

Changes, or symptoms thereof, in scholarly communication in Japan

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at Singapore 2013, 15th Fiesole Collection Development
Retreat

An outline of my observations

1. Library's role in scholarly communication being undermined in Japan, maybe wiped away soon
2. "Perception" of declining productivity of Japan's scientific community
3. Promotion of open access in the secular sense in Japan
4. The fate of digital library in a country of print, or vested interests
5. So what's going on and going to happen in Japan?
 - ▶ University libraries turned into mere learning spaces, being forgotten by researchers
 - ▶ Societies finally surrendering to "foreign" publishers

Basic figures

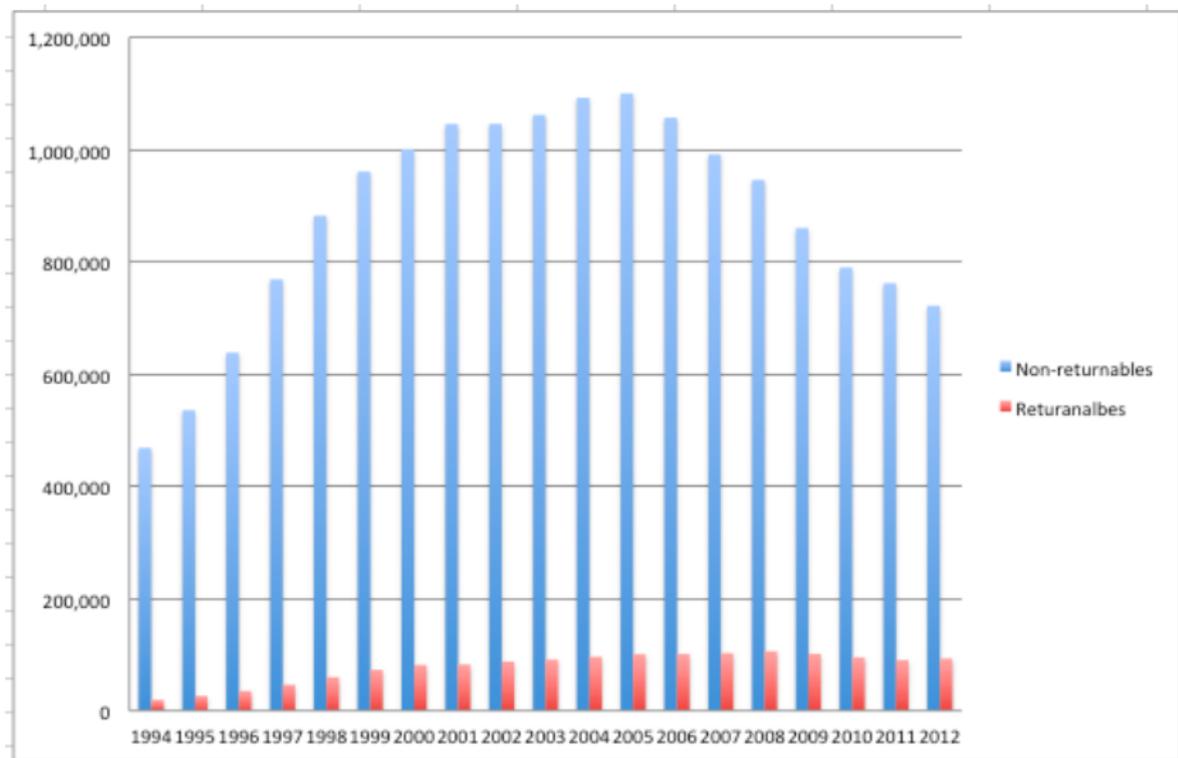
- ▶ R & D expenditure: 17T JPY, 3rd to US and China, with 4 to 5 from government
- ▶ Government funding for research: 200B JPY from JSPS and 100B from JST, with some more from the rest of the government
- ▶ HE expenditure: 3T to 4T JPY for 3M students from gov and household, which is cheap, half of US's and cheaper per capita than most countries
- ▶ Library expenditure on journals: 35B JPY, out of the total material expenditure of 70B JPY, with more than a third going to Elsevier

note roughly 1 USD = 100 JPY, as of around now

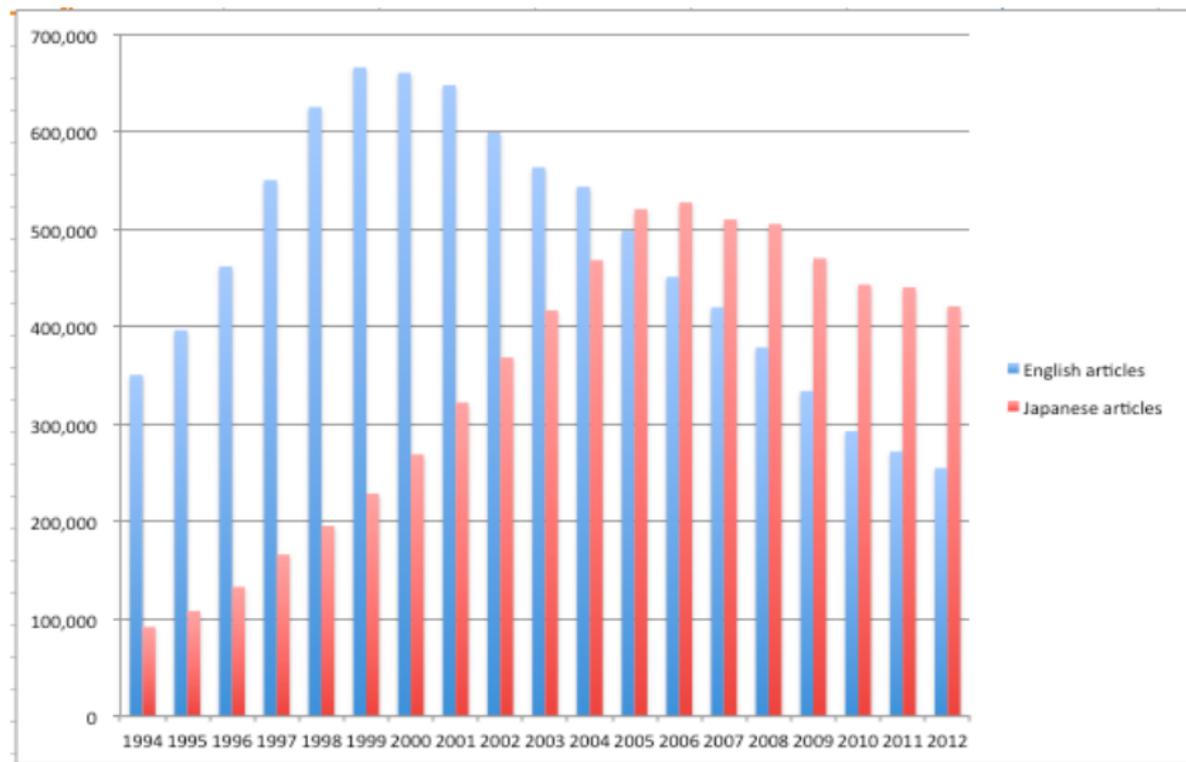
Library's role in scholarly communication being undermined in Japan

- ▶ Evidence: Decreasing interlibrary document delivery requests from the analysis of NACSIS-ILL records (by Yoshinori Sato) [▶ ILLgeneral](#) [▶ ILLcomparison](#)
- ▶ Japanese researchers with easiest access ever to publications both by big deal or by open access on the web
- ▶ Scientists in Japan being so happy now that that they are forgetting libraries
- ▶ Librarians being more interested in providing better learning environments

General trends in the number of requests



Comparison between the requests for “foreign” and domestic journal articles



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From Japanese Science and Technology Indicators 2013 (released Aug 9)

1. Total research and development expenditure in Japan, which has continued to decline in recent years, was JPY 1.74B, 1.6% increase over the previous year.
2. The number of people enrolling in undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs declined both in 2011 and 2012.
3. the number of papers produced in Japan, Japan was third according to the fractional counting method (degree of contribution in the production of papers in the world)
4. As for the adjusted number of the top 10% and top 1% highly cited papers in the world, Japan ranked sixth and seventh, respectively.
5. In the number of patent families, which is the indicator for international comparison of the number of inventions, Japan ranked number one in the world

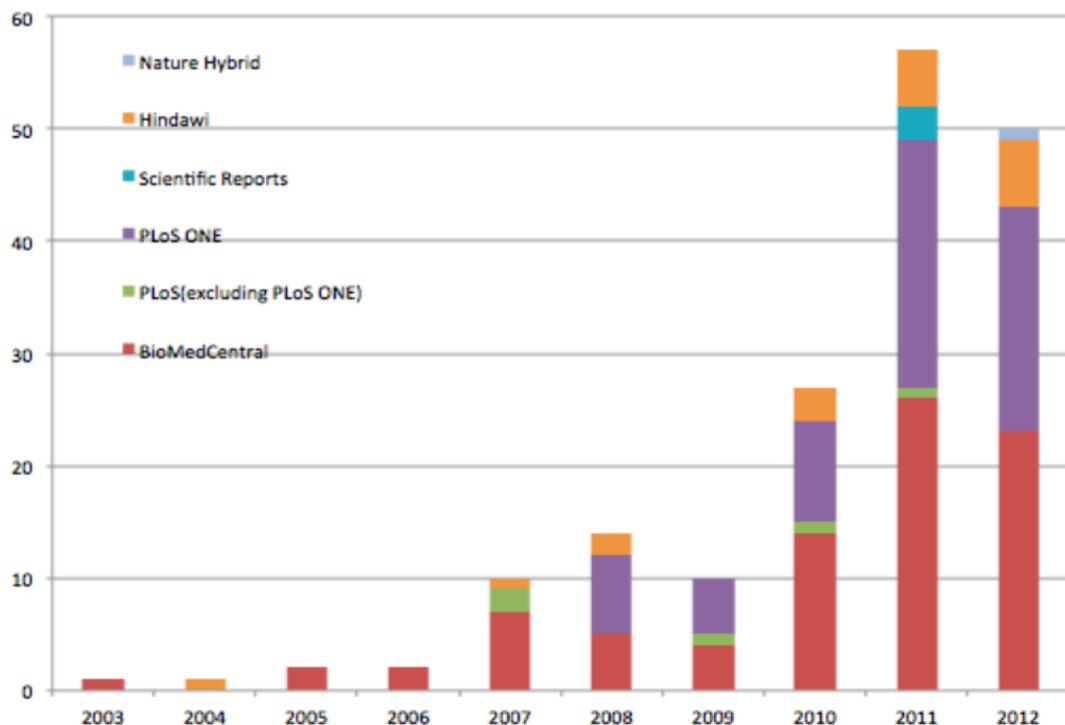
Japan's popular perception of its S & T, apart from the release

- ▶ Japan's scholarship is getting less productive, quantitatively, but in the number of published papers, 4th in 1988, 2nd in 1998, 5th in 2008, with China intervening and 7th in 2012, which does not seem very bad
- ▶ A kind of moral hazard, perhaps, as evidenced by "retractions"
- ▶ Pervading sense of "fatigue"
- ▶ Interestingly, this began after our Science and Technology Basic Plans started to give funding to S & T research
- ▶ (Cynicism: People are ready to underestimate themselves just for more money, with improved rhetoric)

Promotion of open access in Japan in the “secular” sense

- ▶ Steady but slow progress of institutional repositories, with which libraries can indulge themselves
- ▶ Government’s commitment to “open access,” “because they say so,” as in the case of G8 declaration in London for open access to data
- ▶ And, a bit more seriously, open access as the infrastructure for science and scholarship as recommended in a report from MEXT
- ▶ And JSPS’s change of the funding policy for scholarly journals in the direction of promoting open access because that it is impossible to sustain journals without open access
- ▶ Researchers didn’t care “religious” open access but easily accept “secular” open access [▶ Chiba](#)
- ▶ Publishers (seem to) think that libraries have no more money so will get more from researchers directly, which is open access

Unconscious acceptance of OA publishing

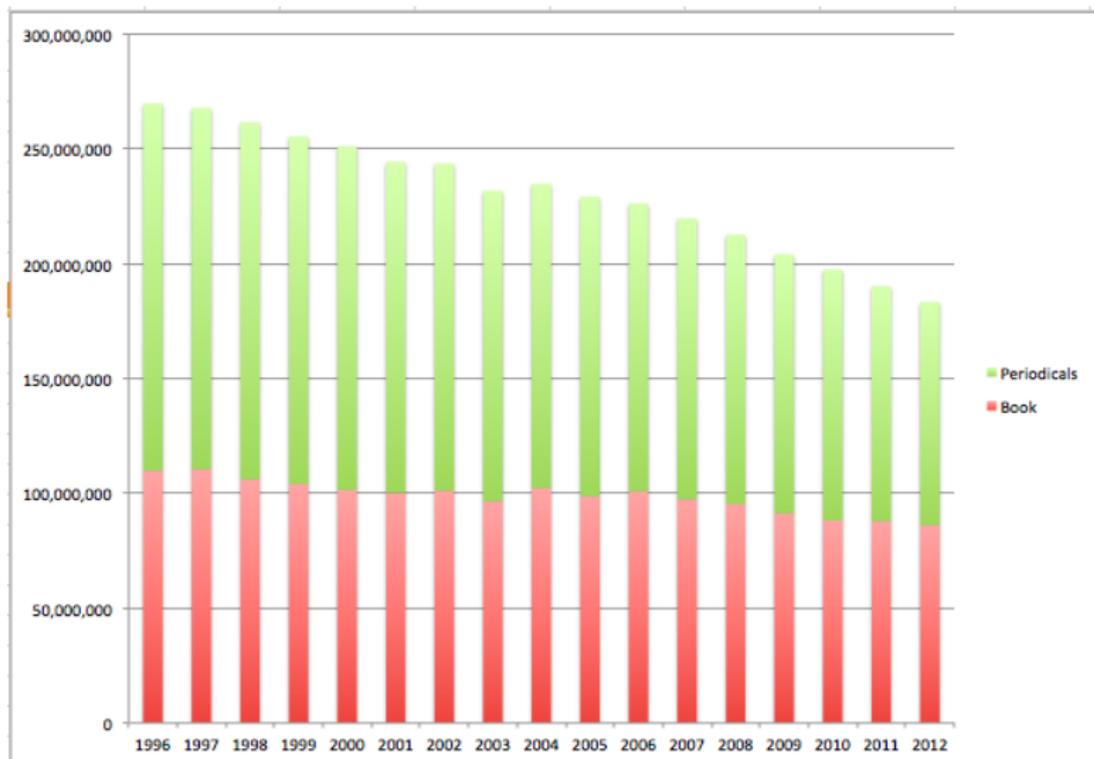


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The fate of digital library in the country of print

- ▶ No real STM society publishing in Japan. Surviving ones partner with “foreign publishers,” like JSAP with IOP and JSP with OUP
- ▶ Japan’s publishing industry itself dying
 - ▶ Japan’s publishing industry
- ▶ National Diet Library’s curious behaviors, too much influenced by copyright holders
- ▶ Need for some independent platform for scholarly communication for Japan, anyway

The declining Japanese publishing



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No conclusion in particular, but just these facts, but

- ▶ Will China produce 10 times as much scholarly articles as Japan in 10 years?
- ▶ If yes, the total number of articles worldwide will be double even without those from India.
- ▶ Will they be all open access? If yes, there will be no problem for libraries.