

# THE WORDPRESS BLOGS AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TEAM-BUILDING TOOL

Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) 2020  
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The Gordon W. Prange Collection, an archive of Japanese publications issued between 1945-1949, launched blogs (in English and Japanese) in July 2013. In the past 6.5 years, over 400 posts have been published.

The blogs are now more than just a simple way to broadcast information. They function as a tool for team building and professional development for Prange staff members, interns and student assistants.

## ENHANCE STUDENTS' RESUMES

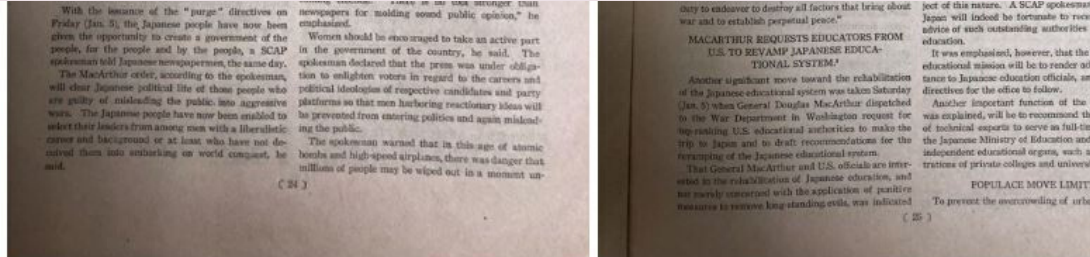
Give interns and student assistants an opportunity to author blog posts

**Mayo Oral Histories Internship**  
Posted by prangecollection on June 22, 2014 in News



The Prange Collection, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Department of History, established the Marlene J. Mayo Oral History Internship to process the 100 oral histories in the Mayo Collection. The internship was first offered in Spring semester 2014.

Joe was an intern from the History Department. He worked on an oral history collection to gain releases from the interviewees or their family members.



As part of the reconstruction, the Japanese adopted a new constitution. The new Constitution of Japan was ratified on November 3, 1946 and came into effect on May 3, 1947. Even to this day, historians have various views on how much the General Headquarters (GHQ) influenced the writing of this constitution.

Japanese students who want to study this topic may have a hard time reading the original documents in English or even locating them (successive drafts of the constitution can be found [here](#)). The student assistant position at the Gordon W. Prange Collection (I am also a Government and Politics major with an International Relations Concentration and as member of the [East Asian Studies Certificate](#) program at the University of Maryland, College Park) has offered me a great opportunity to conduct in-depth research on the Constitution of Japan. Through this research, I have discovered the uniqueness of the situation and the obstacles that the Japanese government faced in ratifying the constitution.

Nari was a Government & Politics major who published a series of blog posts on the Japanese Constitution.

**Raising a Child: Then and Now (Part V – Raising a “Good” Baby)**  
Posted by prangecollection on August 20, 2019 in Treasures

*[This is a guest post written by Risa Tanji, a Student Assistant in Special Collections & University Archives, who works primarily in the Prange Collection. This is the last post of]*

Risa is a current student assistant. She wrote a series of blog posts comparing child rearing during the Occupation period and the present day. She analyzed several "how to" books on raising children from the collection.

**An iSchool Student Reflects on her Field Study in the Prange Collection**  
Posted by prangecollection on February 11, 2018 in News

*[This is a guest post written by Ashley Victoria Haddix, an iSchool Field Studies Intern for Fall 2017 in the Prange Collection.]*



During my time with the Prange Collection, I was given the opportunity to process the [Mead Smith Karras Papers](#), a gift collection of her personal and professional papers given by her husband George Karras. I had never fully processed a collection before, and was excited not only to learn more


Ashley was a MLIS student in the UMD's iSchool. She fulfilled her field studies requirement by working in the Prange Collection. She created an extensive finding aid for one gift collection. She wrote her posts in English and Japanese.

## HIGHLIGHTS THE EXPERTISE OF STAFF MEMBERS

Each staff member is doing great things behind the scenes!

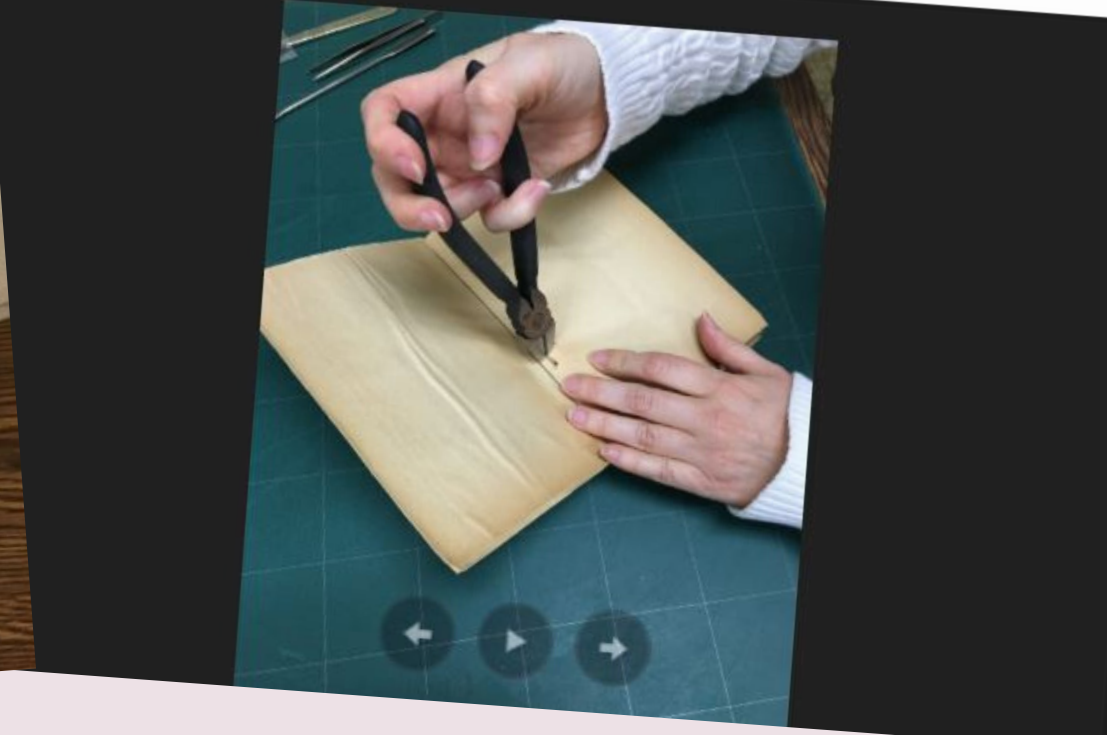
**Preservation: Tools**  
Posted by prangecollection on October 16, 2017 in Preservation

In order to prepare all materials so that they are ready for the digitization project, the staff member who does preservation at the Prange Collection uses many tools. Here is a snapshot of her workstation:



**Preservation: Unstapling of books prior to scanning**  
Posted by prangecollection on June 10, 2018 in Preservation

Many books in the Prange Collection are bound using side staples. In order to fully capture the text and to minimize damage during scanning, some of the books are unstapled. Below, a Prange Collection staff member shows you how it's done.



A staff member who specializes in preservation tasks publishes slideshows on how she conducts her work, including unstapling, cutting cords, and paper-smoothing.

**On this day in 1948... (January 18)**  
Posted by prangecollection on January 18, 2020 in Treasures

*This post is part of a continuing series on the [Censored Newspaper Articles \(CNA\)](#)*



On January 18, 1948, Kyodo Tsushin an article to the Civil Censorship Det (CCD) with the headline, 火のよなへの情愛：ハワイ日系市民の世論調査 [Hawaiian Citizens of Japanese Desc Reveal Burning Love for Japan in Op Survey]. Portions of the article were with "Delete" by the censor (Prange 48-loc-0243).

"The hope and the interest 360,000 r Hawaii of Japanese descent are shot toward Japan are beyond imagination"

A staff member who created metadata for the digitization of newspaper manuscripts and documents (Censored Newspaper Articles - CNAs) writes "On this day..." posts featuring the CNAs.

**Featured Movie-related item: Gaslight (1944)**  
Posted by prangecollection on February 9, 2020 in Treasures



The 92nd Academy Awards are just around the corner! They'll be televised on Sunday, February 9!

This is our second installment of the year on Oscar-winning movies. Seventy-five years ago, [Gaslight](#) (Japanese translation – ガス燈), starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer, was nominated for ten awards and walked away with two wins: Best Art Direction and Best Actress in a Leading Role for Bergman.

The movie is based on the play, *Angle Street*, by

A staff member who is interested in films writes a movie-related post every year in the lead-up to the Oscars.

## TIPS to make blogs less time-consuming...

- Be clear about who is responsible for writing each post
- Brainstorm with students and staff members frequently for ideas
- Create a series that will showcase many related items from your collection and will make it easy to create a stock of blog posts
- Pre-schedule as many posts as possible
- Be organized!

(We use a shared Google Doc to monitor the status of each post)

### Prange Collection Blog Schedule

|                           |             |   |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| Scheduled                 | (3/1/2020)  | Handwritten manuscripts [TREASURE]      |
| Scheduled                 | (3/8/2020)  | Prange Photographs [PRESERVATION]       |
| Scheduled                 | (3/15/2020) | Spring Break Announcement               |
| AW edited [Images needed] | (4/12/2020) | Featured Magazine 15 [Chiba] [TREASURE] |
| Placeholder Available     | ( )         | lobby artwork repair                    |

**Prange Staff Pick from the Exhibition – Bassin Photographs**  
Posted by prangecollection on February 12, 2019 in Events, Exhibits

The Prange Collection exhibit, *"Crossing the Divide: An American Dream Made in Occupied Japan, 1945-1952,"* will be on display in the Maryland Room Gallery, Hornbake Library North, University of Maryland, through July 2019. In our series, "Prange Staff Picks from the Exhibition," we will share with you our personal favorites from the exhibit.

The Prange Collection mounted an exhibition in 2018-2019 that was on display for a year. After the exhibition was installed, each staff member chose a favorite item from the exhibition and published a blog post about it.

**An Interview with Raymond Vernon from the Marlene J. Mayo Oral Histories**  
By prangecollection | September 1, 2019 | Leave a comment | Edit

This post is the tenth in a series featuring interviews from the Marlene J. Mayo Oral Histories. Current 29 of the oral history transcripts are available online. The remainder are available onsite in the Marlar Room, the reading room for Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Maryland. For other featured oral histories, see this [...]

**An Interview with Marius Jansen: From the Marlene J. Mayo Oral Histories**  
By prangecollection | April 1, 2019 | Leave a comment | Edit

A staff member who is transcribing oral histories writes a series of blog posts featuring each interviewee on their birthday.