



The construction of a new facility of the NDL

The National Diet Library (NDL) will open a new facility in the Kansai region in FY 2002. On November 30, 1998, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Kansai-kan (tentative name) was held at the construction site in the Kansai Science City.



The Objectives of the Kansai-kan are to provide a larger storage capacity to cope with the ever-increasing volume of publications and to upgrade the library's services to fit the information environment of the 21st century.

Basic functions of the Kansai-kan will be

1. Providing larger storage capacity
2. Dissemination of documents and related information to international and domestic users
3. Providing documents and information on and from Asian countries
4. Operating as a center for library cooperation
5. Promoting research and development and training activities in the area of library and information science.

After the opening, the Kansai-kan will work in tandem with the Tokyo main library.

The new building will comprise four floors above ground and four floors underground with a gross floor area of 59,500 square meters. In the future, the building will be expanded in stages to a final floor space of 165,000 square meters with 20 million volumes capacity.

The basic design plan of the Kansai-kan aims at harmony and coexistence with the surrounding natural environment. A roof garden and a courtyard covered with greenery will link the building and the grove of assorted trees in the neighboring hills.

For further information, go to:

http://www.ndl.go.jp/about/eng/sub_menu_f03.html

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50th anniversary of the National Diet Library

June 5, 1998, was the 50th birthday of the National Diet Library. In February 1948, it was founded under the National Diet Library Law, and opened to the public on June 5 of the same year. The library inherited the collections of the Imperial Diet libraries (established in 1890) and of the Imperial Library (established in 1872) to serve the national legislature, executive and judicial branch and the general public. The library planned a series of events celebrating the anniversary and looking forward to the future development of the library.

Commemorative ceremony



The commemorative events were held on June 8. Although it was the middle of the rainy season, the occasion was favored by fine weather. The Commemorative ceremony started at noon with a speech of welcome by Shin-ichiro Ogata, the Librarian. His speech was followed by greetings from Soichiro Ito, Speaker

of the House of Representatives, and Juro Saito, President of the House of Councillors. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister, and Shigeru Yamaguchi, Director of the Supreme Court, delivered congratulatory speeches. A congratulatory message from Michio Nagai, Chairman of the Japan Library Association, was read by Hitoshi Kurihara, Chief Director of the Association.

In these speeches, the guests had high praise for the steady steps taken by the NDL toward the opening of the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature, but urged still more effort to bring the digital library project into being. After the ceremony, there was a banquet attended by about 650 distinguished guest, including 150 Diet members.

Staff ceremony

A staff ceremony was held from three o'clock on the same day. 252 retired staff of the NDL and of the branch libraries in the executive and judicial agencies were invited, and had a pleasant reunion with current library staff at the reception.

Commemorative publications

On June 1, the NDL published a photograph collection "*National Diet Library in pictures: 50*

years". It is an omnibus of the Library's 50 years since its foundation, with a text in English and Japanese. The NDL is also planning to publish an official history in two volumes: "*Fifty-year history of the National Diet Library*" (due to be published by the end of FY1998) and "*Fifty-year history of the National Diet Library; documents and records*" (due to be published in FY1999).

Commemorative exhibition

On the same day the commemorative exhibition "*Rare books of the National Diet Library*" opened at the library. The exhibition features about 100 items from Library's collection of rare books and semi-rare books.

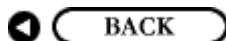
Selections from the exhibition are available on the next page.



Commemorative symposium

On June 18, a commemorative symposium "*Publishing-related culture and libraries*" was held in the lecture hall. The program was divided into three parts: keynote address, reports by four panelists, discussion. Sumpei Kumon, the keynote speaker, spoke of the information society in the context of global cultural history. Over 250 participants attended and the discussion was lively.

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Selections from the exhibition “Rare Books of the National Diet Library”

The National Diet Library (NDL) possesses 340,000 items of rare and old materials, mainly Japanese items of the Edo period and earlier and Chinese of the Qing dynasty and earlier. Among them, we designate especially valuable materials as rare books or semi-rare books according to specified criteria. This time we have selected about 100 items for the commemorative exhibition “*Rare books of the National Diet Library*”.

In this home page, we show you five striking Japanese items from the exhibition.



Daietsu

[\[Standard size image\]](#) [\[Big size image\]](#)

[\[Full scroll of the vol.1\]](#) [\[Full scroll of the vol.2\]](#)

Attributed to Sumiyoshi Hiromori (1705–77)

Copy in the 18 c., Two handscrolls, 32.6cm. in height

Daietsu, also known as “*Daikoku-mai*”, is a picture scroll of *otogi-zoshi* (book of stories for women and children). The work is about an affectionate and dutiful son, Daietsu-no-suke. He rose to wealth and honor through the favor of Kiyomizu Kannon (the Goddess of Mercy), Daikokuten and Ebisu (gods of wealth). Although the tale dates from the late Muromachi period (15–16 c.), the scrolls on display are estimated to have been completed in the middle of the Edo period (18 c.). In this scene, Daietsu-no-suke (the man in blue garment at the bottom) scatters beans to drive away the devil.



Mansai Jugo Nikki

[\[Full scroll \(Diary\)\]](#) [\[Full scroll \(Calendar\)\]](#)

[\[Big size image \(Diary\)\]](#) [\[Big size image \(Calendar\)\]](#)

Autograph by Mansai (1378–1435)

1411–22, 11 rolls, 32.0 cm. in height,

Designated as an important cultural asset.

A diary of Mansai, an abbot of the Daigo Temple in the early Muromachi Period (14–15 c.). Diary entries are written for each day on the reverse side of an annotated calendar. Born in an aristocratic family, Mansai was adopted by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and was ordained to the priesthood. He served three shoguns not only as a priest but also as a political adviser and close associate. He witnessed many historic events in politics, foreign relations, literature and society including the nation's top secrets. His diary is thus an important historical document of his time.



Odori no zu

[\[Standard size image\]](#) [\[Big size image\]](#)

by unknown painter

Copy of the 17 c., Handscroll, 23.5cm. in height.

A handwritten colored picture scroll. The work describes eight kinds of Japanese folk dance. Some humorous writings related to each dance are written here and there in the spaces. Although the painter of this picture scroll is unknown, the style of painting suggests that it was produced in the early Edo period. These dances were very popular. The scroll is also a valuable source material for researching old Japanese folk art.



Dainihon enkai yochi zenzu

[\[Map of Musashi, Simousa, Sagami\]](#)

[\[Map of Kai, Suruga\]](#)

[\[Detail of Mt. Fuji\]](#)

Measured and drawn by Ino Tadataka (1745–1818)

Copy ca.1873, 43 maps, 117.5 * 187.0 – 210.8 *

124.1cm.

Ino Tadataka was a famous cartographer. He traveled all over Japan from 1800 to 1816, measuring the whole country, and drew many maps. *Dainihon enkai yochi zenzu* is composed of 214 *daizu* (1:36,000), 8 *chuzu* (1:216,000) and 3 *shozu* (1:432,000) and covers the whole country. This work was compiled as a final version of his many maps, and was presented to the shogunate government in 1821. His original maps were burned in a fire, and this is a copy made by hand in the Meiji era. The NDL holds 43 maps of this kind (*daizu*) in its collection.

Saishiki mitsu no asa



[\[Picture 1\]](#) [\[Picture 2\]](#) [\[Picture 3\]](#) [\[Picture 4\]](#)

[\[Picture 5\]](#) [\[Picture 6\]](#) [\[Picture 7\]](#)

by Torii Kiyonaga (1752–1815)
1787, Album, 25.9 * 19.0cm.

Seven large-size *nishiki-e* (colored woodblock print) were mounted in a folding picture book. The work depicts New Year's events and customs in Edo (now Tokyo). The title *Mitsu no asa* means threefold morning, because the morning of January 1 is the beginning of the year and the month and the day. Torii Kiyonaga produced this work in the heyday of his success as an unrivaled master of *shibai-e* (*paintings of a drama*) and *bijin-ga* (*paintings of beautiful women*). In this scene (picture 7), he describes a new year sale in the *Eijudo* book store which published this picture book.

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New Librarian of the National Diet Library

Masao Tobari, former Secretary General of the House of Councillors, was appointed the Librarian of the National Diet Library on June 18, 1998, to succeed Mr. Shin-ichiro Ogata who left the library on the same day. Born in Tokyo in 1934, Mr. Tobari graduated from the University of Tokyo with a degree in law. He joined the Secretariat of the House of Councillors in 1958, and served as Director General of the General Affairs Department, Director General of the Proceedings Department, and finally as Secretary General from December 1991 through January 1996.



He is a good calligrapher, and is known as a knowledgeable Sumo (Japanese wrestling) fan.



with Mr. Buckley from
the Government Printing office (U.S.)



with the delegation
from the National Library of China

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Total System for Research and Information Services Developed by the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, National Diet Library (JAPAN)

Takashi Tsukamoto*

Contents

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2. [Tracking Request System](#)
3. [Information Sharing System](#)
4. [Technology/Security](#)

Summary

The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, a department of the National Diet Library (Japan) which provides information and analytical support services for the Diet (Parliament), has just developed a Total System for Research and Information Services.

The System consists of two subsystems: Tracking Request System and Information Sharing System. The Tracking Request System makes it easier for staffers of the Bureau to monitor the status of enquiries from Members, analyze the needs of the Members and the operations of the Bureau, and make use of the results of past research. The Information Sharing System is a unique database compiled by the analysts of the Bureau themselves by inputting materials and information they found useful for their work for the Diet, shared among the staffers of the Bureau, and eventually offered for the Members' use.

A special application software was developed based on "Oracle Server 7.3.3 Enterprise Edition" and using "Power Builder." The full-text search engine is "Oracle ConText Option." Various kinds of devices are provided to protect data and to secure the system against unauthorized use.

1. Facts about the Bureau

The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau (hereafter referred to as the Bureau) is a department of the National Diet Library (NDL). Whereas NDL functions both as the parliamentary library and the national library of Japan, the Bureau assists Houses, Committees and Members of the Diet (Parliament of Japan) in their legislative and oversight activities through information, research and analytical services.

The Bureau, with a staff of 160 including 100 subject specialists, answers 30,000 enquiries each year, ranging from simple data finding answered by phone to highly complex analysis which needs a special report. All the researches and answers are done without partisan bias and in strict confidence. Besides doing research work on demand, the Bureau conducts anticipatory studies on its own initiative, taking up issues likely to be debated in the Diet, the results of which are provided to the Members through Issue Brief and other publications.

The major resource for the research services of the Bureau is the huge collection of the National Diet Library that counts 6.9 million volumes of books and 260,000 titles of serials. In addition, the Bureau has its own budget of about US\$330,000 to purchase working materials and \$70,000 to use commercial databases annually. The books, periodicals and other materials purchased are either kept in the Research Materials Room or distributed to ten research divisions organized according to subject. The Statutes and Parliamentary Documents Room, the Bureau's law library, also has its own budget of about \$200,000 to acquire statutes and parliamentary documents of foreign countries.

2. Tracking Request System

Filing record

Requests from Members are received either at the Legislative Reference and Coordinating Division (hereafter Coordinating Div.) or at each research division. The staffer who answers the phone inputs such necessary items as the Member's name, subject (question), deadline (date and time), secretary's name for contact, special remarks, etc. A table of Members is maintained by the Coordinating Div., and if one enters only a part of the client's name, a list of the Members with whose names contain that part comes up. When the correct name is selected, the full name, House, party and phone number are entered automatically. A number that identifies the request, reception date and time, and recipient's name (who logged in) are also automatically registered. Thus a record is filed on the server, and its status is marked "received."

Transmission

Among requests received at the Coordinating Div., quick references and requests for specific books or articles are answered by the division itself, while other requests which need the research work of subject specialists are transmitted to a research division. A sign appears and an alarm sounds (by option) on the client PC at the research division. When the request transmitted is accepted by the research division, the division Chief or other analyst who took up the request clicks his name, and the status of the record changes from "received" to "accepted."

Processing

After the analyst assigned has done the research and answered the request, he inputs the results – date and time of answer, summary of answer, documents and materials used, and statistical data such as type of request (drafting, analysis, research/reference, specific material), type of answer (report, presentation/briefing, photocopying of articles, lending

books, etc.), regional grouping of subject (domestic, foreign, both, others), and classification of subject or keyword (if necessary). The analyst can also enter (attach to the record) any document in digital form, such as the report he prepared, document downloaded from internet resource, selected list or bibliography made using database, and material scanned either graphically or by OCR (within the limits of copyright law.)

When the date and time of answer are entered, an asterisk disappears from the list of requests to be answered. The status sign of the record changes from "accepted" to "answered" after filling up all the necessary inputting fields.

Approval

The request answered is submitted and circulated electronically to the division Chief, Senior Specialist(s) in charge, Coordinating Div., and finally to the Director of the Bureau for approval. If one of the supervisors clicks on a button, a list of the records (requests) which have not been approved by him appears. He should then chose one, click on the tabs to display client, question, answer, attached file, etc., check the contents and click again to give approval.

Whereas such information as the client, subject of request, date and time of receipt, and deadline for answer can be browsed by any authorized persons in the Bureau, the contents of the answer are shared only after the division Chief has entered his approval mark in the record. The status sign of the record changes from "answered" to "approved" when the Director clicks his name.

Display/Search

The requests filed on the server can be displayed in various forms – list style or tab style as to specific record. Firstly, one can set various "default" lists such as the list of all the requests of whatever status, the same but limited to a specific division, requests of "received" and "accepted" status (which means not yet answered), requests assigned to a specific analyst, etc. Secondly, a specific record can be displayed in detail. In this case, client-related information, question, answer and materials used or attached, and statistical information are displayed by clicking each tab.

All fields can be retrieved – client, question, answer, attachment, or division, recipient, acceptor, secretary's name, phone number, etc. Full text search is possible for question, answer, attached documents, and comment and note corner. The result of retrieval is displayed in list form, from which one can select one record and look at it in detail. Various kinds of statistics are also available.

Display and search function make it easier for staffers of the Bureau to monitor the status of requests, make use of the results of past research, share information with other analysts or divisions, and analyze the needs of the Members and the operations of the Bureau.

3. Information Sharing System

The National Diet Library maintains a machine-readable catalog of books published in Japan and an index of periodical articles on database. In addition to these and other databases compiled by the Library, the Bureau makes heavy use of commercial databases both

domestic and abroad. They are, however, general in nature and not always suitable to information and research services for the Diet. On the other hand, the Bureau and each research division has its own library as mentioned earlier, and analysts are regularly browsing newly acquired books, newspaper and periodical articles. The Internet is also becoming a useful information source these days. Each analyst used to keep his own information file using card, notebook, filing cabinet, etc. The Information Sharing System is to provide researchers with a common handy electronic device to keep their information files. Analysts can input bibliographical information and text (if necessary and if allowed by copyright law) of any article and other material which they found useful in their work for the Diet – the material which they found in the course of day-to-day browsing or research activities.

Analysts enter useful information on their own initiative to prepare for their research. But by using a common electronic device (not a personal card box or filing cabinet), the information is shared among other staffers of the Bureau including those who handle quick reference inquiries, and will become a valuable resource for future researchers. The accumulation of information will in due course grow into a useful database not of general character but oriented toward the Diet since the contents are selected by analysts with a view to meeting the information needs of the Members.

The Information Sharing System is combined with the Tracking Request System. The articles and other materials used during research or photocopied as answers and recorded in the latter system can easily be copied to the former. A report which is prepared as an answer to a specific request but can be generalized is also copied to the Information Sharing System. The digital version of Issue Brief constitutes a separate file but is linked with this system and can be retrieved from it.

Each datum is registered in a folder. Folders are organized into several levels: the top folders are politics, public administration, judicial affairs, foreign relations and national defense, finance, trade and industry, agriculture, environment, land development, communications, education and science, culture, welfare, labor, and so on, and the folders in the second level, corresponding to top level folder “politics” for example, are parliament, member of parliament, election, party, political finance, constitution, and so on. One can browse information and documents through the classification of folders, but can also make full text search by specific term or keyword.

Each record in the Information Sharing System is designated, upon registration, “shared within the research division,” “shared within the Bureau,” or “shared within the Diet.” The records of the third category are open to access for the Members, their staff, and also House, Committee and Legislative Bureau staff, as a menu of services offered through the Bureau’s internet homepage. The database will have the function of a “digital library,” from which the Members can obtain information directly.

4. Technology/Security

The Total System for Research and Information Services uses “Oracle Server 7.3.3” as its basic package software. Special application softwares are developed by using “Power Builder.” The full-text search engine is “Oracle ConText Option.” “PowerChute Plus,”

“ARCserve for WinNT” and Oracle backup option enable preservation (backup) without halting the database.

Needless to say, the Tracking Request System is a closed system inside the Bureau. All of the functions of the system to display, retrieve, create new records, and enter or modify records can only be done by client PCs in which special application software for this system is installed. The system has also a special device that keeps a log record, for example “who made search by Member’s name,” to detect and deter unauthorized use of the system. Groupware such as Lotus Notes is not used for the system. When a request is transmitted to a research division, the sender’s action to specify the destination is registered on the server and the server is visited by client PCs periodically, using a timer. Approvers also rewrite the record in the server in process of approval.

Two high grade servers are used as data server and file/web server, while a relatively small server is used as a backup for emergencies only.

(August, 1998)

* Chief, Foreign Affairs and National Defense Div., Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, NDL

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Electronic Publications and the Legal Deposit System in Japan

The National Diet Library (NDL) is the sole deposit library in Japan. The legal deposit system applies not only to books and serials but also to other types of publications. Today, the number of electronic publications in Japan is growing at a rapid pace. How to apply the system to electronic publications is under discussion in the Library.

Process of the Council's examination of the Legal Deposit System



The Legal Deposit System Research Council (Chairperson: Shinkichi Eto, Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University) was established as an advisory organ to the National Diet Librarian. The Librarian assigned learned people and experts as members of the Council. The Council started on March 3, 1997 to discuss the question put by the Librarian:

"What should the Japanese legal deposit system be at the approach to the 21st century? focussed on

institution and management of the legal deposit system for publications on electronic media".

The Council set up the Electronic Publications Committee (Chairperson: Shumpei Kumon, Executive Director of the Center for Global Communications of the International University of Japan) to examine and to report mainly on the latter part of the question. From May 1997 the Committee held seven meetings, and rounded off the report "*Acquisition, Preservation and Access of Digital Publications and the Legal Deposit System*" in March 1998.

At its 4th meeting in May 28, 1998, the Council adopted this report as "*The Interim Report: On Institution and Management of the Legal Deposit System of Electronic Publications*" and submitted to Mr. Shin-ichiro Ogata, the Librarian.

Outlines of the Interim Report

The Report defines "packaged electronic publications" as electronic publications fixed on physical media, such as CD-ROMs, and "networked electronic publications" as electronic publications transmitted and received over a communications network, electronic journals

for example. Examining the legal deposit of electronic publications, it is necessary to consider such as enforcing the legal obligation to send publications to the library, collecting all the publications in a certain category and identifying who is legally obliged to deposit the publication. Efficiency of legal deposit should be secured. As a conclusion, the Committee presents the following three points.

(1) At this time, acquisition of “packaged electronic publications” should be included in the legal deposit system. It requires amendment of the law. It is adequate to apply the legal deposit system to all packaged electronic publications without exception by type or contents.

(2) When the Library offers “packaged electronic publications” to users, it is important to find a balance of interests and convenience between copyright holders, publishers and users.

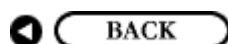
(3) For the time being, the legal deposit system will not apply to “networked electronic publications”. The NDL should acquire needed and useful publications positively and selectively by contract.

Future plan etc.

The Interim Report left the issues on a compensation equivalent and on lease contract to the newly established Committee on Legislation (Chairperson: Hiroshi Shiono, Professor of law of Seikei University). The Committee held its first meeting on August 27, 1998 , and submitted its report to the Council on December 24, 1998. The Council examines these two reports and will present its final report by the end of FY1998.

**Secretariat of the Legal Deposit System Research Council
(Acquisitions Department, National Diet Library of Japan)**

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New Publications from the NDL

Bibliography on English-translated Texts of Japanese Laws and Regulations

The National Diet Library published "Nihon Horei Eiyaku Syosi – Bibliography on English-translated Texts of Japanese Laws and Regulations" in diskette form. Containing 7,455 entries, the database includes not only information on statutes in force but also on repealed ones from 1868 to the present.

This database is searchable by keyword(s), Japanese title, English title, statute number, date of publication or promulgation etc. Publication data and NDL call number are also provided to help locating the material.

The diskette contains compressed text file (CSV) in MS-DOS format. To use this file as a database, user can import it to database software or spread sheet software to customize. Each field is encoded in ASCII.

The bibliography was compiled by the Statutes and Parliamentary Documents Division of the National Diet Library, and is available for 2,625 yen from Eibun-Horei-Sha.

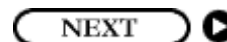
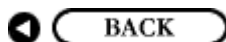
For further information, write to:

Statute and Parliamentary Documents Division,
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National Diet Library Newsletter

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Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

(Text in Japanese)

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

No. 444 March 1998

- Fifty years of the National Diet Library (3) – History and features of its acquisitions, by Meitetsu Haruyama
- Diffusion rate of acid-free paper in official publications increasing: result of 12th test on newly-acquired materials, by Preservation Planning Office
- Report from the Council on Organization of Materials on Science and Technology
- Nippon Cataloging Rule 1987 revised edition introduced

No. 445 April 1998

- Fifty years of the National Diet Library (4) – User services: from local area services to national network services, by Hiroshi Ito
- Completion of the retrospective conversion of early Showa Japanese books and publication of the National Diet Library Catalog 1926–March – 1949, by Bibliography Division, Books Department
- Searching a new development in Japan–Russia library cooperation: summary of the 7th Japan–Russia Bilateral Seminar
- 27th meeting of the Council on the Index to the History of Japanese Laws

No. 446 May 1998

- Outline of the basic design plan of the National Diet Library Kansai-kan
- Our recent acquisition activities: preparation for the opening of the International Library of Children's Literature and the National Diet Library Kansai-kan, by Eishiro Muraki
- Summary of the special lecture meeting of the 7th Japan–Russia Bilateral Seminar: cultural and social changes and the circumstances of the library and publishing world
- Fifty years of the NDL printed catalogue cards: discontinuance of making and distributing them

No. 447 June 1998

- Fifty years of the National Diet Library (5) – Technical services and compilation of bibliographies: Computerization of Japanese books, by Junko Yokoyama
- Interim report of the Council on the Legal Deposit System: fourth meeting of the Council
- What I did in Madagascar: lessons for librarians at Universited Antananarivo, by Tadahiko Oshiba

No. 448 July 1998

- Commemorative events of the NDL's 50th anniversary
- Fifty years of the NDL in chronology
- Fifty years of the National Diet Library (6) – Half a century of international cooperation: from exchange of materials to exchange of people, by Nobuhisa Kameda
- New functions added to the CD-ROM edition of the Japanese Periodicals Index

No. 449 August 1998

- Greetings from the new Librarian: making the NDL more useful, by Masao Tobar
- Fifty years of the National Diet Library (7) – Discussion: the NDL hereafter – talking with Mr. Kazuma Yamane
- Publishing-related culture and libraries: report of the commemorative symposium for the 50th anniversary of the NDL

No. 450 September 1998

- The electronic library
- The National Diet Library Electronic Library Concept
- Symposium "Establishing the digital library". A lecture "Digital Libraries: Opportunities and Challenges", by Deanna B. Marcum

No. 451 October 1998

- International Library of Children's Literature
- Aiming at a national center of children's books – Outline of the planning of the International Library of Children's Literature
- Remodeling plan of a facility of the UENO Library, Branch of NDL
- Visiting organizations concerned with children's books in Europe – Learning from precedents –, by Kuniko Kameda

No. 452 November 1998

- Copyright and libraries
- The relationship of Japanese Copyright Law and library service, by Ryoichi Minami
- Copyright in foreign libraries: "past" and "future", by Akihiro Kawanishi
- Copyright clearance for children's books held by the NDL
- New trend of ISSN, by Taro Kawashima

No. 453 December 1998

- Participating in the 64th IFLA General Conference and the 25th Meeting of the CDNL
- 25th Meeting of CDNL, by Mineo Miyawaki
- Third G8 Electronic Library Project Meeting, by Mineo Miyawaki, Masaki Nasu
- IFLA '98

Biblos

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

Vol.49 no. 3, March 1998

- Co-operation: the triumph of hope over experience? (2) by Maurice B. Line, translated by Kaoru Nakajima
- Agency of Industrial Science and Technology Library
- Present state of our library, by Akira Iwasaki
Nagoya branch library: present state and important issues for relocation, by Masaaki Tanimura
- Libraries in Hokkaido: report of the 45th annual tour study of NDL branch libraries staff, by Yoshitaka Ito

Vol.49 no.4, April 1998

- Network of the NDL and its branch libraries under digital environment: report of the activities of the NDL and its branch libraries in FY1997, by Takao Murayama
- Outline of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Library, by Jun-ichi Iha
- Participating in a project on guidance for users, by Yumiko Miwa

Vol. 49 no.5, May 1998

- Considering true library cooperation: comments on Co-operation: the triumph of hope over experience? by Maurice B. Line, by Sachiko Ogiwara
- Unique archives: Okinawa Prefectural Archives, by Masatoh Kodama
- Into the future of libraries: what can be seen beyond Z39.50, by Kimito Kurosawa

Vol. 49 no.6, June 1998

- Comments on Co-operation II: the triumph of hope over experience? by Maurice B. Line, by Shunsaku Tamura
- Digital library services in smaller libraries, by Masahiko Fukutomi
- Tsukuba Annex of the National Archives to be opened in October 1998, by Tatsuo Ishido
- Ministry of Construction Library: surroundings of the Building Research Institute Library, by Fumiko Kobayashi

Vol. 49 no.7, July 1998

- Considering true library cooperation III: comments on Co-operation: the triumph of hope over experience? by Maurice B. Line, by Ryuji Yonemura
- Five-year Okinawa Prefectural Archives project started: acquisition of materials of the USCAR, by Gosuke Miyagi
- Web site of the Japan Library Association, by Yukie Isobe
- How digital encyclopedias are used, by Hiromichi Hashizume

Vol. 49 no.8, August 1998

(This is the last issue in book form. From October 1998, we distribute *Biblos* (text in Japanese) through the Internet on the National Diet Library Web site (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/publish/biblos/index.html>))

- A period to publication of *biblos*, by Mitsuharu Otake
- Where will the forum for library cooperation go? On discontinuance of *Biblos*, by Izumi Koide
- Branch Libraries, *Biblos* and me, by Toneo Aoki
- Operation of the NDL Branch Libraries' network system started, by Nanae Otsuka

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