Projects I Finally Have Time For
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When I announced my retirement, many friends and colleagues asked me if I didn’t think I would be bored without work. Hah! During the last 15 years of my career, interesting projects were gathering around me like airplanes on the runway, waiting to take off. Or seeds that had been planted but needed more than the squirt of water I could spare them from time-to-time, that needed the special fertilizer which only an academic can give....

So today I am going to talk about my future, rather than my past, and tell you a little about five projects that have been waiting for my full attention: a book on Japanese writing in the Ryukyu Kingdom; a joint research project with a Japanese research team looking at the classical literature revival in Edo Japan; editing the English database for the Sakamaki-Hawley Collection; and volunteer work for the Honolulu Museum of Art. One more project stands apart as something I would never have imagined getting involved in but am now fully committed to: transcribing and translating poems in classical Japanese written by an internee at the Topaz Internment Camp during World War II.

In this presentation, I will explain these projects in more detail, and perhaps by talking about them publicly, I can spur myself to actually finish some of them!