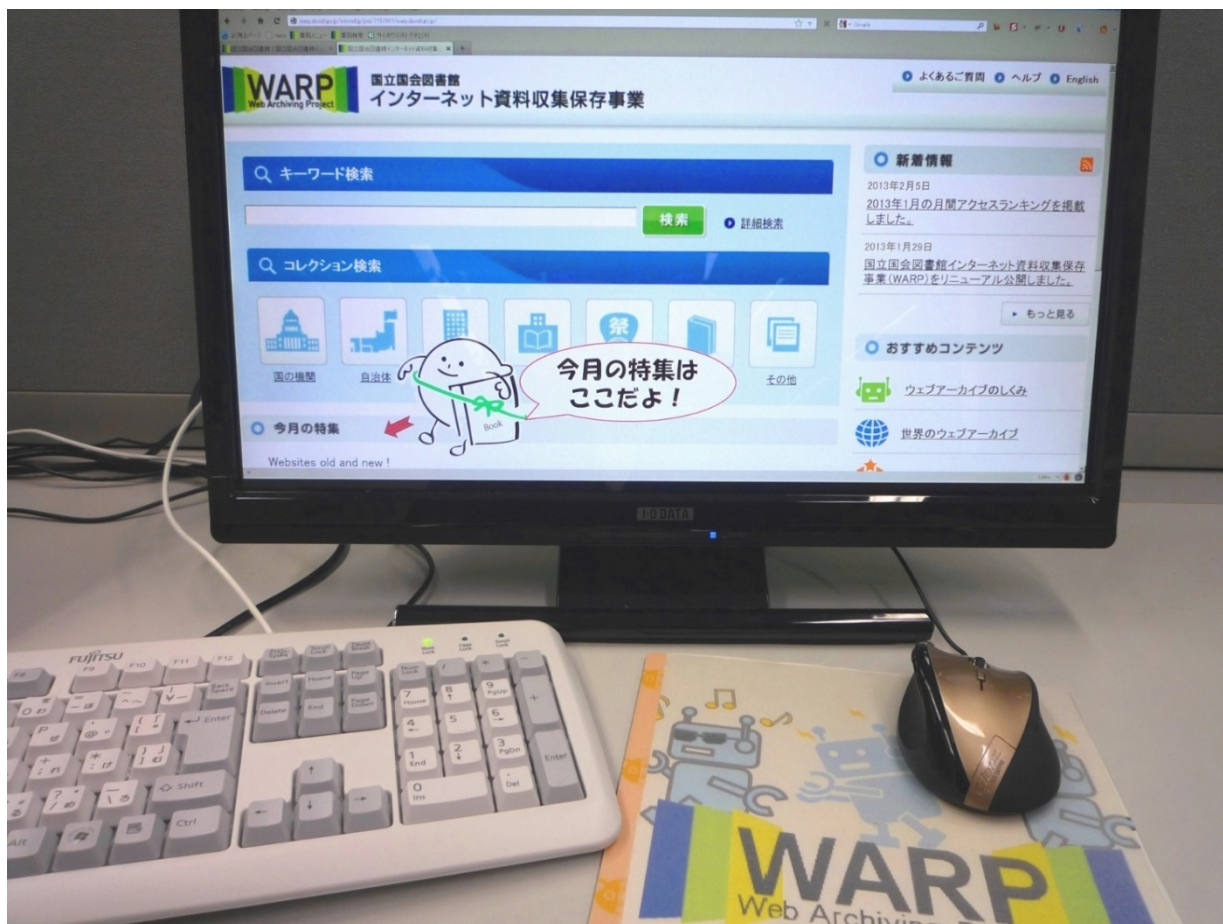


# National Diet Library Newsletter

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WARP, linking the past to the future

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 634 (January 2014).*



<<Picture of WARP website>>

The National Diet Library (NDL) has been archiving Internet resources published within Japan. That might surprise you because the main role of libraries has been to collect, organize, and preserve print publications. Information has always been handed down to posterity by writing, so that we can know the past. But more and more with the rapid growth of the Internet, information has come to being published on websites. In fact, the latest information is now available much more quickly through websites than through magazines or newspapers. It means that Internet resources are updated frequently and but also can disappear in a short time. In other words, Internet resources are at risk of being lost forever unless they are archived. That's why we have to collect Internet resources right now!

NDL collects Internet resources offered by public institutions including national government agencies and institutions and local governments according to the National Diet Library Law. NDL also collects Internet resources produced by private institutions based on permission from each webmaster.

Please visit the Web Archiving Project (WARP) website at ([http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/info/WARP\\_en.html](http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/info/WARP_en.html)). You can easily find what kinds of websites are archived in WARP, if you read "kongetsu no tokushu" (the monthly column) at (<http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/contents/special/index.html>). It shows some archived websites under a theme (for example, cherry blossoms, festivals, foods), or explains about WARP (for example, how the WARP Logo was created). The WARP staff makes these pages so that visitors can get to know more about WARP.

You can also access the pages that describe the top 30 most frequently accessed websites in the last month (<http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/contents/ranking/index.html>). Some of them have already disappeared from the Web. One of the WARP's most important missions is to preserve these websites as historical records for future generations as well as to ensure access to information that might disappear within a few years. There is a vast amount of information on many websites that might be more important in the future. We continue to archive websites in the hope that the Web Archiving Project (WARP) will be more invaluable in the future.