

A Brief Tour through the SOAS Library, University of London and Roles of the Subject Librarian

Jiyeon Wood*

About myself

I am a subject librarian for the Arts and Multi-Media collection in SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. I studied History at Sogang University in Korea. After studying my MA in Information and Library Management at Loughborough University in the UK, I became qualified as a librarian. In 2014, I became a Chartered librarian accredited by CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).

I have various work experience in libraries and international organisations. I have been working as a subject librarian for the Arts and Multi-Media in SOAS Library since 2011. Before SOAS, I was based in Oxford working as the Library Services Co-ordinator at Oxford University Press Library. I also worked in Loyola Library at Sogang University for about 2 years while I was studying for my degree. Apart from librarianship, I have marketing and PR experience in international music companies (e.g. EMI and Warner Music) and international organisations (e.g. British Council).

About SOAS, University of London

SOAS [the School of Oriental Studies (SOS) when it was founded], at the University of London was established in 1916 with a primary aim to respond to growing interests in the East and to train officials in culture and language. Until now SOAS,

is the only Higher Education institution in Europe specialising in the study of Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East. SOAS is a unique institution with an international feeling. SOAS has students from 133 countries on campus, and just over 50% of them are from outside the UKⁱ. With over 5,000 students, SOAS also has over 300 specialist staff. Being unique and international, small-group teaching is an important feature of SOAS. The student-staff ratio (11.3:1) is one of the best in the U.Kⁱⁱ. Based on the National student survey 2013, SOAS is above the national average for student satisfaction (89%).

Art & Archaeology Collection in SOAS Library

With SOAS Library designated as one of the five national research libraries in the UK it holds over 1.3 million volumes in its collections on Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The Library's current mission statement is 'to provide high quality information services and resources to reflect and support the School's standing as a leading international Centre of excellence for the research, learning and teaching of Asia, the Middle East and Africa'ⁱⁱⁱ The Library collections are divided into 7 regional collections and 3 subject-based collections, laid out in 6 levels:

- Level A: South Asia
- Level B: Ancient Near East, Semitics & Judaica, Middle East, Central Asia & Islamica

* Jiyeon Wood (Subject Librarian for Arts & Multi-Media, SOAS Library, University of London)

- Level C: China & Inner Asia, Japan, Southeast Asia, Subject Librarians office
- Level D: Art & Archaeology, Law, Africa, Korea
- Level E: General Humanities & Social Sciences, Journals, CD, DVDs, Services Desks
- Level F: Archives & Special Collections, Periodicals

Among the collection, the Art & Archaeology collection was the first Subject based collection in the Library. The history of art and archaeology were popular subjects for the School's public lectures in the early years of SOAS. In 1957, the Courtauld Institute's Asian Art resources, comprising 3,750 books, 7,000 lantern slides and 15,000 photographs, were transferred to SOAS Library^{iv}. Based on this resource, SOAS Library, which up to this time had arranged its collections by geographic region, established the Art & Archaeology section. The Centre of Art & Archaeology was established in 1980 before becoming an independent department in 1990. The department is widely acknowledged as having an excellent teaching and research reputation, attracting internationally renowned academics. There are approximately over 52,000 books, several hundred periodicals, large numbers of electronic journals and Multi-Media items in the Art & Archaeology collection. Among the collection, Japanese Art has been always well-represented within SOAS Library. One reason is that the former art librarian, who served for long period up until 2010, was Japanese. Furthermore, SOAS Library was lucky enough to receive Library grants from the Sainsbury Institute of Japanese Arts and Culture, the Metropolitan Centre for Far Eastern Studies and also from alumni. These grants enable the Library to collect important books related to Japanese culture and arts, making SOAS Library

the largest collection of books on Japanese Art in Europe.

The Archives & Special Collections holds archives, manuscripts and rare books relating to Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Recently, electronic resources have been expanding rapidly. Currently the Library subscribe to over 100 databases, 70,000 electronic books and 100,000 electronic journals^v. To embrace expanding electronic resources, the Library implemented an Open Source Library management system "Kuali OLE" in April 2015. SOAS is the third library in the world (the first library in Europe) to adopt the system. In 2016, SOAS Library celebrates its Centenary. The Digital Library will be launched as part of the Centenary plan.

Subject Librarianship

I'd like to introduce my role as subject librarian as I was told subject librarians are not widely practiced in Japan. Subject Librarians (also known as Academic Librarians, Academic Liaison Librarians) play important roles in academic libraries in the UK. They oversee the collection management within the library and liaise with academics and researchers in the departments they serve. A Subject Librarian's role at SOAS includes:

- Selecting resources
- Dealing with enquiries within and beyond the School
- Arranging information skill sessions for users
- Preparing subject guides, providing induction sessions, tours and information skills training for both internal and external users
- Attending departmental meetings
- Checking reading lists of new programmes and module proposals in advance of the Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee.

- Cataloguing new acquisitions
- Bidding for library grants

Apart from these roles, the subject librarian is responsible for tracing missing books, disseminating information via the Subject Librarian's blog or twitter as well as being ultimately responsible for all aspects of collection development and Information Literacy. Some Subject Librarians are involved in research and publish their work.

In the modern society, the problem is there is often too much information, rather than too little. As the quantity and format of information changes rapidly, I believe the key role of the subject librarian is to select important information and resources and preserve them in order to pass it on to the next generation. I continually broaden my knowledge on Japanese arts in order to maintain SOAS Library as one of the best represented Libraries on Japanese art, in terms of both quantity and quality, in the world. Selecting resources is important, but how to disseminate this information to users is equally important. Within the Library, I am responsible for the development of the Arts & Archaeology Collections, Music, Media and Multi-Media Collection relating to Asia, Africa and the Middle East. With this wide-range of subjects, it would be difficult to become an expert on all of them. However, Samuel Johnson said "Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it"^{vi}. It is therefore imperative that subject librarians assess and re-assess their role and acquire the necessary skills and awareness regarding current research interests, where to find information in addition to having knowledge about them. Participating in the JAL project was very useful as it certainly helped me to appreciate my role better. I came across many wonderful Japanese art resources when visiting the various institutions and

meeting the specialists in Japan, which certainly broadened my knowledge on where we can find Japanese art materials. My next step is to disseminate and share my findings with researchers within and beyond SOAS in order to benefit their research.

Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the JAL project Executive Committee and specialists during JAL 2015.

ⁱ About SOAS, <http://www.soas.ac.uk/about/>


ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ Vision, Mission and Aims of the Library, <http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/about/>

^{iv} Subject statements: History of Art & Archaeology, <http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/about/what-makes-soas-library-special/iv-subject-collections.html#Art>

^v SOAS Library Electronic resources, <https://www.soas.ac.uk/library/resources/>

^{vi} James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*. (London: Penguin, 2008), 438.





JAL プロジェクト 2015 公開ワークショップ

ロンドン大学 SOAS図書館

2015年11月27日(金)

Jiyeon Wood (ジョン ウッド)




自己紹介

氏名: JIYEON WOOD (ジョン ウッド) BA, MA, MCLIP

学歴:

- ソウルの西江(ソガン)大学で 学士(史学)
- Loughborough (ラフバラ) 大学で 修士 (情報-図書館経営学)
- Chartered Librarian MCLIP (Member of Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) (図書館情報専門家協会による公認取得。)


2



職歴

- 2011 年より現職: アート・マルチメディア 担当 サブジェクト・ライブラリアン (主観司書), ロンドン大学 SOAS図書館、ロンドン、イギリス。
- 2009-2011: Library Services Co-ordinator at オックスフォード大学出版局図書館, オックスフォード, イギリス。
- 1995-1997: Pt. time Library Assistant at Loyola Library, 西江(ソガン)大学, ソウル, 韓国。


3



図書館以外のマーケティング・ピアール関連履歴

- 2007-2008: フジパシフィックミュージック・コリア。
- 2004-2005: ワーナーミュージック・コリア。
- 2003: プリディッシュ・カウンシル・コリア。
- 2002: EMIミュージック・コリア。
- 1998-2001: ロックレコード・コリア。

4



ロンドン大学SOASの概要

- SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies)
- 東洋アフリカ研究学院
- 1916年 設立。
- SOASはイギリスでは類を見ない地域研究に特化した大学。
- 133以上の国と地域から留学生が集まる。
- 正規課程の学生約50%が留学生という国際色豊かな大学。
- 学生数は約5000人、専門教員は300人以上。
- 学生対教員の比率は11.3対1。
- 学生の満足度89% (National student survey 2013)。

5



SOAS図書館



- イギリスに5つある国家指定研究図書館の一つ
- アジア、アフリカ、中近東に関する書籍を1.3百万冊所蔵

The SOAS Library. © Image from SOAS Imagebank

6

SOAS University of London

蔵書の構成

7 地域研究蔵書

- ・ アフリカ
- ・ 古代オリエント・セム学・ユダヤ
- ・ 中国・内アジア
- ・ 中東・中央アジア、イスラム
- ・ 日本・韓国
- ・ 南アジア
- ・ 東南アジア

3 主題研究蔵書

- ・ 芸術・考古学
- ・ 法律
- ・ 人文・社会科学

7

SOAS University of London

SOASの学科

Departments and Schools

Research and teaching by discipline or regions of the world

- Africa, Languages and Cultures of
- Anthropology and Sociology
- Arts, School of
 - History of Art and Archaeology
 - Media Studies, Centre for
 - Music
- China and Inner Asia, Languages and Cultures of
- Development Studies
- Economics
- Financial and Management Studies
- History
- Japan and Korea, Languages and Cultures of
- Language Centre
- Law, School of
- Linguistics
- Near and Middle East, Languages and Cultures of the
- Politics and International Studies
- Religions and Philosophies
- South Asia, Languages and Cultures of
- South East Asia, Languages and Cultures of

8

SOAS University of London

Library Layout



The SOAS Library. © Image from SOAS Imagebank

9

SOAS University of London

Level E

- ・ 人文・社会科学
- ・ CD/DVDs
- ・ 雑誌
- ・ Issue・Enquiry・IT Help Desk

Level F

- ・ アーカイブ・スペシャルコレクション
- ・ 雑誌

10

SOAS University of London

Level C

- ・ 中国・内アジア
- ・ 日本
- ・ 東南アジア
- ・ サブジェクト・ライブラリアンの事務室

Level D

- ・ 芸術・考古学
- ・ 法律
- ・ アフリカ
- ・ 韓国

11

SOAS University of London

Level A

- ・ 南アジア

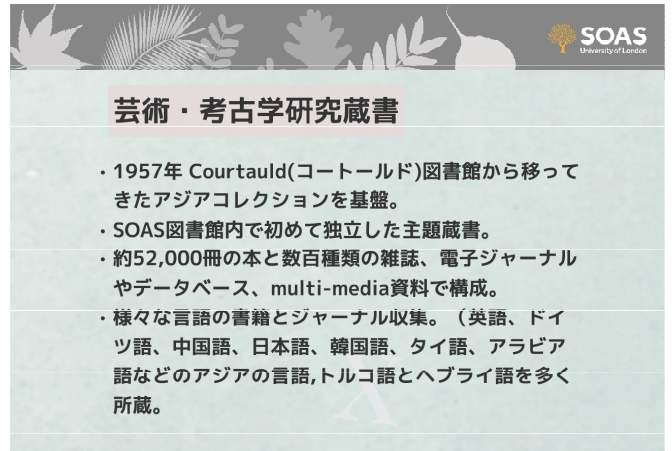
Level B

- ・ 古代オリエント・セム学・ユダヤ
- ・ 中東・中央アジア、イスラム

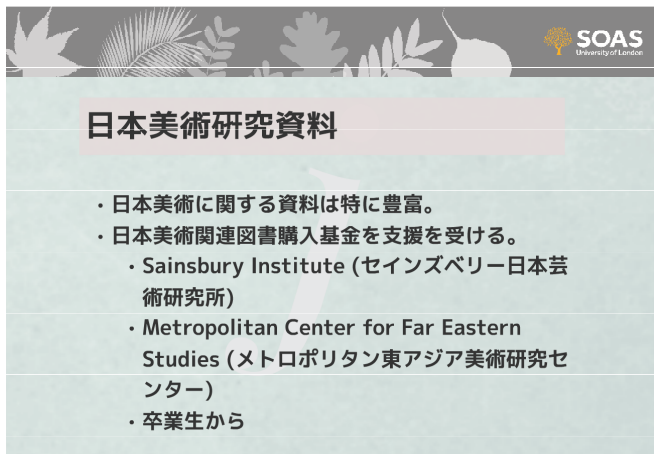
12



13



14



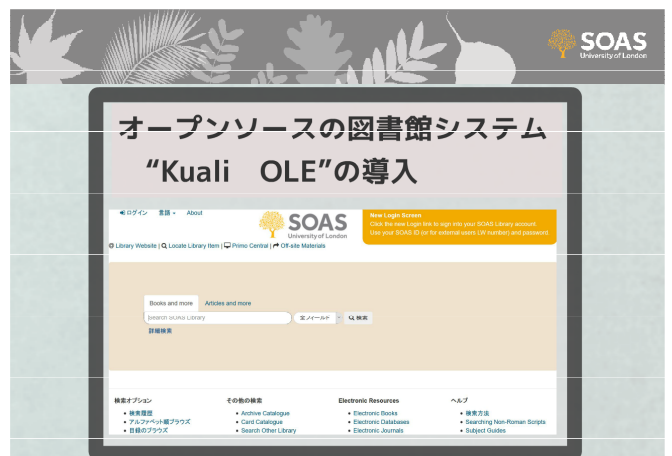
15



16



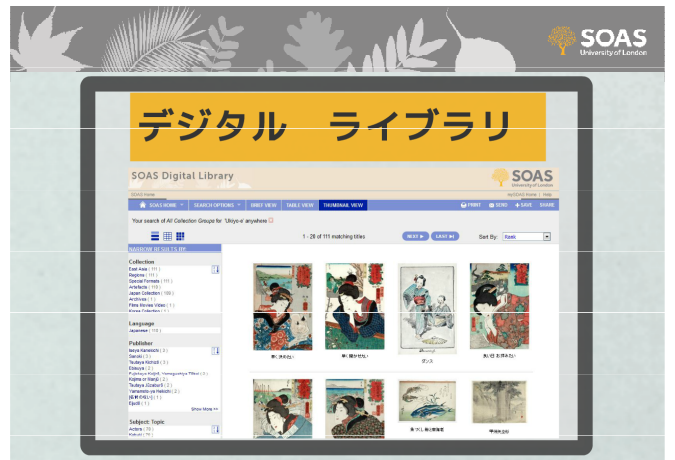
17



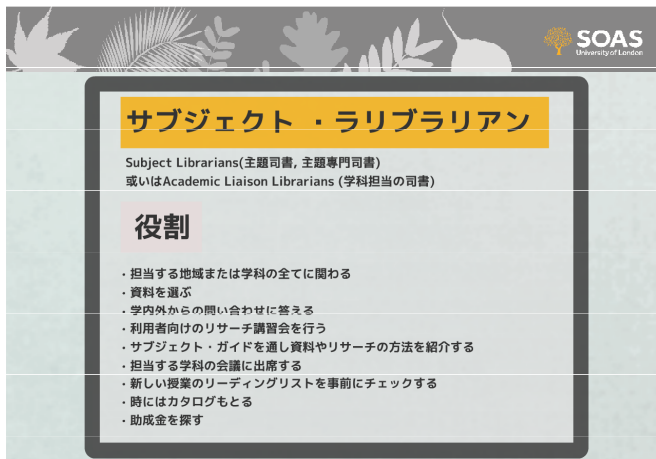
18



19



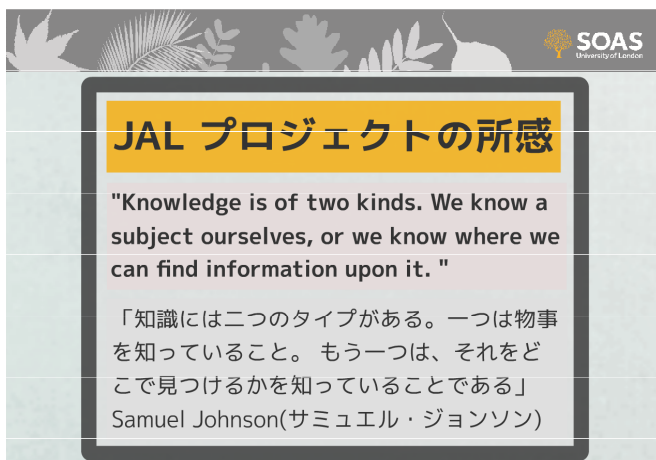
20



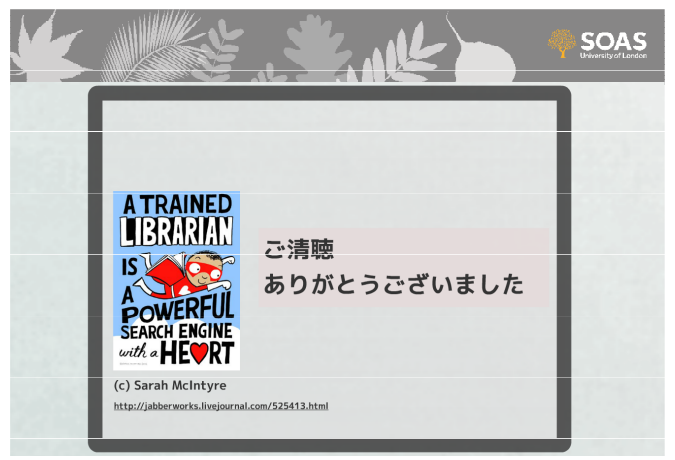
21



22



23



24