Where to Find Shashi

The following are links to selected university libraries with shashi holdings. Please contact each library for information on specific holdings and how to access collections.

Detailed holdings information is available through WorldCat and holdings information for Japanese libraries, including prefectural and university libraries, is available through the National Diet Library’s search system.

UK
- University of Oxford Bodleian Library: About 250 shashi, collections of local histories and university/school histories, searchable via CiNii Books

North America
- Ohio State University Libraries: Shashi Wiki – Category: OSU
- University of California Berkeley Library
- University of Kansas Libraries: ShashiWiki – Category: Kansas
- University of Chicago Library • University of Hawaii at Manoa Library: Company Histories (Shashi)
- University of Pittsburgh Libraries: Shashi Wiki – Category: Pitt

- Japanese Company Histories (Shashi) Wiki Main Page: A general catalog of collections of shashi in North America
- Japanese Company Histories (Shashi) Wiki: Shashi Collections by Universities in North America: Links to holdings information for each university

Related Reading

What Are Shashi?

Shashi (社史) translates directly as “company history” and refers to not only the history of a company but also publications describing that history. It is customary for Japanese companies to publish shashi to mark commemorative years such as the 30th, 50th, or 100th anniversaries of the company’s founding. Along with the company’s history, a shashi will often outline the company’s founding and management philosophies. Manufacturing companies may include ingredients and product manufacturing processes, while companies involved in commerce may include international as well as domestic trading histories. Some shashi look beyond the company in question to provide background on the general history of the industry or that of the local area dating back as far as prehistoric times.

Despite being a treasure trove of information on economic development and wisdom, shashi often have only limited distribution, being given to people related to the company instead of being sold publicly. In addition, because many lack indexes, they can be difficult to use effectively. The Shibusawa Shashi Database (SSD) aims to solve these and other issues by facilitating access to the contents of shashi.

Shashi Included in the SSD

Of the some 15,000 shashi that have been published in Japan since the Meiji period, the SSD comprises about 1,500 shashi, primarily of companies related to Shibusawa Eiichi. For detailed information on companies related to Shibusawa Eiichi, please refer to the Name Change Charts of Companies and Organizations Related to Shibusawa Eiichi.

Data Set

For each shashi in the database, data has been collected from the table of contents, index, chronology, and appendix. If each of the above is considered to be a single piece of data, the total data count is about 2,420,000. While the full text of shashi have not been included and thus volumes cannot be read online, links are provided to WorldCat, NDL-OPAC, CiNiiBooks, and other sites that give holdings information to assist users in tracking down copies in collections around the world.
How to use the Shibusawa Shashi Database

Shashi Search

The Shashi Search covers the entire database and allows for searches of the basic information (such as bibliographies), tables of contents, indexes, chronologies, and appendices.

Shashi Search Area on the Homepage

Keyword Search
Search the entire database by free keyword.

Shashi List
A list of all the Shashi contained in the SSD with links to further information on each volume and its contents.

Shashi List by Industry
A list of the Shashi by industry. The pie chart on the top page shows the number of Shashi in the database by industry.

Company Name Search
Search the database by company name.

Personal Name List
A list of personal names that have been automatically extracted from the index data contained in the database.

Shashi Search Results

Menu
Keyword search results are displayed under the following tabs: Basic Information (基本情報), Tables of Contents ( 目次), Indexes (索引), Chronologies (年表), and Appendices (附錄).

Industry Ratio Pie Chart
A pie chart showing the percentages of results by industry is displayed at the top of the search results for each tab.

Shashi List
The titles of individual Shashi on the Shashi List or Shashi List by Industry pages include a link to the Basic Information for that volume. There are also links in the icons that appear in the Table of Contents, Index, Chronology, and Appendix columns of the table.

Shashi Details Page

Menu
The Shashi Details page for each volume is divided into the following tabs: Basic Information, Table of Contents, Index, Chronology, and Appendix.

Basic Information
Provides a first introductory description of the Shashi, including Shashi-related information and bibliography information via WorldCat, NDL-OPAC, and other resources. When available, links are also provided to corresponding pages on resources created by the Shibusawa Electric Memorial Foundation, such as the Name Change of Companies and Organizations Related to Shibusawa (町名変更一社名変更一組織名変更).

Home Page

There are three search functions on the SSD homepage: 1. Shashi Search, 2. Chronology Search, and 3. Index Search. With these multiple search functions users can access the information contained in Shashi in various ways. This section provides information on search methods, search tips, and how to interpret the search results pages.

Chronology Search

Shashi often include a chronology that describes events related to the company and its history. By searching through all the Shashi in the database, users can create unique thematic chronologies based on keyword searches. Chronology searches can be narrowed down by specific year, month, or day.

Top Page Chronology Search

Keyword Search
Users can conduct keyword searches across the chronologies of all the Shashi in the database.

Date Search
Users can conduct searches using a specific year, month, or day. This feature can also be used to narrow down keyword searches (5a) by date.

High Volume Years
A graph with the top 10 years based on number of listings in the chronologies. Clicking on a year on the graph links to a chronology for that year.

Search Results Page for Chronology Searches

Chronology Search Results Graph
Search results for a chronology keyword search are divided into three sections by a tab menu. The tabs are: "Number of Items by Year," "Number of Items by Industry," and "Relative Rates of Different Industries."

Index Search

Although many Shashi do not include an index, the indexes of those that do have been included in the database. Keyword searches can be conducted across all of the indexes in the database to provide an overview of the contents of the Shashi with indexes. Clicking on a title on the search results page will jump to a partial index that only includes items in the chosen Shashi applicable to the search conducted. The drop down menu on the left side of the screen allows users to jump between this partial index and a full version. Clicking on an index term in the partial index links to a partial table of contents for the relevant index term, giving an idea of the context in which the term is used. Furthermore, clicking on the page number on the right side of the table brings up a list of all index terms that appear on that page, providing further clues for context.

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