

Call for Proposals: 2017-18 Multi-Volume Sets Grants for Japanese Library Collections

<http://guides.nccjapan.org/mvs>

MVS Prescreening Deadline: November 1, 2017

MVS Final Application Deadline: January 15, 2018

MVS Grant Notification: March 1, 2018

The NCC Multi-Volume Sets Grants (MVS) were created to cooperatively develop a national collection of unique and expensive Japanese research materials, held by institutions of all sizes and in all regions, circulating throughout the United States via Interlibrary Loan. Funded since 1992 by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, MVS receives supplemental support from Japan Publications Trading Company, Ltd. (JPT), which manages the program in Japan. The MVS Collection now contains more than 45,000 items, held in 41 public and private institutions in all parts of the US.

MVS makes grants for the purchase of expensive multi-volume sets of Japanese language materials (those costing more than ¥100,000 per set). Second-hand copies are now eligible for the program, making it possible for applicants to construct a set through a combination of used and new volumes if necessary. The MVS committee considers each applicant institution's **1) areas of specialization**, unique character, and collection development traditions; **2) research, teaching and documented patron demand** for the requested sets; and **3) readiness to freely share** the funded sets locally and nationally, through ILL.

The majority of MVS grants are funded to institutions building significant Japanese collections, affording them the opportunity to purchase very expensive sets that would not otherwise fit within acquisitions budgets. Those institutions may receive 75% of the purchase cost of sets for which no others circulate in the US, or 50% for those which have only one circulating copy in the US. All shipping and handling costs must be covered by the institution in this category. To help ensure that sets are not likely to be purchased by other institutions, a 2-year waiting period following publication is imposed.

Special consideration is given as follows:

"Smaller institutions": MVS allocates up to 40% of each year's funds to institutions with less than \$10,000 in annual Japanese language acquisitions budgets. **That means that a small institution can receive an MVS grant for as little as \$200 in cost sharing with 80% of the purchase price covered by the grant!** MVS especially encourages collection-building efforts by small institutions with growing undergraduate degree programs on Japan, who may apply for funds to purchase already-circulating titles. **Also** all shipping and handling costs for small institutions are fully covered by JPT.

"Thematic collections": With the expansion of MVS to include small collections it has become apparent that many such institutions also need supporting reference materials, the acquisition of which used to be covered by the now-discontinued Japan Foundation Library Support Grants. To support smaller collections as well as emerging areas of scholarship in the field, a small number of MVS applications for thematic collections will be considered. **An MVS thematic collection is defined as a combination of one or more eligible Multi-Volume Sets, individually published titles, and related reference works on a theme that supports specific research and teaching purposes.** Institutions considering this option should discuss the suitability of their proposal in advance with the MVS librarian co-chair, who will confer with MVS faculty members and relevant scholars in the field, as needed. The committee will determine the level of support (50% or 75% for large and 80% for smaller institutions) based on overall uniqueness of the materials in the "thematic collection proposal." All materials in such collections must comply with MVS guidelines, be strongly supported by patron demand, be promptly cataloged, and circulate freely via interlibrary loan.

"Faculty applicants": Faculty members at institutions without Japanese studies or East Asian studies librarians may submit an application on behalf of their library, as long as they meet all criteria for MVS applications. Whenever possible the MVS committee will assist such faculty applicants in verifying holdings and by offering pre-screening advice. Please find sample applications online.

"Large sets published over time": Many large Japanese sets are published over a period of years and released in sections (often called *ki* or *yunitto*). Portions of such sets qualify for MVS applications if the applying institution commits to the purchase of subsequent sections of the set as they become available. While the MVS committee makes no commitment

to support future applications for further sections of said sets, when possible favorable consideration will be made to such applications.

"Joint applications": Multiple institutions may submit a joint application for very expensive titles. Joint applications are especially encouraged for acquisition of sets costing ¥5,000,000 or more, and will, within the constraints of MVS funds, be given somewhat higher priority for support. MVS will generally set 25% as the maximum level of support for such very expensive sets, with the expectation that a combination of other institutions will cover the remainder.

NEW: "Straight to Digital MVS Grants": Since 2015 MVS has accepted applications for a new MVS Grant strategy to fund the purchase of rare materials to be immediately digitized and made available freely online. The materials in the original are too old and fragile to qualify for interlibrary loan, and without full digitization substituting for open circulation could not have originally qualified for an MVS grant. In 2015 MVS funded a grant to Princeton University for a set that had been fully examined in Japan and determined to be suitable for digitization. MVS made a "traditional" 75% grant, with the requirement that Princeton University promptly conserve and digitize the materials fully, make them available online, and agree to continue to house both the print copies (which will be used in onsite teaching and research) and the digitized version. This experiment has proved successful, and *Shōun Oshō Kobun Shinpō no shō* 笑雲和尚古文真宝之抄, 13 volumes, published in the early 17th century, is now available online as part of Princeton University's Digital Library <http://pudl.princeton.edu/>. Again in 2016 a similar grant was made to Yale University with support provided jointly by Yale's East Asian Library and the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library to purchase an original literati manuscript and related woodblock printed book set, *Jūjun kagetsujō* 十旬花月帖, 5 volumes 1827/1883. Both the original manuscripts and the 1883 edition of the works are now available through Beinecke's Digital Library. <http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4206669> (1827 original manuscript) <http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/42071201> (1883 edition).

To apply for MVS, please follow the guidelines outlined on the MVS web page at <http://guides.nccjapan.org/mvs>

Online Application Assistance: Use NCC's YouTube tutorial to easily understand the steps for conducting a full bibliographic search, required by MVS.

Prescreening Process: After completing the required full bibliographic search, applicants may submit titles for prescreening by the MVS Committee. MVS will then conduct an extensive search of sets not yet cataloged, to double-check the uniqueness of submitted titles. While prescreening is not required for MVS applications, it helps prevent submission of multiple applications for the same title, and institutions that complete the prescreening process have priority over other institutions that may apply for the same title without prescreening.

Please use NCC's downloadable online template to submit titles for prescreening, emailing them to MVS co-chair Ayako Yoshimura (yoshimura@uchicago.edu) by November 1, 2017.

***Please note that an application for prescreening is NOT an MVS grant application.
A final application, with supporting letters, is required to receive an MVS grant.***

Final Application Process: A complete checklist of application criteria and supporting documents for a full application can be found on the MVS homepage at: <http://guides.nccjapan.org/mvs>. Please use the final application template to submit a complete grant application packets sent by email attachment to: mvs2017-18application@nccjapan.net no later than midnight January 15, 2018.

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Announcement of MVS Awards will be made by March 1, 2018