



Adapting Familiar Standards for the Unfamiliar:

Digitizing Foreign Language and Cultural Collections

The Sokiku (Kikuyo) Nakatani Collection



CSU Japanese American Digitization Project: A Collaborative Digital Project of the CSU Libraries

Pre-Planning: Stakeholders

- **Scholars: Defining the Narrative**
- **Archivists: Knowledge of Collections**
- **Technical Specialists: Denso, Controlled Vocabulary, CONTENTdm**

Outcomes

- **Workflow**
 - **Consortium**
 - **Internal**
- **Propriety vocabulary**
- **Metadata Guide**
- **Technical Guide**

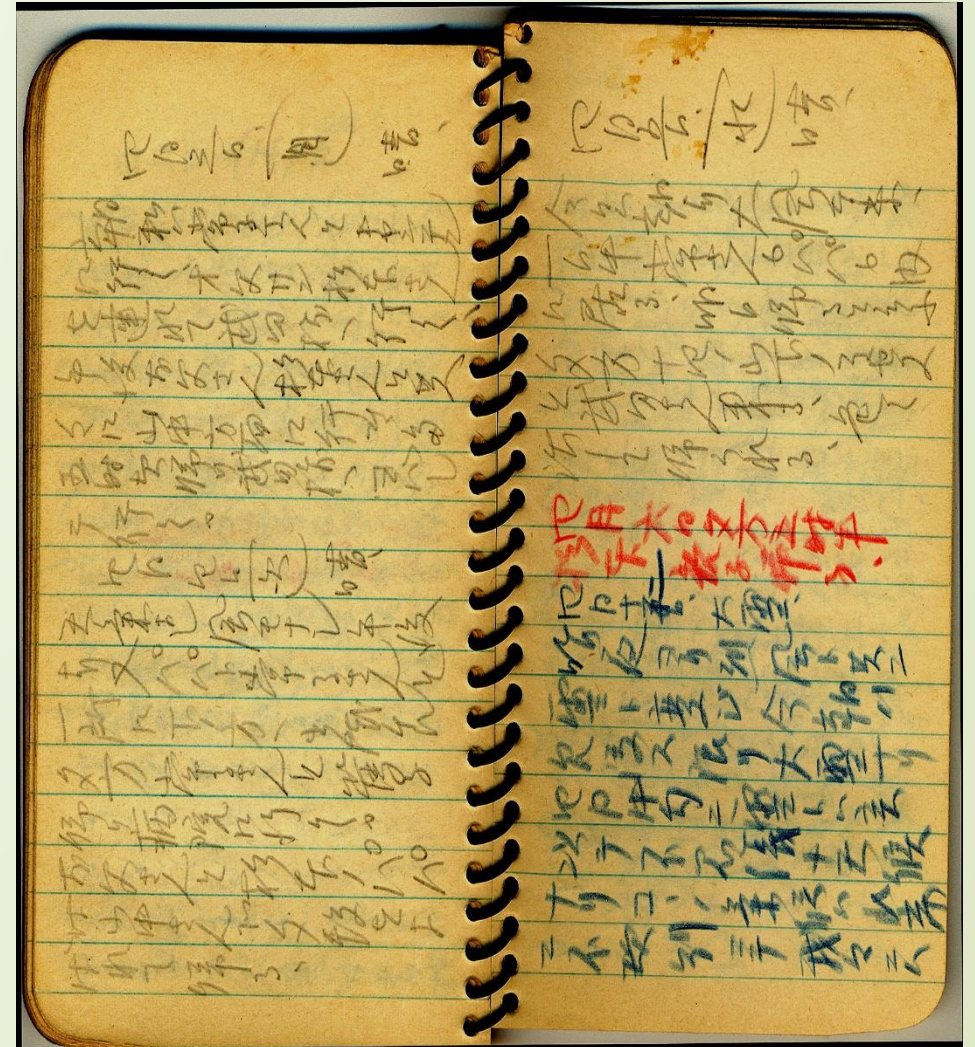
Sokiku Nakatani (1903-1990)



- **Donation of diaries and correspondence in 2005**
- **Incarcerated in Minidoka and Tule Lake**
- **Pro-Japan**
- **Differing narrative about WWII incarceration**

Workflow Challenge: Language

- **OmniPage Ultimate OCR Software**
- **Quality Control**
- **Antiquated**



Workflow Challenge: Metadata

**Gregorian Calendar
vs. Japanese Imperial
Calendar (1965 =
Showa 40)**

**Title and Description
(Digitizer/Cataloger)**

Subject Headings

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|---|
| 6 Page Document, All in Japanese | circa 1960 | Six pages of handwritten Japanese text. | |
| Letter from C. Mishi, to Kikuyo Nakatani, 1965 | 1965 | Correspondence from C. Mishi to Kikuyo Nakatani. Text in Japanese. | Japanese Americans--Post- World War II; Japan--Post- World War II |
| Letter from C. Mishi, to Kikuyo Nakatani | circa 1965 | Correspondence from C. Mishi to Kikuyo Nakatani. Text in Japanese. | Japanese Americans--Post- World War II; Japan--Post- World War II |

Workflow Challenge: Digitizing



Challenge: Ethical Dilemma



- **Collection Restricted**
- **Association with the Japanese American Archival Collection**
- **Controlled Vocabulary**

Lessons Learned

- **Consult with member(s) of community**
 - Read right to left and (sometimes bottom to top)
 - Translations
 - Quality Control
- **Understand cultural differences and history**
 - Some American Indian tribes believe photographs steal their souls
 - Cambodian flag
- **SAA Core Values and Code of Ethics**



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