

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

USING THE JAPAN DISASTERS DIGITAL ARCHIVE IN THE CLASSROOM

A Workshop on Teaching about Japan and Disasters Digital Research

December 6-7, 2019 | Harvard University, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies



OVERVIEW

The Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies invites applications from high school and college faculty as well as librarians in public or private libraries to a two-day workshop on using the innovative Japan Disasters Digital Archive for teaching on contemporary Japan.

The compound disaster of earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown of March 11, 2011, was unprecedented both in its magnitude and scope.

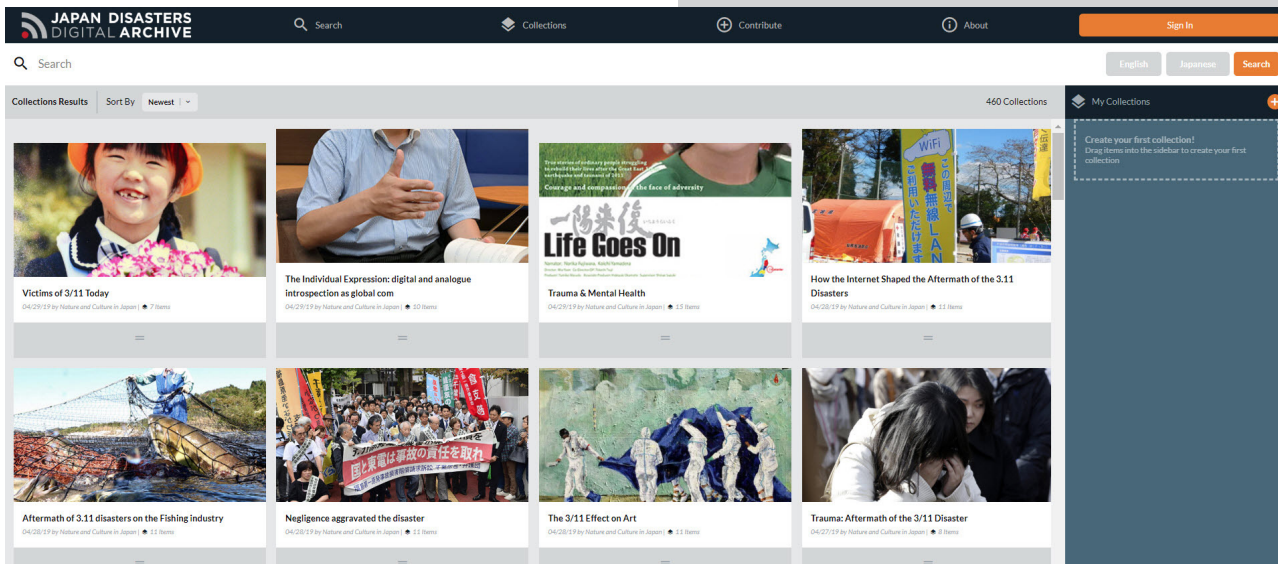
- The earthquake and tsunami took nearly 20,000 lives and left over 2,500 missing.
- The nuclear meltdown displaced several hundred thousand Fukushima residents from their homes.
- The nuclear disaster sparked a major reassessment of the safety of nuclear power in Japan and globally.

Study of the disaster and its aftermath offers a unique opportunity to engage students in learning about Japan and timely issues of significance far beyond Japan.

The 2011 disaster was also unprecedented in that a vast portion of the record and memory of the disaster was born digital and can only be accessed online. The Japan Disasters Digital Archive (JDA) is a cutting-edge digital collection for the record and memory of this event.

This workshop offers participants the chance to learn of the full range of functions and pedagogical uses of the archive, and to engage a wide range of important issues facing contemporary Japan and the world:

- Cultural and artistic responses to the disaster
- Sources of disaster resilient communities
- Politics and policies of recovery and rebuilding
- Long-term demographic trends
- Politics of energy policy
- Impact of long-term exposure to low but elevated radiation levels



ABOUT THE JAPAN DISASTERS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The Japan Disasters Digital Archive (JDA) is at the hub of a network of cooperating archives and offers access to over 1.7 million items. These include:

- Websites and PDF documents
- Newspaper articles and headlines
- Individual testimonials
- Social media and tweets
- Digital images and videos
- Audio recordings and television broadcasts

Users have curated nearly 500 collections based on materials in the archive. To understand the wide range of topics that archive users have examined, applicants are encouraged to visit <http://jdarchive.org>.

The archive is participatory by design. It invites active use not only by researchers and policymakers but also by educators, students, and ordinary citizens. Users can create collections consisting of items found both inside and outside of the archive on their topics of interest. With the built-in presentation function, the user can present the collection to classmates or other audiences in a dynamic fashion. Users can also add digital materials they have discovered online or their own digital creations, such as photographs or videos (or essays), both to their individual collection and to the archive as a whole.

The archive is an excellent resource for language classes in Japanese or English, since its materials include items in both languages. The contributory, curatorial, and presentational functions of the archive support active learning (AL) and critical thinking. The use of the archive, whether on a tablet or a laptop, will also augment digital skills.

THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

The workshop will take place all day on Friday, December 6, and on the morning of Saturday, December 7. We will ask participants to make use of the archive for one to two hours prior to the workshop and create an individual user account.

December 6 (Friday):

- Morning session: Experienced JDA users, including Harvard faculty and librarians, will offer demonstrations of the archive and its capacities. Teachers who have used the archive will talk about their experiences.
- Afternoon session: Participants, both teachers and librarians, will work individually and in small groups to define topics, seek out relevant resources in the archive or in other online sources, and build collections and presentations on topics of interest to them or to students. At the end of the day, these groups will each report back to the larger group.
- The afternoon session will also include a lecture presentation on animal ecology and the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

December 7 (Saturday):

- Morning wrap-up discussion will focus on distilling ideas and best practices to take back to the classroom. We will also seek feedback on how the JDA team can further improve the archive.

Optional December 5 (Thursday) Afternoon Activity: Students from Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan) will present their research projects that utilize the archive. Workshop participants are welcome to arrive in time to join this (optional) additional activity.

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

At the college level, potential participants may include faculty in anthropology and other social sciences, as well as history and other humanities fields. At the high school level, participants will include but are not limited to social studies, STEAM, and Japanese language teachers. We encourage participation by librarians interested in learning more about the archive to advise library patrons, including students, on the use of this powerful digital tool.

PARTICIPATION COST

All major costs of workshop attendance are underwritten by a grant from The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) and support from the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University. The program will cover roundtrip economy airfare and/or ground transportation to and from Cambridge. The Reischauer Institute has reserved rooms at a local hotel for participants. Meals will be provided for the duration of the workshop. There are no registration and participation fees.

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE WORKSHOP

All participants are expected to attend and actively engage in all sessions. Prior to the workshop all participants are asked to make use of the archive for one to two hours and create an individual user account. All participants will receive explanatory materials and brief assignments to become familiar with the basic functions of the archive.

After the workshop, we expect all participants who are teachers to use the archive in their teaching. In addition, we invite participants to submit teaching modules, lesson plans, or syllabi, which we will post on the archive as reference for others. A modest honorarium will be provided for these submissions.

WORKSHOP SPONSORS

The workshop is supported by a generous grant from The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) and by the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University with the assistance of the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC). The Japan Disasters Digital Archive Project gratefully acknowledges and thanks the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) for its assistance in publicizing the workshop.



HOW TO APPLY

Deadline: October 18, 2019 (Friday)

Notification Date: October 25, 2019 (Friday)

Application and instructions will be posted at: <https://rijs.fas.harvard.edu/workshop-jda> after September 3, 2019.

As part of the application process, participants will be required to submit a brief statement indicating the following:

- Topic or focus of interest as it relates to the March 11 Disasters; ideas for bringing topics relating to the March 11 Disasters and the archive into the classroom.
- Prior familiarity with Japan and/or experience teaching on Japan. Please note that prior Japan experience and Japanese language knowledge are not workshop requirements.

We welcome all applicants who share an interest in the issues raised by the March 11 Disasters and an interest in the Japan Disasters Digital Archive.

Please direct questions to: Katherine Matsuura, Japan Digital Scholarship Librarian, at: jdrc.projects@gmail.com.

