

Mapping The Development of Japanese Studies Journals in Indonesia

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Received: 26-06-2025

Revised: 17-08-2025

Accepted: 18-08-2025

ABSTRACT

The Japanese studies field has significantly expanded globally, encompassing diverse themes from traditional cultural aspects to contemporary issues such as globalization and international relations. In Indonesia, Japanese studies play a pivotal role in fostering academic and cultural ties with Japan. The growth of this field is evidenced by the increasing number of academic programs and publications focusing on Japanese language, literature, and culture. Currently, Indonesia hosts 27 Japanese studies journals, which serve as key platforms for disseminating research and strengthening academic engagement. This study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to map and analyze the development of these journals. It identifies key challenges such as meeting national accreditation standards set by SINTA, ensuring consistent publication quality, and addressing operational sustainability. Other notable issues include article processing charges (APCs) and the need for alignment with international publication norms. Despite these challenges, integrating Japanese cultural philosophy into journal names and designs demonstrates a strong commitment to the field's identity. In addition, mandatory publication requirements for faculty members and collaborations with academic associations such as ASJI, ASPBJI, and KPSJI provide critical opportunities for these journals to develop further. Rather than merely offering a general overview, this study presents specific insights into the conditions and trajectories of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia, shedding light on their role in strengthening Indonesia's contribution to global Japanese studies scholarship.

Keywords: *Japanese studies; Indonesia; academic journal; accreditation*

<https://journal.unhas.ac.id/index.php/nawa>

INTRODUCTION

Japanese studies have evolved into a significant academic discipline across various parts of the world. As part of area studies, this field not only explores aspects of Japanese culture, history, and language but also delves into contemporary issues such as globalization, international relations, and Japanese popular culture. In Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Japanese studies play a crucial role in strengthening cultural and academic ties between Japan and countries in the region. Educational programs and academic exchange initiatives, such as those spearheaded by The Japan Foundation and other Japanese government organizations, have also played a strategic role in fostering cross-cultural understanding and enhancing Japan's diplomacy in the region (Mubah, 2019).

In other Southeast Asian countries, Japanese studies have similarly expanded through the establishment of academic programs and collaborative regional networks such as JSA-ASEAN (Chua, 2017). This regional engagement is deeply rooted in Japan's post-World War II efforts to rebuild its image and foster closer ties with Southeast Asian nations, with cultural and educational diplomacy forming key components of its long-term strategy (Hellmann, 1979).

According to data from The Japan Foundation, in 2021 Indonesia ranks second in the number of Japanese language learners worldwide, with a total of 711,732 learners. China holds the first position, while South Korea ranks third. Of this total, 27,454 learners are at

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.69908/nawa.v2i2.45193>

the higher education level (The Japan Foundation, 2023). Additionally, the number of academic programs categorized under Japanese Studies—including Diploma, Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral programs—has seen a significant increase from the 1960s to 2017 (Pratama & Purnomo, 2020). As of now, there are 74 academic programs at various levels in Indonesian universities related to Japanese Studies (Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, 2025). The operation of Japanese Studies programs in Indonesia is supported by Japanese government organizations such as The Japan Foundation and JICA, which provide teaching staff, educational materials, and training as well as seminars related to teaching and research.

The increasing number of Japanese language learners and educators at the higher education level in Indonesia has driven a rise in academic publications, including theses, dissertations, and scholarly articles published in journals. The growing number of collaborative studies and journal publications in Japanese studies has strengthened academic contributions and global relevance in this field (Nagazumi, 1988).

The research themes explored are highly diverse. Regarding the themes of undergraduate theses from 1991 to 2017, Esther (2017) found that literary topics were relatively few. Among the literary topics, works of canonical literature dominated themes before 2000. However, thematic variations emerged afterward, with studies focusing on popular literature and contemporary issues such as bullying and gender. Meanwhile, in papers presented at the ASJI symposium between 2014 and 2017, the dominant topics were Japanese language, culture, and Japanese language education. In particular, translation and adaptation of Japanese popular culture—such as manga and anime—into academic topics has grown significantly among undergraduate and graduate students, reflecting contemporary youth interests and global cultural exchange (Rosliana, 2024).

In the field of Japanese studies, there are currently 27 journals in Indonesia dedicated to this area of research. The existence of these scholarly journals is closely tied to the academic demand for publication within universities. Scientific publications, particularly those focused on Japanese studies, play a crucial role in documenting and disseminating research findings while serving as an indicator of academic progress. The number of 27 journals was identified through the database review and website investigation conducted in this study, covering national indexing portals such as SINTA and GARUDA, as well as official university journal sites.

However, few studies have systematically examined the performance, structure, and sustainability of these journals. Therefore, this study aims to map and analyze the development of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia using a qualitative descriptive approach. It explores their institutional characteristics, thematic trends, accreditation status, and patterns of collaboration with relevant academic associations. This research offers novelty by providing a structured and data-driven overview of the journals' current landscape, with particular attention to their role in strengthening national academic output and enhancing Indonesia's presence in the global discourse of Japanese studies. By offering contextual insights into the opportunities and challenges faced by these journals, this article is expected to contribute to ongoing efforts to elevate the quality and impact of Japanese studies publications in Indonesia.

METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to systematically examine the structure, characteristics, and institutional dynamics of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia. This approach is deemed appropriate for providing an in-depth explanation of the characteristics,

dynamics, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by these journals without relying on quantitative measurements (Creswell, 2014). The qualitative descriptive method is recognized for its straightforward, low-inference interpretation of data, making it suitable for researchers who aim to present findings in the participants' own terms and within real-world contexts (Colorafi & Evans, 2016; Elliott & Timulak, 2021). This methodology is particularly relevant for studies that seek to document institutional developments without applying rigid theoretical frameworks.

The research is exploratory in nature and focuses on understanding the institutional context, publication content, and the relationship with national accreditation policies and supporting organizations for Japanese studies. Qualitative approaches are widely accepted in social sciences as effective for investigating complex institutional phenomena through inductive reasoning and contextual analysis (Paul & Bandyopadhyay, 2019). In this context, the descriptive design supports the aim of exploring what is currently happening within the landscape of Japanese studies publishing in Indonesia.

The data used in this study are secondary data obtained from open-access sources. The primary sources include the official websites of each journal, as well as websites of academic associations such as ASJI (Asosiasi Studi Jepang Indonesia), ASPBJI (Asosiasi Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Indonesia), and KPSJI (Konsorsium Program Studi Jepang Indonesia). Journals were included in the analysis if they had a primary or secondary focus on Japanese studies, were published by accredited academic institutions in Indonesia, and had at least one volume accessible online.

In addition, data were also collected from two major national journal databases in Indonesia: SINTA and GARUDA. SINTA (Science and Technology Index) is an accreditation system for scientific journals in Indonesia developed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. This system classifies journals into six ranks (SINTA 1–6) based on criteria such as management quality, publication consistency, and scientific impact. GARUDA (Garba Rujukan Digital), also developed by the same ministry, serves as a national indexing platform aimed at providing open access to academic publications in Indonesia. While SINTA focuses on the evaluation and accreditation of journals, GARUDA functions as a repository that improves the visibility and accessibility of scholarly content. Both systems play a crucial role in improving the quality and dissemination of research in Indonesia's higher education landscape (Fitria, 2023).

Data collection was conducted between December 2024 and January 2025. The collected data consist of journal titles, managing institutions, initial year of publication, accreditation status, thematic focus, language of publication, number of articles per year, article processing charges (APC), and information on institutional collaborations. The analysis involved three main steps: (1) identifying 27 journals that met the inclusion criteria, (2) classifying the journals based on accreditation status, research focus, and publication trends over the past five years, and (3) visualizing the findings in tables and charts. These findings were then interpreted in light of relevant government regulations, academic policy frameworks, and global trends in Japanese studies.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Mapping Japanese Studies Journals

To understand the current landscape of Japanese studies publications in Indonesia, this section presents a comprehensive list of dedicated journals, including key information such

as year of establishment, managing institution, and thematic focus. Below is a table of Japanese studies journals currently available in Indonesia.

Table 1. Current Japanese Studies Journals in Indonesia

Journal	Year	Publisher	Focus
Kagami	2010	Universitas Negeri Jakarta (UNJ), Research and Community Service Institute	Japanese language education and linguistics
Chi'e: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang	2012	Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Japanese Language Education Study Program	Japanese language teaching, literature and linguistics
Janaru Saja: Jurnal Program Studi Sastra Jepang	2012	Universitas Komputer Indonesia (UNIKOM), Japanese Department	Japanese language, literature, culture and its teaching and learning
Japanology: The Journal of Japanese Studies	2012	Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR), Faculty of Humanities, Department of Japanese Studies	Japanese studies, encompassing culture, linguistics, literature, history, and related fields
Hikari	2013	Universitas Negeri Surabaya (UNESA), Japanese Language and Literature Department	<i>*Focus is not listed on the website, but based on the archives of articles on the website, the focus is on linguistics, literature and Japanese language learning.</i>
Kotoba	2013	Universitas Andalas, Faculty of Humanities, Japanese Literature Department	<i>* Focus is not listed on the website, but based on the archives of articles on the website, the focus is on linguistics, literature and other Japan-related themes.</i>
Izumi: Japanese Language, Literature and Culture Journal	2013	Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP), Japanese Language and Culture Study Program	Japanese language, literature, and culture
Ayumi: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra	2014	Universitas Dr. Soetomo (UNITOMO), Faculty of Letters, Japanese Literature Study Program	Japanese culture, language and literature
Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Undiksha	2015	Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha (UNDIKSHA), Faculty of Languages and Arts, Japanese Language Education Program	Japanese language, culture, and language education
Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang	2016	Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI), Faculty of Language and Literature Education, Department of Japanese Language Education	Japanese language, linguistic, literature, culture, as well as teaching and learning Japanese as Foreign and Second Language
Journal of Japanese Language Education and Linguistics (JJLEL)	2017	Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), Faculty of Language Education, Japanese Language Education Program	Japanese language education and linguistics
Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan	2017	Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP), Vocational College, Applied Foreign Language Study Program	Japan's scientific writings, including Japanese culture, language, history and politics
Jurnal Bahasa Jepang Taiyou	2018	Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. Hamka (UHAMKA), Faculty of Language Education, Japanese Language Education Program	Japanese language education, literature, and linguistics
Japanese Research on Linguistics, Literature and Culture	2018	Universitas Dian Nuswantoro (UDINUS), Japanese Department	Japanese linguistics, language, literature, translation, and cultural studies
Omiyage: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Jepang	2018	Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP)	Japanese language, literature, culture, teaching and learning
Mezurashii: Journal of Japanese Studies	2019	University of 17 Agustus 1945 (UNTAG), Faculty of Cultural Science	Japanese Studies including but are not limited to linguistics, literature, and culture
Niji: Jurnal Kajian Sastra, Budaya, Pendidikan, dan Bahasa Jepang	2019	Intitut Prima Bangsa Cirebon, Japanese Literature Study Program	Japanese literature, culture, education and language

J-Litera: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya Jepang	2019	Universitas Jenderal Soedirman (UNSOED), Faculty of Humanities, Department of Japanese Literature	Japanese applied linguistics, Japanese culture, Japanese literature and Japanese studies
Idea: Jurnal Studi Jepang	2019	Universitas Pakuan (UNPAK) Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, Japanese Literature Study Program	Japanese cultural sciences, including, but not limited to, humanities, literature, linguistics, history, cultural studies
Jurnal Sakura	2019	Universitas Udayana (UNUD), Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Japanese Literature Study Program	Japanese literature, language, culture and society
Widai Japanese Journal	2020	Universitas Widyatama, Japanese Department	Japanese Linguistic, Japanese applied Linguistics, Japanese Language Education, and Japanese Culture
Hikari: Jurnal Bahasa dan Kebudayaan	2021	Universitas Bung Hatta (UBH), Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Japanese Literature Study Program	Linguistics (Japanese, English, and Indonesian), culture (Japanese, English, and Indonesian) includes historical, cultural, and literary research
Jurnal Daruma	2021	Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar (UNMAS), Foreign Language Faculty, Japanese Literature Study Program	Japanese linguistics, literature and culture
Akira : Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra Jepang	2023	Universitas Dr. Soetomo (UNITOMO), Faculty of Letters	Japanese language, culture, and literature
Ichigo: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Pendidikan, dan Budaya Jepang	2023	Universitas Ngudi Waluyo, Japanese Literature Study Program	*Focus is not listed on the website
Hirameki	2023	Universitas Riau, Japanese Language Education Program	*Website is currently inaccessible
Nawa: Journal of Japanese Studies	2024	Universitas Hasanuddin (UNHAS), Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Department of Japanese Literature	Japanese Studies, including Japanese linguistics and education, history and culture, and literature

Of the 27 journals, a majority (20) were established between 2010 and 2019, indicating a peak in Japanese studies journal creation during that decade. Based on Table 1, as of December 2024, Japanese studies journals in Indonesia have demonstrated significant growth in both quantity and focus areas. Thematic trends show a dominance of journals focusing on Japanese language education, followed by literature and culture.

For instance, *Kagami* and the *Journal of Japanese Language Education and Linguistics (JJLEL)* specifically focus on Japanese language education and linguistics. In contrast, *Hikari: Jurnal Bahasa dan Kebudayaan*, although managed by the Japanese Literature program, does not restrict its scope to Japanese studies alone but also accepts research articles on English and Indonesian languages. Most of these journals began publication in the early 2010s, reflecting an increasing academic interest in Japanese studies alongside the strengthening of cultural and educational ties between Indonesia and Japan.

In addition to the specialized Japanese studies journals listed in Table 1, there are also several multidisciplinary journals that do not specifically focus on Japanese studies but consistently publish articles related to this field. For instance, *Humanika*, managed by Universitas Diponegoro, frequently features articles on Japanese culture, language, and literature within the context of Indonesia, providing a platform for research that bridges the two cultures. Another example is *Lingua Cultura*, managed by Universitas Bina Nusantara. It often publishes articles on Japanese language and literature, reflecting its broad scope in studying language and culture in East Asia.

In terms of language usage, journals in Indonesia generally employ both Indonesian and English to enhance accessibility for both local and international readers. However, some

journals have transitioned entirely to English, such as *Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang*, which, since its first issue in June 2022, has exclusively used English for all its articles. This shift aims to improve the journal's readability and visibility on a global scale while attracting international researchers to contribute to its academic publications (*Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang*, n.d.).

In addition to the 27 journals listed in Table 1, Indonesia once had a publication called *Jurnal Nibongo* (ジャーナル日本語), which was available exclusively in print. This journal was first published in 2009 by the Asosiasi Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Indonesia (ASPBJI) and served as a platform for research publications in Japanese language education during its time. *Jurnal Nibongo* was one of the pioneers in documenting studies related to Japanese language teaching as well as other themes in Japanese Studies in Indonesia, predating the widespread adoption of online journals and accreditation systems like SINTA. Unfortunately, the journal is no longer in circulation. However, through online repositories, some printed editions, such as volumes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8, can still be accessed. The journal was published biannually in March and November, with Agus Suryadimulya, then Chairman of ASPBJI, served as its editor-in-chief (*Jurnal Nibongo Vol. 7 No. 2 November 2015*, n.d.).

B. Trends in Publication Numbers

Scientific publications play a vital role in Indonesia's academic landscape, particularly as a mandatory requirement for academic promotion across all faculty levels. Specifically, promotion to *Lektor Kepala* (Associate Professor) requires at least one article as the first author in a SINTA 2 journal, while promotion to *Guru Besar* (Professor) necessitates publication in an international journal indexed in Scopus as the first author. These requirements have encouraged lecturers to actively engage in academic writing and, consequently, have contributed to the expansion of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia, covering diverse themes including language education, literature, and culture.

Tabel 2. Publication Numbers

Journal	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Kagami ¹	7	12	12	0	11
Chi'e: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang	18	17	15	18	16
Janaru Saja: Jurnal Program Studi Sastra Jepang	10	10	10	12	11
Japanology: The Journal of Japanese Studies	8	0	12	12	12
Hikari	26	7	83	48	38
Kotoba ²	0	0	0	0	0
Izumi: Japanese Language, Literature and Culture Journal	20	38	26	21	17
Ayumi: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra	10	10	10	10	10
Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Undiksha	41	30	30	30	30
Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang	14	13	14	14	14
Journal of Japanese Language Education and Linguistics (JJLEL)	12	10	12	12	13
Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan	17	37	22	39	61
Jurnal Bahasa Jepang Taiyou	12	12	12	12	12
Japanese Research on Linguistics, Literature and Culture	14	12	12	12	10
Omiyage: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Jepang	14	21	25	36	29
Mezurashii: Journal of Japanese Studies	13	13	12	11	14
Niji: Jurnal Kajian Sastra, Budaya, Pendidikan, dan Bahasa Jepang	10	10	10	10	11
J-Litera: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya Jepang	10	10	10	10	10
Idea: Jurnal Studi Jepang	14	14	14	14	14
Jurnal Sakura	10	18	21	24	18
Widai Japanese Journal	5	5	10	5	0
Hikari: Jurnal Bahasa dan Kebudayaan	0	5	10	10	8
Jurnal Daruma	0	10	19	20	20

¹ the issue for 2023 is not available in the archive on the *Kagami* journal's website

² the latest publication appearing on the *Kotoba* journal's website is from 2019.

Akira : Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra Jepang	0	0	0	18	2
Ichigo: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Pendidikan, dan Budaya Jepang	0	0	0	0	5
Hirameki	0	0	0	*n.a	*n.a
Nawa: Journal of Japanese Studies	0	0	0	0	6

*n.a not available

Table 2 presents publication trends across Japanese studies journals in Indonesia from 2020 to 2024. The data show varying patterns of publication productivity. Some journals, such as *Ayumi: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra* and *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Undiksha*, have maintained consistent outputs, with 10 and 30 publications annually, respectively. In contrast, other journals have exhibited notable fluctuations. For instance, *Japanology* recorded zero publications in 2021—likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on its website (*Japanology: The Journal of Japanese Studies*, n.d.).

More dynamic patterns are observed in *Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan*, which experienced a sharp increase from 17 publications in 2020 to 61 in 2024, and *Hikari*, which rose dramatically from 7 articles in 2021 to 83 in 2022 before stabilizing at 38 in 2024. On the other hand, several newer journals, such as *Nawa* and *Akira*, have just begun contributing to the field, with publication numbers starting to emerge in 2023–2024.

These variations reflect not only differences in editorial capacity and institutional support but also the broader challenges in maintaining sustainability and consistent output in specialized academic fields. Continued support for journal operations, coupled with responsive editorial management and alignment with national academic policies, will be essential in fostering long-term productivity and quality in Japanese studies publishing in Indonesia.

C. Publisher Profiles and Collaborations with Other Institutions

Referring to Table 1, out of the 27 Japanese studies journals currently available, 22 are managed directly by Japanese Studies programs, while the remaining three—*Kagami*, *Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan*, and *Akira: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra Jepang*—are managed by faculties or university research institutions. Universitas Diponegoro notably hosts two active journals, *Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan* and *Izumi: Japanese Language, Literature, and Culture Journal*. The remaining two journals are managed at the university level or by university research centers, but with no explicit affiliation to a Japanese Studies program listed on their websites

Based on the Regulation of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology Number 36/E/KPT/2019 concerning Scientific Journal Accreditation, such collaborations are essential for improving journal management, editorial quality, and scientific contributions. Partnerships between scientific journals and academic or professional institutions are a key requirement for SINTA accreditation. These collaborations may include providing expert reviewers, developing publication themes, and strengthening academic networks (Peraturan Menteri Riset, Teknologi, Dan Pendidikan Tinggi Republik Indonesia, 2018). Adnan & Purwo (2022) highlight the importance of collaborating with academic associations to improve journal governance and the quality of published articles.

In the context of Japanese studies journals, three national academic associations—ASJI (Asosiasi Studi Jepang Indonesia), ASPBJI (Asosiasi Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Indonesia), and KPSJI (Konsorsium Program Studi Jepang Indonesia)—play pivotal roles in enhancing the quality, reach, and standardization of Japanese studies in Indonesia.

ASJI focuses on the development of interdisciplinary studies related to Japan, ranging from culture and literature to international relations. Established in 1990, ASJI has been a cornerstone for fostering Japanese studies in the country. Meanwhile, ASPBJI, founded in 1999, emphasizes Japanese language education in Indonesia, supporting quality improvements through curriculum development and teacher training (Pratama & Purnomo, 2020). KPSJI serves as a coordination platform for Japanese studies programs, helping to synergize research and publications in the field.

Collaborations with these organizations not only help fulfill accreditation requirements but also enhance the reputation of journals within the academic community. Furthermore, the partnership represents a strategic step to enhance the quality and visibility of these journals. Although still limited, several journals have officially established partnerships with these organizations. For instance, Janaru Saja lists its MoU with ASJI, KPSJI, and ASPBJI on its website (Janaru Saja, n.d.). Such collaborations ensure that Japanese studies journals can improve the quality of their publications and expand their academic contributions within the scholarly community.

Moreover, academic activities, such as seminars organized by ASPBJI or ASJI, have begun collaborating with Japanese studies journals to publish the research presented at these events. For example, the 6th International Conference on Japanese Studies, Language and Education (ICJSLE), held in Bali on August 24, 2024, partnered with Jurnal Sakura, Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan, and Chi'e: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang to publish selected research outcomes (ASPBJI, 2024). These initiatives demonstrate how collaborative academic events can directly contribute to journal development, content enrichment, and academic visibility.

D. Japanese Identity in Journal Naming and Design

One distinctive characteristic of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia is the deliberate incorporation of Japanese cultural philosophy and symbolism, which is reflected in both the naming of journals and the design of their covers and websites. These elements reinforce the identity of the journals as part of Japanese studies while enhancing their cultural resonance and academic branding. Table 3 presents an overview of journal titles alongside their Japanese associated symbolism and the meanings according to Shogakukan PROGRESSIVE Japanese-English Dictionary.

Table 3. Journal Naming and Meaning

Journal	Meaning in English and Japanese (if available)
Kagami	鏡 means a mirror
Chi'e: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang	Chi'e: Journal of Japanese Language Education 知恵 means wisdom, intelligence, sense
Janaru Saja: Jurnal Program Studi Sastra Jepang	Janaru Saja: Journal of Japanese Literature Study Program The word "Janaru" is from Japanese ジャーナル and "Saja" is acronym of Sastra Jepang
Japanology: The Journal of Japanese Studies	
Hikari	ひかり means light, ray, beam, radiance
Kotoba	言葉 means language, speech, word, phrase
Izumi: Japanese Language, Literature and Culture Journal	泉 means a spring, a fountain
Ayumi: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra	歩 means walking, pace, course
Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Undiksha	Undiksha Journal of Japanese Language Education
Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang	Japanedu: Journal of Japanese Language Education and Teaching

Journal of Japanese Language Education and Linguistics (JLEL)	
Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan	Kiryoku: Journal of Japanese Studies 気力 means will power, energy, vigor, vitality
Jurnal Bahasa Jepang Taiyou	Japanese Journal Taiyou 太陽 means the sun, the ocean
Japanese Research on Linguistics, Literature and Culture	
Omiyage: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Jepang	Omiyage: Journal of Japanese Language and Learning お土産 means souvenir, present
Mezurashii: Journal of Japanese Studies	珍しい means rare, uncommon, out of ordinary, singular, unusual, new, novel
Niji: Jurnal Kajian Sastra, Budaya, Pendidikan, dan Bahasa Jepang	Niji: Journal of Japanese Literature, Culture, Education, and Language 虹 means a rainbow
J-Litera: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya Jepang	J-Litera: Journal of Japanese Language, Literature and Culture Studies
Idea: Jurnal Studi Jepang	Idea: Journal of Japanese Studies
Jurnal Sakura	桜 a cherry tree, cherry blossom
Widai Japanese Journal	
Hikari: Jurnal Bahasa dan Kebudayaan	Hikari: Journal of Language and Culture ひかり means light, ray, beam, radiance
Jurnal Daruma	だるま means dharma, a dharma doll
Akira : Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra Jepang	Akira: Journal of Japanese Culture, Language and Literature The meaning of Akira did not appear, but kanji 明 on the journal's logo means clear, obvious
Ichigo: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Pendidikan, dan Budaya Jepang	Ichigo: Japanese language, literature, education, dan culture 苺 means a word, a strawberry
Hirameki	閃き means flash, glitter, gleam, fluttering
Nawa: Journal of Japanese Studies	縄 means rope, cord

Table 3 shows that the naming of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia frequently adopts Japanese terms with strong philosophical, symbolic, or cultural meanings. Journal names such as Kagami (鏡), meaning "mirror," reflect the reflective nature of scientific research aimed at mirroring and understanding academic and cultural realities. Similarly, Chi'e (知恵), meaning "wisdom" or "intellect," highlights the journal's focus on knowledge development and learning, particularly in Japanese language education.

Several journal names also incorporate elements of nature and life symbols characteristic of Japanese culture, such as Hikari (ひかり), meaning "light," or Taiyou (太陽), meaning "sun." These names are likely intended to evoke positive associations, energy, and growth for the journals. Other names like Kiryoku (気力), meaning "spirit" or "vitality," reflect the energy and dedication of academics in advancing Japanese studies. Additionally, a name like Omiyage (お土産), meaning "souvenir," conveys the impression that the journal serves as an "intellectual gift" or a significant contribution to the academic community. These naming choices demonstrate an effort not only to reflect the scope of study but also to enhance the cultural appeal of Japanese elements within the academic context of Indonesia

Beyond linguistic choices, visual design also reflects this cultural alignment. Figure 1 below highlights how journal covers integrate traditional Japanese aesthetics through visual motifs and color palettes. For example, Jurnal Sakura uses cherry blossom imagery, Jurnal Daruma features the iconic Daruma doll, and Omiyage employs traditional wave patterns. The widespread use of soft color tones—such as pink, cream, and purple—along with

brushstroke-style typography and kanji characters (e.g., 氣力 in Kiryoku, 繩 in Nawa) further reinforces Japanese cultural authenticity.

The covers of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia consistently incorporate visual elements and cultural symbols of Japan, such as cherry blossoms (Jurnal Sakura), daruma dolls (Jurnal Daruma), and traditional wave motifs (Omiyage: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Jepang), which emphasize their Japanese identity. The use of soft colors like pink, purple, and cream, along with Japanese calligraphy-style typography, further reinforces their connection to Japanese cultural themes. Some journals also blend traditional elements with modern designs, such as Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan, which prominently features the kanji “氣力,” and Nawa: Journal of Japanese Studies, showcasing the kanji “繩”. This symbolic approach aligns with global trends where journal covers are designed not only for aesthetic appeal but also to reflect the identity and scholarly focus of the publication (Levy-Aldema, 2015). As discussed by Baird (2001), Japanese design is deeply rooted in cultural symbolism, making the use of such imagery particularly resonant in academic and artistic contexts (Baird, 2001).



Figure 1. Journal Website Designs and Covers

E. Analysis of Journal Accreditation

SINTA was first introduced in 2017 by the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education (Kemenristekdikti) as a platform to evaluate and monitor the performance of scientific publications in Indonesia. This system is designed to provide recognition and rewards for journals based on research quality and productivity. SINTA consists of six

accreditation levels, ranging from SINTA 1 as the highest rank to SINTA 6 as the initial level. Journals accredited at SINTA 1 and SINTA 2 are considered to have superior quality, often comparable to international journals, while SINTA 3 to SINTA 6 reflect national journals that are still developing toward higher quality standards. Through this system, SINTA serves as a crucial benchmark for improving the quality of academic publications in Indonesia and encouraging academics to enhance their research productivity and quality (Kemenristekdikti, 2017; Putera et al., 2021). Its role in enhancing journal management has also been highlighted by Suryaningsum (2020).

Here are 15 Japanese studies journals in Indonesia that SINTA has accredited based on SINTA homepage and the latest Journal Accreditation Decree by Kemenristekdikti. Table 4 illustrates the progression of SINTA accreditation among Japanese studies journals in Indonesia.

Table 4. Progression of SINTA accreditation

Journal	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Chi'e: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Janaru Saja: Jurnal Program Studi Sastra Jepang	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Japanology: The Journal of Japanese Studies	-	5	5	5	5	5	5
Izumi: Japanese Language, Literature and Culture Journal	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ayumi: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Undiksha	5	5	5	5	5	-	-
Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Journal of Japanese Language Education and Linguistics (JJLEL)	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Kiryoku: Jurnal Studi Kejepangan	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Japanese Research on Linguistics, Literature and Culture	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Omiyage: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Jepang	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
Mezurashii: Journal of Japanese Studies	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
J-Litera: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya Jepang	5	5	5	5	-	-	-
Jurnal Sakura	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Idea: Jurnal Studi Jepang	5	5	5	5	5	5	-



Of the 27 Japanese studies journals currently in existence, as of 2024 fifteen journals (approximately 56%) have achieved national accreditation through SINTA. However, none of these journals have reached the SINTA 2 level, let alone SINTA 1. Most journals are currently ranked at SINTA 3 and SINTA 4, highlighting the pressing need to improve quality to compete at both the national and international levels. Although J-Litera had previous accreditation, it is no longer listed in the 2024 SINTA.

Journals such as Chi'e: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang, Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang, and several others have shown positive progress by successfully advancing their accreditation from SINTA 4 to SINTA 3. This achievement reflects significant efforts to improve the quality of articles, editorial management, and the relevance

of research themes addressed. On the other hand, journals such as *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang Undiksha*, *Omiyage: Jurnal Bahasa dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Jepang*, and *Idea: Jurnal Studi Jepang* remain at SINTA 5. This indicates that while some journals have made notable advancements, others still face challenges in enhancing their accreditation levels and competitiveness.

There is significant variation in Article Processing Charges (APC) among Japanese studies journals. For example, *Izumi* (SINTA 4), managed by Universitas Diponegoro, charges Rp250,000 (approximately USD 16), while *JJLEL* (SINTA 3) imposes the highest fee at Rp850,000 (approx. USD 52).

Most SINTA 5 journals also apply no APC. These strategies are often adopted by developing journals to attract submissions and build author engagement. As a journal's accreditation level increases, the APC often rises to reflect the journal's enhanced reputation and operational needs, although exceptions exist, such as *Japanedu: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pengajaran Bahasa Jepang*, which remains free of charge regardless of its higher SINTA ranking.

In addition to SINTA, Indonesian journals are also indexed through GARUDA (Garba Rujukan Digital). Unlike SINTA, which serves as an accreditation and performance evaluation system, GARUDA functions primarily as a repository that facilitates open access to scientific publications. According to current regulations, journals must publish at least two issues before registering with GARUDA, and a minimum of three consecutive issues to qualify for SINTA accreditation (Kemenristekdikti, 2018). Consequently, newer journals—such as *Akira: Jurnal Budaya, Bahasa dan Sastra Jepang* and *Nawa: Journal of Japanese Studies*—have not yet appeared in either database, as they are still in early stages of development. Although GARUDA does not provide ranking or accreditation, its role in enhancing the discoverability and accessibility of Indonesian scholarly output remains essential.

CONCLUSION

Japanese studies journals in Indonesia have shown notable growth in both quantity and thematic diversity, particularly in the fields of language education, culture, and literature. However, substantial challenges remain, particularly in meeting international standards of scholarly publishing. Accreditation through the SINTA system—which demands consistency in publication and high editorial quality—continues to be a significant hurdle for many journals. Furthermore, disparities in article processing charges (APCs), ranging from free to substantial fees, influence the accessibility and sustainability of these publications.

Despite these challenges, government policies requiring academic publication for faculty promotion have provided a strong impetus for the proliferation of Japanese studies journals. These platforms serve not only as outlets for scholarly dissemination but also as instruments for enhancing Indonesia's academic contribution to the global field of Japanese studies. Collaborations with key academic associations—such as ASPBJI, ASJI, and KPSJI—have also contributed positively by improving editorial management, facilitating peer review, and expanding academic networks.

In the future, the continued growth of Japanese studies journals in Indonesia will depend on strategic efforts to address core issues such as accreditation, internationalization, and operational sustainability. With sustained support from academic institutions, government bodies, and scholarly organizations, these journals hold significant potential to become

influential references in the field. Strengthening their quality and global visibility will, in turn, elevate Indonesia's role within the international Japanese studies academic community.

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