

Title:

Long Ago There was a Book: Exploring the Digital Sagabon Ise Monogatari through Analytical Bibliography

Author:

[Uyede, Meaghan](#)

Advisor:

[Galey, Alan](#)

Department:

[Information Studies](#)

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Abstract (summary):

This masters thesis uses bibliographical analysis to explore digital copies of the Sagabon Ise Monogatari. The digital copies are analysed both as facsimiles for the books they were created from and as digital objects in their own right. Through a combination of description, page collation, and type collation, I explore the origins of the physical and digital artifacts which comprise the Sagabon printings. Wooden movable type, early Japanese printing, Edo period aesthetics, and print variations are all examined. Upon completion of the typographical analysis, I undertake the printing and binding of a physical facsimile from the digital image files. This act of making explores the allowances and constraints digital objects and their metadata have on users and illustrates how making serves as a powerful tool for deepening bibliographic understanding of a book, be it digital or physical.

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The Tales of Ise (伊勢物語, Ise monogatari) is a Japanese uta monogatari, or collection of waka poems and associated narratives, dating from the Heian period. The current version collects 125 sections, with each combining poems and prose, giving a total of 209 poems in most versions. Concerning the exact date of composition and authorship there is only unresolved speculation. The identity of the nameless, idealised central character is unclear, though it is suggested to be Ariwara no Narihira (825–880) The Electric Forest Festival, which started less than a decade ago, is a four-day multi-genre event, held in Rothbury, Michigan. The main focus of the event is upon electronic and jam bands. But what captures the eyes is a special atmosphere during this festival. The surrounding environment becomes a kaleidoscope of laser light shows. The mixture of electronic lights and the sounds appeal to different senses and together create a unique, surreal, magical experience. 3.

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