

*NDL Newsletter No. 104, September 1997*

## National Union Catalog Network Project of the NDL: progress toward the practical phase



Since FY1994 the National Diet Library has been carrying out trials of the union catalog networks linking domestic public libraries, in cooperation with the Information-technology Promotion Agency, Japan (IPA, a special authorized public corporation under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry). The project is scheduled to move forward into the practical stage, as our own independent project, in FY1998.

### National Union Catalog and the NDL

To compile national union catalogs is one of our primary tasks which is expressly stipulated in the sub-section 4, section 21 of the NDL Law (February 9, 1948). At the moment, however, we have only such catalogs as National Union Catalog of Braille & Recorded Books in Japan and National Union List of Reduced, Microformed and Reprinted Newspapers in Japan, both are specialized in specific materials. On the other hand, nearly five decades have passed since the enactment of the NDL Law and the concept of a union catalog itself has changed into that of network-oriented database systems.

Under these circumstances the NDL, deeply aware of the necessity of a comprehensive system for a union catalog, set up the Research & Development Unit for Networks in the then Systems Development Office in FY1991 and tackled the feasibility study for a union catalog project, which led to the launch of FY1993's National Union Catalog Network Pilot Project.

### National Union Catalog Network Pilot Project (First Trial)

Four public (prefectural) libraries participated in this stage of the experiment to provide some three-year bibliographic records which was, by using our computers, identified mechanically and integrated into one file. At the same time fifteen libraries made trial use of the data on the NOREN (NDL's information retrieval system) so as to examine its utility.

### National Union Catalog Network Pilot Project (Second Trial)

The framework of this project changed in FY1994. Now as a part of the IPA's electronic library projects, IPA has initiatives, especially in the fields of system designs and system development, supported by the NDL which has advantages in such expertise as system concepts and unified format for bibliographic data. FY1994 passed during the preparatory

work and the second trial began in October 1995.

Project outline as of July 1997

### **Participants**

NDL and 26 main public libraries, of which 18 libraries provide their bibliographic information for this project.

### **Data format**

Unified format based on JAPAN/MARC

### **Data supply**

Each library converts its own bibliographic/holding data, which are mainly of Japanese books, into the unified format. Those data are delivered online through networks continuously, though at the beginning of this trial they were collected in MT form all at once.

### **Compilation and maintenance of the National Union Catalog Database**

For the purpose of either registration or renewal, bibliographic data from various libraries are identified by coded data such as ISBN and JAPAN/MARC number as well as various bibliographic fields to be integrated automatically. The number of registered data (both bibliographic and holding) is 7,860 thousand, including 3,770 thousand data already identified and integrated.

### **Information retrieval**

This database is accessible under the standard circumstances for the Internet, by the participant libraries only, through INSnet 64.

This National Union Catalog Database System is located in IPA's Center for Information Infrastructure in Shonan Fujisawa Campus, Keio Gijuku University, Kanagawa Prefecture.



### **Toward practical use**

The following are the basic ideas on which the NDL has decided to pursue the further development of the National Union Catalog Network System.

–A national union catalog is to be one of the fundamental infrastructures for possible resource sharing among libraries in the future.

–As one of the primary tasks stipulated in the NDL Law and particularly mentioned in the Second Basic Plan for the establishment of Kansai-kan (tentative name of our new facility to be opened in 2002), NDL has the responsibility to carry on the union catalog project, especially in order to support library cooperation activities such as ILL.

-At the moment there is no nationwide union catalog system for public libraries operating in Japan, though for university libraries the National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) has one.

-Public libraries' high expectation of our project

-The trials of the National Union Catalog Network Project provided valuable technical experience .

-Some remaining problems (financial, institutional or technical) are expected to have been solved by the beginning of FY 1998. According to this, the basic policy for the practical development of the Pilot Electronic Library National Union Catalog Network Project was issued in March, 1997.

Basic policy

### **Purpose**

As a part of the NDL's library cooperation activities, the project supports nationwide ILL among public libraries, especially beyond prefecture borders.

### **Range of objects**

Collections of prefectural libraries and main city libraries; for the present, Japanese books only.

### **Suppliers of data**

Each prefectural or main city library interested in joining our project.

### **System**

Centralized database system

### **Schedule**

From FY1998



For the further development of the National Union Catalog Network : Now what we should do

At the moment we are grappling with such preparatory work, hoping that this project will establish a standard for public libraries all over Japan.

-Making the project understood by private MARC companies

- Increasing the number of participants
- Setting up user-friendly access environment
- Opening a reference desk on the project in the NDL
- Examining and evaluating the bibliographic data and the format
- Attempting to conclude ILL agreements among libraries
- Promoting public relations, staff training programs and so forth

Especially, the Team for Promotion of Union Catalog Operation formed in April 1997 in the Committee for Promotion of the Electronic Library is now studying such issues, other than the above-mentioned, as:

- Extending the range beyond Japanese books
- Developing public library networks to include city and town libraries
- Introducing decentralized networks as well as the present centralized ones
- Making the bibliographic data available to the general public on the Internet
- Associating the union catalog network project with the NDL's future electronic library service

## Conclusion

We feel certain that union catalog networks for public libraries are indispensable for the future development of nationwide libraries. Our project will take a bold leap to the next stage in FY1998. The NDL will put forth every possible effort, reflecting the opinions of libraries around the country, to make the reality successful.



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## Third anniversary of BBCC: Multimedia remote multiple symposium



**"Multimedia remote multiple symposium" was organized by BBCC, B-ISDN Business Chance Creation, on May 15, linking Keihanna Plaza in Kansai Science City in Kyoto and the National Diet Library in Tokyo.**

BBCC was established in December 1992 under the leadership of financial circles in the Kansai region, aiming to create new culture by researching, developing and testing various applications of Broadband ISDN (B-ISDN), which is attracting public attention as information telecommunications infrastructure in the next generation with 100 times as much transmission capacity as the ordinary ISDN. A test bed was established mainly in Kansai Science City and started to be used from July 1994.

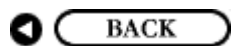
The symposium was a part of an application forum held on May 14 and 15 with the theme "Frontier of the information-oriented society in the 21st century" to commemorate the 3rd year from the start of the experiment. The two meeting places were experimentally linked with B-ISDN so that the participants of the symposium could communicate with each other through high-vision pictures.

The theme of the symposium was "Expectation of the Kansai-kan (tentative name) aiming at '3A'". "3A" means service for "Anyone" at "Anytime" from "Anywhere". The symposium, which went on from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., started with a keynote speech by Mr. Shin-ichiro Ogata, Librarian of NDL, in Tokyo. After explaining the aim of the Kansai-kan project, he stated his expectation of the future "3A" service making good use of the traditional functions of the library. He also predicted that the Kansai-kan would establish a new standard of information delivery using new technologies. For that purpose, the NDL would like to cooperate with organizations in various fields including BBCC and the library sector, he said. Next was a keynote speech on the topic "Alexandria in Cyberspace" by Professor Yoshio Tsukio, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo, in which he described what information services and library services should be in an advanced telecommunications network society, and his expectation of the Kansai-kan.

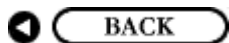
After the speech, the participants in Tokyo and the following four panelists had a lively discussion and Q&A session, with Mr. Akira Amano, publisher of the monthly magazine New Media, as moderator: Mr. Noritada Otaki, Director of the Kansai-kan Project Office,

Administrative Department, NDL, from the point of view of carrying out the Kansai-kan project; Mr. Kaoru Okamoto, Director of the International Copyright Office, Copyright Division, Agency for Cultural Affairs, from his administrative standpoint; Professor Yuko Tanaka, Hosei University, from the point of view of users; and Professor Masaru Harada, University of Library and Information Science, who has a good knowledge of electronic libraries in foreign countries.

The symposium, with the latest telecommunications technology, was fruitful in grasping the idea of the electronic library in the future. At the same time, smooth communication through the clear and lifelike picture on screen made the participants in the two places feel that they were not 500 km apart. We hope this is symbolic of the NDL's services after the opening of the Kansai-kan.



## NDL Budget of FY 97



The fiscal 1997 budget was approved in the Diet on March 28, 1997, after going through smooth discussion. The total amount of the original budget granted for the NDL is *17,887,880,000 yen* a *1,130,820,000 yen* (6.7%) increase over the previous year. This is mainly attributed to increase in the expenses for development of information systems, and for buildings and facilities.

The composition of the total budget is: salary and personnel expenses 55.6% (59.8% the year before), acquisition of library materials 7.0% (7.1%), development of information systems 6.0% (5.7%), office expenses 11.1% (11.3%), buildings and facilities 20.3% (16.1%). The ratio of the last item has increased as it did in the previous year. Some *2,140 million yen* to acquire the land for Kansai-kan (provisional name) is the main reason.

The following are characteristic items of the fiscal 1997 budget:

### **1. Kansai-kan project**

Concerning the preparations for the construction of the NDL's Kansai-kan, expenditures were appropriated for basic and practical planning based on the winning design of a design competition, and for acquisition of land.

### **2. Information systems**

The NDL has established various information systems and makes use of them for reader service and other work at present. When the Kansai-kan opens, we need to greatly improve our library service in cooperation with the Tokyo main library. To fulfill that purpose, it is indispensable to devise highly developed information systems, including electronic library functions. Therefore, in planning the budget of FY97, we decided to build up various information systems, taking account of the integrated use in the future.

Some of the systems we are planning to develop are as follows: administrative systems for acquisition of domestic publications to accelerate and promote efficiency in this area ; online processing system for the table of contents of books and periodicals to ensure wide document supply service by developing document retrieval function ; electronic networks between branch libraries to realize advanced circulation of information. In addition, we

secured the budget to promote the global electronic library project agreed upon at the G7 Ministerial Conference on the Global Information Society as the representative of Japan, which is one of the theme leader countries. We also added the amount of necessary expenditure to develop the online cataloging system and ILL system which started up the year before.

### 3. Acquisition of library materials

Expenses to acquire library materials, which is the main role of NDL, rose by 18 million yen concerning compensation for materials deposited. Expense to purchase materials related to science and technology (CD-ROMs included) also rose by about 25 million yen.

### 4. Services to the Diet

For the NDL, as a parliamentary library, enhancing and accelerating the information supply service to the Diet, as well as improving research functions, is crucial. This is the second year of the three-year plan to establish an overall reference system for the Diet, with digitized publications and staff research reports.

We made an immense rise in expenses to establish a full-text database of debates, which has been carried out from FY 96 in collaboration with the Secretariats of both Houses.

### 5. International Library of Children's Literature

In expectation of the opening of the International Library of Children's Literature in 1999 (first stage), appropriations have been made for renovating the Ueno Branch Library, purchasing foreign children's books, and developing information systems for children's books.

The main items and their appropriations are as follows: (in thousands)

Item	yen	US\$	%
1.Salaries and personnel expenses	9,944,303	86,472	56
2.Acquisition of library materials	1,246,076	10,835	7
3.Development of information systems	1,081,828	9,407	6
4.Office expenses	1,978,909	17,208	11
5.Buildings and facilities	3,636,772	31,624	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,887,888</b>	<b>155,547</b>	<b>100</b>



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## Exhibition

### 50th anniversary of the Constitution of Japan: history of the new constitution in materials of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room



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The exhibition was held at the National Diet Library from May 1 to 7, 1997, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Japanese Constitution. It attracted about 1,400 visitors. Over sixty documents were exhibited; the major part of them were chosen from the documents originally held by Irie Toshiro and Sato Tatsuo, who took an active part in the birth of the Constitution of Japan. The exhibition consisted of introduction and other three parts.

#### **Introduction: the establishment of the Meiji Constitution**

The Meiji Period began in 1868 when the restoration of direct imperial rule was proclaimed. The Meiji Government pursued reforms to modernize the country. The Government revived the Grand Council of State to strengthen its authority. A large part of the Meiji leadership toured America and Europe to study modern systems as part of the Iwakura mission from 1871 to 1873, and were strongly influenced by this exposure to the West. The Freedom and People's Rights Movement was triggered by Itagaki Taisuke's written petition to establish an elective assembly. Discussions on a constitution became active both in the Government and private sectors. The Constitution of the Empire of Japan (Meiji Constitution) was largely the work of Ito Hirobumi, who was strongly influenced by German constitutional theories. In 1889 the Constitution of the Empire of Japan was promulgated. In 1890 the first session of the Imperial Diet was convened. In this part of the exhibition, a draft of the written petition for establishing an elective assembly, several drafts of the Meiji Constitution, a letter of Ito Hirobumi from Berlin which he visited to study the constitutional system, the Meiji Constitution written in silk and so forth were displayed.



#### **Part 1. Defeat and the movements toward the new Constitution**

Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers in 1945, accepting the Potsdam Declaration. Soon after the end of the War, the Cabinet Legislation Bureau secretly started examining the reform of the Meiji Constitution (Picture 1. A memo by Irie Toshiro, then director of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau). From October 1945, the Japanese political parties and several other private groups published their own draft constitutions. The Constitutional Problem Investigation Committee, chaired by Joji Matsumoto, then Minister of the State, investigated

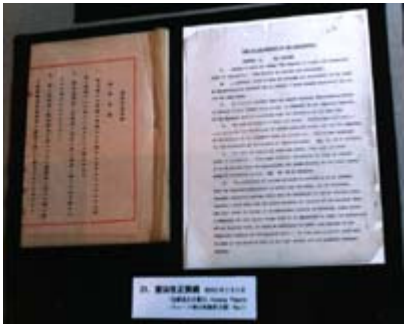
at the problems in the Meiji Constitution and held discussions to prepare a draft. It officially submitted an outline of the revised constitution on February 8, 1946 to the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (Picture 2. Outline of the Matsumoto draft submitted to GHQ). The work of the Matsumoto Committee had almost come to an end, when a newspaper published what it claimed to be very close to the Committee's final draft. GHQ found the draft reported in the newspaper too conservative to be acceptable. General MacArthur ordered the Government Section of the GHQ to prepare a draft of the new Constitution and present it to the Japanese Government (Picture 3. MacArthur note). He suggested three basic points to be "musts" in constitutional revision; succession of the empire system, renunciation of war and an end of the feudal system. Other documents exhibited included a report of the public poll on the reform of the Constitution, and several drafts of the Constitution by political parties and private groups.

**Part 2. From a GHQ draft to the establishment of the new Constitution**

The GHQ rejected the Matsumoto draft and submitted their own draft to the Japanese Government on February 13, 1946 (Picture 4. A draft constitution for Japan to the Chief, Government Section, GHQ). The draft placed sovereignty in the hands of the people, and wrote in clearly the renunciation of war and the protection of human rights. At the Cabinet meeting on February 22, the ministers agreed to accept the fundamental principles of the GHQ draft. The work of writing a draft of the Japanese Government along the lines of the GHQ draft went on night and day. The final draft, which was written in ordinary Japanese, was made public on April 17 (Picture 5). After deliberation at the 90th session of the Imperial Diet, the new Constitution was promulgated on November 3, 1946 and came into force on May 3, 1947. In this part of the exhibition, in addition to the above documents in pictures, an official gazette with the signatures of those who worked on the preparation of the new constitution and articles in foreign newspapers reporting the new Constitution were displayed.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

### Part 3. Preparation of related laws and publicizing the new Constitution

Along with the promulgation of the new Constitution, a body of laws suitable for the ideas represented in the new Constitution was prepared. At the same time, the Imperial Diet and the Government established an organization designed to publicize the new Constitution. Scholars and journalists as well as Diet members joined the organization and promoted various activities to make the Constitution known and accepted by the public. In this part, the documents related to the preparation of the related laws, a brochure to enlighten children about the Constitution, a picture explaining the basic principles of the new Constitution and other related documents were displayed. (Modern Japanese Political Documents Division)

#### Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room and its collections

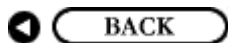
The National Diet Library's Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room holds the unpublished personal papers of nearly three hundred political and military leaders of modern and contemporary Japan. Each collection is divided broadly into letters and correspondence arranged alphabetically by names; and manuscript documents which are subdivided into private papers (diaries and personal memoranda) and original drafts of official papers arranged by the subjects.

The other major collection of the Room is the documents relating to the occupation of Japan. Since 1978 the Library has been engaged in a project to collect and film documents relating to the postwar Occupation of Japan preserved in the United States. The documents filmed already exceeded thirty million pages.



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## New Publications from NDL



### **Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan no shigoto =The Work of the National Diet Library**

Written and compiled by the National Diet Library, and published by Nichigai Associates, Inc. in July 1997. 230p. 18.5 cm. ISBN: 4-8169-1434-X. Available at *1,600yen* from Kinokuniya Co. Ltd.

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan no shigoto (The work of the National Diet Library) is published to promote understanding of the work and role of the National Diet Library and to tell the public of the pleasure of using the library.

Seventy articles have been selected from Tidbits of Information on NDL that have been appearing in the National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin from No.296, November 1985. They are classified according to theme and have notes appended. Five of them are newly written to reflect recent extensive changes in the work.

### **Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Zosho Mokuroku Heisei 3nen-7nen = National Diet Library Catalog 1991-1995**

Compiled by the Bibliography Division, Books Department. 24 parts. 30 cm. ISBN: 4-87582-455-6 (set). Available at *404,686yen* (set) from Kinokuniya Co., Ltd. Each part can also be purchased separately. This catalog contains 367,053 titles of books published in Japan, which were cataloged by the National Diet Library between 1991 and 1995. Its publication started in September 1996 and was completed in June 1997.



Vol. 1: Politics, Law, Administration, Parliamentary publications and Legal materials (2 parts)  
Vol. 2: Economics and Industries (2 parts) Vol. 3: Social affairs, Labor and education (2 parts)  
Vol. 4: History and Geography (2 parts) Vol. 5: Learning in general, Philosophy and Religion  
Vol. 6: Arts (2 parts) Vol. 7: Language and Literature (3 parts) Vol. 8: Science and technology (3 parts)  
Vol. 9: Domestic affairs, Amusements and Others Title index (3 parts)  
Author index (3 parts)

### **Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan shozo Kagaku Gijutsu kankei Obun Kaigiroku Mokuroku Dai 8 kan: 1994-1996 = Catalog of Conference Proceedings in Science**

## and Technology collected by the National Diet Library, Vol. 8: 1994–1996

Edited by the Science and Technology Materials Division, Special Materials Department and published in May 1997. 1,532, 30 p. 30 cm. ISBN: 4-87582-4971. Available at *21,800yen* from Kinokuniya Co., Ltd. This volume continues from vol. 7 published in June 1994 and contains 10,007 entries for Western languages conference proceedings in science and technology which were processed from 1994 to 1996. Indexes of series and report numbers are appended at the end of the volume.

## Kokkai Kaigiroku Sosakuin 132 kai Kokkai, 133 kai Kokkai, 134 kai Kokkai, 135 kai Kokkai = General Index to the Debates 132nd Diet, 133rd Diet, 134th Diet, 135th Diet



Compiled by the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, and published in June 1996. 2 volumes. Each indexed by speaker and subject. The Speakers Index includes a list of legislative bills and treaties. 26 cm. Available from Kinokuniya Co., Ltd.

Speakers Index: 595 p. ISBN: 4-87582-449-1 (for the set of 132nd–135th Diet) ISBN: 4-87582-450-5 *10,000yen* ISSN: 0385-3276

Subjects Index: 742 p. ISBN: 4-87582-449-1 (for the set of 132nd–135th Diet) ISBN: 4-87582-451-3 *11,068yen* ISSN: 0385-3276

Distributor's address Kinokuniya Co., Ltd. 5-38-1 Sakuragaoka, Setagaya-ku Tokyo 156 Tel. 03-3489-0128

Distribution of the NDL CD-ROM Line: Japanese Periodicals Index" retrieval software (Windows edition) started.

Development of retrieval software for Windows undertaken by the National Diet Library since September 1996, has come to an end and distribution began in June 1997. Its features are:

- Compatible with almost all types of personal computers Offer easy-to-handle interfaces
- Can be used on LAN without any additional software

There used to be only retrieval software for DOS, but now the NDL CD-ROM Line: Japanese Periodicals Index can also be used on personal computers with either Microsoft Windows 95 or Windows NT.

The CD-ROM containing retrieval software for both DOS and Windows is distributed with instructions and the NDL CD-ROM Line: Japanese Periodicals Index. They are available on lease from Kinokuniya Co. Ltd. as before.

The NDL CD-ROM Line: Japanese Periodicals Index is available ; the current edition is at the price of *180,000yen* a year and is updated quarterly. The retrospectively converted edition covering the date of 1985–1989 costs *180,000yen* .

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## Selected List of Articles from NDL Periodicals



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### NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY MONTHLY BULLETIN

#### No.435 June 1997

- Homepage of national libraries in the world Guide to HP of national libraries of foreign countries HP of NDL : its past, present and future
- Report on the Second Workshop on Preservation: Establishing a preservation information network in the Asia-pacific region
- First meeting of the digital publications section of the investigation committee on the legal deposit system
- Increasing expectations of the Kansai-kan : 3rd anniversary of BBCC "Multimedia remote multiple symposium"

#### No.436 July 1997

- National Union Catalog Network in NDL : toward operation Team for Promotion of Union Catalog Operation, Committee for Promotion of the Electronic Library, Planning Division, Administrative Department
- NDL budget for fiscal 1997
- First meeting of the Conference on Promotion of the Electronic Library
- No.437 August 1997
- Children's books and the role of national libraries History and future of the Library of Congress Children's Literature Center Sybille A. Jagusch Preparation for the opening of the International Library of Children's Literature
- Tidbits of information on NDL : special :from the editorial board of the fifty years' history

#### Biblos

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

#### Vol. 48 No.6 June 1997

- On the network library system of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research

Information Center Yoshiyuki Hamada

- Front line of library cooperation (6): Surrounded by heartwarming people and books  
Mariko Shiomi
- My private opinions on the library (3) Masayuki Senga
- Use of recycled paper and preservation: 10th Forum on Preservation at the NDL Satoko  
Muramoto
- Our special collections (8): Defense Facilities Administration Agency Library's materials  
on the history of the Agency Masaki Nakamoto

#### **Vol.48 No.7 July 1997**

- Training for senior librarians in Japanese studies realized : a new step toward promotion  
of Japanese studies
- Preface -----Takao Murayama
- From Rome---- Ikuko Kaji
- International cooperation in information age : for expansion of Japanese studies  
overseas Noboru Koyama
- Request for cooperation for training of librarians in Japanese studies abroad Sekiko  
Matsuzaki Networking and sharing Izumi Koide
- My private opinions on the library (4) Masayuki Senga
- Our special collections (9) : Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Library's  
materials on multimedia Katsuji Ishikawa
- Database in Asian languages in TOYO BUNKO (Oriental Library) Yoichi Fukuda

#### **Vol. 48 No.8 August 1997**

- Newborn Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Library :its steps toward  
digitization Yoshitsune Akino
- Serving the Diet behind the scenes : Research Materials Division Michiyo Takeda
- Activities of the Ministry of Transport Port and Harbour Research Institute Library :a  
report on location research for literature on the history of harbours Masakazu Araki
- Mr. Masuo Ikeda and the National Diet Library Kunihiko Shimada
- Review: catalog of investigated and acquired microfilms related to the Japan-Okinawa  
modern history Taro Suzuki

### **N.D.L. Library Science Series**

#### **No. 34 July 1997**

#### **Legal deposit system and its application to electronic publication**

- A glimpse of the history of legal deposit system and the approach to electronic  
publications, notes of study on "gscience of legal deposit"
- Legal deposit and bibliographic control of non-governmental publications
- Information society and the legal deposit system for electronic publications

- The National Library of Norway and the legal deposit system for electronic publications
- Legal deposit system in France
- Legal deposit system in Germany: Unification of East and West Germany and the application of law to electronic publications
- Present status and trend of legal deposit system for electronic publications in the United States
- A perspective to a new law concerning legal deposit system: Proposal of the British Library
- An overview of advanced legal deposit laws in the ten highly industrialized nations : points to consider in the new legislation for electronic publications



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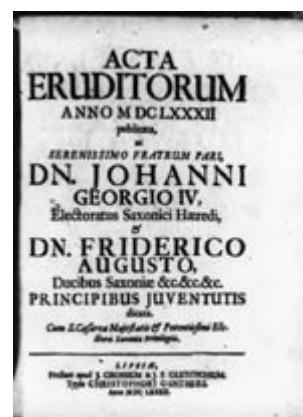
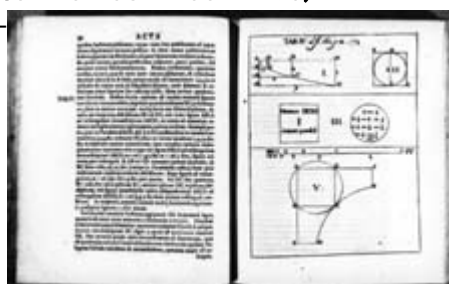
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## Random notes on rare books (11)

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**Acta Eruditorum.1682–1731.**  
Lipsiae, 1682–1731. (call number: Z55–D106)



It was in 1665, in Great Britain and France, that the publication of academic magazines started. They served as the means to convey the atmosphere of academia in 17th century Europe, which was called the "Respublica Litteraria." Young Leibniz immediately planned to publish a magazine *Nucleus librarius semestralis* (1668) also in Germany, but failed. This *Acta Eruditorum* which was first published in Leipzig in 1682 was the first academic magazine there.

It was published and edited by Otto Mencke (1644–1707), a scholar from Oldenburg. After his death, his son Johann Burkhard Mencke (1675–1732) took over.

It was a monthly magazine whose official language was Latin, and it carried reviews of new publications, original papers on science and mathematics, and Latin translations of papers which were carried on other magazines. The total number of contributions during the period when the father Otto was the editor (1682–1706) came to 4,406 (3,924 reviews, 316 original papers, and 166 articles in translation), and the total number of contributors was 182, from 37 different cities, including foreign cities such as Paris and Leiden.

The main purpose of this magazine was to carry reviews (or rather, abstracts and introductions of the authors) of new publications, reflecting the character of the city where book markets were held twice a year. Heinrich Pipping contributed 304 reviews, Veit Ludwig von Seckendorf, 235, and the editor Otto Mencke 219 ; while scholars such as Johann Bernoulli, Georg Heinrich Lehmann, and Leibniz contributed many original papers. (The picture below shows the first paper contributed by Leibniz. He deals with mensuration and describes the Leibniz series  $1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} \dots = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .)

The reviews in the magazine deal with books published in various countries : 31% in Germany, 28.5% in the Netherlands, 15.5% in Great Britain, 12% in France, and 9% in Italy.

Otto energetically collected publications from all over Europe for review, as did his son Johann Burkhard. The catalog of their collection, *Bibliotheca Menckeniana*, was published in 1727, and 13,000 titles of it are held in the Sächsische Landesbibliothek.

There are 163 European libraries which hold the complete set of this magazine as our library does, and the total number of printed copies is estimated to be around 800–1000.

