Accelerating Discovering Through Digitization -
Digitization Projects at C.V. Starr East Asian Library, UC Berkeley
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Overview

The C. V. Starr East Asian Library holds rich special collections. Great efforts have been devoted to digitizing these collections since 2000s. As of 2025, eighteen special collections have been digitized and made available to the public.

❖ Asami Collection, 765 titles
❖ Chinese Political Posters 中國政治宣傳海報, 455 images
❖ Chinese Rare Books 中文善本特藏, 445 titles
❖ Chinese Rubbings Collection 金石拓片, 2,745 titles
❖ Chee Kung Tong Archive 緻公堂檔案, 2,416 titles (ongoing)
❖ Dōbanga (Copperplate Prints) Collection 銅版画コレクション, 2,506 images
❖ Edo Hanpon (Printed Books) Collection 江戸版本コレクション, 150 titles
❖ Fine art auction catalogs, 1912-1941 美術品入札目録, 19 titles
❖ Fonoroff Lobby Cards 方保罗电影特藏: 大堂剧照, 2,119 sets
❖ Fonoroff Movie Posters 方保罗电影特藏: 電影海報, 372 images (ongoing)
❖ Ground and Aerial Views of China / J. P. Koster, 533 images
❖ Ichimaizuri korekushon = Single-sheet print collection, 1756-1940. 一枚摺コレクション, 688 images
❖ Japanese Historical Maps Collection 日本古地図コレクション, 2,193 titles
❖ Japanese Manuscripts Collection 日本写本コレクション, 29 titles (ongoing)
❖ New Age Novels of the Late Qing Dynasty (1895) (John Fryer's New Age Novels Competition) 清末時新小說, 150 titles
❖ Sugoroku Collection 双六コレクション, 155 images
❖ Works by Western Missionaries on the Chinese Language and Its Dialects, 49 titles
❖ Selected John Fryer Archive, 19 titles

Workflow

❖ EAL selects/decides special collections to be digitized
❖ EAL and Library identify funding source
❖ EAL decides metadata creation
❖ EAL and Library IT decide filename convention
❖ Library IT provides guidelines to technical specification
❖ EAL provides metadata sources or metadata working sheet
❖ Library IT publishes/uploads digitized images and matching metadata

Questions: Please contact Susan Xue, sxue@berkeley.edu

Experience Gained

❖ Agree on technical standards (image specifications etc.) with library IT in advance
❖ Do it right the first time (high quality, proper format etc.)
❖ Know where the digitized project will be published before starting the project
❖ Know technical workflow and requirements
❖ Know how metadata are organized and displayed on the digitization platform (TIND DA at Berkeley)
❖ Identify metadata sources for cataloged materials
❖ Create metadata for un-cataloged materials

Featured Projects

Chinese Political Posters
Left: Gong ye xue Daqing pu ji Daqing shi qi ye 工业学大庆 普及大庆式企业, 北京, 人民出版社, 1977.

Right: Dazhai hong qi 大寨紅旗, [北京], 人民美术出版社, 1977.

Fonoroff Movie Posters
Left: Hong lou meng 红楼梦, 中国电影公司发行, 1962

Right: Mai hua gu niang 卖花姑娘, 中国电影发行放映公司发行, 1972

Chinese Rubbings Collection
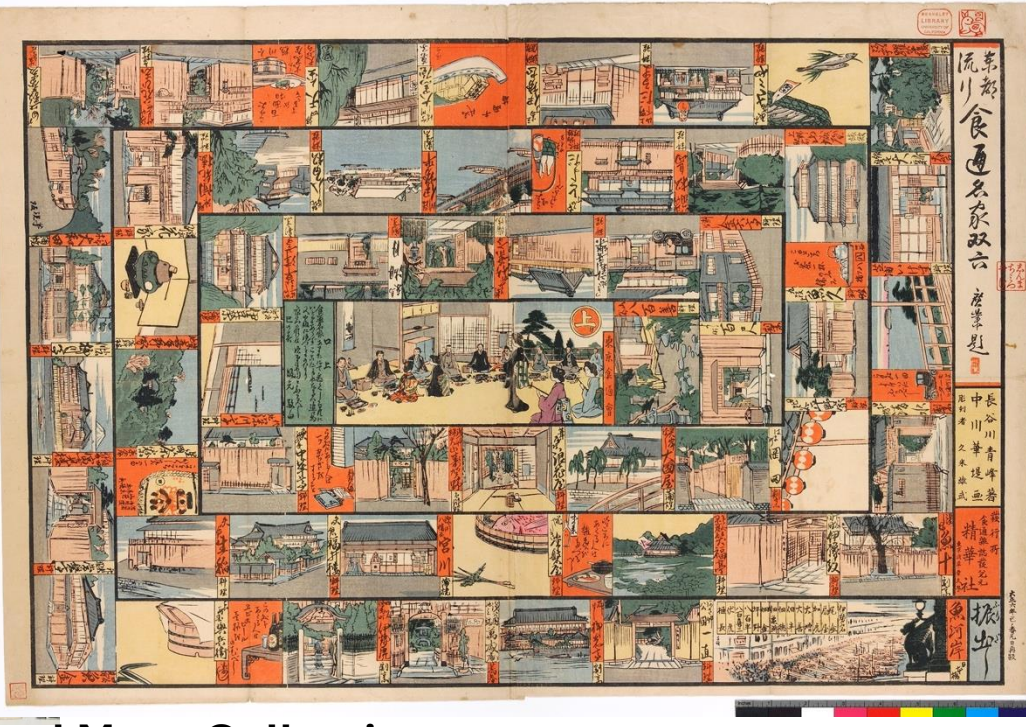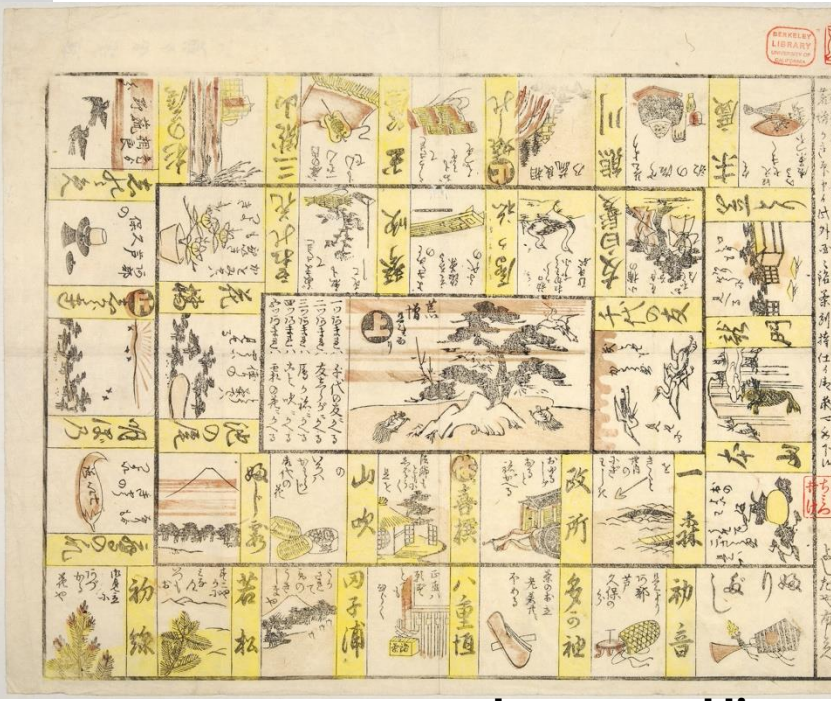Left: Xiangyuan fu hu fu 相原府虎符, 隋(581-618)

Down: Han jun che hua xiang shi 漢君車畫像石, 漢(206B.C.-220A.D.)

Sugoroku Collection
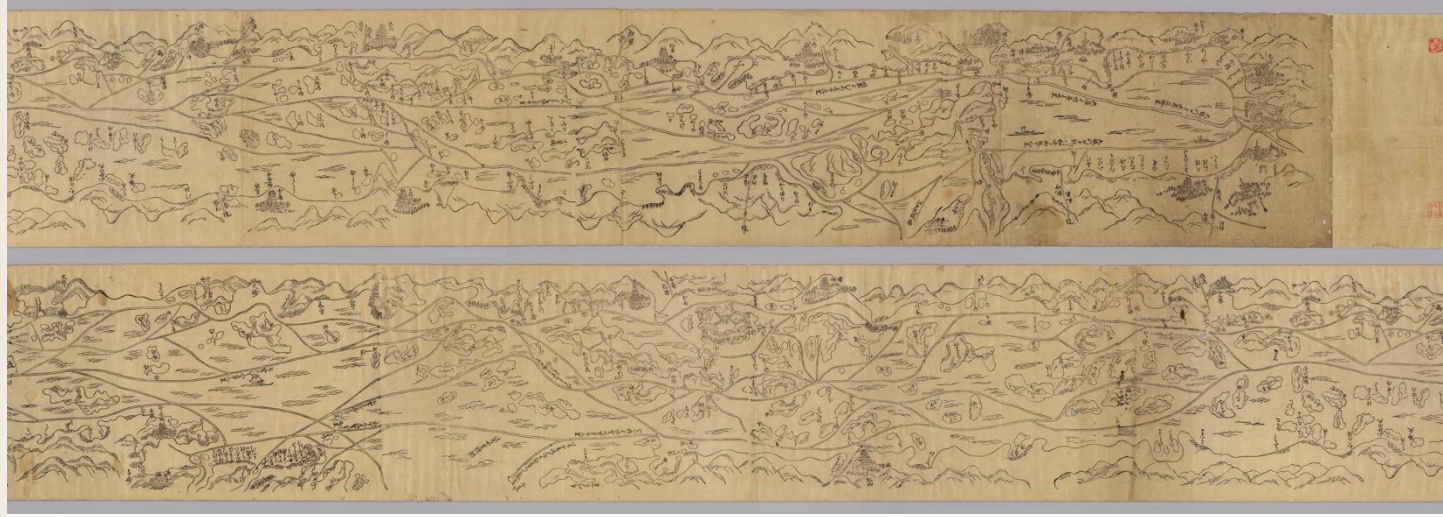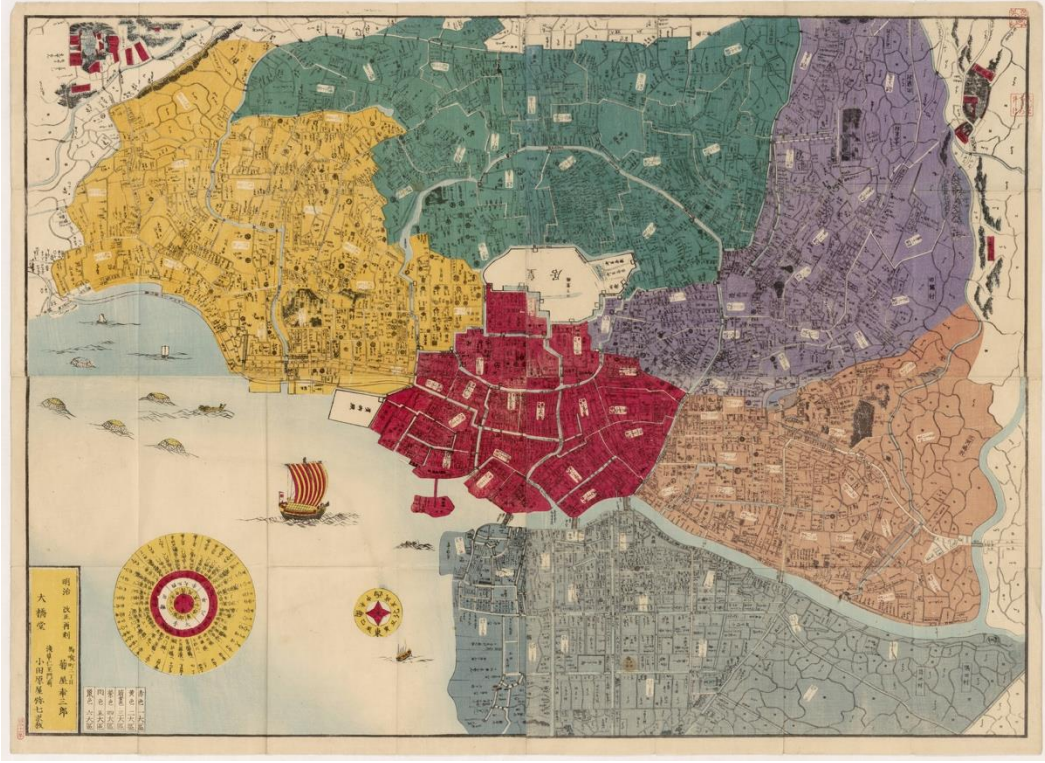Left: Sencha shinajina sugoroku 煎茶品々雙六, [Japan] , Yoshidaya Ichibē?, [between 1868 and 1912]

Right:Azuma ryūkō shokutsū meika sugoroku 東都流行食通名家双六, Tōkyō , Seikasha, Taishō 6 [1917]

Japanese Historical Maps Collection
Left: Tōkyō zenzu 東京全圖, [東京], 菊屋幸三郎, 小田原屋弥七, 明治 [after 1868]

Down: [Saikai ezu] [西海絵図], 京都, 板木屋次郎右衛門, 延寶5 [1677]

Selection

○ Scholarly interests and research value
○ Difficult to access
○ Preserving materials
○ Feasibility
○ Funding source
○ In-house vs vendor digitization
○ Copyright consideration
○ Privacy consideration

Access/Use

○ UC Berkeley Digital Collections Home: https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/find/digital-collections
○ Copyright and Permissions request: https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/find/digital-collections/about

Thanks!

○ Subject librarians in EAL
○ Cataloging librarians and staff in EAL
○ Technical staff in Library IT
○ Individual Donors
○ External funding organizations