



International Library of Children's Literature to open in the year 2000

The **International Library of Children's Literature** will be opened in the spring of the year 2000 as a branch library of the NDL. It will become the first national library of its kind in Japan. Many people including Diet members, children, and guests from abroad will be invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Library on May 5 (*Kodomo no hi* – Children's Day, a national holiday in Japan), 2000.

The Library will support the activities of children's and school libraries throughout Japan, and serve as a **national center** for specialists in the field of children's literature including scholars, publishers and authors, through its collection of children's books and reference materials, and by the development and use of new technology.

The facility is designed to be enjoyable **for children** as well, and will include a museum of children's books and reading rooms for children. We are planning many delightful interactive events and exhibitions in this museum. The library aims to foster in children a love of reading and of books.

The library will be actively involved in **cooperative activities** with other countries. This will include, for example, the exchange of materials and information, the exchange of personnel, and participation in the activities of IFLA and UNESCO related to children's literature.

In addition to Japanese children's books acquired by the NDL through the legal deposit system, the International Library will collect a wide range of children's books and reference materials published abroad. The **collection** in the year 2000 is expected to total about 200,000 children's and reference books, and around 1,500 magazines and other publications.

One of its features is the **digital library** function, which enables everyone to access the library's collection at any time and from anywhere. The NDL started to develop the new system in FY1995 as a part of its Electronic Library Project.

For further information on this system:

[Electronic Library of Children's Books](#)

The Library will be opened in stages. The building in Ueno Park, Tokyo was constructed in the early 20th century for the Imperial Library, and is going now under major renovations for its new purpose. The whole renovation will be completed in **2002**, and the library as a whole will be opened in that year.





Symposium

“Dissemination and management of government information” in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Branch Library System

Branch Library System

The NDL's Branch Library System is unique in the world.

The Branch libraries are located in the government offices and the Supreme Court, and are under the dual administration of the NDL and the hosting agencies. They collect materials, conduct interlibrary loans, offer research services to patrons in cooperation with the Main Library and collect government publications for themselves and the NDL. The total number of users of the branch libraries amounted to 734,365 in FY1997.

Commemorative Symposium

The system started in August 1948 with eighteen libraries, and the year 1998 was its 50th anniversary. The NDL held a commemorative symposium on November 27, 1998, on the Theme “Dissemination and management of government information”. Three information specialists spoke before a capacity crowd in the lecture hall.



We invited **Mr. Francis J. Buckley Jr.**, Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO) from the United States as a panelist. The GPO has produced and distributed Federal Government information products for over 130 years. He described the U.S. system for producing, procuring, and disseminating government information products and examined the GPO's mission in the electronic information age.

Until recently, electronic information products were not required to be included in the GPO Programme. However, the “GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act” was passed in 1993, and based on this Act, the GPO created its Homepage “GPO Access” (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs) to provide access to electronic Government information products. A total of over 132,000 electronic publications are now accessible through “GPO Access”.

He recognized that with the transition to electronics, the responsibility for current and

future access to government information products is shifting from the GPO to the government agencies. Still, he concluded, the GPO is committed to providing access to as complete a collection as possible of public tangible and electronic government information products via the Federal Depository Library Programme, the GPO Sales Program and GPO Access.



Mr. Hideru Momozaki, Director-General of the Institute of Administrative Information Systems and former Vice-Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency, introduced the current status and future plans for dissemination of electronic information in administration.

The Information Disclosure Bill (passed after the Symposium in April 1999), covering both paper and electronic information, requires government ministries/agencies to manage administrative documents appropriately. Based on the "Basic Plan for Promoting Administrative Information (revised in 1997)", the Government is now preparing guidelines for the establishment of a total document management system (preparation, processing, storage, destruction, etc.) and for the construction of a bibliographical and full-text database of administrative documents. He also stressed that this information infrastructure should also be used to improve services to citizens.



Dr. Kotaro Nawa, Professor, Kansai University, talked about information disclosure and commercialization of administrative information in electronic format.

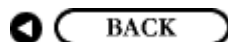
The Japanese government disseminates tangible administrative information to the public through various channels, for example information disclosure, sales programmes, and deposits to the NDL. He discussed cooperation and rivalry among administrative branch, libraries, and private sector after an electronic transition. How to add value to government information will be a prime issue. He also examined the problems facing the NDL in the information age. They include copyright of government information, information storage, deposit system, and access fees.

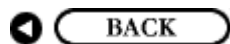
The proceedings (text in Japanese except the report of Mr. Buckley) are edited by the National Diet Library, and published by the Japan Library Association.

"Seifu joho no ryutsu to kanri", 1999.5, 107p, ISBN 4-87582-550-1

For further information, write to: Japan Library Association
1-11-14 Shinkawa, Tokyo, 104-0033, JAPAN
Fax: +81-3-3523-0842

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International services of the NDL

(1) Reference service

We offer reference service to libraries and individuals in overseas countries. You may send us your enquiries either by post or fax. We do not in principle accept enquiries by e-mail. We answer your enquiries using our library resources, and the time required for sending you our reply depends on the content and nature of your enquiry.

Our range of reference service is as follows:

1. Search of our collections for specific items you request.
2. Search for location of specific items not in our collections
3. Providing bibliographic data for specific books or articles
4. Listing up reference materials for a specific topic
5. Referring to institutions known to be conducting research on a particular subject

Please bear in mind that we do not offer services that fall into the following categories:

1. Predicting the future, etc., which require guesswork, conjecture or judgement on the part of our library staff
2. Recommendation of good books, information on where to sell or buy books
3. Evaluation of old books, old documents and artistic objects, including estimating their market price
4. Deciphering, commentary, translation or summarizing of a book or an article
5. Research for the purpose of school assignments, reports and graduation theses and finding out answers for quizzes
6. Research that may infringe on some person's privacy
7. Private counselling service, legal advice, medical advice and the like
8. Compiling a systematic bibliography on a specific topic
9. Research and study on some other person's behalf
10. Search for an article or a photograph for which no adequate means of search is available

When you send us your enquiries, please make clear what you want to know and all that you already know about it. It will be of great help to us if you tell us what books or articles you have already consulted. Our reference service is free of charge, and you do not have to enclose any kind of payment with your letter of inquiry.

Our address and fax number is as follows:

International Cooperation Division, Library Cooperation Department,

National Diet Library,

1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku,

Tokyo 100-8924, Japan

Fax:+81-3-3508-2934

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Selections from the NDL collection

Momotaro

The NDL has 130,000 children's books and 1,200 titles of children's journals in its collection. To make the best use of these materials, [the International Library of Children's Literature](#) will be opened in the next spring as a branch library of the NDL.

As a part of its digital library project, the NDL is digitizing more than 8,000 children's books published before 1955. Among these, about 3000 titles are copyright free or the NDL got permission from the copyright owners.



The library is planning to provide these digital books to patrons through the inhouse network in the new library.

We have taken out a few images from the stacks of this digital library, reduced the size and added an English translation for English readers.

Here are all ten pages of "*Momotaro*" (The Peach Boy), a well-known Japanese nursery tale. Click on the little arrow to start.

"*Momotaro*", illustrated by Goro Arai, Koyosha Shuppan, 1951, Osaka, 10 p.

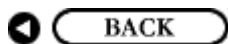
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New Publication from the NDL

International Symposium on Current Status and Future of Bibliographic Information in Southeast Asian Countries

The National Diet Library held an International Symposium "*Current Status and Future of Bibliographic Information in Southeast Asian Countries*" on March 10 and 11 in 1997 to promote the Asian Resource Information Center (tentative name) Project.

The proceedings include eight country reports.

Helen Jarvis from Australia reported on acquisitions and access of Southeast Asian information in Australia. Seven information specialists from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam introduced the present state of bibliographic information in their countries.

The contents are as follows:

Session I

Acquisition and use of Southeast Asian information

Helen Jarvis

Southeast Asia in Australian consciousness: the view from the library and information sphere.

Session 2

Current status and future of bibliographic information in Southeast Asian countries

Indonesia by Blasius Sudarsono

A glimpse to bibliographic information exchange in Indonesia

Malaysia by Putri Saniah Megat Abdul Rahman

Bibliographic database and networks in Malaysia: towards the development of digital libraries

with local content database

Myanmar by Thein Lwin

Current situation and problems of bibliographic information database of Myanmar and future possibility of exchanging bibliographic information with other countries

Philippines by Rogelio B. Mallillin

Information processing and resource sharing in the Philippines

Singapore by Ch'ng Kim See

Bibliographic information of Southeast Asian materials in Singapore: its current state and future

Thailand by Thara Kanakamani

Current situation and problems of national network of bibliographic information of Southeast Asian materials in Thailand

Vietnam by Kieu Van Hot

Library automation and information activities in Vietnam

The proceedings (text in English) are edited by the National Diet Library, and published by the Japan Library Association (available for 700 yen).

For further information, write to:

Japan Library Association

1-11-14 Shinkawa, Tokyo, 104-0033 JAPAN

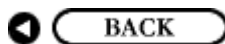
Fax: +81-3-3523-0842

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National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 109, June 1999



Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals (Text in Japanese)

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

No. 458 May 1999

- Acquisition and supply of Asian information at the National Diet Library: Establishing an Asian Resource Information Center, National Diet Library Kansai-kan (tentative name), by *Takashi Tomikubo*
- Report of the second International Conference on National Bibliographic Services: ICNBS Copenhagen 1998, by *Fumio Ishikawa*
- For the Future of Asian Children and Books of the 21st Century: Invitation of a group of Officials from Asian Children's Libraries, by *Planning Office of the International Library of Children's Literature*

No. 457 April 1999

- Report of the Legal Deposit System Research Council submitted
- My observations on legal deposit systems in Europe: "Cultural heritage of the nation" and roles of the National Library, by *Meitetsu Haruyama*
- ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) registration for online publications
- 40th meeting of the Council on Organization of Materials on Science and Technology

