

No. 129, February 2003

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E-mail magazine "Current Awareness-E" launched

October 2002, we started distribution of an e-mail magazine "Current Awareness-E" (Japanese only) that introduces the latest news on library and library science, from inside and outside Japan.

Distribution dates are the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Everyone who has an e-mail address can subscribe to this magazine. Please access the application form on our website and input the necessary information (name and e-mail address).

Top page (Japanese) <http://www.ndl.go.jp>



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Toshokan ni kansuru chosa/kenkyu



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The magazine is distributed free of charge.

We will continue to publish as a quarterly the paper version of "Current Awareness," that has previously been published once a month.

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Japanese and Korean national library services in the new century: From the 6th mutual visit program with the National Library of Korea

by Hidehiko Sairaji
Deputy Director General
Reference and Special Collections Department

This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 501



Introduction

The 6th mutual visit program of [the National Library of Korea \(NLK\)](#) and [the National Diet Library \(NDL\)](#) was held in Seoul on September 10 and 11, 2002. Headed by Mr. Hidehiko SAIRAJI, Deputy Director General, Reference and Special Collections Department, this delegation had the following other members: Ms. Yoshiko ITO, Reference librarian, Humanities Division, Reference and Special Collections Department, and Ms. Akito OTSUKA, Planning and Cooperation Division, [International Library of Children's Literature](#).

For previous programs, please see [here](#).

The main theme was "Important projects and new developments in public service of Japanese and Korean national libraries." Both libraries were in the middle of preparing the basis of their new services. The NDL was to open the new facility Kansai-kan in one month; while, in a faster movement toward digitization than Japan, the NLK was planning a new building intended for digital library service.

The delegation also visited [the National Assembly Library, Seoul National University Library](#), [Kyujiangak Archives](#) and national museums in Seoul and Kyondju.

Outline of the presentations

The sessions of the first day were held in a hall in the NLK. Staff of both libraries presented keynote speeches and reported on the main theme. For a summary of each report, click on the title.

Presentations from the NLK

| | |
|---|---|
| Keynote speech: Establishing the National Digital Library for a knowledge-based society | Ms. Chi-ju Lee Chief, Information Technology Division |
| Introduction and operation of Korean CIP system | Ms. Sang Im Lee Deputy Chief, Acquisition and Technical Service Division |
| Cooperation to enrich digital library contents in an information society era | Ms. Soo-Eun Lee Deputy Chief, Acquisition and Technical Service Division |

Presentations from the NDL

| | |
|--|---|
| Keynote speech: National Diet Library in 2002: before the opening of the Kansai-kan | Mr. Hidehiko Sairaiji Deputy Director General, Reference and Special Collections Department |
| Remote services of the National Diet Library | Ms. Yoshiko Ito Reference librarian, Humanities Division, Reference and Special Collections Department |
| As a place for children to meet books: International Library of Children's Literature fully opened to the public | Ms. Akito Otsuka Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children's Literature |

Resemblance and difference between Japanese and Korean national library projects

Advanced technology to search materials (union catalog)

It is clear that a national library should put its effort in building a union catalog. In Korea, a union catalog "KOLIS-NET" is available on the Internet and everyone has access to information on the holdings of nationwide public libraries. The "National Union Catalog" operated by the NDL, on the other hand, though having increased participating libraries and becoming a national information infrastructure, is not available on the Internet at present. We need to discuss how to make databases available to the public, including the contents

to be provided.

Providing more full text information

The NLK has created a full text database consisting of more than 200,000 items of digitized academic literature. For its part, the NDL provides digitized images of materials in the form of the Rare Books Image Database and the Digital Library from the Meiji Era.

The NLK staff commented that image is one of the efficient media to convey full text of the collection. I felt that the NLK had the same background of language as the NDL. It would require much cost and labor to input Japanese or Korean in precise old text form. There are opinions that image is less used in the world, but we need further discussions on how to provide full text information, taking in consideration better search function and the international trend.

Advanced use of information on the Internet

NDL's [Database Navigation Service \(Dnavi\)](#) resembles the NLK's prospective service "Classification and provision of information on the web to facilitate search of the Internet." On the other hand, NDL's [Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)](#) drew much attention, perhaps because such a plan has not yet come into operation in Korea.

Increased convenience by digital requesting system

Subscribed NDL users have been able to request remote copying service on the Internet since January 2003, but such a service was already available at the NLK. Both countries should continue to improve the environment for facilitating access to information.

Conclusion

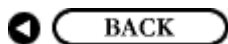
The rapid digitization of the modern society has changed our basis of life, mind-set and style of information seeking. This change demands a response that is far beyond the reach of conventional libraries. Libraries are expected to respond actively but we have to avoid misjudgments. I was surprised to find but understood that the NLK and the NDL had exactly the same, rather than similar, object, direction and attitude toward digitization.

After the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea-Japan, there are many calls for bilateral understanding between Korea and Japan as neighbor countries in East Asia. It shows the foresightedness of this program, which saw its 6th meeting this year. At the same time, it is important for both libraries not only to learn from each other but also to maintain the sort of relationship within which we can exchange opinions whenever needed.

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Shy Woo Lee (Director), Ms. Myung-Hee Kim, Ms. Soonhwa Lee and other staff of the Support and Cooperation Division of the NLK for their attentive and thoughtful arrangements.

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The 22nd Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China

A [National Library of China \(NLC\)](#) delegation visited Japan from November 18 to 27 on the 22nd mutual visit program between the NDL and NLC. The program started in 1981 to exchange opinions on issues of mutual concern and to further strengthen mutual understanding and friendly relations.

Headed by the Deputy Director Dr. Chen Li, this year's delegation had the following other members: Ms. Sun Liping, Director of the International Cooperation Division, Mr. Zhang Zhiqing, Director of the Rare Book Department, Ms. Liu Kangning, Assistant Director of the Operational Division, and Ms. Li Cuiwei (interpreter), staff member of the Center for the Consortium of National Information Resource Sharing.



Delegation of the NLC (from left):

Mr. Chen Li (*Deputy Director*)

Ms. Li Cuiwei (*staff member, Center for the Consortium of National Information Resource Sharing; interpreter*)

Ms. Sun Lipin (*Director, International Cooperation Division*)

Ms. Liu Kangning (*Assistant Director, Operational Division*)

Mr. Zhang Zhiqing (*Director, Rare Book Department*)

This year's program consisted mainly of a series of seminars held at the Tokyo Main Library and visits to the Kansai-kan and other related institutions.

The seminar was composed of three sessions: the opening session for keynote speeches, the second on the subject "Development of Digital Library Services" and the third for conclusions.

Opening Session

At the opening session, Dr. Chen delivered a keynote speech under the title "Current status and future plans of library services of the National Library of China," followed by a speech by Mr. Tsuyoshi Ujigo, Deputy Librarian of the NDL, titled "Development of new services at the National Diet Library."

In his speech, Dr. Chen first introduced various kinds of services that the NLC currently provides, classifying them into the following four groups according to the types of clients:

1) Legislative support services and policymaking support services for the Chinese government agencies, 2) Business support services for academic institutions and companies, 3) Services to support lifelong learning for the public, and 4) Cooperative services for libraries nationwide. Then he touched on the provision of digital resources, on which the NLC places a high priority.



In the latter half on his speech, Dr. Chen talked about the NLC's plans and challenges for the future. First, he emphasized that the major functions and purposes of the NLC were what they called "one repository and three centers", that is, a national repository of the domestic publications, a national bibliographic center, a national center of library information networks, and a library research and development center. On that basis, the NLC is

planning to 1) improve its document supply services, 2) lead other libraries in establishing library-related standards and codes, 3) develop an online union catalog, and 4) establish the China Digital Library.

Mr. Ujigo's keynote speech was focused on the basic stance that the NDL should take in considering its future. Based on the ideals and major purposes stipulated in the National Diet Library Law, he said, the NDL should place a high priority on the following three points: 1) Provision of user-oriented services, 2) Making full use of web resources, and 3) Strengthening partnership with other institutions.

Mr. Ujigo (2nd from right) and Librarian Kurosawa (3rd from right)

Next, Mr. Ujigo introduced two key phrases in regard to the current services of the NDL: "From world to world," which expresses the globalization of the information resources that the NDL and libraries in general collect and provide, and "From past to future", which means the NDL's major challenge to preserve its collections for future generations. He also emphasized the importance of human resource development to support those works.



He concluded his speech by expressing his hope to strengthen the relationship between the NLC and the NDL.

In the question period following the keynote speeches, participants exchanged information and opinions on issues such as acquisition of local publications in China, business support services of the NLC, remote user services of the NLC, reorganization of the NDL, digitization projects in the NDL.

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Session on the Development of Digital Library Services

At the session, Ms. Liu Kangning from the NLC and Ms. Machiko Nakai, Director of the Digital Information Planning Office, NDL, reported on recent developments in this area.

Ms. Liu's report consisted of two parts, first on the provision of digital resources, mainly CD-ROMs, in the NLC, and the second, which Mr. Zhang Zhiqing prepared for Ms. Liu, on the creation of bibliographic databases and digitization of the library collections.

In the first part, Ms. Liu outlined the provision of digital resources at the NLC that started in 1987 with the purchase of a CD-ROM database. Currently, the NLC has 70 CD-ROM databases, 10,000 titles of e-journals, and 6,886 titles of CD-ROMs. The purchase of digital resources takes up 5% of the acquisition budget of the Library. Those resources are made available to users in the electronic reading rooms that opened in 1995. The NLC plans to improve the following four points concerning the provision of digital resources: 1) Digital collection development, 2) Rate of utilization, 3) User support, and 4) Skill of the staff.

In the second part, Ms. Liu first mentioned bibliographic databases of the NLC, such as catalog database (2.5 million records), contents information database (700,000 records), authority record database (500,000 records) and full-text image database of Chinese books (63.7 million pages). Then she introduced the major digitization projects of the Library. The NLC has launched and has been developing the following nine projects to digitize various kinds of materials from its vast collections and provide them to the users. 1) Image database of oracle bones, 2) Image database of rubbings of stone carvings held in Chinese libraries, 3) International Dunhuang Project in cooperation with the British Library, 4)

Database of Xixia documents and Xixia study materials, 5) Databases of digital Chinese local chronicles of the Qing Dynasty, 6) Union catalog of rare books in China, 7) Database of Chinese doctoral dissertations, 8) Digitization of microfilms of Chinese periodicals published in the Republic era, and 9) Digitization of audio-visual materials.

After Ms. Liu's report, the NDL participants asked questions on the relation between CD-ROMs and web resources, staff training, network security, and other issues.

Ms. Nakai started her report by outlining the history of digital library development at the NDL, and then moved on to the current status of digital library projects. With the reorganization of the whole library and the opening of the Kansai-kan, an organizational structure to advance digital library projects has been established, with the Digital Information Planning Office in the Tokyo Main Library and the Digital Library Division in the Kansai-kan. In 2002, the NDL opened several new databases and digital contents on the Internet, such as "[Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#)," "[Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)](#)," "[Database Navigation Service \(Dnavi\)](#)," and "[The Japanese Calendar](#)." It also started remote user services via the NDL-OPAC. In conclusion, Ms. Nakai cited several challenges the NDL faces: for example, the need for the Digital Information Planning Office to draw up a new digital library plan, for the Digital Library Division to develop a new test project "Cooperative Reference Database System," and for the whole library to develop necessary human resources and improve the management skills of the staff.

Following Ms. Nakai's report, Mr. Shun'ichi Tomihisa, Director of the Electronic Resources Division, briefly explained the provision of digital resources in the NDL facilities. Then, Ms. Nakai and other NDL participants answered several questions from the NLC delegates about the method of collecting online resources, the scope of collection development, copyright issues concerning the online publications, and so on.

Visits to the Kansai-kan and other institutions

On November 25 and 26, the NLC delegation visited the [Kansai-kan](#) that just opened in the previous month. After the library tour, they met the staff members of the Digital Library Division, Asian Resources Division, and others, heard about their work, and exchanged opinions and information.

The delegation also visited other libraries and related institutions such as the [International Library of Children's Literature](#), [Toyo Bunko \(Oriental Library\)](#), [Seikado Bunko](#), [University of Tokyo Library](#), and [Osaka Prefectural Central Library](#).

Conclusion

During the program, representatives of both libraries reviewed the Letter of Intent concerning Exchange and Cooperation between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China, which was exchanged in 1999, and agreed on continuing their cooperative relations and making developments on several aspects such as document delivery services

and personnel exchange.

We believe that this year's mutual visit concluded successfully and results in deeper understanding and stronger ties between the National Library of China and the National Diet Library.

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New bibliographic services: Japanese National Bibliography, OPAC and bibliographic control (part two of two)

by Kimiko Harada
Director General, Bibliography Department

This is a translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 499

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 - [JAPAN/MARC](#)
 - [Online digital publications and metadata](#)

Part two (no.129, this issue!)

- [2. OPAC \(Online Public Access Catalog\)](#)
 - [NDL-OPAC](#)
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2. OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog)

The number of card catalog users has been dwindling, as the OPAC has become the search tool of choice. We have been promoting computerization of cataloging, retrospective conversion, construction of a network and development and introduction of

the OPAC since the 1970s. We have already achieved our long-term aim of [the NDL-OPAC \(National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog\) \(Japanese only\)](#), which enables users to search most of the NDL collections on a single screen.

The NDL-OPAC

The NDL-OPAC is available on [the NDL web site](#) from October 2002. Major improvements compared with the old online catalog (Web-OPAC) are:

- Expansion of data supply

The following materials can be searched in addition to books in Japanese and Western languages.

- *Data of books in Japanese have been added retroactively back to the Meiji era (2.63 million items in total).*
- *Periodicals in Japanese and Western languages (all the 166,000 titles)*
 - *Japanese Periodicals Index*
 - *Maps*
 - *Doctoral dissertations*
 - *Technical reports, Standards, etc.*
 - *Others*

- The Search page links to the Holdings & Request page
- The location of the searched material (Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan or the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL)) shown on the Holdings & Request page.
- Each issue of periodicals displayed on the Holdings & Request page

Materials in Chinese and Korean acquired in and after 1986 can be searched on [the NDL Asian Language Materials Online Public Access Catalog \(NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC \(Japanese only\)\)](#) on the NDL web site.

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Japanese Periodicals Index

The Japanese Periodicals Index covers a wide range and long period of major Japanese serials. All the 5.4 million items can be searched on the NDL-OPAC from November 2002. The data has been accumulated since 1948 and now it is extracted from 9,600 titles. As the data creation is based on the NDL holdings, users can assuredly reach the articles. Registration for copying service of articles via the NDL-OPAC started in October 2002. Registered individuals can request the service from January 7, 2003.

3. Bibliographic control

It is said that bibliographic control comprises every technique of identifying and recording bibliographic data for making materials/documents available to the public. Bibliographic control is closely tied to the national bibliography compilation, so as the national library, we

take a role in bibliographic control as well as in compiling the national bibliography. The Bibliographic Control Division was first established in the reorganization in FY 2002. As its name suggests, it takes charge of bibliographic control and makes necessary adjustments to respond to the new IT environment. It aims at eventually enhancing bibliographic services.

Bibliography compilation and bibliographic control

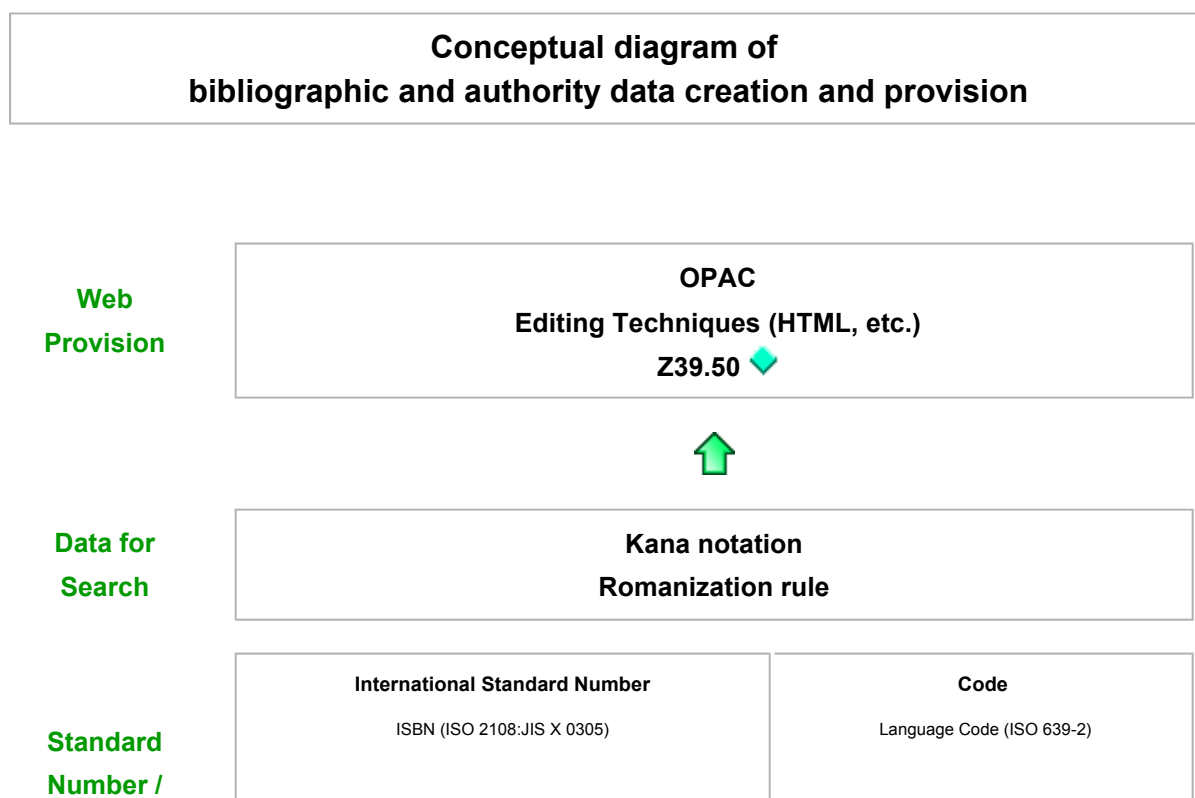
The national bibliography is published with a certain level of contents to function as a standard catalog of domestic publications. Each national library creates such a standard national bibliography and allows mutual use of bibliographic data. Thus, standardization, cooperation and techniques necessary for worldwide provision of bibliographic data are included in bibliographic control.


The NDL bibliographic control is done through publishing the national bibliography, so we consider it is inseparable from the usual bibliographic data creation. Processing techniques and relevant arrangements such as creating or adopting practical and various other standards are in fact included in the bibliographic control.

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Standardization

The diagram below shows major standards concerning bibliographic data creation and provision. It contains standards for libraries (e.g. cataloging rules, classification schemes) and for characters and databases. Standardization is essential for the wide and free flow of bibliographic data because it directly facilitates data distribution, search and handling.



| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Code | ISSN (ISO 3292:JIS X 0306), etc. | | Country Code (ISO 3166-1: JIS X 0304), etc. | |
| Contents of Data | Cataloging Rule Operational Regulations for NCR (Nippon Cataloging Rules) | Classification NDC (Nippon Decimal Classification) applicable criteria NDLC (National Diet Library Classification) | List of Subject Headings NDLSH (National Diet Library List of Subject Headings) | Metadata  NDL Metadata Element Set (in conformity with Dublin Core) |
| Foundation | Character Character code system (JIS X 0208:1990) Regulations for character (Chinese character / alphabet / mark) handling Data Format JAPAN / MARC format / UNIMARC format / General output format | | | |

 not in use now

Domestic and international cooperation

Bibliographic control is carried out in cooperation with national libraries, international institutions concerned with standardization, libraries and other related institutions in Japan. In practical terms we are participating in standardization through publishing the NDL standards and detailed regulations, dispatching delegates to supporting groups and giving comments to investigations.

The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), at the left of the diagram, is the code number that identifies serial publications all over the world. The NDL assigns the numbers to new periodicals as the Japanese national center of the ISSN network.

We have been holding a conference on bibliographic control since FY 2000 for the purpose of sharing and solving actual problems with Japanese individuals and institutions concerned. The themes for the past two conferences were: "New bibliographic services in the Electronic Information age" (FY2000) and "Issues on bibliographic control" (FY2001).

We have shared the same recognitions on bibliographic control and confirmed future directions with the speakers and many participants. In future, we will focus on individual problems and seek solutions through the conference.

Bibliographic information network in the NDL and bibliographic control

We built up the "integrated bibliographic database" to establish the basis of new services in FY 2002. Bibliographic data, which had been separated into types of material, was gathered together in the integrated bibliographic database. After several years of preparation, the foundation for data standardization was also completed. The Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the ILCL collaborate in the NDL's bibliographic information

network. Bibliographic data will be input from all parts of the NDL and the data editing and output system will be revised simultaneously to provide previously mentioned products such as the OPAC and the Japanese National Bibliography.

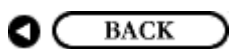
NDL bibliographic control is taking shape for cataloging the materials in the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the ILCL. The reorganization and the start of the Kansai-kan services developed and objectified our bibliographic service.

Conclusion

From the medium- and long-term prospect, the start of the new service is just a milestone on the way. At the same time, it is a point of target setting and departure for the next action. We still have a lot of issues to take measures for; the completion of retrospective conversion, dealing with audiovisual materials and networked digital publications, advanced access from subject headings and classifications, new trend in cataloging rules, authority control and so forth.

The purposes of the functional enhancement of the Bibliography Department produced by this reorganization are to cope with IT progress and to take a part in the new NDL services. We hope we can start operating the new services in FY2002 smoothly and go for the next target.

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Selections from NDL Collection
Ryuko usagi shukkai zue
(Rabbit show exhibition list)

This is a translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 496
(Random notes on rare books, 414)

Title: Ryuko usagi shukkai zue
Designer: Utagawa Yoshitsuya II
Date: 1873 (Meiji 6)
Description: 3 sheets, multi-color wood block print, part of "*Banzukeshu*"
NDL call no. 425-140



This nishiki-e is the work of Utagawa Yoshitsuya II (another name: Ichiei-sai; date of birth and date of death unknown). It was published in Meiji 6 (1873). What is the story behind these pretty rabbits? The answer is a speculative boom.

At the end of the Edo period and the beginning of the Meiji era when Japan resumed diplomatic and trade relations with the countries of the West, many exotic plants and animals were brought into Japan. Among them were rabbit of foreign breeds with strange markings and coloring. From Meiji 5 to Meiji 7 (1872–74), rabbit breeding became very popular in Osaka and Tokyo, and lots of rabbit shows and rabbit markets were held. Above

all, the calico (tortoiseshell) rabbit was in demand and sold for ridiculously high prices — as much as the price of a house. Just as in the “Tulip Bubble” in Holland during the 1630s, people rushed into rabbit breeding as a speculation. Lots of nishiki-e introducing famous rabbit breeders, rabbit breeds, and their owners and addresses, were published.



But because the rabbit trade increasingly attracted crime and became a serious social problem, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government brought in regulations requiring traders to notify the authorities of their rabbit dealings and every month to pay one yen tax per rabbit. Thus burst the “Rabbit Bubble.”

Meiji 5 (1872) is the year in the middle of the “civilization and enlightenment” when gas lamps were lit in Yokohama, the railroad between Shinbashi and Yokohama started operations, in the adjustment that followed the adoption of the solar calendar, December 3 became January 1 of Meiji 6. It was a time of rapid change and turmoil in the political and social systems, and a lot of people staked their hopes of becoming millionaires on these pretty little bunnies.

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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

(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No. 503, February 2003

- [Report of the 22nd mutual visit program with the National Library of China: Developments in new services of national libraries](#)
- Electronic journal services in the NDL including statistics on the use of Electronic Resources Room 2
- Report of the third conference on bibliographic control: Organizing information resources on the Internet
- <Announcement>
 - [Prange Collection](#) (newspapers and news service dispatches) now fully open to the public
 - ▶ available in the [Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(Kensei-shiryôshitsu\)](#)
 - [Union Catalog of Newspapers in Japan Database](#) available to the public

No. 502, January 2003

- New Year Greeting *by Takao Kurosawa (Librarian)*
- Participating in the 7th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP)
 - Report of the Ankara Conference *by Kazukô Sakata*
 - Questions asked by APLAP members – National? Diet? Library– *by Takenori Horimoto*
- 32nd meeting of the Council on the Index to the History of Japanese Laws
- Annual meeting with librarians of branch libraries in the executive and judicial agencies in fiscal 2002
- [Thinking back over the thirty-year history of the NDL host computer](#) *by Tokiyuki Sugiyama*
- <Announcement>
 - “National Union Catalog of Braille & Recorded Books in Japan” available on the NDL-OPAC

- E-mail newsletter [“Current awareness-E”](#) available on the NDL website
related article
- [“Books on Japan”](#) released on the web
related article

