

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 117, January 2001



The amended legal deposit system

The legal deposit system requires that copies of all new publications published within Japan be deposited to the National Diet Library (NDL) in accordance with the National Diet Library Law (Law No.5, February 9, 1948). The designation "publications" includes books, pamphlets, serials, music scores, maps, and phonographic records. And, because of the increased production of CD-ROMs and other "packaged electronic publications", the National Diet Library Law and other related regulations were amended in order to start a new legal deposit system which includes the packaged electronic publications.

In April 7, 2000, responding to the Legal Deposit System Research Council's Report (1999.2.22), [the National Diet Library Law was amended](#). The amendment includes the two following points: (1) Packaged electronic publications should be newly included in publications to be deposited, and (2) The number of copies of publications deposited by the government and local public entities, should be changed. The amendment came into effect on October 1, 2000.

(1) Packaged electronic publications are included in publications to be deposited.

Packaged electronic publications that have been published since October 1, 2000, the day that this amendment came into effect, are included in publications to be deposited. For this purpose, the NDL has established criteria and methods to select "the best edition", prescribed in Article 25 of National Diet Library Law, of non-governmental packaged electronic publications in terms of preservation and utilization of this publications. If there are different editions of a non-governmental packaged electronic publication with an identical content, from the same publisher around the same time, the best edition will be selected on the following six criteria:

1. Superior durability.
2. Is in a container.
3. No special facilities or equipment are needed.
4. There is an manual for usage.
5. Widely used standard of the medium or of the equipment for using it.
6. Any special function is included. However, special function that is designed for particular purposes is disregarded.

The "content" in these criteria, refers to the essential content recorded in the publication. Non-essential parts such as advertisements on videotape aren't included. On the other hand, a difference in title or dubbing etc. is regarded as a difference in the "content." A difference in the platform of application software or game software is regarded as a

difference in the “content.” Each publication with a different “content” is treated as a different publication to be deposited. An upgraded edition is a different publication and has to be deposited. Publications with the same contents but released by different publishers are different publications and have to be deposited.

In addition, responding to a Legal Deposit System Council’s Report (1999.7.19), parts of the regulations regarding compensation have been amended.

(2) Changes in the number of copies of publications deposited by the government and local public entities.

In accordance with the actual use, the number of copies of publications deposited by the government and local public entities has been reviewed. Consequently, the regulation regarding the number of copies of publications to be deposited has been amended.

According to the amended regulation, the number of copies of publications to be deposited is as follows:

Classification	government	metropolitan and prefectural governments	cities (including special districts)	towns, villages
Number of copies to be deposited	5 – 30	5	3	2

In accordance with the above-mentioned legal deposit system, packaged electronic publications have actually been deposited from October 1, 2000. Hereafter, for a smooth application of the amended legal deposit system, the NDL will consult with the organizations of publishers and copyright holders, and improve its service facilities for packaged electronic publications.

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Amendment of the National Diet Library Law concerning legal deposit system of electronic publications

The National Diet Library Law was amended in April 7, 2000, in order to start a new legal deposit system which includes the packaged electronic publications. The amendment came into effect on October 1, 2000. The following is an extract from unofficial translation of Articles 24 and 25 of the Law concerning the legal deposit system of electronic publications.

For further details, see [The amended legal deposit system](#) in this issue.

THE NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY LAW

CHAPTER X. DEPOSIT OF PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL PUBLIC ENTITIES

Article 24. Of each publication coming under any of the following categories issued by or for any agency of the government (except confidential matters, blank forms, specimen pages and other simple publications; the same shall apply hereinafter), thirty (30) copies or less shall be deposited immediately with the National Diet Library for its official use or for its use in exchange for the publications of other governments and in other international exchanges in accordance with regulations to be made by the Chief Librarian:

- (1) Books;
- (2) Pamphlets;
- (3) Serials;
- (4) Music scores;
- (5) Maps;
- (6) Motion picture films;
- (7) Works besides those mentioned in the foregoing items, reproduced as documents or charts by printing and other processes;
- (8) Phonographic records;
- (9) Texts, images, sounds, or programs recorded by electronic, magnetic, or other methods which cannot be directly perceived by human senses.

2 The provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall apply to the reprinting of the publications specified in the same paragraph. However, the same provisions shall not apply to cases where the contents of the reprinted publication differ neither in volume nor substance from its first or previous edition and where copies of its first or previous edition were deposited in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 24–2. When the publications as prescribed in paragraph 1 of the foregoing Article have been issued by or for agencies of the metropolitan and prefectural governments or similar agencies, such agencies shall immediately deposit five (5) copies or less of such works with the National Diet Library for the purposes specified by the same paragraph in accordance with regulations to be made by the Chief Librarian.

2 When any of the publications prescribed in paragraph 1 of the foregoing Article, has been issued by or for agencies of cities (including special districts; the same shall apply hereinafter) or of corresponding bodies, such agencies shall immediately deposit five(5) copies or less thereof with the National Diet Library for the purposes specified by the same paragraph in accordance with regulations to be made by the Chief Librarian. Of each publication issued by agencies of towns, villages or of corresponding bodies three (3) copies or less thereof shall be deposited.

3 The provisions of paragraph 2 of the foregoing Article shall apply to the two preceding paragraphs.

CHAPTER XI. DEPOSIT OF OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Article 25. When any person other than specified by the preceding two Articles has printed any of the publications prescribed in paragraph 1 of Article 24, he shall, in order to contribute to the accumulation and utility of cultural goods, deposit a complete copy of its best edition to the National Diet Library within thirty (30) days of its issue, excepting cases coming under the provisions of the preceding two Articles; provided that this shall not apply in cases where the publisher has presented or bequeathed the publication to the National Diet Library and where the Chief Librarian recognizes the existence of special reasons.

2 The provisions of Article 24, paragraph 2, shall apply with necessary modifications to the foregoing paragraph. In this case, "deposited" mentioned in Article 24, paragraph 2, shall read "deposited or presented or bequeathed".

(paragraph 3, 4 – omitted)

(Article 25–2 – omitted)

(Paragraph 2 – omitted)

(Supplementary provision – omitted)



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20th Mutual Visit Program between NDL and NLC

A National Library of China (NLC) delegation led by the Deputy Director Ms. Sun Beixin visited Japan from 13 to 22 November 2000 on the 20th mutual visit program between the NDL and the NLC. The program started in 1981 to exchange opinions on issues of mutual concern and to further strengthen mutual understanding and friendly relations. The members of the delegation included Mr. Wang Dongbo, Director of Operational Division, Ms. Guo Mingyue, Director of Planning and Finance Division, Ms. Li Shuguo, Research Librarian, Collection Management and Reader Service, and Mr. Wang Zhigeng of Newspapers & Periodicals Department. The main themes of the program was "Roles of national libraries towards the new century" with sub-themes "Sharing of library information resources" and "Digital library construction".



Opening session

At the opening session, Ms. Beixin delivered a keynote speech under the title "The National Library of China Towards the New Century" followed by a speech by Mr. Ujigo, Director, Administrative Department, NDL "The National Diet Library Towards the New Century".

In the question period, enhancement of services to organizations of the central government and national legislative bodies, staff training and further education, reorganization and details of the legal deposit system were discussed.



Section Meeting I – Sharing library information resources

At the meeting, Mr. Wang from NLC and Ms. Kodama, senior librarian, Library Cooperation Department, NDL, reported on recent developments on the theme.

In 1997, the NLC established the Online Library Cataloging Center to organize computer cataloging nationwide, to manage a union catalog on the network and to promote the sharing of bibliographical records and document resources. Although in the Chinese system, cooperation among libraries of different types was not frequent, the NLC promotes resources sharing with university libraries, research



institution libraries and government organizations. In order to share data resources, the NLC has worked out a series of standards for bibliographic data and held a seminar on the theme. Besides these, the NLC cooperates in international resources sharing of Chinese materials with specialists from Taiwan, Singapore and the United States.

In Japan, the NDL developed online union catalogs such as the national union catalog of major public libraries in Japan, the union catalog database of children's books in Japan, and the union catalog database of newspapers in Japan (in experimental stage). As the nation's central library, the NDL builds and maintains a databases of the bibliographical data collected from participating libraries, and provides them through information network. For example, the NDL has operated the National Union Catalog Network of major public libraries in Japan since 1998. As the purpose of the system is not to cooperate in cataloging but to support interlibrary loans nationwide, participating libraries are able to complete the interlibrary loan process from searching bibliographic data through sending a loan request via e-mail on the system. The union catalog is able to play an important role as the foundation of library cooperation in the age of information networks, in addition to providing bibliographic information on the library resources of the country, one of the NDL's mandates prescribed in the Law.

Section Meeting II – Digital library construction

In the second section meeting, Ms. Li from NLC and Ms. Nakai, Head, Digital Library Promotion Office, reported on digital library projects in China and Japan. The schedule of project development in both countries is similar. The NLC started a pilot digital library project in 1996, the NDL started one in 1996. In 1997, the Chinese Pilot Digital Library Project started and the NDL formulated the Electronic Library Concept. In 1999, the NLC established the Center of Document Digitization, the NDL established the Digital Library Promotion Office.



The Chinese government is supporting the construction of a network on Chinese information, the "China Digital Library", which will be centered in the NLC and connected with libraries nationwide. For the purpose, the NLC developed the pilot demonstration system for the China Digital Library in 1999, built the NLC LAN with 1GB lines, connected with outside networks, and digitized its library collections. The NLC's digitization program includes bibliographic database construction, digital scanning of the printed collection, digitization of the microform collection and digitization of the rare books collection. The national project will be concluded in the construction of the Chinese multimedia digital archive, improvement in the infrastructure for the digital library, application system development, establishment and distribution of standards and regulations, and improvement in the quality of professional staff members. The project will continue to the year 2005.

In Japan, the legal deposit system was amended in April 2000. Consequently, packaged electronic publications have been included in publications to be deposited and online electronic publications to be acquired selectively since October 2000. Of online publications,

the NDL will select government and academic publications.

As for digitization, the NDL will convert microfilms of the 168,000 Japanese books published in 1868–1912 into image files, with a retrieval system linked with a bibliographic database. However, only 30–50% books are copyright free and the NDL plans to clear the copyright by requesting a decision by the Director–General of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The data will be available in 2002.

In question and answer time, the participants eagerly discussed issues such as acquisition of online digital resources, copyright clearance, library budget for digitization, technical problems, etc. Although many users request digitized current information, many libraries all over the world are incline to digitize old materials because copyright clearance is easy. To solve this dilemma and provide current information through the internet in the future, the NLC is taking concrete measures such as contacting the copyright holder of every item, consulting with national legislative bodies about new legislation, and depositing a great amount of money with the Chinese copyright management institution.

Conclusion

At the [18th program in May 1999](#), NDL and NLC agreed on the *Letter of Intent concerning Exchange and Cooperation between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China*. The NDL has already started to purchase Chinese materials by the assistance of the NLC based on the Letter. At this time both libraries talked over the letter and agreed on further concrete cooperation.

From the next day, the delegation visited the Kansai–kan (provisional name), a new facility of the NDL, and other institutions in the Kansai region of Japan, and left Japan on November 22. The 21st program will be held at the NLC in 2001.



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Selections from the NDL Collection

Terakoya Kakizome (New Year's first writing at an elementary school of the Edo period)

Title	Terakoya Kakizome (New Year's first writing at an elementary school of the Edo period)
Author:	Utagawa Toyokuni I (1769–1825)
Imprint:	1804
Description:	Three large size colored block prints
NDL call no.:	Ki-Betsu-2-8-1-4



Mitate-e of a famous kabuki play *Sugawara Denju Tenarai Kagami* (Sugawara's Secret of Calligraphy). *Mitate* means metaphor or comparisons. Ukiyoe artists were inspired by historical events, figures or classic masterpieces to develop their own variations on a theme. Sometimes these connections are clear; at other times we can barely establish a recognizable connection. In the original kabuki play, the boy Kotaro was enrolled at a *terakoya* school with his mother to save his master's son's life at the sacrifice of his own.

The *terakoya* was an Edo period elementary school where the children of commoners learned reading and writing. In Toyokuni's time (from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 19th century), the school attendance rate, including children who went to schools other than *terakoya*, exceeded 70% in Edo (now Tokyo). In this *terakoya* of Toyokuni's imagination, students of all ages are all working together.

Eighteen people are depicted in the *terakoya*. Most are concentrating on *kakizome*, the first writing exercise of the New Year. It was – and still is – a custom in Japan to calligraph an auspicious proverb or poem. Today most elementary school students do it as homework

during the New Year holidays. Here, clustered around the central figure of the teacher, we see students in their best clothes, most absorbed in their task, although one lazy girl is yawning and stretching. There is also a mother who has brought her child to start school on this auspicious day.

Toyokuni I (1769–1825), real name Kumakichi Kurahashi and pseudonym Ichiyo-sai, was born the son of a carver of dolls and puppets. Apprenticed to Utagawa Toyoharu, he took the name Toyokuni and was the founder of the Utagawa School. Famous especially for his depictions of kabuki actors, Toyokuni created many woodblock prints, book illustrations and original paintings. [Toyokuni III](#) was his pupil.





New Publications from NDL

Networks in Asia: Preservation Cooperation Hereafter Proceedings of the 10th Annual Symposium on Preservation

The proceedings of the 10th Annual Symposium on Preservation "[Networks in Asia: Preservation Cooperation Hereafter](#)". Published in October 2000. The symposium was held at the NDL on November 8th, 1999, in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Asia Regional Centre for the Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Core Programme of IFLA. The proceedings include a chronology of the Asia Regional Centre for the IFLA PAC. ISBN 4-8204-0023-1

Available for 1,300 yen from:

Nihon Toshokan Kyokai (Japan Library Association)

1-11-14 Shinkawa, Chuo-ku,

Tokyo 104-0033 JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-3523-0812



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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No. 477 December 2000

- Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) toward the new age: The Sixth Biennial Conference in Tokyo, by Research and Legislative Reference Bureau
- Visiting the National Library of Korea: Report of the 4th mutual visit program, by NDL delegation to Korea
- One month at the National Assembly Library of Korea: 1st mutual staff training program, by Kyo Shirai
- 30th meeting of the Council on the Index to the History of Japanese Laws
- Annual meeting with secretaries general of prefectural assemblies FY2000
- Annual meeting with librarians of NDL branch libraries placed in the executive and judicial agencies FY2000

No. 476 November 2000

- Present state of cooperation in the international library world toward the 21st century: Participating in the 66th IFLA General Conference and the 27th Meeting of CDNL
- Trend of cooperation among national libraries: 27th Meeting of CDNL, by Noritada Otaki
- To realize electronic library networks: Second Bibliotheca Universalis meeting, by Mitsuaki Okamura
- Reports of IFLA 2000 Section meetings
- Harmony of research services and library services: Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, by Hisae Umeda
- Collection development in the digital age: Section on Acquisition and Collection Development, by Yasushi Yamaji
- Toward revision of the "Guidelines for Children's Services": Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults, by Hiroshi Sakamoto

No. 475, October 2000

- Reformed legal deposit system comes into effect
- The legal deposit of packaged electronic publications has started
- The forth meetings of the Legal Deposit System Council and comment on the council report
- Report of the Legal Deposit System Council: The "best edition" of packaged electronic

publications to be deposited (Summary)

- Reference: Partial Amendment Law to the National Diet Library Law
- Exhibition on parliamentary government commemorating the 110th anniversary of the opening of the Diet

