution (38 respondents) and placing ILL requests (37 respondents).

The top three responses suggest the heavy reliance of researchers on informal networks to address their library resource needs.

Researcher Methods to Acquire Unavailable Library Resources

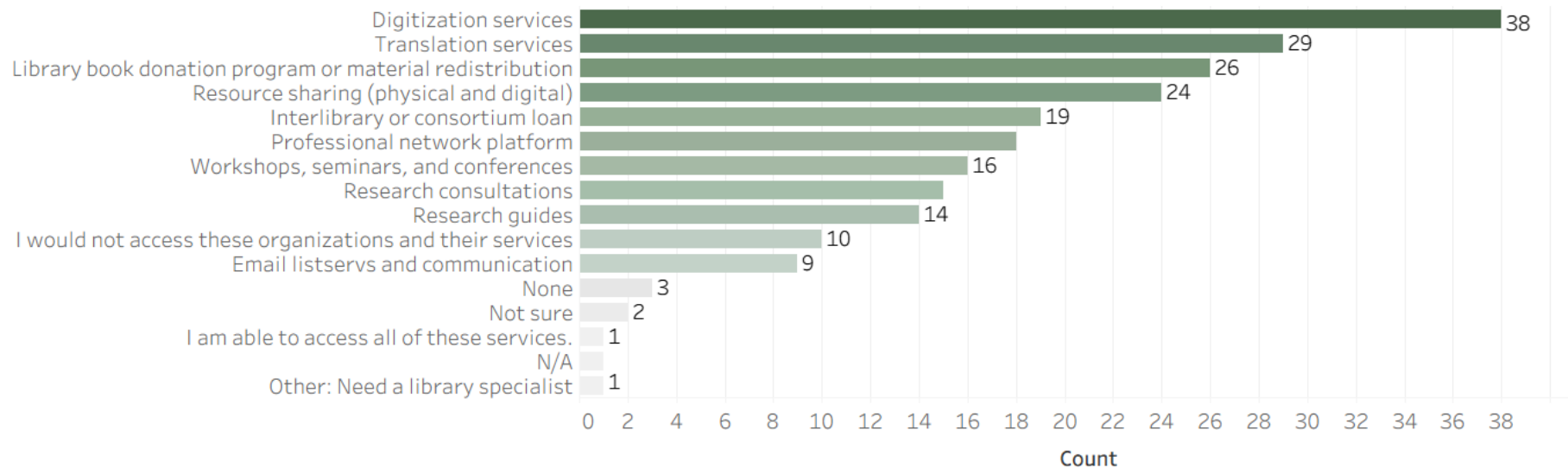


Assistance Desired (Organizations)

When asked what services or benefits are unavailable to researchers (as it relates to researcher and library associations to which they belong or consult) that if offered would be beneficial to supporting Japan Studies, a full 40% of respondents indicated that digitization services would be helpful to their work. 29 respondents (~31%) indicated translation services would be beneficial. 26 respondents (27%) felt a library book donation or material redistribution program would be beneficial, similar to the 24 respondents (25%) who desired resource sharing (both physical and digital).

These needs do not show any particular regional trends in their distribution. Digitization services, for example, is desired by individuals in Argentina, Canada (2), Colombia (4), Croatia, France (4), Israel, Japan, Mexico (4), Poland, Romania, Scotland, Spain (4), the U.K, and the U.S (12).

Services or Benefits Unavailable to Researcher Respondents That Would be Beneficial

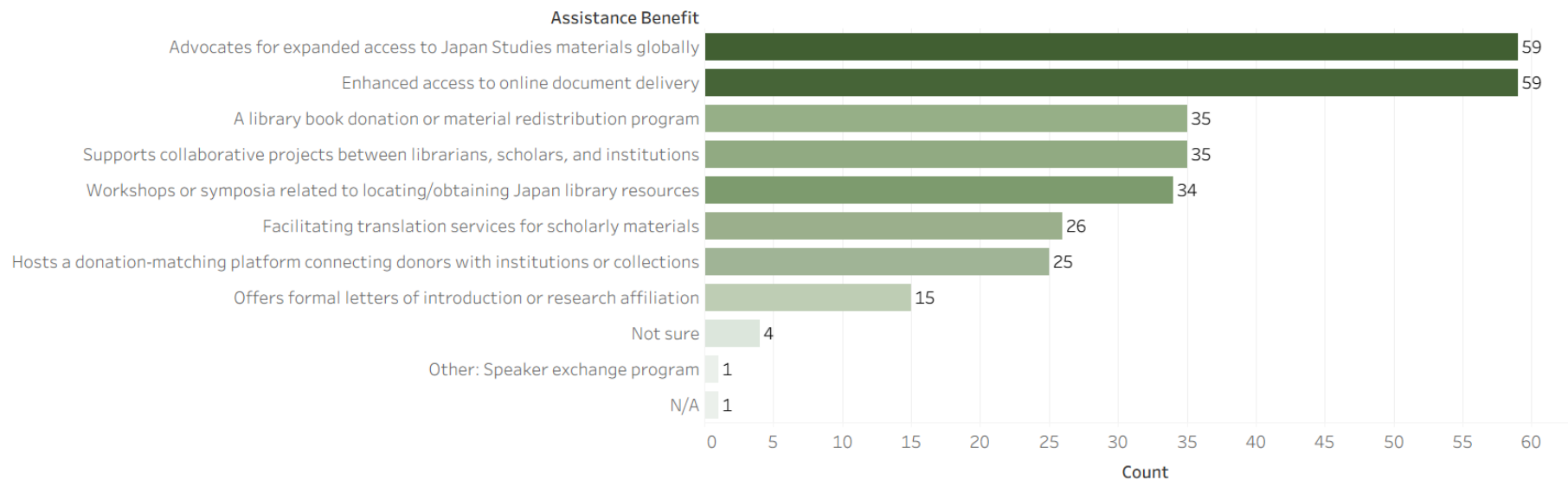


Assistance Desired (Institution)

When asked what types of assistance would most benefit the individual researchers/institutions of researchers, 59 respondents each (62%) noted that advocacy for access to Japan Studies materials and enhanced access to online document delivery would be most beneficial to them. This is reflected in many of the qualitative responses that mention the need to be able to digitally access materials from the National Diet Library. Enhanced access to online document delivery and its related advocacy was also the highest priority for respondents already based in Japan.

It is also noteworthy that 34–35 respondents (~37% each) also indicated the need for library book donation/redistribution programs, collaborative projects, and workshops or symposia to enhance their skills in locating Japan-based resources. These responses suggest the awareness of the need to globalize networks and collaborate outside of one's institution to gain necessary support.

Services or Benefits that Would Support Japan Studies at Institutions of Researcher Respondents



Qualitative Response Summaries

Comments on the availability of Japan-related materials at your libraries:

The primary areas of focus of the qualitative responses:

- Collections gaps–US
- Collection gaps–Non-US
- Limited Japan library specialists
- Positive remarks

Collection gaps–US

Japan-related materials are out of date and extremely general. [respondent based in U.S.]

We have a lot of books but for my research, I have to rely on inter-library loan most of the time.

There is a history of Japanese history at this institution, so there are more printed resources than might be expected at a small college in the rural Midwest. There is very little access to digital resources.

Through many efforts we managed to get the library to obtain subscription to a few databases, but in general all of my sources - I obtain independently, which makes things very challenging.

Absolutely none, although some access to print materials at nearby R1, NRC institution.

would like access to more PDFs/online books. When I try to access japanese texts they are only available in the “special section” of my library and i cannot take them home to study with

My students, myself and my colleagues cannot access recent specialized criticism on Japanese literature, Anthropology, Area Studies due to very, very limited resources (apart from basic JSTOR access - nothing else really works)

very few law-related sources about Japan (only a couple dozen)

There is a need for updating our Japanese collection. There are also some fields / disciplines that have bigger gaps than others.

Collection gaps–Non US

Is very generous to be in a Latin American's library in a country like Colombia. But in many cases there's not enough information or materials for my research.

It is very hard to find books on Japan, regardless of the area, in my university and research centre. And the ones we might have come from donations and usually are quite old (in terms of edition) [respondent based in Portugal]

At my university, there are essentially no Japan-related materials or sources that a historian specializing in Japan could meaningfully use. The only available resources consist of a very limited selection of literature in the Japanese language, without broader academic or research-oriented coverage. [respondent based in Croatia]

Limited in contemporary Japanese literature, contemporary literary magazine, monographs in Japanese literature [respondent based in France]

My department only has my personal collection to use in research, and some outdated grammar books on Japanese language [respondent based in Spain]

We do not have the core books and scholarly literature necessary for Japan Studies. Only a small number of introductory international relations texts contain references to Japan. [respondent based in Mexico]

More investment in specialized materials is needed. [respondent based in Spain]

It would be beneficial if Japan's digital collections were accessible from Colombia.

Although it is one of the larger overseas repositories of Japanese materials, it remains a very small unit within its parent organization. [respondent based in the U.K.]

Limited Japan library specialists

With the retirement (and non-replacement) of our CJK librarian a couple of years ago, the collection appears to be no longer under development.

There was an Asian Library up until 30 years ago, but there has been no dedicated Asian studies library staff since that time. The Asian collection was redistributed among other holdings in the stacks when the library was dismantled. [respondent based in U.S.]

We have no Japan librarian. Our librarian left and the university hasn't replaced her.

Language

The library is solely a Japanese collection. [respondent based in Japan]

Materials available mostly in English

Since we are predominately teaching institution for undergraduate students, there are minimal amount of students who can read Japanese. And so Japanese-language sources are not sufficiently acquired here

I am based at a Japanese university, so the situation is somewhat reversed from what may be expected of, e.g. N. American universities. We have tons of Japanese-language materials, but what's missing is English-language materials on Japan and on other subjects.

Positive remarks

My library has a “ship to home” service for books and PDFs of articles&chapters. Very generous and essential.

I use the excellent Japanese collection at the [redacted-US university]

They have now Latin American zines inspired by anime and manga

The library is solely a Japanese collection. [respondent based in Japan]
Materials available mostly in English
Since we are predominately teaching institution for undergraduate students, there are minimal amount of students who can read Japanese. And so Japanese-language sources are not sufficiently acquired here
I work at a Japanese university and thus the vast majority of materials are Japanese. I have access to three very large libraries.
We have a lot of books but for my research, I have to rely on inter-library loan most of the time.
Japan-related materials are out of date and extremely general. [respondent based in U.S.]

With the retirement (and non-replacement) of our CJK librarian a couple of years ago, the collection appears to be no longer under development.
Is very generous to be in a Latin American's library in a country like Colombia. But in many cases there's not enough information or materials for my research.
My library has a "ship to home" service for books and PDFs of articles&chapters. Very generous and essential.
Ongoing work building rare books collection
There was an Asian Library up until 30 years ago, but there has been no dedicated Asian studies library staff since that time. The Asian collection was redistributed among other holdings in the stacks when the library was dismantled. [respondent based in U.S.]
I use the excellent Japanese collection at the [redacted-US university]
At my university, there are essentially no Japan-related materials or sources that a historian specializing in Japan could meaningfully use. The only available resources consist of a very limited selection of literature in the Japanese language, without broader academic or research-oriented coverage. [respondent based in Croatia]
Limited in contemporary Japanese literature, contemporary literary magazine, monographs in Japanese literature [respondent based in France]
It is very hard to find books on Japan, regardless of the area, in my university and research centre. And the ones we might have come from donations and usually are quite old (in terms of edition) [respondent based in Portugal]
There is a history of Japanese history at this institution, so there are more printed resources than might be expected at a small college in the rural Midwest. There is very little access to digital resources.
very few law-related sources about Japan (only a couple dozen)
There is a need for updating our Japanese collection. There are also some fields / disciplines that have bigger gaps than others.
More investment in specialized materials is needed. [respondent based in Spain]
It would be super helpful to have access to digital archives elsewhere
We have no Japan librarian. Our librarian left and the university hasn't replaced her.
My department only has my personal collection to use in research, and some outdated grammar books on Japanese language [respondent based in Spain]

Through many efforts we managed to get the library to obtain subscription to a few databases, but in general all of my sources - I obtain independently, which makes things very challenging.
I am based at a Japanese university, so the situation is somewhat reversed from what may be expected of, e.g. N. American universities. We have tons of Japanese-language materials, but what's missing is English-language materials on Japan and on other subjects.
Absolutely none, although some access to print materials at nearby R1, NRC institution.
In the [redacted-Japanese university], most of the Japanese Studies materials are solely in Japanese
would like access to more PDFs/online books. When I try to access japanese texts they are only available in the "special section" of my library and i cannot take them home to study with
They have now Latin American zines inspired by anime and manga
My students, myself and my colleagues cannot access recent specialized criticism on Japanese literature, Anthropology, Area Studies due to very, very limited resources (apart from basic JSTOR access - nothing else really works)
We do not have the core books and scholarly literature necessary for Japan Studies. Only a small number of introductory international relations texts contain references to Japan. [respondent based in Mexico]
It would be beneficial if Japan's digital collections were accessible from Colombia.
The collection is fairly comprehensive overall, but there are still noticeable gaps and weaknesses in its coverage.
Although it is one of the larger overseas repositories of Japanese materials, it remains a very small unit within its parent organization. [respondent based in the U.K.]

What factors do you believe are contributing to the current challenges to accessing materials for Japan Studies teaching and research?

It negatively impacts the speed of publication as you are waiting for ILL deliveries
I really wish the NDL online material was made accessible to more people. I was able to go to Japan through a scholarship to access the NDL but not everyone can.

My institution is not a research university. It is currently a comprehensive teaching institution. Also, the Japanese program prior to my arrival in Fall 2021 was focused mainly on language teaching, which limited offerings in Japanese Studies content courses. Japan-related sources at the library are outdated or generally useless for myself and the students. There is also little to no funding to improve the situation.
Limited availability of digitalised primary sources
lack of investment in *English* secondary sources at Japanese universities
The recent translations of many knowledges
Complicated process of obtaining image reproduction rights for illustrations
The lack of research conducted in my field in Europe
Lack of digitized Japanese language periodicals
It is also a lack of time in addition to limited resources. I teach a 4/4 load - that doesn't leave me a lot of research time.
Recent budget cuts, shifting senior leadership priorities
The lack of a librarian literate in Japanese at my institution.
Library I use is located far from my home
The main contributing factors are limited funding, which restricts access to academic databases, research opportunities, and fieldwork, as well as insufficient institutional connections with Japanese universities and organizations that could otherwise provide resources, collaboration, and support.
Lack of Japanese language knowledge hinders it all.
I am still doing my PhD and due to the lack of access to books and databases, I have been spending way too much time organizing what do I have available, what can I access, what do I need to buy, which authors do I need to contact.
acquire the materials by self-funding (this includes the fact of funding my own trips to Japan to collect or buy the materials I need for my teaching and research work, as well as other things)
There is no specialized librarian (and/or dept.) in East Asian / Japanese studies at our library. It's very difficult to get access to fundings for developing our collection (and access to databases). There is a concentration of programs and fundings for this in Europe and the United States and barely or none attention to countries in the Global South.

some materials are impossible to get
As I reside in Japan but research translation, sometimes my difficulties lay in acquiring Japanese books in translation.
Language barriers with materials and interpersonal communication
Lack of access to specialised bibliography
Lack of specialists and funds for developing further research on Japanese Studies
Budgets - I'm in a small department in a small public university outside of the main centers of international academia. I did my Phd in princeton and everything was open to me. Here - it's a struggle. I very much feel in the periphery. While things are better, it's still incomparable in terms of resources and access.
Japanese university library culture, or institutional norms, are I suppose the chief factor contributing to the challenges I experience. Document delivery and ILL are expensive, where they are services provided free to users at most universities I have been affiliated with elsewhere in the world. Even if I do pay to ILL something to my home university's library, they always treat it as library use only - cannot be borrowed out. My home university's library also doesn't lend journals or other periodicals, period. Not as an exception, not if you're faculty, not at all. Which means that when a periodical has nice full-color pictures I want to scan, I can't borrow it from the one library and take it to the one that has the scanners - I have to either take photocopies, or secretly, illicitly, take photos with my phone. Or else, go elsewhere entirely to find that magazine. It's all these little rules and imperfections in the norms of Japanese library policies, copyright law, and so forth, that can create challenges - even as things are much more accessible in other ways.
Generally you can get works via ILL. But the lack of digital viewing of NDL documents is tricky as you physically have to be inside Japan and inside the building.
Japanese interpretation of copyright laws; general unfriendliness of capitalism to open access to research materials.
My lack of sufficient knowledge of Japanese
i would like access to more PDFs/online books. When I try to access japanese texts they are only available in the "special section" of my library and i cannot take them home to study with. this is also a problem for those like myself who struggle with academic japanese texts and need help translating them if we cannot read the text on the spot.
My research focuses in the Latin American reception, so I could access the information via digital articles and personal interviews
Suffocating BUREAUCRACY leads to our avoidance of proper official financial support
The main problem is the lack of resources and funding

I am unable to access the materials I need from Colombia.
I often have trouble because materials from the National Diet Library are frequently inaccessible from outside Japan.
Budget cuts and limitations on book donations.
Our unit is very small within the organization, so it is difficult to gain institutional understanding or support.

How do you think these current challenges can be addressed?

The primary areas of focus of the qualitative responses:

- Open access materials, digitized materials, and databases
- Funding
- Language
- Collaborations and institutional sharing
- NDL

Select quotes:

Open access materials, digitized materials, and databases

More digital open access resources of Japanese-language materials

to digitalize art catalogues from exhibitions that take place in Japan

If my university could provide access to more japan related databases that would be great. Also if more databases released articles for free.

Encourage more collections to provide open access to digital images and rights to reproduction

By uploading materials in Open Access.

Making digitalized archives better available

Some databases could open - like the NDL. Others could hopefully lower their prices. Collaboration between libraries could help, and maybe membership to major associations - if that could provide access, that would also be very helpful.

more libraries in japan should have partnerships with unis abroad so we can access their digital materials

It would be helpful if Digital Collections could be accessed from Colombia.

Open up access to digital services more broadly.

Funding

Outside funding and pursuit of research independently?

I will need a grant to purchase essential texts for the library, along to access to key databases for myself and the students.

Biggest improvement would be getting a CJK librarian again;

Grants

help to secure grant funding for the acquisition of materials....

Language

Our library needs more Japanese texts translated into English for our students who do not read Japanese.

Continue translating information, books, monographs, etc...

summaries of key resources in various languages. Better access to translations.

Collaborations and institutional sharing

Well, it would be nice if my university tried to establish come agreements with Japanese universities, databases. On the other hand, it is quite a problem in Portugal when you want to research Asian Studies... Unless you want to work on Jesuits and their arrival in Asian countries, the rest is complicated to search about.

Regional consortium

More attention and opportunities to the needs of countries in the Global South. More awareness of the work that those countries have been doing regarding the development of Japanese studies (and Japanese collections) despite all the difficulties. More possibilities of inclusion within networks related to Japanese collections / libraries.

Some databases could open - like the NDL. Others could hopefully lower their prices. Collaboration between libraries could help, and maybe membership to major associations - if that could provide access, that would also be very helpful.

more libraries in japan should have partnerships with unis abroad so we can access their digital materials

NDL

easier access to paid databases (currently not available at my institution), access to a larger variety of documents on NDL Digital Archive

Please open digital contents of the National Diet library to foreign public from outside Japan, that will be a great start.

Some databases could open - like the NDL. Others could hopefully lower their prices. Collaboration between libraries could help, and maybe membership to major associations - if that could provide access, that would also be very helpful.

Some progress on NDL access through CULCON and NCC.

Other

I understand that JPP, NCC, and organizations like them are focused on Japanese Studies outside of Japan, and rightfully so. Pressuring university libraries in Japan to change policies is a whole other can of worms, and should likely be spearheaded by Japanese groups. Still, the way they can be addressed is by opening up discussion among the Japanese university librarians' association (or whatever such associations there may be), to talk about developing ILL partnerships that are well-funded and work like those elsewhere in the world.

On individual campuses, foreign faculty could speak with their Japanese colleagues, express our dissatisfaction and make suggestions - e.g. "did you know, in the US, we don't need to spend money on photocopies and waste so much paper; most libraries have scanners freely accessible." Of course, some changes would be difficult without legislation from the Diet; the absence of legal equivalents of "fair use," and certain other features of Japanese copyright law itself is at the core of much of these difficulties.

More digital open access resources of Japanese-language materials
Outside funding and pursuit of research independently?
Our library needs more Japanese texts translated into English for our students who do not read Japanese.

I will need a grant to purchase essential texts for the library, along to access to key databases for myself and the students.
to digitalize art catalogues from exhibitions that take place in Japan
If my university could provide access to more japan related databases that would be great. Also if more databases released articles for free.
grants
Biggest improvement would be getting a CJK librarian again;
Continue translating information, books, monographs, etc...
Encourage more collections to provide open access to digital images and rights to reproduction
Organizing seminars/workshops, changing course syllabuses
Hiring a Japanese-literate librarian at my [redacted] branch, centralizing librarian services for Japanese-language research at one of the [redacted] campuses, for use by all [redacted] faculty and students.
by re-locating
These challenges could be addressed through increased funding to improve access to academic resources and research opportunities, as well as by strengthening partnerships with Japanese institutions to enable collaboration and resource sharing.
Well, it would be nice if my university tried to establish come agreements with Japanese universities, databases. On the other hand, it is quite a problem in Portugal when you want to research Asian Studies... Unless you want to work on Jesuits and their arrival in Asian countries, the rest is complicated to search about.
easier access to paid databases (currently not available at my institution), access to a larger variety of documents on NDL Digital Archive even if I do not reside in Japan, help to secure grant funding for the acquisition of materials....
Regional consortium
Please open digital contents of the National Diet library to foreign public from outside Japan, that will be a great start.
More attention and opportunities to the needs of countries in the Global South. More awareness of the work that those countries have been doing regarding the development of Japanese studies (and Japanese collections) despite all the difficulties. More possibilities of inclusion within networks related to Japanese collections / libraries.

By uploading materials in Open Access.
Making digitalized archives better available
summaries of key resources in various languages. Better access to translations.
Money to buy books and subscriptions, donation of books, open-access databases, interlibrary service
Some databases could open - like the NDL. Others could hopefully lower their prices. Collaboration between libraries could help, and maybe membership to major associations - if that could provide access, that would also be very helpful.
<p>I understand that JPP, NCC, and organizations like them are focused on Japanese Studies outside of Japan, and rightfully so. Pressuring university libraries in Japan to change policies is a whole other can of worms, and should likely be spearheaded by Japanese groups. Still, the way they can be addressed is by opening up discussion among the Japanese university librarians' association (or whatever such associations there may be), to talk about developing ILL partnerships that are well-funded and work like those elsewhere in the world.</p> <p>On individual campuses, foreign faculty could speak with their Japanese colleagues, express our dissatisfaction and make suggestions - e.g. "did you know, in the US, we don't need to spend money on photocopies and waste so much paper; most libraries have scanners freely accessible." Of course, some changes would be difficult without legislation from the Diet; the absence of legal equivalents of "fair use," and certain other features of Japanese copyright law itself is at the core of much of these difficulties.</p>
I do not believe they will as smaller public institutions in Canada do not care much about Asian studies
Some progress on NDL access through CULCON and NCC.
Mostly by using Is translation tools and keep learning the language. In case I need specific materials not accessible through my University, I usually contact colleagues from other institutions.
more libraries in japan should have partnerships with unis abroad so we can access their digital materials
There is a community of researchers I think are very well connected, and we rely on each other to obtain information.
Bureaucracy does not allow public institutions (universities included) to progress; ergo I would rather order books by myself than ask any funding program for help
make the interface more accessible
I believe that current challenges should be addressed in a comprehensive way. There are multiple dimensions involved. For instance, the lack of Japanese language training for researchers, as well as limited access to resources in this language.

Research on Japanese art and culture itself is almost impossible here, so we have no choice but to focus on the process and history of its reception.
It would be helpful if Digital Collections could be accessed from Colombia.
Open up access to digital services more broadly.
Gather "supporting information," including external recommendations, so that we can continue negotiations within the organization.

What opportunities do you see for Japan Studies regarding library resources and services?

I think it would be good for our library to get access to JapanKnowledge, so that students can use it.
Could JPP offer a subscription repository for these resources for academics at institutions too cheap to help them?
ILL is very useful at my institution. I wish more universities would benefit from this.
We currently need them desperately.
Very strong opportunities in my country at least.
More sharing of digital catalogs and other digital resources among libraries worldwide
There is strong potential to expand access to specialized databases, digital archives, and interdisciplinary resources related to Japan Studies, as well as to develop targeted library services such as research support, curated collections, and collaboration with Japanese institutions to improve resource availability and expertise.
I think there are many opportunities.
If there was to be a centralized Japanese Studies Library Resources, I think it would be very relevant to all students and researchers working on Asia/Japanese Studies. Being able to access both primary and secondary sources, some databases, would make the work much feasible.
enhancing user-friendly interface; providing adequate quality of translation
I hope that someday public libraries in the EU will do enough lobby so that the interlibrary loan start again.

Having more access and opportunities will definitely boost quantitatively and qualitatively the current situation of research in Spanish language
Sharing new research across languages
Digitization has been extremely helpful.
Opportunities for access through professional org membership like AAS
A site that teaches how to surf the different available sites, in English
Creating an environment that makes digitization and overseas access easier.
It would be helpful if database access were provided through university libraries.
Securing a generous budget.
Training specialist librarians.
I would like to purchase databases, but they are so expensive that I wonder whether their value justifies the cost.
Continuing to collect materials.

Would you benefit from more opportunities to collaborate with librarians and other researchers in Japan Studies? Please specify.

Cataloging books inherited from scholars in large amounts.
I've heard of programs where librarians invite scholars to work in their collections.
Yes. As my research focuses on the circulation of rare Japanese materials and private collections in the Hispanic world, closer collaboration with specialized librarians is essential.
This collaboration would greatly assist me in a building a functional collection of physical and digital materials for my Japanese Program.
I could improve my research.
More research data and materials.

access to research material and exchange knowledge through online workshops
If I had the chance to talk to people who have a similar research project to mine that could be useful.
With no librarian at my institution, I'd appreciate a way to get the expert advice she used to provide
It would feed my investigation and activate the networking with so many libraries and cultural places to move knowledge
Access to information about special collections
Teaching approaches
I always like collaboration opportunities!
That would help to gain access to resources and to further knowledge of Japanese culture and language
I find it extremely difficult to find and access journal articles in Japanese, and the help at my home institution is inadequate as it has no librarian capable of reading Japanese, although there is one who reads Chinese and does the best she can to find Japanese texts, using her Chinese character knowledge.
Yes, greater collaboration would improve access to resources, enable knowledge exchange, and strengthen research in Japan Studies.
It would be great to have other colleagues working on Japan Studies to exchange materials.
No Asian studies librarian at own institution
If librarians from Japan could provide easy description of basic information relating to their collections, it might help a little (it took me some time to get used to the Digital collection of the Documents on Japanese foreign policy). I am also yet to find some specific archives that I am looking for (universities' administrative archives, for instance)
Conferences, seniors willing to take questions
Intercolaborcion
I love the librarian's help but fear that they will retire and not be replaced.
I would like to be able to access Japanese language materials from afar
Collaboration opportunities with librarians or other researchers in Japan Studies based in Japan.

Interchange of bibliographical sources
I would be able to improve my research and teaching skills as well as my knowledge
Librarians are a fountain of knowledge. It's always very helpful to have an address to turn to.
Specifically, in gaining knowledge in how to use the available databases and search engines from primary texts in Japanese
It would help for networking, but also in broaden the understanding of Global Asias
Workshops in digital literacy
I consider the exchange of ideas to be fundamental in the academic community. In Argentina there are relatively few specialists in Japanese studies; I strive to maintain contact with them, as well as with other researchers in Latin America, in order to receive feedback on my research.
Red Asia–America Latina should deepen its exchanges and collaboration.
Things related to developments in digital humanities.
Joint research projects.
I don't know, because I am not even aware of what kinds of exchanges have taken place so far.

In what ways do you believe the JPP Library Services Team could support library and information resources for Japan Studies research in your region, institution, language, or discipline?

Points of interest

Serving as a liaison between researchers and libraries (either by providing access to university libraries that unaffiliated researchers are not able to access or by providing guidance and introductions to facilities like the NDL).

The JPP Library Services Team could provide critical support by facilitating broader access to digital repositories and subscription-based databases (such as CiNii Books or JapanKnowledge) for institutions with limited budgets. Additionally, promoting Open Access initiatives for Japanese scholarly journals would greatly benefit researchers in regions where physical interlibrary loans are logistically challenging or prohibitively expensive. In terms of discipline-specific support, I believe the team could assist in the standardization of metadata and Romanization practices for Japanese-language materials. Providing specialized training or bilingual finding aids would improve the discoverability of Japan-related resources within our local library systems, ensuring that rare or

non-textual materials (such as visual arts or ephemera) are properly indexed and accessible to researchers.

Helping us to have access to e-materials, for example.

"In Colombia and more broadly in Latin America, access to specialized resources for Japan Studies is still very limited. Many students and researchers are interested in engaging with Japanese culture, history, and visual media, but there are few institutional infrastructures that allow us to access bibliographies, archives, or academic networks.

The JPP Library Services Team could support our region by facilitating access to digital resources, creating open and multilingual bibliographies, and developing partnerships with universities and cultural institutions in Latin America. It would also be very valuable to create spaces for connection—such as virtual workshops, reading groups, or research forums—where scholars and practitioners can exchange knowledge and build collaborative projects.

In this context, support is not only about access to materials, but also about enabling dialogue and visibility for researchers working from regions that are often underrepresented in Japan Studies."

If your librarians could get a hold of Japanese journal articles for me, that would be fantastic. Maybe they already can and would; I don't know, I haven't tried to get help from JPP yet.

I am not yet acquainted with the services you offer. Perhaps you could organize an online event to introduce yourselves?

I think it would be great to keep students and researchers engaged in Japan Studies. People do love Japan since an early age, but then, when it comes to study about it, due to the lack of opportunities and resources, people tend to "give it up" or ending up doing a superficial research.

The situation of Japan related library resources in Latin America (in general) is so difficult that any support will definitely be positive. I do believe that one of the things JPP Library Service Team could contribute to, it's to work towards a more global and decentralize way of thinking regarding Japanese studies resources. Not only to consider new projects but also to be an intermediary in convincing existing projects/consortiums to establish wider networks and collaborations with institutions in Latin America (or the Global South in general).

One thing that comes to mind is to work with NCC or with others to figure out ways to get more exhibit catalogs from museums in Japan and around the world into library collections. I know this involves money, coordination, and just basic logistics that may be near impossible - there are just too many museums, and too many of them sell catalogs only in disconnected, isolated ways, requiring direct communication with each and every individual museum to make it work. But even so - if there is something the JPP Library Services team can do to make this happen, I think that could be a major boon to Japanese Studies as a field.

For students and researchers in the Spanish-speaking world, especially in countries such as Mexico, where only a small number of institutions and universities specialize in Japan Studies, it would be highly beneficial to provide a general guide explaining how to access books and research materials from abroad, along with a clear overview of the different types of available resources.

Compared with the depth of research conducted in Japan and the breadth of scholarship available in the English-speaking world, the Spanish-speaking academic community often lacks even basic introductory knowledge and reference materials. As a result, many researchers do not know where to begin navigating the vast amount of available resources, which can lead to biased literature searches and the development of stereotypical or inaccurate interpretations of Japanese culture. Since introductory books and research resources already exist across many fields of Japan Studies, it would be greatly appreciated if guidance could be provided on research strategies and resource discovery that are tailored to different levels of expertise, enabling students and researchers to identify and access appropriate materials more effectively.

Cataloging books inherited in large amount.
I fear my library is not open to your assistance.
Serving as a liaison between researchers and libraries (either by providing access to university libraries that unaffiliated researchers are not able to access or by providing guidance and introductions to facilities like the NDL).
More access to the NDL online documents would be great
The JPP Library Services Team could provide critical support by facilitating broader access to digital repositories and subscription-based databases (such as CiNii Books or JapanKnowledge) for institutions with limited budgets. Additionally, promoting Open Access initiatives for Japanese scholarly journals would greatly benefit researchers in regions where physical interlibrary loans are logistically challenging or prohibitively expensive. In terms of discipline-specific support, I believe the team could assist in the standardization of metadata and Romanization practices for Japanese-language materials. Providing specialized training or bilingual finding aids would improve the discoverability of Japan-related resources within our local library systems, ensuring that rare or non-textual materials (such as visual arts or ephemera) are properly indexed and accessible to researchers.
Providing myself and my students better access to essential online resource databases.
Helping us to have access to e-materials, for example. "In Colombia and more broadly in Latin America, access to specialized resources for Japan Studies is still very limited. Many students and researchers are interested in engaging with Japanese culture, history, and visual media, but there are few institutional infrastructures that allow us to access bibliographies, archives, or academic networks.
The JPP Library Services Team could support our region by facilitating access to digital resources, creating open and multilingual bibliographies, and developing partnerships with universities and cultural institutions in Latin America. It would also be very valuable to create spaces for connection—such as virtual workshops, reading groups, or research forums—where scholars and practitioners can exchange knowledge and build collaborative projects.

In this context, support is not only about access to materials, but also about enabling dialogue and visibility for researchers working from regions that are often underrepresented in Japan Studies."
more digitalized material
not sure: funding for digitization, maybe, or helping advocate for the field generally in a Eurocentric world
Support and improve the diffusion of japanese content and knowledge
contribute to research quality
If your librarians could get a hold of Japanese journal articles for me, that would be fantastic. Maybe they already can and would; I don't know, I haven't tried to get help from JPP yet.
I am not yet acquainted with the services you offer. Perhaps you could organize an online event to introduce yourselves?
The JPP Library Services Team could support Japan Studies research by facilitating access to key databases and digital collections, supporting acquisitions of relevant materials, and strengthening connections with Japanese institutions to enable resource sharing and collaborative initiatives.
Connecting people through research groups and events. English lg as medium is highly recommended.
I think it would be great to keep students and researchers engaged in Japan Studies. People do love Japan since an early age, but then, when it comes to study about it, due to the lack of opportunities and resources, people tend to "give it up" or ending up doing a superficial research.
Related to the previous question, on book donation programs: please be aware that some institutions (mine, for ex.) can't afford the shipping/customs fees
The situation of Japan related library resources in Latin America (in general) is so difficult that any support will definitely be positive. I do believe that one of the things JPP Library Service Team could contribute to, it's to work towards a more global and decentralize way of thinking regarding Japanese studies resources. Not only to consider new projects but also to be an intermediary in convincing existing projects/consortiums to establish wider networks and collaborations with institutions in Latin America (or the Global South in general).
By translating Japanese books and other materials into English.
Translation materials
Promote digitization and broadening access to major databases.

One thing that comes to mind is to work with NCC or with others to figure out ways to get more exhibit catalogs from museums in Japan and around the world into library collections. I know this involves money, coordination, and just basic logistics that may be near impossible - there are just too many museums, and too many of them sell catalogs only in disconnected, isolated ways, requiring direct communication with each and every individual museum to make it work. But even so - if there is something the JPP Library Services team can do to make this happen, I think that could be a major boon to Japanese Studies as a field.

Advocate for NDL to make the digital distributions accessible overseas at a variety of institutions including defraying the cost.

By offering workshops or individual assistance to Japanese Studies researchers

mainly with digitization and partnerships between Japanese libraries and international libraries

Expand NDL full-access to institutions in North America

For students and researchers in the Spanish-speaking world, especially in countries such as Mexico, where only a small number of institutions and universities specialize in Japan Studies, it would be highly beneficial to provide a general guide explaining how to access books and research materials from abroad, along with a clear overview of the different types of available resources. Compared with the depth of research conducted in Japan and the breadth of scholarship available in the English-speaking world, the Spanish-speaking academic community often lacks even basic introductory knowledge and reference materials. As a result, many researchers do not know where to begin navigating the vast amount of available resources, which can lead to biased literature searches and the development of stereotypical or inaccurate interpretations of Japanese culture. Since introductory books and research resources already exist across many fields of Japan Studies, it would be greatly appreciated if guidance could be provided on research strategies and resource discovery that are tailored to different levels of expertise, enabling students and researchers to identify and access appropriate materials more effectively.

In what ways do you believe the JPP Library Services Team could enhance inclusivity and diversity in Japan Studies globally?

Donate books to places that have no resources.

Access to and for materials and institutions

Provide information on how people with disabilities can access certain services and research materials.

By focusing on more diverse subjects and representation

Inclusivity can be significantly improved by supporting multilingualism in information resources. The JPP could facilitate the creation of

<p>bibliographic tools and metadata in languages beyond English and Japanese. Supporting the translation of finding aids into languages like Spanish or Portuguese would lower the barrier for researchers in diverse regions, ensuring that Japan Studies becomes a truly global and linguistically inclusive discipline.</p>
<p>Promoting the development of Japanese studies in more languages.</p>
<p>To enhance inclusivity and diversity, it is important to recognize that Japan Studies is not only produced in Japan, the United States, or Europe, but also in regions like Latin America, where perspectives are shaped by different historical, cultural, and social contexts.</p> <p>The JPP Library Services Team could support this by promoting multilingual access to resources, highlighting research produced in the Global South, and encouraging collaborative projects that include diverse voices. Creating platforms where researchers can share their work across languages and regions would help decentralize knowledge production and foster more equitable exchanges. Inclusivity also involves recognizing different approaches to research, including practice-based and artistic methodologies, which are often overlooked but are especially relevant in fields such as manga, visual culture, and contemporary art.</p>
<p>including in their database spanish-language researchs</p>
<p>In such a huge way! To know more about Japan we need to be closer to Japan's Knowledge.</p>
<p>Engage with scholars in Latin America, Spain and Portugal; hire someone who knows Spanish and Portuguese to facilitate this. Japan Studies has expanded in Spain recently, and I met a lot of able, Latin-American Japan scholars at a regional AAS meeting at the Colegio de México. I suspect some of them are too busy working on Japanese to polish their English, though</p>
<p>Spreading the news about contemporary academic papers.</p>
<p>A global platform, able to be accessed in a lot of different countries (from both Global North and Global South) would be amazing!</p>
<p>I think that this would require not only the work of JPP but also an awareness from the existing institutions/projects/consortiums related to resources on Japanese studies regarding the work and situation of libraries and institutions outside Europe and the United States.</p>
<p>By translating materials into languages other than English.</p>
<p>By widening access to sources, it would enable closing the gap between the rich centers of academia and those beyond it.</p>
<p>The more access to materials the better.</p>
<p>The same as the above, as I think the open access to materials would expand any discipline research's frontiers</p>
<p>Ensuring more equitable access to digital resources and promoting greater exchange between libraries and research centers</p>