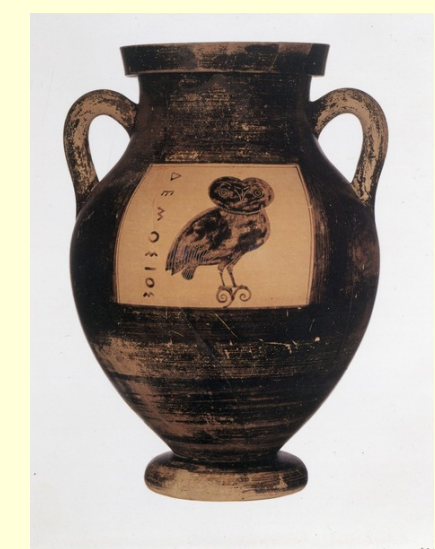


Archivists Respond to the Great East Japan Earthquake

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Introduction

On March 11, eastern Japan was devastated by the gigantic earthquake and tsunami. Death toll rises to 15,689 on Aug.10 and about 5,000 people are still missing . Approximately 100,000 people live in evacuation centers. The Fukushima nuclear power plants are still ongoing threats. The purpose of this poster is to share information about archivists' response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and ask your wisdom and advice to help us solve the problems. Due to the seriousness of the situation, this research is based on information open to the public.

Damaged Archival Institutions

Thank you, Friends!

- We really appreciate the great help and support given by people of the United States. A lot of lives are saved by [Operation Tomodachi](#).
- We learned a lot from [US News](#).
- [US institutions](#) offer digital archiving of websites.

Archivists in Japan

We have no organization of individual archival professionals like SAA, as we have [Japan Society of Archives Institutions](#) and [the Japan Society for Archival Science](#).

In this poster, the word "archivists" includes researchers in history, local historians, conservators, curators, and librarians for special collections.

Public Archivists

Public Officers at first = took care of the victims & evacuation centers to secure safety and supplies

Archivists & Historians in NPO

[The Network for Historical materials](#) was organized just after the Hanshin Great Earthquake in 1995. It offers volunteers to rescue historical materials as well as technical and financial aids. The Local Networks are established and activated.

Archivists of National Archives of Japan

The number of regular staff has increased from 43 into 49, because the Management of Public Records Law is enforced. Conservators are consulted how to save records.

Yamagata Net rescues a lot of historical materials and provides supplies

[NIJL](#) offers [rescue](#) of active records in Kamaishi city hall damaged by tsunami

TEPCO Electric Historic Museum with its Archives ([TEPCO business archives](#)) is closed

What is the role of Archivists ?

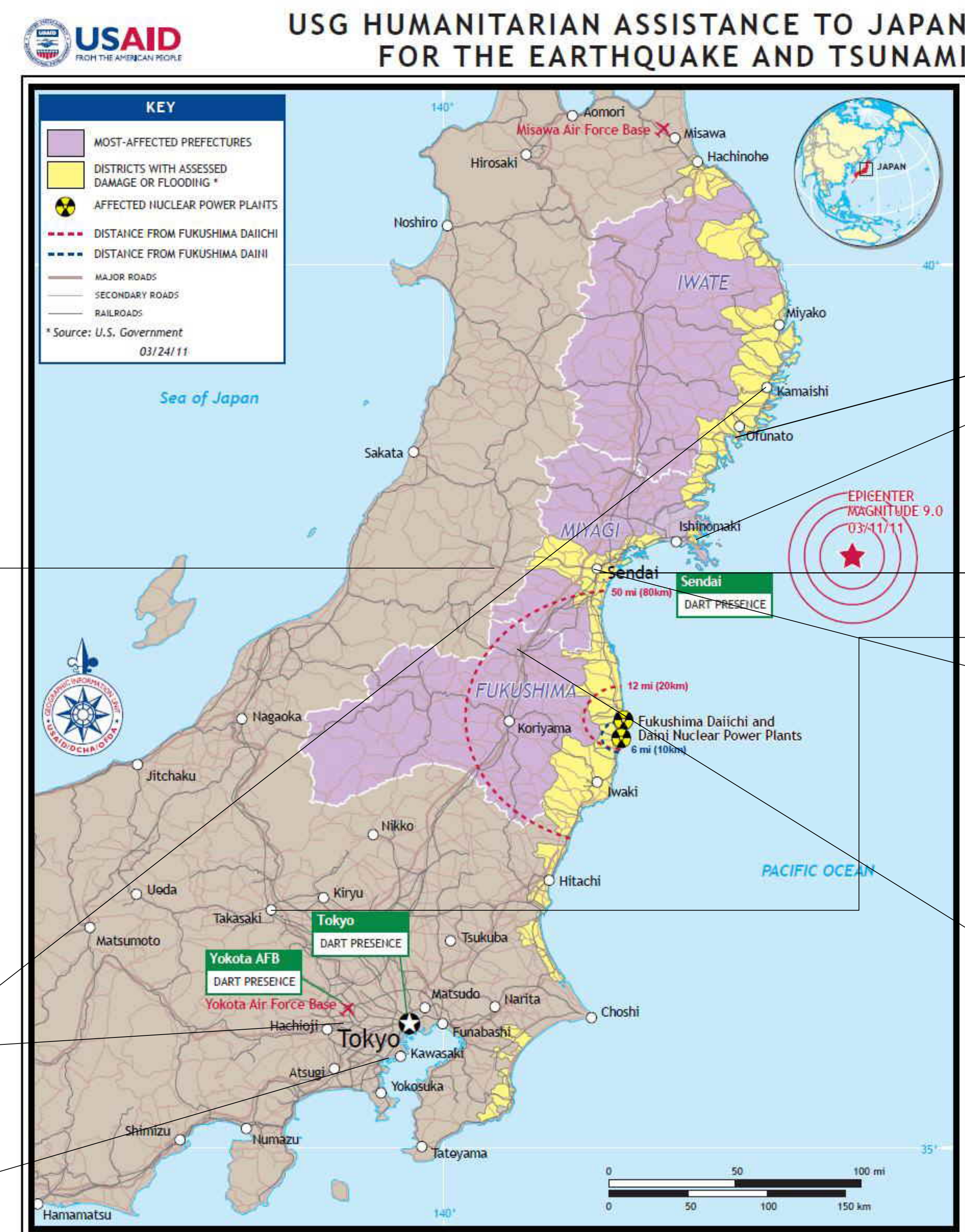
I consider what archivists can do under circumstances.

- Prepare the disaster plan in advance
- Protect archives including active records and electronic records
- Restore damaged records or give information of what to do, not to do
- Keep recording
- Collect and Provide information as a professional
- Survey [old records](#) and maps
- Protect People's rights and memory and more . . .

In Japan, the Japan Society for Archival Science plans to start certifying archivists.

For further information, please visit these websites.

The Network for Historical Materials
(in English page by Etsuko Watanabe)
<http://rekishishiryonet.wordpress.com/>
Miyagi Shiryounet (Network for preserving historical materials)
http://www.miyagi-shiryounet.org/00/front_en.htm
saveMLAK
<http://savemlak.jp/>



Discussion

- ◆ Importance of records and archives
People's Identity
- ◆ A very Few Archival Repositories and Archivists
Many Archival Materials and records damaged
- ◆ Issue of active public records
- ◆ Issue of electronic records
- ◆ Not only 3.11 but Aftershocks in April
No Gas & Heat and Little Foods in March
Heavy Rain and Flooding in July
- ◆ Forgotten Disaster Areas = Ibaraki & Chiba
Other Megaquakes in Nagano or Shizuoka
- ◆ Time-ticking race to save records
Save contents with digitization
- ◆ On-going disaster
Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants and Radiation

Rikuzentakata [Museum](#) and Library



Tsunami killed all curators and librarians



[Searching the identity of the city](#)

No water and no electricity



[The Yoshida Family papers](#)

Onagawa Public Records



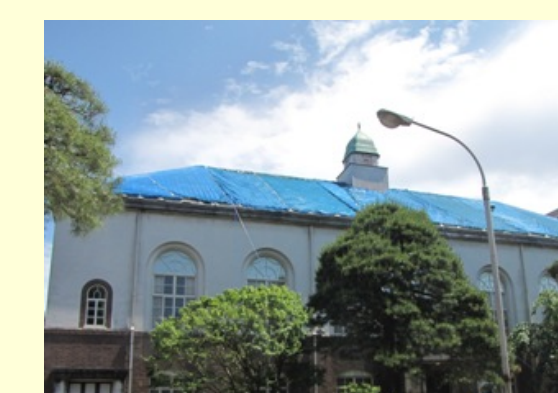
⇒ [Gunma Prefectural Archives](#)



Miyagi Prefectural Archives



[Tohoku University Archives](#) Roof damage grows mushrooms



Fukushima Prefectural Archives



A member of Fukushima Shiryounet checking a manuscript with a dosimeter on moving out from Iitate village ⇒



Comparison between Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectural Archives

Miyagi		Fukushima
Governor's office	Report to	Fukushima Prefectural Cultural Foundation
Public Officers	management	Designated management system with a private sector
30000 banded documents dropped 5-600 damaged (repairable) 131 window glass broken Many shelves broken Many cracked walls Many unworking blinds 2 Fireproof doors trouble Trouble of an elevator for materials Elevated parts of floors	Damage	Collapse of walls Most of Window glasses broken Shelves broken down Books and materials dropped
May 16	Re-Open	May 9 Open of reading room : Jun 13 Open of Exhibition hall : Aug 20
Miyagi Shiryounet(est. in 2003), Cultural properties rescue team , and other organizations work continuously for the cultural and historical materials.	Rescue Public records and Historical Materials in private sectors	No-GO zones are declared due to radiation, Most public records and historical materials among private homes are abandoned. Fukushima Shiryounet (est. in 2010) is managed by the curators of the archives and the prefectural museum, who work very hard as volunteers against the situation.