JAPAN RESOURCE CENTER

The Japan Resource Center (JRC), part of the George Washington University Libraries' Global Resources Center, was established in 2005 to provide support for advanced study on Japan to the University academic community. Open to the public, the JRC and GRC regularly host scholars, analysts and other researchers from universities, agencies and organizations from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, nationally and abroad.

The JRC is built upon the collection of the Japan Economic Institute (JRI), a research organization deeply rooted in the policy community that ceased operation in October 2000. The acquisition of this collection along with a significant portion of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation library in 2013 helped shape a specialized resource unique among private research institutions in the Washington, D.C. area. The JRC now offers concentrated collections focusing on the history, politics, economy, public policy, national security, culture, and foreign relations of Japan after the Meiji Restoration (1868), with an emphasis on the 20th century.

The GRC features six area resource centers including the Japan Resource Center, Taiwan Resource Center, China Documentation Center and Korea Resources.

OKINAWA COLLECTION
AND JAPAN RESOURCE CENTER

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The Okinawa Collection of primary and secondary research materials is housed in the GRC’s Japan Resource Center. Its focus is Okinawan politics, policy, international relations, economics, culture, literature, linguistics and history. The collection is a collaboration between the government of Okinawa and GW Libraries with the Okinawan government graciously agreeing to fund the ongoing development of the collection.

"With this grant, GW’s Okinawa Collection could become the second largest library on Okinawa located outside of Japan after the one in the University of Hawaii," Dr. Mochizuki said. "To have this collection in the nation’s capital at GW gives unparalleled access to researchers and decision-makers in the think tank and policy community. We are delighted to have these materials."

In 2016, the JRC will continue to develop and promote the Okinawa Collection, with the immediate goals of making the material available to GW scholars, cataloging the Collection, and creating a companion website.

Okinawan Cultural Event

Co-sponsored by the Global Resources Center and Veterans For Peace, Ryukyu Okinawa Chapter Organizing Committee, a special screening of the English-language version of the popular documentary "Okinawa: The Afterburn" was held on November 18, 2015. Director John Junkereman visited this screening and had an active discussion with the audience after the show.

A major hit in Japanese theaters since its release in June 2015, "Okinawa: The Afterburn" is the first documentary to provide a comprehensive picture of the 1945 Battle of Okinawa and the ensuing 70-year occupation of the island by the US military. The film carries the story to the present, depicting the discrimination and oppression forced upon Okinawa by the American and Japanese governments. With Okinawa now embroiled in a struggle over the construction of a new base, this timely film illuminates the roots of a deep-seated resistance.