



2-28-2023

A Guide to Secondary Scholarship for Pure Land Buddhism using Japanese Periodicals

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Stover, Rebecca A. (2023) "A Guide to Secondary Scholarship for Pure Land Buddhism using Japanese Periodicals," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2023: No. 176, Article 3.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2023/iss176/3>

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A Guide to Secondary Scholarship for Pure Land Buddhism using Japanese Periodicals

Cover Page Footnote

Through identifying key journals for secondary scholarship of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism and explicating the methodology for finding such journals, I hope to create a paper that functions as both a bibliography and a manual for researching Pure Land Buddhism. I hope that this guide will save time for students in the process of studying Japanese by providing clear directions for finding relevant articles.

A Guide to Secondary Scholarship for Pure Land Buddhism Using Japanese Periodicals

Rebecca A. Stover, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Introduction

This report identifies and explains the process of identifying journals for the secondary scholarship of Japanese Buddhism. By explicating the methodology for finding such journals, I hope to create a paper that functions as both a bibliography and a manual for researching Pure Land Buddhism. I hope it will help orient students, especially graduate students, encountering Japanese scholarship on Pure Land Buddhism for the first time. There are strengths and weaknesses to both Japanese and Western scholarship. As Galen Amstutz, in *Critical Readings on Pure Land Buddhism in Japan* explains “where Japanese scholarship (which is generally followed by Western scholarship) excels in historical research and ‘first order’ description and rendition of material, the representation of Pure Land has had difficulties taking distancing critical steps.”¹ Japanese scholarship is useful for historical-philological issues and the quantity of scholarship is larger. For students beginning to orient themselves in scholarly discourse on Japanese Pure Land Buddhism, it is invaluable to be able to understand and research both Japanese and Western scholarship on Pure Land Buddhism.

Audience

My intended user group for this guide is graduate students, in religion or Japanese studies, who are beginning to use secondary scholarship in their research. I assume familiarity with the process of research including familiarity with querying English language databases. I am not assuming total fluency in Japanese, but I think the students who would benefit most from the guide are at the N3-N2 level. Students at that level would I assume be able to use this guide to find Japanese language resources and take the time to translate/read the articles in question. I hope that this guide will save students’ time by providing clear directions to find relevant articles. I also hope that students might be able to replicate my methodology to find journals concentrating on subjects beyond the scope of this report. Part of this report already exists as a LibGuide at the University of Illinois for students to use and the full report will be uploaded to the LibGuide as well.²

Scope

For this project, I concentrated my search on periodicals from Japan and that address Pure Land Buddhism in Japan. I focused on periodicals that addressed Japanese interpretations, figures, histories, and scholarship. Journals that address other sects of Buddhism or that

¹ Galen Dean Amstutz, *Critical Readings on Pure Land Buddhism in Japan* (Leiden: Brill, 2020), (4). For more in-depth discussion see his preface to *Critical Readings on Pure Land Buddhism in Japan*.

² <https://guides.library.illinois.edu/pureland/journals>

address Chinese or Indian histories, interpretations, or scholarship on Pure Land were not included. I also limited my search to ongoing journals. I did this to give structure and boundaries to my search. In a future guide I hope to expand to these other categories.

I have organized the periodicals by accessibility. Section A includes periodicals that are fully accessible online (meaning their entire back issues), Section B includes periodicals that are somewhat available. These are periodicals that may only have the most recent issue, or one or two issues available. The journals in Section C are all from Ryukoku's website. Although they are largely accessible online, I hesitated to group them with the fully accessible journals because browsing their institutional repository is challenging. This is not a consistent issue but happened often enough to me in my research that I wanted to mention it. Often, I found myself clicking on links that brought me back to the beginning. Section D includes periodicals that I could find no or very little information about. As a result, I have not included an annotation because I could not find much information about the periodical. The journals in all of these sections have accessible metadata through CiNii and the National Diet Library, therefore they can be accessed if the researcher requests it through interlibrary loan.

Method

Overview of databases used

[National Diet Library](#): The National Diet Library is similar to the Library of Congress in the United States. As it is the national library of Japan, they collect copies of all publications published in Japan. Therefore, they have a record of all periodicals published in Japan and have them accessible in their collection. Any of the periodicals listed in this paper are available, in print, from the National Diet Library. Students may be able to order a photocopy through WorldCat or read the physical version by visiting the institution in Tokyo.

[CiNii](#): Bibliographic database of academic works published in Japan or in Japanese. Contains metadata for journals and links to full text if available. Does not contain full text of any articles.³

[J-stage](#): Useful for finding specific articles but became less useful for me as I attempted to find the full text of the entire journal.

[IRDB \(Institutional Repositories Database\)](#): A database that allows you to directly query institutional repositories in Japan.⁴ You can search for articles/journals, filter by university, and it links to full-text results from the university's repository. It was especially useful for me to access Ryūkoku University's journals because they do not link their journals directly from their university website (that I could find).

[WorldCat](#): Articles that are not accessible online may be ordered through interlibrary loan. WorldCat is a database of institutional holdings. You can check which institution has what

³ CiNii Articles technically scrapes J-stage and IRDB, but I find it useful to use them separately (for the different layouts and search features)

⁴ An institutional repository is like a digital library which collects the output of an institution's (university) researchers. For example, IDEALS at UIUC is similar.

journals and either order the issue (physical version) or request a photocopy of a specific article. This service is tied to institutional libraries and therefore is less accessible to those that are not current students. However, it is available through most universities and may be available through local libraries.

[INBUDS \(Indian and Buddhist Studies Treatise Database\)](#): This database contains articles, books, and journals on Indian and Buddhist studies mainly published in Japan. Although it is slightly beyond the scope of my current project, I think it is valuable to list as it is mainly Japanese publications, and often Japanese works on Pure Land Indian Buddhist studies are closely linked to Japanese Pure Land studies.

The National Diet Library maintains a list of periodicals. The National Diet Library Classification system uses code HZ7 for Buddhist Periodicals (H is for periodicals, Z7 is for Buddhism). I pulled data from the National Diet Library that was filed under NDLC HZ7 to get a spreadsheet of periodicals. From there I manually filtered out all journals that were beyond my scope. This included journals that focused on Zen, Nichiren, Tendai, and Shingon amongst others. Due to the nature of Buddhist “sects” in Japan, there is much overlap and therefore there are articles in some of the excluded journals that relate to Pure Land Buddhism. I chose to focus on compiling a list of periodicals that concentrate on Pure Land Buddhism to get a more manageable number of sources for both myself and any future researchers to focus on. I filtered out international journals (journals that concentrated on East Asian research discourse, journals that focused on Tibet, India, or Pali) I also excluded journals tangentially related, for example, journals about Buddhism and athletics or Buddhist museums unless they were explicitly related to Pure Land.

I also filtered the journals by title. If it had 浄土、真宗 etc. in the title I flagged it as being potentially relevant. If it had Zen, Nichiren, Tendai, Shingon, etc. in the title I excluded it. If it was unclear whether it was related to Pure Land from the title, for example, 武蔵野大学仏教文化研究所紀要 (The Journal of Institute of Buddhist Culture, Musashino University) is not obviously related to Pure Land Buddhism from the title. In cases like these, I looked through the back issues and checked whether any articles were related to Pure Land. If a majority of them, were I included them. I also checked the affiliation of the institution publishing the journal and whether there was a description of the journal through the institution. An institution like Musashino University, whose affiliation is Hongan-ji Jōdo Shinshū might be more likely to publish articles that study Pure Land.

Once I had my list of periodicals that related to Pure Land, I checked the journal’s online accessibility. The first database I used was CiNii. CiNii will often link directly to the full text of a journal, especially if it is available through an institutional repository. However, CiNii does not have access to privately uploaded back issues. I cross-checked J-stage and Zassaku-plus at first, but they did not yield significant results, so I stopped using them. The most useful searches were through the institutions’ websites and through IRDB (Institutional Repository Database). Many non-university affiliated journals were available, with the complete back issues through their organization’s website. Many universities also had their journals available through the institutional repository linked on their website, or accessible through searching IRDB. If you are looking for a university journal CiNii and IRDB are the way to go. If you are looking for a temple-affiliated journal or a research organization affiliated with the temple, the temple’s website is often the most useful.

I created the annotations based on the information I found on the publishing organization's website. I tried to always mention their affiliation (temple, university, religious).

Some periodicals had clear descriptions available, and some did not. The resulting annotations are an attempt to characterize the general subjects and trends in the journals. However, creating the annotations for these periodicals was an imperfect process. I occasionally got lucky, and the organization provided a description of the journal, I paraphrased these to the best of my ability as they were most frequently written in Japanese. I did not do a direct translation because there was seldom a singular description of the journal. I often drew from the statement of purpose for the research institution, or the "about the organization" section of the organization's website. I also used the table of contents for the most recent few issues to get a sense of the current trends of publications, which is an imperfect process, and in a future project hope to go deeper into the history and archives of each journal and write a more holistic description of the journal.

Challenges, limitations, and future steps

This report does not by any means represent a comprehensive list of journals that relate to Pure Land Buddhism. It does however represent a workable sample size of journals that might be useful to a student studying Pure Land Buddhism whose Japanese is still developing. In the future, I hope to expand the guide to include journals outside the scope of this current project. I also hope to write more comprehensive annotations by looking at the entire history of the journal and including journals that are not currently ongoing. I also hope to add to the LibGuide a section that includes an example of how to read the metadata from the journals in Section D to request through Interlibrary Loan.

Romanization. I use the Hepburn romanization (as recommended by the *Journal of East Asian Libraries*) unless the official romanization is in another style, in which case I retain the official romanization style.

Section A: Fully accessible online

| Journal Title (Japanese) | Transliteration | ISSN | Brief Annotation |
|---|--|-----------|--|
| 武蔵野大学仏教文化研究所紀要 = Journal of Institute of Buddhist Culture | ムサシノ ダイ ガク ブッキョ ウ ブンカ ケン キュウジョ キ ヨウ Musashino Daigaku Bukkyō Bunka Kenkyū Jyokyō | 1882-0107 | Published by Musashino University annually. Musashino University is in Tokyo and associated with Jōdo Shin. Papers on all forms of Buddhism, but emphasis on Pure Land. Close readings of Pure Land Sutras, Pure Land in other countries, etc. |
| 佛教大学法然仏教学 | ブッキョウ ダイ ガク ホウネ ン ブッキョウ | 2188-8442 | Annual publication by Bukkyō University, in Kyoto, which is affiliated with the Jodo School of Buddhism. It is a Honen focused |

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| 研究センター紀要 = Bulletin of Honen Buddhist Studies Research | ガク ケンキュ ウ センター キヨウ Bukkyō Daigaku Honen Bukkyō Kenkyū Senta Kyō | | journal, includes many of annotated translations and interpretations of Honen's work and Honen's contemporaries in relation to their discourse with Honen (Myoe, et al.) |
| 親鸞教學 = The Otani Journal of Shin Buddhism | シンランキョ ウガク Shinran Kyōgaku | 0583- 0567 | Published annually by Shinshu Gakkai (Shin Research Institute) which is affiliated with Otani University in Kyoto. This journal specifically focuses on Shinran, his works, life, and thought. It also includes articles that examine his effects and relate his thought to modern day issues. |
| 真宗総合研究所研究紀要 = Annual Memoirs of the Otani University Shin Buddhist Comprehensive Research Institute | シンシュウ ソ ウゴウ ケンキ ュウジョ ケン キュウ キヨウ Shinshū Sōgō Kenkyū Jyoken Kyūkyō | 1343- 2753 | Published annually by Otani University. Covers a range of topics including text analysis, temple history, art etc. |
| 真宗文化：真宗文化研究 所年報 = The Bulletin of the Institute of Shin Buddhist Culture | シンシュウ ブ ンカ：シンシ ュウ ブンカ ケンキュウジ ヨ ネンポウ Shinshū Bunka: Shinshū Bunka Kenkyū Jonenpou | 1343- 1153 | Kyoto Kōka Women's University Departmental Bulletin Paper. Published annually, includes dissertations from their students as well as reports from their 光華 講座 (Kōka Kōza) lecture series, which occurs twice a year. Affiliated with the Otani Shin Shu Federation (Shin Buddhism). The majority of articles and lectures within their series relate to Shin Buddhism, although other topics are included. |
| 真実心 | Shinjitsu Shushin | N/A | A bulletin for Kōka university students from a lecture series that runs five times a year. The bulletin is a summary of the lecture series that has been made available for students. The entire |

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| | | | list is fully accessible online. It is useful for anyone currently researching trends in scholarship for Buddhism, and especially Pure Land Buddhism. |
| 浄土真宗総合研究 = Jōdo Shinshu Research | ジョウドシン シュウソウゴ ウ ケンキュウ Jōdo Shinshu Kenkyū | 2185- 5277 | Published annually by the Nishi Hongan-ji Research Institute, in Kyoto. Different theme for each issue. The most recent issue addressed Jōdo Shinshu and Coronavirus. The Nishi Hongan-ji Research Institute has multiple laboratories doing research on Jōdo Shinshu related topics and recruits researchers (monks or otherwise associated students, preferably those with an advanced degree in religion). |
| 本願寺史料研究所報 = The Hongan-ji Historical Materials Research Institution Bulletin | ホンガンジ シ リョウ ケンキ ユウジョホウ Honganji Shiryō Kenkyū Johō | N/A | Published twice a year by the Hongan-ji Research. Institution in Kyoto. This journal focuses on the history of Hongan-ji and historical materials and temple treasures of Hongan-ji. Emphasis on preservation, and study of the materials. |
| 宗學院論集 = The Journal of Jōdo-Sinshū Studies | シュウガクイ ン ロンシュウ Shūgakuin Ronshū | 0287- 4571 | Published annually by Nishi Hongan-ji Temple in Kyoto. Includes public lectures that have been recorded as articles, as well as research from the temple's students. As it is the head temple of the <i>Jōdo Shin-shū Hongan-ji-ha</i> sect, the journal publishes numerous articles relating to <i>Jōdo Shin-shū</i> . Some articles are downloadable online, as well as the table of contents for many of the issues, but the entire back list does not seem to be available online. |
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Section B: Partially Accessible online

| Journal Title (Japanese) | Transliteration | ISSN | Brief Annotation |
|--|---|-----------|---|
| 深草教学 = The Journal of Fukakusa Studies / 浄土宗西山深草派宗学院 編 | フカクサ キョウガク Fukakusa Kyōgaku | 1340-4407 | Annual publication by Jodō Shu Nishiyama Fukakusa Society. The focus of this journal is the historical study of Hōnen and his disciples. ⁵ They publish research, research notes, dissertations, and editorials. ⁶ The head temple affiliated with this society is Seigan-ji (誓願寺) in Kyoto. |
| 山口真宗教学 | ヤマグチ シンシュウ キョウガク Yamaguchi Shinshū Kyōgaku | N/A | The Journal of Yamaguchi Shinshū Studies ⁷ is published by the Yamaguchi Shinshū Society in Yamaguchi Prefecture. It is associated with the temple Hongan-ji Yamaguchi Betsuin, which is part of the larger Hongan-ji branch of temples. They are a group of monks from the Yamaguchi area and beyond who seek to mimic larger academic societies on a smaller, local scale. ⁸ They began publishing in 1987 and are an annual publication. Issues are partially available online for download through their website. |
| 記主禅師研究所紀要 = Journal of Kishuzenji Research Institute | キシユゼンジケンキュウジ ヨ キョウ Kishuzenji Kenkyū Jyokyō | 2433-2712 | The Journal of Kishuzenji Research Institute is an annual publication from the Kishuzenji Research Institute in Kamakura, it is affiliated with Daihonzan Kōmyō-ji (浄土宗大本山 光明寺), a Jōdo-Shu temple. This organization seems to be the research wing of the temple and does research about the temple's |

⁵ 「元祖法然上人およびそのご門弟たちの歴史的事実を明らかにすることに主眼を置ます。」 “代表あいさつ / 浄土宗西山深草派宗学会.” 浄土宗西山深草派宗学会, <http://www.fukakusa.org/p012.html>.

⁶ 「この「宗学会」の目的は仏教学、歴史学、人文科学としての「研究、研究ノート、論文、論説等」を掲載し、それに対して、いつでも誰でも自由に、討論し批判することができる場を設けることにあります。」 *ibid.*

⁷ My approximate translation.

⁸ 山口真宗教学会、について、http://yama-kyogaku.main.jp/about_us.html

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| | | | treasures and the life and words of the temple's founder Ryōchū. Ryōchū (良忠, 1199-1287) was a priest who was ordained by Honen and is the 3 rd patriarch of Jōdo-Shu. Kishu Zenji is the posthumous name of Ryōchū. This journal would be very useful for anyone who wanted to study Ryōchū and/or the history of Kōmyō-ji. This journal started publishing in 2018. Only the articles from 2018 are accessible on the Kishuzenji Research Institute website, the others are not accessible online but may be ordered through Interlibrary Loan. |
| 真宗教学研究 = The Journal of the Doctrinal Study of Shin Buddhism | シンシュウ キョウガク ケンキュウ Shinshū Kyōgaku Kenkyū | 1346-2156 | The Journal of the Doctrinal Study of Shin Buddhism is annually published by the Shinshu Otani Educational Institute. |

Section C: Technically accessible online

| Journal Title (Japanese) | Transliteration | ISSN | Brief Annotation |
|--|---|-----------|--|
| Ryūkoku | | | |
| 龍谷大学世界仏教文化研究論叢 = Bulletin of Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures | セカイ ブツキョウブンカケンキュウ Ryūkoku University | 2435-0117 | The Bulletin of Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures from Ryūkoku University in Kyoto. It includes original scholarly articles and translated works. I found a call for research papers from this journal that describes it as including “Buddhist Studies of texts and scriptures” and “Interdisciplinary studies that discuss issues such as the inter-religious dialogue broader cultural exchange. It also says that the journal contains, “research that examines the role or significance of Buddhism in contemporary |

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| | | | society and considers its practical aspects” and “works that translate, annotate, and critically edit Buddhist scriptures.” I believe it is an annual publication. |
| 山口真宗教学 | ヤマグチ シ ンシュウ キ ョウガク Yamaguchi Shinshū Kyōgaku | N/A | The Journal of Yamaguchi Shinshū Studies ⁹ is published by the Yamaguchi Shinshū Society in Yamaguchi Prefecture. It is associated with the temple Hongan-ji Yamaguchi Betsuin, which is part of the larger Hongan-ji branch of temples. They are a group of monks from the Yamaguchi area and beyond who seek to mimic larger academic societies on a smaller, local scale. ¹⁰ They began publishing in 1987 and are an annual publication. Issues are partially available online for download through their website. |
| 記主禪師研究所紀要 = Journal of Kishuzenji Research Institute | キシユゼンジ ケンキュウジ ョ キヨウ Kishuzenji Kenkyū Jyokyō | 2433- 2712 | The Journal of Kishuzenji Research Institute is an annual publication from the Kishuzenji Research Institute in Kamakura, it is affiliated with Daihonzan Kōmyō-ji (浄土宗大本山 光明寺), a Jōdo-Shu temple. This organization seems to be the research wing of the temple and does research about the temple’s treasures and the life and words of the temple’s founder Ryōchū. Ryōchū (良忠, 1199-1287) was a priest who was ordained by Honen and is the 3 rd patriarch of Jōdo-Shu. Kishu Zenji is the posthumous name of Ryōchū. This journal would be very useful for anyone who wanted to study Ryōchū and/or the history of Kōmyō-ji. This journal started publishing in 2018. |

⁹ My approximate translation.

¹⁰ 山口真宗教学会、について、http://yama-kyogaku.main.jp/about_us.html

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| | | | Only the articles from 2018 are accessible on the Kishuzenji Research Institute website, the others are not accessible online but may be ordered through Interlibrary Loan. |
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Section D: Inaccessible online

| Journal Title (Japanese) | Transliteration | ISSN | Brief Annotation |
|---|---|---------------|------------------|
| 法然思想 = Hōnen's thought | ホウネン シソ ウ Hōnen Shisō | N/A | |
| 眞宗研究 : 眞宗連合學會 研究紀要 = The Shinshu kenkyū : Journal of Shinshu Studies | シンシュウ ケ ンキュウ : シ ンシュウ レン ゴウ ガツカイ ケンキュウ キ ヨウ = The Shinshū kenkyū : Journal of Shinshu Studies | 0288- 0911 | |
| 東国眞宗 | トウゴク シン シュウ Tōgoku Shinshū | 2432- 0846 | |
| 浄土宗学研究 / 知恩院 浄土宗学研究所 | ジョウドシュ ウガク ケンキ ュウ. Jōdoshūgaku Kenkyū | 1342- 5374 | |
| 宗学院紀要 = Journal of Shugakuin | ソウガクイン キヨウ Sōgakuin Shō | 1343- 7364 | |