

CSU Japanese American Digitization Project Users Guide

Introduction

The Japanese American Digitization Project is making primary source material from the Archives of the California State University system available online using [CONTENTdm](#) digital collection management software. The digitized materials are currently hosted by [CSU Dominguez Hills](#).

Simple keyword or advanced searches should lead the user to the digitized archival materials. For in-depth descriptions of each of the CSU archival collections from which these materials were derived, please see the [collections page](#). For links to other important Japanese American history projects and information about the war relocation centers, see the [resources page](#). Additional search information and terminology explanation is provided below.

Guide to Search Terms

The following guide provides users with short and extended lists of the subject terms that were used to describe the archival materials in the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project. They provide the user with the search terms that will be the most effective in returning digitized materials. The projects gathers material in a rich variety of formats, including, to date, applications, birth certificates, bulletins, checks, forms, guidebooks, leases, letters, maps, oral histories, paintings, pamphlets, photographs, postcards, resolutions, and transcriptions; for best results when searching, enclose your search term in quotation marks, e.g. "photograph" or use the singular form, e.g. check rather than checks.

Short List

- Activism, Redress, and Reparations
- Arts and Literature
- Community
- Employment and Military Service
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Incarceration Camps
- Journalism and Media
- Laws and Legislation
- Leave, Resettlement, and Post-War life
- Mass Removal and Detention

Extended List

- Activism, Redress, and Reparations
 - Civil liberties (including Civil Liberties Act of 1988)
 - Civil Rights
- Arts and Literature
- Community
 - Associations and Organizations

- Japanese American Citizen League Activities
- Recreational Activities
- Sports
- Family and Family Activities
- Religion and Churches
- Community Organizations
- Support from the Non-Japanese American Community
- Employment and Military Service
 - Educators
 - Agriculture
 - Business
 - Work & Jobs (Other)
 - Military Service
 - 442nd Regimental Combat Team
- Immigration and citizenship
 - Anti-Immigration Sentiment and Propaganda
 - Identity and Values - Including Issei, Nisei, etc.
 - Expatriation/Repatriation/Deportation
 - Enemy Alien - Classification
- Incarceration Camps
 - War Relocation Authority
 - Registration and "Loyalty Questionnaire"
 - Segregation
 - Internal Security Act
 - Incarceration Camps
- Resistance and Dissidence (Manzanar, Poston, Tule Lake Strikes and Riots)
 - Arts and Literature
 - Conflicts, Intimidation, and Violence
 - Facilities, Services and Camp Administration
 - Food
 - Holidays and Festivals
 - Housing
 - Impact of Incarceration
 - Incarceree
 - Living Conditions
 - Medical Care and Health Issues
 - Religion and Churches
 - Social and Recreational Activities
 - Social Relations
 - Sports
 - Work & Jobs
- Journalism and Media
 - Community Publications
 - Camp Publications

- Mass Media
- Laws and Legislation
 - Land tenure - Alien Land Laws, Leases
 - Economic Losses
 - Internal Security Act
 - Executive Order 9066
- Leave, Resettlement, and Post-War life
 - Student Leave
 - Work Leave
 - Resettlement
 - Returning Home
 - Reflections on the Past
 - Family Reunions
- Mass Removal and Detention
 - Pearl Harbor and Aftermath
 - Temporary Assembly Centers
 - Internment Camps
 - Wartime Civil Control Administration
 - The Journey

On Terminology

For the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project, archivists, scholars, and technical experts gathered to discuss the controversial topic of terminology as it applies to the Japanese American experience during World War II. A general consensus was reached about the group's preferred terminology for this project, which is summarized below.

Often, before delving deeply into the history of the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the general public has tended to associate the term "internment" or "internees" with the camps and the people living in them. Government officials, politicians, and journalists have tended to use euphemistic language to refer to this incarceration of Japanese American citizens as demonstrated by the archival work of Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga (2010) in "[Words Can Lie or Clarify](#)." Roger Daniel's (2005) provided a legal and historical perspective on the use of these terms in "[Words Do Matter](#)" and continues to persuasively argue that "incarceration" and, by extension "incarceree," are the appropriate terms to use for the 80,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry, and 40,000 Japanese nationals barred from naturalization by race, imprisoned under the authority of Executive Order 9066 in War Relocation Authority camps. There were approximately 11,000 people who were actually interned following a recognized legal procedure and the forms of law. All of the latter were citizens of a nation against which the United States was at war, seized for reasons supposedly based on their behavior, and entitled to an individual hearing before a board. Whereas, the 120,000 Japanese American men, women, and children in the WRA camps had no due process of law and this violation of civil and human rights was justified on the grounds of military necessity. This legal differentiation was the basis for the redress movement, which led to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, involving an apology and \$20,000 payment to more than 80,000 camp survivors.

The Tule Lake Unit of the National Park Service provides links to the [key readings](#) related to the terminology controversy. The [Densho Project](#) has an extensive discussion of the issues as well as a thorough glossary of terms and comprehensive online encyclopedia. These resources outline the many different types of camps used for incarceration during WWII, including the following: assembly centers or temporary assembly centers; incarceration camps; Department of Justice internment camps; citizen isolation centers; U.S. Federal prisons; U.S. Army internment camps; immigration detention stations; and additional facilities. The reader/researcher is referred to these rich resources for differentiation and more clarification about the associated terminology.

For the reasons outlined above, when using the CSU collection online, the searcher should use the terms “incarceration” and “incarceree” rather than “internment” and “internee” for better search results. The latter terms were only used when referring to the Department of Justice and U.S. Army internment camps.

The planners and catalogers for the CSU archival project relied heavily on the Densho glossary and encyclopedia as well as their digitization and preservation manual for the terminology employed. Sincere thanks to Tom Ikeda, Executive Director, and all the Densho Project staff for generously sharing their extensive experience and work on terminology.