

National Diet Library Newsletter

NDL Newsletter No. 103, June 1997

International Symposium:

Current status and future of bibliographic information in Southeast Asian countries

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Today libraries all over the world are experiencing unprecedented changes related to the advanced information society, with the new millennium approaching. The NDL is certainly no exception. It is planning to construct in western Japan a new digital facility tentatively named *Kansai-kan* to be opened in 2002. To help set up its foundation, especially that of the *Asian Resource Information Center* (also tentative), which is a substantial element of the *Kansai-kan*, NDL held the International symposium: *Current status and future of bibliographic information in Southeast Asian countries*.

The symposium was held at NDL from March 10 to 11, 1997. Besides two Japanese lecturers, eight specialists were invited from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The symposium was divided into three parts : acquisition and use of Southeast Asian information in Japan and Australia (Session 1), current status and future of bibliographic information in Southeast Asian countries (Session 2) and discussion (Session 3).

Following the opening address by Mr. Mineo Miyawaki, Director, Administrative Department of NDL at that time, the Symposium started.

- [Session 1: Acquisition and use of Southeast Asian information in Japan and Australia](#)
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Session 1: Acquisition and use of Southeast Asian information in Japan and Australia

The session began with the speech of Ms. Fumi Idei, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE, Japan), titled *Experience in Japan – Acquisition and Use of Southeast Asian Information in Japan : Focusing on Activities of IDE*. IDE was founded, under the IDE Law (April 1, 1960), for the purpose of studying and promoting trade as well as cooperation with developing economies in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. After describing the present state of its activities, she explained its new library project in Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture, near Tokyo.

She then outlined the situation of materials relating to Southeast Asian countries in Japan: (1)Most of the such materials are academic and written in English, (2)While there are some vernacular materials, only a few of them are catalogued, (3)In universities vernacular

materials are often in a professor's office, not in the library, (4) Considerable percentage of materials is collected by individual researchers, not by organizations. Her last emphasis was on the need for networking among domestic institutions as well as compiling union catalogues in cooperation with Asian colleagues.

Ms. Motoko Nishida, Assistant Chief, Asian Materials Division, NDL, gave a paper titled *the Future Plan of Asian Resource Information Center: Acquisition and Use of Southeast Asian Information in Japan*. The Center, which will be inside the Kansai-kan, is planned to acquire on a broad front materials both published in and relating to Asia. Through supplying worldwide users with bibliographic information as well as documents themselves, it is aiming to contribute to better understandings and mutual respect among Asian people.

She pointed out that developing networks and databases is essential for fulfilling these functions and for this, cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions, especially libraries in Asian countries, is vital. As for the collections, the first effort is to be mainly concentrated on acquisitions from East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia, though all collections will be gradually developed to the full. Staff efficient in Chinese, Korean, etc. will handle these important tasks with ample knowledge of each country.

Dr. Helen Jarvis, Head of the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia, gave a paper titled *Southeast Asia in Australian Consciousness: the View from the Library and Information Sphere*. Australian interest in Asia has grown markedly in recent years and Southeast Asia, as the part of the continent nearest to Australia, has been the focus of their attention. Attention has been paid to increasing collections of Southeast Asian materials in various institutions. One successful example is the Indonesian Acquisitions Project run through the National Library of Australia.

She went on to mention electronic resources, pointing out that in the past few years Australians have been putting such efforts into developing databases and web sites and providing access to electronic resources in the Asian countries as: BISA database (Bibliographic Information Services on Asia and the Pacific, originally standing for Bibliographic Information on Southeast Asia), Vietnamese Union Catalogue and so on. Another suite of databases developed by the Cambodian Genocide Program is available on the Internet, for which she is working as the Consultant on Documentation.



Session 2: Current status and future of bibliographic information in Southeast Asian countries – country report –

The first speaker, Mr. Blasius Sudarsono, Head of Center of Scientific Documentation and Information, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, reported under the title of A Glimpse to Bibliographic Information Exchange in Indonesia. In Indonesia, efforts to publish catalogues or bibliographies have been made since the late 19th century. The Indonesian National Bibliography, which now the National Library of Indonesia is responsible for and can be accessed on the Internet, was first published in 1953. Again, an attempt to exchange bibliographic information among special libraries in Indonesia was started in 1971 and as a

result the first Union Catalogue of Serials was published in 1973 by the Center for Scientific Documentation and Information of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

Now bibliographical work in Indonesia is inevitably related to databases compiled by computers, some of which are already accessible on the Internet. Mr. Sudarsono stressed the necessity of standardization of bibliographic databases and the difficulty of intellectual property rights issues.

Ms. Putri Saniah Megat Abdul Rahman, Head, Department of Resources Development, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, gave a report titled Bibliographic Databases and Networks in Malaysia: towards the Development of Digital Libraries with Local Content Databases. The National Library of Malaysia strategically organized the National Conference on Multimedia Digital Libraries in November 1996 and its focus was on meeting the nation's information needs of the 21st century. In line with the 10th CONSAL (May 1996) Plan for National Development there were made such recommendations as: the establishment, management and coordination of a nationwide network of multimedia digital libraries, linking all 10,000 libraries, the multimedia digital library as one of the government Multimedia Super Corridor flagship projects, and so on.

Having reviewed the current status of automation and networking in public, academic and special libraries, electronic publishing in Malaysia etc., she went on to present issues and challenges faced by the libraries, including shortage of skilled staff and lack of funding. She ended her report by expressing her conviction that information entrepreneurship within the libraries calls for paradigm shift and new ways of doing things.

Mr. Thein Lwin, Librarian Grade 1, Mawlamyine University Library, Myanmar, whose report was titled Current Status of Bibliographic Information in Myanmar, was the last speaker on March 10. Although at present in Myanmar most libraries are operating by using old methods, there are a few well-funded libraries using advanced techniques and machines. With the cooperation of the Myanmar Library Association, the Central Library and Department of Library Science of Yangon University, a unique library system was developed to improve library standards and education.

To set up area networks in Myanmar, financial and technical assistance is indispensable. He concluded that developed countries like Japan, which have both budget and human resources, should take initiatives to create an Asia Network System.

The first speaker on March 11 was Mr. Rogelio B. Mallillin, Director, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University. His report was titled Information Processing and Resource sharing in the Philippines. While there have been significant developments in the last three years or so in the creation of electronic databases, this has been concentrated in only a handful of libraries in the Philippines. Concerning local networking, only a few libraries are involved and they are mainly located in the National Capital Region. He described problems relating to networking like: (1)lack of funds to procure hardware and software as well as for personnel training, (2)lack of knowledge on the part of administrators and librarians, (3)poor telecommunication facilities. The availability of the information superhighway or the Internet has made a lot of things possible in international networking in this country. Computer

processing of Filipino materials is not a big problem because collection development in libraries is biased to English language publications. Moreover, even if a material is written in Filipino, the Philippine alphabet is very similar to English, hence there is no difficulty converting lists into machine-readable format.

Ms. Ch'ng Kim See, Head, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Library, Singapore, reported under the title of *Bibliographic Information of Southeast Asian Materials in Singapore: its Current State and Prospects*. Bibliographic information in Singapore is generated and maintained by libraries using their computerized systems. Bibliographic standards adopted are international, mostly based on the U.S. MARC, and Non-Roman script cataloguing is mainly transliterated. A few libraries are beginning to use multilingual software to cater to their non-Roman script cataloguing.

A cooperative bibliographic network SILAS (Singapore Integrated Library Automated Service) has 66 participating libraries and it is planned to allow outside online access as well. Public access to bibliographic files is facilitated by major libraries through the Internet as well. She also described three general concept plans: the information technology 2000 report (1991), the Library 2000 report (1994) and *Singapore: the next lap* (1991), which provide the general direction of a loosely integrated information technology development strategy for Singapore.

She was followed by Ms. Thara Kanakamani, Director, National Library of Thailand, who gave a report titled *Current Situation and Problems of National Network of Bibliographic Information of Southeast Asian Materials in Thailand*. In Thailand great attempts have been paid to organize collections of Southeast Asian materials. Moreover, since the early 1980s many databases have been created in nearly every higher educational institution throughout the country. Some libraries have offered on-line public access catalogue to their readers. Integrated library systems for all library operations have been also introduced in nearly every library, many networks have been launched and now the Internet is very popular.

Having explained the functions of the National Library and its databases, she went on to mention National Bibliographic Networks. Great efforts have been made for this but still there are the problems of standardization of forms and formats among different bibliographies of various library institutions. In order to solve this problem THAI NATIS was set up in 1986. She concluded that Japan should be suitable to be an Asian Resources Information Center with the cooperation of each Asian country.

The last speaker at the session, Mr. Kieu Van Hot, Assistant to the Director, National Library of Vietnam, gave a report titled *Library Automation and Network in Vietnam*. At present there are two bibliographic networks in Vietnam: the public libraries' network led by the National Library of Vietnam includes the National Library of Vietnam and provincial libraries. There is also an information centers' network led by National Center for Scientific and Technological Information and Documentation.

The Internet is now under testing in Vietnam. He pointed out difficulties such as scarce information techniques in libraries, the high cost of data telecommunications, unfamiliarity with information sharing. He is really conscious of the necessity of a more powerful software

which can support Vietnamese. The National Library is now taking part in an international project named Vietnam Union Catalogue; and he ended his lecture, emphasizing their willingness to take part in international cooperation.



Session 3: Open discussion and concluding remarks

The country reports were followed by an energetic Q & A session which included topics such as the present state of national bibliography, staff training and transliteration. As concluding remarks, Ms. Kiyoko Tamura, Senior Librarian, Acquisitions Department, NDL, reemphasized the importance of cooperation among participating countries regarding acquisitions, automation and human resource development.

The symposium ended with concluding remarks by Ms. Sakae Edamatsu, Director, Special Materials Department, NDL. After this the participants moved to Kyoto and visited Kansai Science City where the Kansai-kan will be built.



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Training Program for Senior Japanese Studies Librarian



The National Diet Library invited as trainees eleven senior Japanese Studies librarians working abroad from February 17 to March 7, 1997 in response to a request from the Japan Foundation. During their stay in Japan they also visited other related institutions.

The following are comments on the training program sent by some of them after they returned home.

- [Qian Jun Gians, Beijin Center for Japanese Studies, China](#)
- [Ikuko Kaji, Istituto Giapponese di Cultura Rome, Italy](#)
- [Noboru Koyama, Cambridge University Library, UK](#)
- [Junko Bauermeister, Ifo Institute of Economic Research, Germany](#)
- [Sekiko Matsuzaki, Hautes etudes japonaises Instituts d'extreme-orient College de France](#)
- [Yasuko Makino, Japanese Studies Librarian C.V. Starr East Asian Library Columbia University, USA.](#)
- [Eiko Sakaguchi, Monash University Library, Australia](#)

Qian Jun Gians, Beijin Center for Japanese Studies, China

I took part in the Training Program at the National Diet Library last February. This program impressed me very much, especially in the sense that I was able to learn a lot about the recent development of online databases in Japan.

In Japan they hardly used digital media until recently. However, now such media as the Internet and online databases are quite popular and numerous libraries and related organizations use them as reference tools.

The one of the most advanced Japanese institutions regarding this matter is the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS). Fortunately I had an opportunity to go there during this program on February 19 and 20.

NACSIS is a so-called Inter-University Research Institution which was founded 11 years ago. It is the central facility of the Science Information System (SIS) and its roles are planning and coordinating of SIS, comprehensive research and development on scientific information and systems, compilation and services of union catalog databases, compilation

and services of scholarly databases, and education and training of users.

I keenly realized the usefulness of its information retrieval services (58 different databases are available as of October 1996) and I would like to mention the fact that anyone can access its general picture on the Internet. Unfortunately, however, it is not always convenient for foreign organizations to use Japanese information, including NACSIS Information Retrieval Services even now.

Therefore I would like to suggest that expanding international business is the key factor for the future. I am sure it will be successful because of the increasing need for information on Japan from the world over as well as developing cooperation between kanji (Chinese character) using countries.



Ikuko Kaji, Istituto Giapponese di Cultura Rome, Italy

Firstly I would like to express my deepest gratitude for having been given the opportunity to participate in the training program of the National Diet Library (NDL), the Japan Foundation, the National Center for Science and Information Systems (NACSIS) and other institutions.

It was a valuable experience for me, who had no means to catch up on the Japanese latest information technologies except by skimming through books and articles, since overseas libraries on Japanese studies tend to be left behind by the recent rapid development of new information media and electronic networking, and in addition our library is unique of this kind in Italy.

As our library started computerized cataloging in November last year, I was particularly interested in the feasibility of cataloging through J-BISC or NACSIS-CAT. To my great regret, after all, I found it would be difficult for our library to join the NACSIS-CAT network at present because we use Macintosh computers and, to participate in the network, probably would have to change to another kind. It would be also hard to receive support in connection to the network and other assistance.

During the program, I had a chance to use the NACSIS-IR service, but as our library has offered location information free of charge in principle, and most of our clients are students, the problem of charge would be an obstacle. The lecture on the NDL electronic library project was also of great interest to me. I had an impression that the digital library was in the distant future, but I was given a new view that it has already begun to be realized by the lecture dealing with such issues as the problem of legal deposit of digital publications and the project to build the Kansai-kan which would supply electronic information worldwide from Japan.

If bibliographical databases produced by the NDL could be accessible on-line to foreign organizations and document supply functions could be linked with such databases, it would be very helpful to overseas libraries on Japanese studies, for which so far it has taken quite a long time to get the latest information and documents from Japan. I hope the project will

come to fruition as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the advancement in information networks has provided users with direct access to information, not through libraries. I think that now we have to consider and review the role and future of our library. It is one of the most precious harvests of the training program that I could build a human network of colleague trainees, who work for Japanese studies libraries in many countries, as well as that I became acquainted with the staff of the recipient institutions.

In these days of such fast progress of information technologies, without communication and cooperation with colleagues of other libraries facing common challenges, we would fall behind the rapidly changing environment. As the sole special library of Japanese studies in Italy, we have to improve our competence to provide better services.



Noboru Koyama, Cambridge University Library, UK

I have recently taken the first study and training programme for senior Japanese studies librarians as one of 11 participants. One of the underlying themes throughout the programme was the rapid development of information technology (I.T.) for Japanese studies, such as the Internet. Consequently, we have realised fully how important are the information and services which we can receive through I.T. for Japanese studies. As Japanese Studies librarians, we have naturally recognised what the new development of I.T. means for Japanese studies abroad. Obviously overseas libraries can receive huge benefits from the new era of information technology which has direct and prompt services, hitherto available only to Japanese libraries.

However, though I.T. has extended the spectrum of information media and library services, it has not rendered obsolete the traditional library media, such as books and periodicals. In fact, since more bibliographic information is easily available through new media and services, the demands for those traditional library materials have increased. In addition, the number of books and journals which are published in Japan is getting larger and larger, but the number of those which we can afford to acquire is not increasing or even decreasing in the worst cases, because of the high value of Japanese currency. Moreover, the fields of Japanese studies are extending too. So, we have to purchase diversified Japanese materials other than traditional Japanology materials and our coverage of Japanese publications is stretched to the limit.

Obviously the above mentioned problem reminds us immediately of resource sharing, accompanied with inter-library loan services and union catalogue. Actually we are developing the UK union catalogue of Japanese publications as part of the resource sharing of Japanese materials in Britain and wish to extend it to Europe. As globalization advances, we may be able to develop world-wide resource sharing scheme for Japanese studies. Of course, in most cases overseas libraries are probably recipients of services from Japanese libraries, such as photocopies and book loans because of the nature of Japanese studies. Undoubtedly Japanese national and university libraries, such as the National Diet Library

(NDL) are the chief resource centres for Japanese studies. Therefore, international co-operation from Japanese libraries, such as NDL could take a crucial role in the global development of Japanese studies, providing not only the information, but also the actual services for library materials, such as photocopies and book loans.

As I have mentioned, the new development of information technology has considerably reduced the barriers of space and time. What overseas libraries look forward to receiving through international co-operation from Japanese libraries is the rapid ILL services (loan and photocopying services) backed with the technology of our information era. Currently Cambridge University Library and the Bodleian Japanese Library (Oxford) are receiving a prompt photocopying service through NACSIS ILL Services and we have realised the potential impact for overseas Japanese collections, particularly if the book loan service were added. Now we know NACSIS ILL has been supported with the huge collection of NDL. So, we believe that international photocopying and loan services which are supported by NACSIS ILL and NDL and equipped with the new development of I.T. could further the development of Japanese studies abroad significantly.



Junko Bauermeister, Ifo Institute of Economic Research, Germany

Catalogers do not like government publications in German libraries. They try to sidestep cataloging such printed materials, saying, "The thinner, the more troublesome." Recently, gray literature is drawing more and more attention and has come into question to such an extent that international conferences are held. I have been much interested in acquisition, processing and management of governmental materials, statistics, etc., as staff member in charge of collecting Japanese information at the Institute of Economic Research.

This training program gave me the opportunity to observe the quite substantial collection and reference services of the Official Publications Room of the National Diet Library and to see and browse a large amount of official materials and research reports published by domestic and foreign organizations through the shelves in the sixth basement stacks. This enormous collection, which accounts for about 20 percent of the whole NDL holdings, however, would not cover even half of all the government publications, although the NDL is the sole deposit library in Japan. This shows the difficulties in collecting official materials or gray literature. For example, a lecturer on this subject mentioned a research report on governmental materials written by the Administrative Management Agency as a reference tool, but, ironically enough, the NDL did not hold its copy.

There are libraries other than the NDL collecting government publications, but the NDL is the only one that has an established acquisitions system. Most of the other institutions collect these kinds of materials through, as it were, personal connections. This applies to the experiences of the staff of the Government Data Research Center of Japan which we visited later during the program. The materials are collected there based on connections, experiences and intuition of the staff in charge.

Today, publications are becoming diversified into a variety of forms such as diskettes, CDs, Internet versions, etc. as well as printed matter. These trends are not exceptional for

government publications. Perhaps, rather, they are ahead of the trends. How will the NDL cope with such a situation? Besides, government publications collected thus with difficulties, if not used, would be unworthy. How will the NDL answer a wide range of respective requests?

It would be ideal for me if the NDL collection (unnecessary to be limited to official publications) and its reference services were more easily accessible to foreign institutions. There were chances to discuss those issues frankly during the training program, and I received an optimistic impression. I hope for further development in this direction.



Sekiko Matsuzaki, Hautes etudes japonaises Instituts d'extreme-orient College de France

The Training Program of three weeks was very useful to me. I felt strongly again the importance of the network. Particularly, I think, a human network is very important as well as information communications through the Internet, etc. This Program was very significant for the future of Japanese studies abroad in the sense that librarians who are in charge of Japanese materials in countries different in culture and tradition, together with the staff of the National Diet Library and other principal libraries and information institutions, had an opportunity to consider and exchange opinions on diverse issues concerning Japanese studies libraries. One encounters a serious obstacle to building a human network among libraries on Japanese studies in France; there are fewer full-time librarians expert in the area than might be expected. I was in charge of compilation of the union catalog of Japanese books held by libraries in Paris (complete works, serials), which will be published soon, but the collection of two libraries among the thirteen participating in this union catalog project are not available at present because of lack of staff and removal or repairing.

In France, most of the universities and higher educational institutions are national and there are strict restrictions on employing librarians for such organizations. It is very difficult or sometimes impossible within the restrictions to secure those who can use special languages such as Japanese. Therefore, there are not a few libraries where part-timers process Japanese materials or where lecturers or researchers do it in their spare time. It can be managed in the libraries which do not hold a large Japanese collection. However, if the holdings increase to some extent or once the collection is moved because of removal or repair, without expert librarians, the library often will not function well. In a library with full-time librarians in charge of the Japanese collections, to the contrary, even if there is a move or repair work, the library often manages to remain available to readers.

Recently in France, the Japanese language came to be taught extensively and became popular. Year after year the number of universities in the provinces as well as in Paris providing a course in the Japanese language are increasing. Such a growth is a fruit of not only French enthusiasm but also of assistance from Japan, especially the support of the Japan Foundation. If France sees further development and dissemination of Japanese-language education and of Japanese studies, the demand for special libraries in this field and automation of libraries will increase. Then, expert librarians will be indispensable to such

libraries. At present, however, the possibility of introducing of specialist posts is very small, and appropriate experts are difficult to find.

I quite agree with Professor Yukio Fujino, University of Library Information Science, who said that if there were no good Japanese studies librarians, Japanese studies would decline. Is it impossible for Japan and France to cooperate in fostering librarians and in posting them full-time to more libraries? I expect much help from the National Diet Library and the Japan Foundation. The Japan Foundation has made a large contribution to overseas libraries by donating books. If they could extend their assistance to processing and maintenance of those donated books, the materials will be used more frequently and easily and be of much more help to Japanese studies abroad.



Yasuko Makino, Japanese Studies Librarian C.V. Starr East Asian Library Columbia University, USA.

I have dreamt of training like this one for many years so it was really my dream come true and was honored to be selected to participate in this training representing the United States.

The training program was carefully planned, prepared and executed by excellent lecturers and trainers. Extremely well-coordinated cooperation of the hosting agencies was admirable and created a truly useful and stimulating program for us trainees. Time distribution of two weeks of lectures and hands-on-practices and a week of site visits was a good balance.

The panel discussion format by the kenshusei (trainees) with a moderator with large attendance of Japanese librarians was an excellent opportunity for improving the communication and develop understanding among the participants, I thought, but was rather disappointed by the lack of participation from the audience.

One particular interest of Japanese studies librarians overseas is to find out what type of resources and information are available in Japan for our patrons. So the talks on electronic library, progress of Kansai as the distribution center of electronic information, site visits to places such as JST, Kokubungaku Kenkyu Shiryokan and Seifu Shiryoto Fukyu Chosakai are of particular interest. These sites are well-selected and gave us many useful information. Also two-day-long hands-on training at NACSIS on its various on-line databases including NACSIS-IR and Zasshi Kiji Sakuin Database are extremely useful to get a feel of what we have to know to be connected with these databases from overseas. This training gave us a superb opportunity to be acquainted with resources and information available in Japan and to established personal connections with Japanese libraries and librarians as well as other resource and information centers in Japan.

I was also impressed by the quality of Japanese librarians, particularly those whom we met at the National Diet Library as well as the trainees all over the world. There is a sense of mission among them. I am looking forward to work with them for the global advancement of Japanese studies. I hope this worth-while program will continue maybe extending to other

countries of the world as well. Mostly, this training gave Japanese studies librarians from all over the world an excellent opportunity to establish a truly global network for improved communication and sharing resources and information related to Japanese studies and information from Japan.



Eiko Sakaguchi, Monash University Library, Australia

After a condensed, intensive two week training program in the National Diet Library (NDL) and National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS), the third week of our training was devoted to visiting national and private institutions with library resources and services. On the first day we visited the National Archives and Diplomatic Record Office and its Museum.

The second day was spent at the National Institute of Japanese Literature and Historical Museum, and the Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST) and the fourth day we visited the Institute for Dissemination and Research of Government Data, and the Mita Media Center of Keio University. We also personally arranged the visits on the third and fifth days. The following is a brief account of these official visits.

I was very impressed with the efforts devoted to preservation and book restoration at the National Archives. We saw an enormous number of boxes of official documents from government ministries waiting for fumigating, staff members concentrating on microfilming and performing the delicate task of restoring the insect damaged old Japanese books. The Diplomatic Record Office collects the diplomatic records and the period covered is from the end of the Edo period onwards. The office compiles and publishes important historical records in series of Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy. The reference services are available for the researchers overseas through Japanese embassies and consulate-generals in the country.

The National Institute of Japanese Literature and Historical Museum offers not only traditional library services but also prepares for presenting classical text in digital format. Its Digital Information Center homepage (<http://www.nijl.ac.jp/infocenter.html>) offers a very interesting text database service on Japanese classical literature. After looking at the digitized classical literature, we were fascinated by the real historical materials and listening to explanation on them at the Historical Museum.

We received a series of sophisticated demonstration at JST, about their services, database creation and machine translation which JST developed. Their Honyaku Network (<http://www.jmt.jst.go.jp/menu1-index.html>) provides automated translation service through e-mail to the registered users.

The Institute for Dissemination and Research of Government Data gathers the government publications including ones not on the market, publishes abstracts, and provides online database services (GIOSS-Net). We were given the opportunity at the Mita Media Center of Keio University to look at the whole library operation from acquisition to reference services.

We were also briefed how the library system connect their four campuses. We saw their virtual library project of preserving the Gutenberg Bible into digital format, as one of the future directions.

It was fascinating to pay a visit to the places one only knows through publications, visitors or the Internet. I thought that it was extremely fortunate to gain access to these resource centres as official guests who could observe the inside of the organization and their operation. It was very useful to obtain the characteristics of resources available in these distinguished institutions, and to learn that they offer services for overseas libraries. As most of the institutions provide information through the Internet and some offer the online database services, it is my duty now to analyze and utilize these services for our users.



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Changes to the Japanese National Bibliography



The NDL has changed since April 1997 the way of issuing *Nihon Zenkoku Shoshi* (*Japanese National Bibliography*) (paper edition) as follows:

A weekly list contains books and non-book materials not serially issued except for maps (sheets) and musical recordings (formerly a list of non-book materials was issued separately), including Japanese materials published abroad and items published before 1948, the establishment of the NDL (formerly those were excluded).

A weekly list contains a title index and an author index (formerly indexes were published quarterly).

A list of new serial titles is appended to the last issue of each month (before, such a list was issued separately).

A list of Asian language materials published in Japan is appended to the last (fiftieth issue) of each year (while such materials used to be excluded).

The NDL, as a national deposit library, compiles and publishes the Japanese National Bibliography, which contains bibliographical information of domestic publications and of materials in Japanese language published abroad.

Paper edition is issued weekly, available at *600Yen* per volume (tax included). Annual cumulative index (title/author) is published by the Japan Library Association under the NDL's supervision.

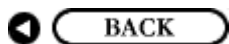
MT and CD-ROM editions are also available. Japan/MARC(M), magnetic tape edition for monographs, is updated weekly and available at *600,000Yen* per year from the Japan Library Association. J-BISC, CD-ROM edition, is updated quarterly and costs *140,000Yen* per year.



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Start of the Investigation Committee on the Legal Deposit System and the outline of its first meeting



The Investigation Committee on the Legal Deposit System was established as an advisory organ of the National Diet Librarian in order to examine the Japanese legal deposit system in the twenty-first century, especially issues of dealing with digital publications.

The committee is based on the Rules on the Legal Deposit System (settled as of January 22, 1997) approved by the Standing Committees on Rules and Administration of the House of Representatives and of the House of Councillors. The following are the reasons for the Committee's establishment.

1) The legal deposit system, which is the basis of the National Diet Library's acquisition policy of domestic publications, fifty years after its inception should be reviewed because of changes in society and in the circumstances of publication. Especially the recent development of information and communication technologies has been promoting the dissemination of electronic publications such as CD-ROM, DVD and electronic journals. The NDL, as the sole deposit library in the country, has to solve the question of how to deal with such new-media publications as were not conceived when the legal deposit system was originally legislated. This is one of the most important issues urgently needing to be solved in order to lay the foundation of the digital library functions of the NDL's two big projects, Kansai-kan, a new facility of the NDL to be opened in 2002, and the Children's Literature Center.

2) There are problems in operating the existing deposit system. For example, the details of how to treat "works produced by motion picture techniques" (Paragraph 6, Clause 1, Article 24 of the NDL Law) have not been clarified yet. It should be considered how to adjust the laws and rules as a whole when digital publications are included in the objects of legal deposit.

The Committee consists of fifteen learned members commissioned as of March 1, 1997.

The first meeting, held on March 3, was attended by all the members and Mr. Ogata, the Librarian of the National Diet Library, Mr. Imon, the Deputy Librarian, Mr. Miyawaki, the Director of the Administrative Department, and Mr. Ito, the Director of the Acquisitions Department (the posts were as of March 3).

After Mr. Imon introduced the members, Mr. Shinkichi Eto, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, was elected Chairperson of the Committee, and Mr. Eto appointed Mr.

Hiroshi Shiono, Professor of the Faculty of Law, Seikei University, as deputy chairman.

Mr. Ogata then submitted to the Committee the problem about the legal deposit system in view of the coming century, and especially institutions and management of the system concerning publications in electronic forms.

Next, a draft of the rules for administration of the Committee was discussed.

Here a section for digital publications was settled upon and the principle to make the minutes open and other administrative rules were confirmed.

The Digital Publications Section is to investigate and discuss the essential issues of the problem of the Committee. Five of the committee were nominated into the Section by the Chairperson, and Dr. Shunpei Kumon, Director of the Global Communications Center of the International University of Japan, was appointed as the chief. Other experts are to join the Section.

After exchange of opinions, the schedule of the Committee came up for discussion and was settled as follows:

- First meeting of the Digital Publications Section to be held in May 1997;
- Meetings of the Committee to be held twice or three times a year;
- An interim report on digital publications to be submitted by the end of FY1997; and
- Final report to be submitted by the end of FY1998.

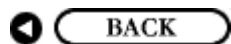
The Committee is to provide the first opportunity for survey and discussion of the legal deposit system in Japan since 1949 when the present system was established. It will probably result in modification and reorganization of the system and related laws and regulations. The Committee is expected to conduct research and discuss the issues to a wide extent and from a long perspective considering trends in foreign countries as well.



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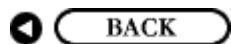
Discontinuance of publication of monthly Accession List – Foreign Language Publications



NDL decided to cease publishing this accession list with issue which carries data of materials acquired by the end of March 1997.

This list has been published since 1956 in order to provide information about foreign books, pamphlets and microfilms newly acquired by NDL.

Such information is now accessible through NACSIS-IR (National Centre for Science Information Systems Information Retrieval Service) .



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New Publications from NDL



Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Shozo Hakushi Ronbun Mokuroku, Heisei 5-6 =National Diet Library Catalog of Doctoral Dissertations, 1993-1994



Compiled by the Ueno Library, Branch Library of the NDL, and published in March 1997. 1,229 p. 30 cm. ISBN: 4-87582-491-2. Available at *27,900Yen* (tax excluded) from Kinokuniya Co., Ltd.

As of the end of 1994, the Ueno Library, Branch of the National Diet Library, holds doctoral theses submitted to domestic universities by approximately 290,000 persons. This catalog contains the dissertations by 23,520 persons acquired by the Ueno Library in 1993 and 1994. The previous editions are also available from Kinokuniya.

National Diet Library Catalog of Doctoral Dissertations

- 1984-1988 (52,041 entries) *27,500Yen*. 2 v. 26 cm. ISBN: 4-87582-279-0
- 1989-1990 (19,921 entries) *22,700Yen*. 1 v. 26 cm. ISBN: 4-47582-274-x
- 1991-1992 (19,698 entries) *27,000Yen*. 1 v. 26 cm. ISBN: 4-47582-351-7

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Shozo Gaikoku Chikuji Kankobutsu Mokuroku, 1996 = National Diet Library Catalog of Foreign Serials, 1996

Compiled by the Acquisitions Department and published in March 1997. 1,831 p. 30 cm. ISBN: 4-87582-494-7 ISSN: 0915-2415. Available at *24,200Yen* (tax excluded) from Kinokuniya Co., Ltd.



This catalog is a revision and enlargement of the 1994 edition. It contains 45,765 titles of

periodicals and newspapers in foreign languages and 560 titles of serials in Japanese published abroad, acquired and processed by the end of 1996. Serials in Chinese and Korean languages are not listed but published in a separate catalog. The entries include about 25,200 titles of science and technology serial publications, more than 11,800 titles issued by governments and international organizations, more than 350 foreign newspapers and 3,300 titles issued in Japan.

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Shozo Chizu Mokuroku : Gaikoku Chizu no bu XIII =
National Diet Library Catalog of Maps : Foreign Countries, XIII

Compiled by the Special Materials Department, and published in April 1997. Maps. ISBN:4-87582-489-0 Available at *9,660Yen* from Kinokuniya Co.,Ltd.,

This supplementary volume is the last in the series which has been published since 1966.

This contains about 4.300 sheets of foreign maps, most of which are topographical.



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Mineo Miyawaki appointed Deputy Librarian



Mineo Miyawaki was appointed Deputy Librarian of the National Diet Library as of March 21, 1997 to succeed Hiroshi Imon who retired the same day.

Mr. Mineo Miyawaki was born on June 24, 1938. He graduated from Rikkyo University in law in 1965. Since he joined the National Diet Library in April of the same year, he successively served in the Reference and Bibliography Department and the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau up to 1985. His supervisory career started in January 1986 with his appointment as Chief of the Foreign Affairs Division of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau. Since then he has held such administrative posts as Chief of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division and the Legislative Reference and Coordinating Division of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, the Personnel Division and the Administrative Division, Deputy Director of the Administrative Department, and Director of the Special Materials Department. He was Director of the Administrative Department from March 1995 until his appointment as Deputy Librarian.

Between September and December 1978, he visited India, the US, the UK, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Sweden to conduct research on security problems and armament reduction in the UN and various countries. He also went on an official trip to the UK in August 1987, to Malaysia and Thailand in November 1992 to participate in the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania and inspect the National Library of Thailand, and to the US from November to December 1993 to coordinate with certain institutions on the acquisition of materials concerning Japanese immigrants and the Allied Occupation of Japan.



Senior Staff for International Cooperation Changed

As part of regular staff transfer, new staffers came to the Library Cooperation Department as of April 1, 1997.

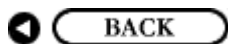
Mr. Fumihisa Nakagawa, former Director, Detached Library in the Diet, succeeded Mr. Kunihiro Shimada as Director, Library Cooperation Department. Mr. Akira Kado succeeded Mr. Takao Murayama as Chief, International Cooperation Division, Library Cooperation Department.



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Selected List of articles from NDL periodicals



NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY MONTHLY BULLETIN

No. 432, March 1997

- Participation in the 4th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) *Jun Takei*
- The problem in dissemination of the use of acid-free paper lies in governmental publications- Report of the 11th pH test of newly published books *Preservation Planning Office*
- Answering expectations for the library within the Diet: services and use of the Detached Library in the Diet:the front line of parliamentary services *Hideo Fukuda*.

No.433, April 1997

- Results of the questionnaire on UNESCO Memory of the World program: Preservation activities of Japanese libraries *Preservation Planning Office*
- Technical support for preservation of ancient documents: Assistance to the National Library and Archives of Egypt
- Sent as a technical advisor to the National Library and Archives of Egypt *Teruo Kobayashi*
- Current status of preservation at the National Library and Archives of Egypt *Kazuo Nishizono*

No. 434, May 1997

- 50th anniversary of the Constitution of Japan: History of the new constitution in materials held in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room
- Present State and Future of Assistant Body for German Parliament
- Report of the 7th Annual Symposium on Preservation: Asia and Oceania Regions control of the preservation environment to protect materials from severe climate and various disasters
- Participating in the Shanghai Library opening ceremony *Takaaki Nakabayashi*

Biblos

-Monthly Magazine for Branch Libraries, Executive and Judicial, and Other Special Libraries-

Vol. 48 No.3, March 1997

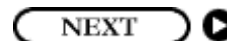
- IFLA/PAC after a decade's experience *Takao Shimamura*
- Oldest Multimedia : Chinese character *Gaku Yamaguchi*
- Front line of library cooperation (4) : getting over 'culture shock' *Kinoka Yanagisawa*
- Research and Legislative Reference Bureau : Tidbits of NDL Services for the Diet
Takashi Tsukamoto
- Libraries in Oita and Fukuoka prefectures –report of the 44th annual tour study of NDL branch libraries staff
- Training program as a library cooperation activity Chiharu Honda Pilot Electronic Library Forum *Mitsuru Mizuno*

Vol. 48 No.4, April 1997

- Toward networking the NDL branch libraries *Mieko Hirano*
- My private opinions on the library *Masayuki Senga*
- International exchange activities of the Japan Society of Archives Institutions:centering on receiving specialists who visit Japan *Chiyoko Ogawa*
- Report of the 8th Workshop on the Digital Library *Hiroko Mikata*
- Our special collections (7): Rice – Library of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Library – investigating food policies *Yukie Takita*
- Report from Tsukuba: a visit to the NDL branch libraries in Tsukuba *Tadahiko Motoyoshi*
- Man meets book : a hike in search of secondhand books *Tatsuji Ohata*

Vol. 48 No.5, May 1997

- NDL service of foreign periodicals on CD-ROM *Mitsuaki Amino*
- DAISY (Digital Audio Information System): system for producing audio books in digital format for the next generation *Takahiro Ishibashi*
- My private opinions on the library (2) *Masayuki Senga*
- On leaving the Cabinet Library, National Archives *Tomio Saito*
- Man meets book: meeting is the beginning of parting *Kenichi Teramura*
- Front line of library cooperation (5): Two years in front of a Mackintosh *Kazushige Watanabe*



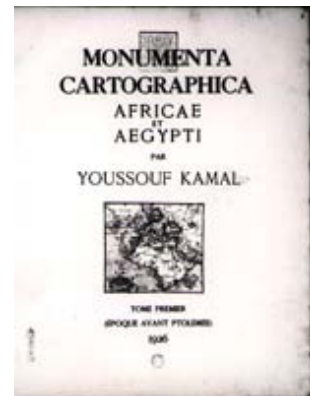
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Random notes on rare books (10)



Youssef Kamal : *Monumenta cartographica Africae et Aegypti*. [Le Caire] 1926–51.
5 vols. in 16 books. (call number: 912.6x-Y83m)



ÉPOQUE: AVANT 685 DE L'HÉGIRE/1286 DE J.-C.
DATE: 977 DE L'HÉGIRE/1570 DE J.-C.
AUTEUR: ABOU 'L-HASAN 'ALI IBN SA'ID.
L'ORIGINAL SE TROUVE DANS UN MANUSCRIT DU TRAITÉ INTITULÉ „KITAB AL-DJOUGHRAFIYA" DE ABOU 'L-HASAN 'ALI IBN SA'ID, DONT LA COPIE FUT TERMINÉE LE 20 RAMADAN 977 DE L'HÉGIRE/ 26 FÉVRIER 1570 PAR ABOU 'L-HASAN 'ALI AL-CHAWI. LE MANUSCRIT SE TROUVE DANS LA BODLEIANA À OXFORD, MS. LAUD. 317/320 (No. MXV DU CATALOGUE).



This is a comprehensive collection of ancient maps of Egypt, Africa, the whole world, and related materials.

Youssef Kamal was an Egyptian prince. *Monumenta* was actually compiled by Frederick Caspar Wieder (1874–1943) of Leiden University Library. The original concept of the collection was reduced by Wieder's death and the fifth volume, posthumously published as a supplement, was to be the last.

Kamal printed only a hundred copies of *Monumenta* as his private edition (printed and bound by E. J. Brill) not for sale. The prince kept twenty-five copies and donated 75 to major libraries and institutions throughout the world. A list of the organizations which received a copy is carried in *Quelques éclaircissements épars sur mes monumenta cartographica Africae et Aegypti* (private edition. 1935. Call number: 912.6-Y83q), a separate volume of *Monumenta*, and it shows that about thirty copies were given to libraries in Africa and the Middle and Near East (including ten copies to institutions in Cairo) and most of the rest to European and American libraries. The Imperial Library (one of the predecessors of the NDL) was the only one in Japan that received *Monumenta*.

Monumenta is bound in such a large edition (76 x 63 cm, and about 5 cm thick) that it is difficult to handle. It is clothbound with a spine label in morocco leather.

The volumes are composed chronologically in principle: Vol. 1 (one book): pre-Ptolemaic era; Vol. 2 (four books): Ptolemaic and Greco-Roman periods; Vol. 3 (five books): Age of Islamic science; Vol. 4 (four books): Age of portolano (marine charts); Vol. 5 (two books): Renaissance and modernization of cartology.

The contents vary very widely: from manuscripts to printed matter, from independent sheet maps to such documents as chronicles and travel records. Reconstructions of a later period are not unusual.

The plates in Monumenta which include only a very few colored ones, are collotypes, as the collotype process was the best method of reproduction in those days. It contains many rare maps scattered all over the world, but naturally features the richness of the Islamic collection. For the documents, French translations are added as well as texts in the original languages, in a style so de luxe that all the African place-names are printed in red ink.

A list of geographical atlases in the Library of Congress (8 vols. published by LC in 1909-74. Call number: G62-10) carries the list of all the items contained in *Monumenta* (pp.426-458).



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The *National Diet Library Newsletter* is issued quarterly by the International Cooperation Division, Library Cooperation Department.

The major news items from the *Newsletter* are also available on this NDL homepage.

The *Newsletter* is distributed free of charge to national libraries, university libraries and major libraries abroad on an exchange basis.

The request for exchange and all other correspondence should be addressed to the International Cooperation Division, Library Cooperation Department, National Diet Library, 1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

Fax: +81-3-3597-9104

Email: kokusai@ndlmail.ndl.go.jp



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