

Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance (PRRLA) 2025 Meeting

Tohoku University, Sendai, JAPAN 29-31 October 2025

Call for Presentation Proposals

Preserving Culture, Driving Discovery: PRRLA Libraries in the Age of Digital and AI Innovations

In an increasingly digital and AI-driven world, libraries in Asia and the Pacific face unique opportunities and challenges in preserving cultural heritage and driving discovery. This meeting explores 8 key themes that are critical as research libraries of all sizes and contexts navigate the dual responsibilities of safeguarding cultural materials and leveraging emerging technologies to make collections more accessible, discoverable, and relevant.

We welcome proposals from all members for presentations at the meeting. Proposals should include:

- Presentation title
- Presenters' names, titles, and institutional affiliation
- Presenters' e-mail address
- A short abstract of no more than 150-200 words and may engage with one or more of the following themes and questions.
- Brief biographical notes of the presenters

Proposals should be sent to: Aiko Watanabe (lib-prrla-2025@grp.tohoku.ac.jp), by 15th April. Twelve to fourteen program presentations will be scheduled, each lasting approximately 20 minutes. A 10-minute Q&A will follow each session.

The Program Committee will review all the submissions and notify presenters by Monday, May 19, 2025.

Themes and Questions

Preserving Culture, Driving Discovery: PRRLA Libraries in the Age of Digital and AI Innovations

1. Preservation and Access

How can libraries use digital technologies to preserve fragile and multimodal cultural materials while ensuring ethical and sustainable practices? What collaborative strategies can PRRLA libraries implement to digitize and share cultural heritage resources effectively?

2. Discovery and Research

How can digital tools and technologies, such as machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision and large language models, improve multilingual access to Asia and Pacific collections? What innovative approaches are enabling libraries to uncover and make visible previously underutilized or hidden collections?

3. Ethics and Equity

How can libraries ensure that AI and digital innovations respect cultural values, intellectual property, and the rights of the communities represented in their collections? What steps can be taken to address potential biases in AI tools, particularly for diverse and underrepresented materials?

4. Collaboration and Partnerships

How can regional and cross-sector collaborations help libraries share expertise, resources, and infrastructure to support digital and AI initiatives? What are the opportunities for libraries to work with technology partners and cultural organizations to drive innovation in preservation and discovery?

5. Engaging Local Communities

How can libraries use digital tools, such as virtual exhibits or digital storytelling, to better engage communities in preserving and celebrating their cultural heritage? In what ways can local communities contribute to the discovery, interpretation, and enrichment of digital cultural collections?

6. Training and Capacity-Building

What skills and training do librarians need to effectively adopt and implement AI and digital tools for preservation and discovery? How can libraries address challenges related to infrastructure and resource disparities to ensure equitable participation in digital transformation?

7. Sustainability and Future Directions

What strategies can libraries implement to ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital collections in the face of technological obsolescence? How can libraries prepare for future trends in AI and digital innovation that are likely to shape their roles and responsibilities?

8. Other Current Topics Around PRRLA Libraries

In today's fast-evolving society, especially with the rise of AI, the strategies required of research libraries are changing rapidly. In addition to digital archives, please share your experiences and initiatives with PRRLA members.

The questions embedded in each theme are designed to inspire meaningful dialogue, highlight shared challenges, and foster innovative approaches to advancing library missions in the digital and AI era.

The 2025 PRRLA Program Planning Committee is comprised of the following individuals:

- Hatsumi Sato, Tohoku University Library
- Monica Ghosh, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Hideyuki Seki, Keio University
- Lei Wang, Sun Yat-sen University Library
- Rina Su, Sun Yat-sen University Library
- Benjamin Meunier, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Linda Lee, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Angela Wong, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Taro Misumi, Tohoku University Library
- Aiko Watanabe, Tohoku University Library

Please note that the 2025 PRRLA Meeting website is being developed and will continue to be updated regularly.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving many outstanding presentation proposals!