

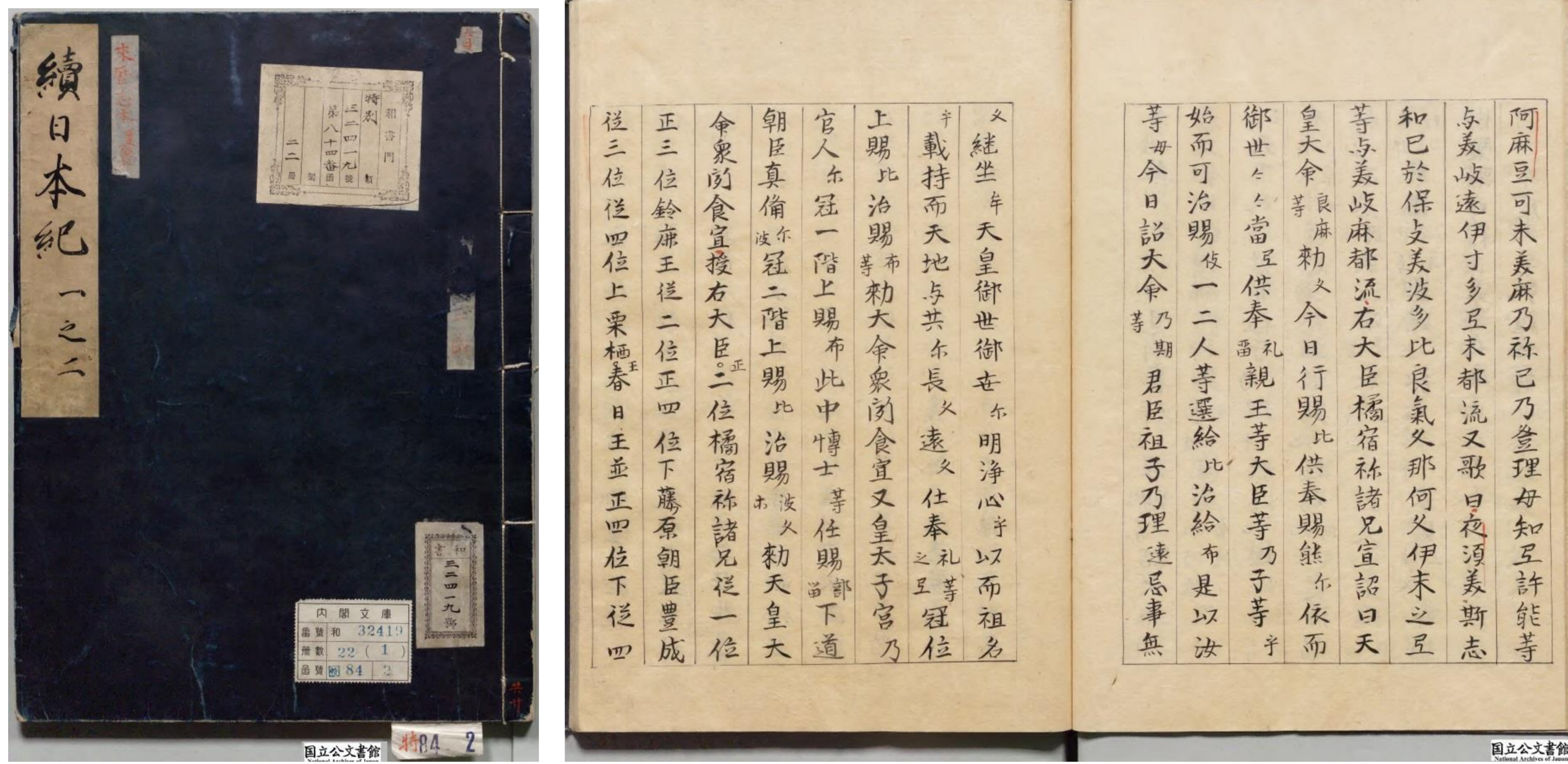
Construction of the corpus of *senmyō*: one of the oldest materials of Japanese language

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Introduction

Of the oldest texts written in native Japanese that still exist today, *waka* (poems) and *senmyō* (imperial edicts) from the 8th century comprise the largest part. In this period, texts were usually written in Classical Chinese, but *waka* and *senmyō* were written in native Japanese using *kanji* (Chinese characters).



親王等大臣等乃子等

senmyō-gaki

Content words such as nouns and verbs are written in large Chinese characters, while function words such as particles are written in small Chinese characters. A logogram, like “親王” (meaning “prince”) here, maps onto Chinese or Japanese readings. Phonograms, like “乃” (pronounced “no”), map onto specific syllables in Japanese words.

	meaning	pronunciation
“親王”	“prince”	“miko” or “sinnō”
“乃”	particle	“no”

Senmyō are included in "Shoku Nihongi," a history of events in Japan written at the end of the 8th century.

Characteristics of the corpus

Morphological information is annotated for each word. Some of the logograms in *senmyō* can be read either in Chinese or Japanese. Both readings can be searched.

The corpus has been made publicly accessible through an online search application called “Chūnagon.”

Sample ID	position	type	the context before the key	key	the context after the key	pronunciation	vocabulary	part of speech	original text	furigana	genre	title	publication year	chapter	original text	page
10-宣命 0797_04003	070	振り仮名	天皇、[丁酉]の八月[に]、此の[食国天]の[下]の[業]を、[日]並所知皇太子の	嫡子	、[今]御宇[しつる]天皇[に]授け賜ひて、[並]び坐して[此]の[天]の[下]を	チャクシ	嫡子	名詞-普通名詞-一般	原文文字列	ムカヒメ バラノミ コ	宣命	続日本紀	797	第三詔 慶雲四年七月壬子(巻四)元明天皇	続日本紀宣命 校本・総索引	6

Original text

The text for search is an electronic text transliterated from source materials. The characters used in writing are crucial for *senmyō* research. We can check the original text here.

Chinese readings

We annotate Chinese readings for *kanji* compound words, place names and numbers. Users who are not *senmyō* specialists may be familiar with these readings.

Japanese readings

These are the pronunciations of native Japanese words. However, many are not found in other genres, and so are unfamiliar to anyone other than *senmyō* specialists.

詳細な文脈情報

Key

奈良-宣命 0797_04003	700	1	嫡子	ムカヒメ	嫡妻	名詞-普通名詞-一般	ムカヒメ	和	嫡子	ムカヒメバラノミコ
奈良-宣命 0797_04003	700	1	嫡子	ハラ	腹	名詞-普通名詞-一般	バラ	和	嫡子	ムカヒメバラノミコ
奈良-宣命 0797_04003	700	1	嫡子	ノ	の	助詞-格助詞	ノ	和	嫡子	ムカヒメバラノミコ
奈良-宣命 0797_04003	700	1	嫡子	ミコ	御子	名詞-普通名詞-一般	ミコ	和	嫡子	ムカヒメバラノミコ

Click here for more information.

For example, the Chinese reading for “嫡子”(legitimate child) is 1 word. But the Japanese equivalent is 4 words, consisting of “嫡妻”(Eldest wife), “腹”(belly), “の”(genitive case) and “御子”(son). Here we can find information for all words. And a search for any of the component words will also yield “嫡子” as part of the results.