



## The NDL website has become more substantial: “National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books” and “National Union Catalog of Newspapers” are now available

### Contents:

1. [“National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books” released](#)
2. [“National Union Catalog of Newspapers” open to everyone](#)

### 1. “National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books” released

Since January 2003, the “National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books” (Japanese only, <https://ndlopac.ndl.go.jp>) has been available on the NDL-OPAC. By consulting this catalog on the Internet, anyone can search 270,000 bibliographic data of recorded academic literature taperecorded by the NDL and of the Braille and recorded books made by the other public libraries or institutions that offer information services for the visually handicapped.

Users can search materials by their title or author, their form as Braille books, Braille in floppy disks, sound recordings on cassette tapes and sound recordings in DAISY, the holding institution and the ISBN number of their original format.

The data in this catalog are updated once a month.

Registered institutions for the NDL’s interlibrary loan service of materials such as recorded academic literature made by the NDL can apply for this service through the NDL-OPAC on the web. An ID number and a password are necessary for this service.

Application by fax or mail is still acceptable.

Please access “The Union Catalog of the Books in Braille or Audio in Japan” from our website:

[Top page](#) (Japanese)

▼  
[Shiryō no kensaku](#)  
▼

▼  
[Toshokan-in no page](#)  
▼

[Shikaku-shogaisha eno](#)

*Sogo-mokuroku*

*toshokan service*

(Library Services for the Blind)

▼

*NDL-OPAC Tenji-tosho rokuon-tosho zenkoku sogo mokuroku*

(National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books)

In addition, since January 31, on the page of Shikaku-shogaisha eno toshokan service (Library Services for the Blind), we have started to publish a monthly "[Accession List of Braille and Recorded Books](#)", which provides bibliographic data newly added into this union catalog during the previous three months. "[Materials in process of reformatting](#)" which provides information on materials being reformed by the NDL and other participant public libraries is also available. (Both of them are in Japanese only.)

### Contact

Library Cooperation for the Handicapped Section

Library Support Division

Projects Department

Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

Fax: +81-774-94-9117

Email: [syo-ky@ndl.go.jp](mailto:syo-ky@ndl.go.jp)

## 2. "National Union Catalog of Newspapers" open to everyone

Since the middle of February 2003, the NDL has opened to the general public the "Union Catalog of Newspapers in Japan" (Japanese only, <http://sinbun.ndl.go.jp>), which was previously available only for participant institutions. Please access this catalog on our website:

[Top page](#) (Japanese)



[Shiryō no kensaku](#)



[Sogo-mokuroku](#)



[Zenkoku-shinbun-sogo-mokuroku-database](#)

(The National Union Catalog of Newspapers)

Included materials

Newspapers in Japanese and Western languages except Russian, which are in following forms: original paper, microform, reduced edition, reprinted edition, duplicated edition and digital edition.

### Participant institutions

Approximately 1,300 institutions including public libraries, university libraries, libraries in local governments or assemblies, special libraries, newspaper publishers and broadcasting stations.

### Characteristics

- Users can certify bibliographic records of newspapers.
- Users can find which institution holds the materials they want.
- Users can list all the newspapers held by each institution.
- Users can obtain information such as address, contact information, and availability of public service (reading, copying, or reference) of holding institutions.

This catalog provides holding information of other institutions, which will be useful to promote cooperation on the preservation of newspapers.  
As the holding conditions or services of each institution might be changed, please be sure to consult them before visiting.

[up](#)

NEXT 



## Electronic Library National Liaison Conference FY2002 and lecture meetings on digital library program

The National Diet Library (NDL) hosted the Electronic Library National Liaison Conference FY2003 on March 14, 2003 at the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library.



The NDL also held lecture meetings on the digital library program in the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan on March 12 and March 14, 2003. Mr. William D. Walker, Senior Vice President and Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library, was invited as speaker for both lectures.

### Electronic Library National Liaison Conference FY2003

The Electronic Library National Liaison



Conference FY2003 was held in the Kansai-kan of the NDL in the afternoon of March 14. The meeting had participants from 26 organizations, including university libraries, public libraries, related organizations and observers. Mr. Walker and Professor Masaru Harada, University of Tsukuba, attended as the advisor and coordinator respectively.

The theme of the meeting was "Digital library and present and future of libraries." It intended to share the awareness of the state of the digital library and to review means of interlibrary cooperation.

## Reports:

- *“Present state and issues in developing the digital library in Japan” by Professor Masaru Harada (University of Tsukuba)*

Prof. Harada reviewed the features of Japanese governmental projects, university libraries and public libraries in developing the digital library. He mentioned such future issues of the Japanese digital library as improvement of contents, application to reference services and user interface.

- *“Digital library of the National Diet Library” by Mr. Hiroyuki Taya (National Diet Library)*

Mr. Taya described the organization, history and development of the NDL digital library project, mainly focusing on development of the contents.

- *“Digital library of Kyoto University Library” by Mr. Yoshihiro Kosen (Kyoto University Library)*

Mr. Kosen reported on the digital library of Kyoto University Library in the context of the whole university library sector.

- *“State of computerization of public libraries in the report of the National Council of Public Libraries, Japan” by Mr. Naoki Yoshida (Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library)*

Based on the result of the questionnaire survey conducted in October 2001, Mr. Yoshida introduced the state of computerization of public libraries and pointed out the delay in the process.

- *“Experiences of Aozora Bunko” by Mr. Michio Tomita (Aozora Bunko)*

Mr. Tomita, founder of the Aozora Bunko, a free digital library on the Internet, mentioned their efforts to make standards and the difficulties in copyright clearance. He remarked that people with a common interest should cooperate with each other.

## Lecture meetings in the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan



Taking the opportunity of the Electronic Library National Liaison Conference FY2003, the NDL invited Mr. William D. Walker, Senior Vice President and Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library, and held lecture meetings on the digital library on March 12 at the Tokyo Main Library and on March 14 at the Kansai-kan. The Tokyo and Kansai lectures had audiences of 167 and 147 respectively. The title of the Tokyo talk was “Designing Digital Library Services for 21st Century Research Libraries: a view from New York,” and that of the Kansai talk was “Challenges in Designing 21st Century Digital Library Programs in the United States.”

### Mr. Walker

He introduced the digital library projects of the New York Public Library and reported that

under the Internet environment the library has to survive competition with other institutions by researching the needs of the user, assigning priorities, sharing the limited resources and providing appropriate services.



To see Mr. Walker's presentation in Tokyo, click on the links below.

*"Designing Digital Library Services for 21st Century Research Libraries: A view from New York"*

[Text \(pdf: 91KB\)](#)

[Text \(html\)](#)

[PowerPoint slides \(in Japanese\)\(total 79 pieces\)](#)

[up](#)  
[up](#)

◀ [BACK](#)

[NEXT](#) ▶



## Thinking back over the thirty year history of the NDL host computer (part one of two)

by Tokiyuki Sugiyama  
Senior Secretary, Administrative Department

*This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title in  
the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 502*

### Contents

( part 1, No. 130)

#### Introduction

1. Childhood – the early days of Japanese processing

2. Adolescence – the age of catalog and index compilation

3. The prime of life – the age of JAPAN/MARC

( part 2, No. 131)

4. Mature age– the age of online service

5. Old age– handing over the task to the new system

#### Conclusion

### Introduction

The host computer of the National Diet Library (NDL) is close to an end. When it hands over its task to the new Digital Library Infrastructure System in January 2003, I would like to reward it by thinking back over its service for thirty years from a system developer's eyes.

#### 1. Childhood – the early days of Japanese processing

“State-of-the-art computer equipment is crammed into in a small room on the fifth floor in the NDL. Now, Librarian Mr. Kubota pushes the start button...”

It was on December 19, 1970. Our first machines were a general-purpose computer (HITAC 8400) by Hitachi, Ltd., kanji printers, and a kanji entry teletype machine. The main memory of the CPU was 65 KB, 1/10,000 the capacity of a PC terminal in our new system. The external magnetic disk storage capacity was 29 MB, 1/1,400 of the internal hard disk drive capacity (40 GB) in a PC terminal used in the new system. In terms of size, the new PC occupies just a part of a desk whereas the old machine was several hundred kilos of metal that came in a 4 ton truck.

Around 1972, Japan was in the final stage of the high economic growth period. Public and private offices were scrambling to introduce computers. In the IBM-led computer market, six domestic firms engaged in fierce competition. As soon as a computer firm succeeded in a bid, it rushed manufacturing around the clock toward the delivery date. At the same time, a client also pressed on with program creation to activate the machine on arrival.

At the NDL, our staff members too developed an initial system for the “General Index for the Minutes of the Diet” in less than a year with system engineers of the computer manufacturer. It’s a matter of course now, but kanji processing was totally undeveloped at that time. We faced numerous problems in processing Japanese containing kanji and solved them one by one with the manufacturer. That was a real pioneer work.



The Librarian attending the opening ceremony of the NDL computer room (1970)

[up](#)

## 2. Adolescence – The age of catalog and index compilation

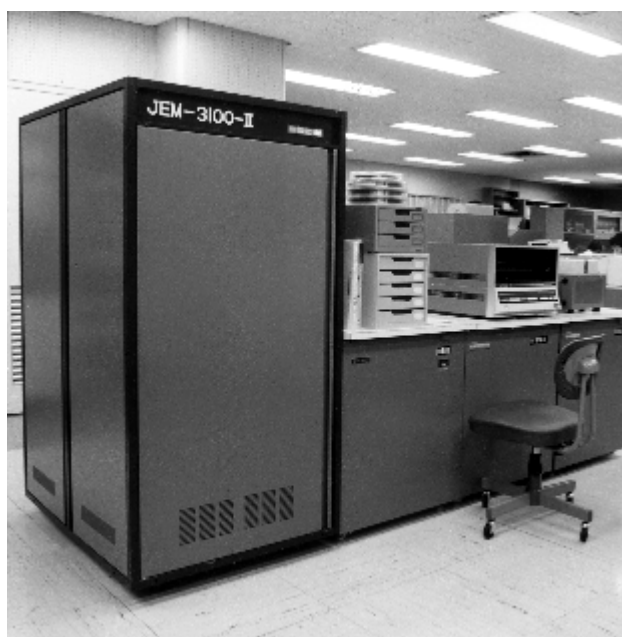
In the 1970s, we devoted all the time to developing systems one after another such as catalog editing and index editing based on the already acquired know-how of kanji processing. Above all, the system for Japanese books, which was built from 1976 to 1978, handled the main collection of the NDL and subsequently became the most important system in hatching the JAPAN/MARC.

Newly employed or transferred staff were pushed into technological training at once, returned to develop a program, then went into another training program. As we had constant challenges to face, some people did not like to be assigned to our division. However, fortunately many young people were in the office so we could have a lot of fun as well.



The kanji printer was one of the leading features of the age. We actually introduced two different kanji printers. When we first introduced the machines, the total cost of rental was eight million yen per month, and nearly 40 percent of it was spent on the kanji printers. They carried an up-to-date character generator, but still they required a lot of care. For example, one printer needed special printing paper that was really troublesome. The paper changed color in time and rolled up when it was cut and dried out. When we tried piling up the sheets and weighing them down before they were dried, they stuck to each other. If we tried to peel them off, they would be partly torn. However, the printed kanji were so beautiful that we were often impressed by the high quality of printing.

[up](#)



Kanji printer

### 3. The prime of life – The age of JAPAN/MARC

The host computer was most active in the 1980s. The symbolic results in this age were JAPAN/MARC, NOREN and J-BISC. In the late 1970s, many libraries were promoting computerization and they began to be quite eager for bibliographic information as a basic resource. The NDL JAPAN/MARC council started in 1979. It reported on format specifications and usage of JAPAN/MARC in the following year. Extreme arguments flew about in the discussion and we eventually decided to produce JAPAN/MARC from the system for Japanese books and made it conform to UNIMARC as much as possible. In this way, the long-hoped-for JAPAN/MARC (Books) distribution started in April 1981. Soon after that, it was used in Canada, the U.S. and Australia and was appraised internationally.

Almost at the same time as the launch of the NDL JAPAN/MARC council, we began to consider introducing an online information retrieval system. Knowing that Hitachi would release "ORION", an online retrieval system with a Japanese environment, the NDL decided to adopt it. "ORION" was produced with extended "BASIS", which was an online information retrieval system developed by Battelle (U.S.) that was spreading all over the U.S. in those days. "ORION" was formally introduced in autumn in 1980. It made remote

search possible and attracted the attentions of public libraries throughout Japan.

“ORION” was a brand name, so we invited the NDL people to come up with a nickname.

In the end, we named it “NOREN” (National Diet Library Online Information Retrieval Network System). Most of the systems in Japan had Western style names at that time so we really wanted a Japanese name which sounded traditional. As a result, it seems a bit far-fetched. (Translator’s note: Noren is a short split curtain hanging over the doorway of Japanese traditional shops such as Sushi bars and Soba noodle restaurants to show that they are open for business.) Later on the NOREN database pattern was applied to any information handled by the NDL and its variations got nearly forty.

[up](#)

JAPAN/MARC distributes bibliographic information in magnetic tape form and people have to install some devices to use it. That’s why JAPAN/MARC users were limited to university libraries, large public libraries and information service institutions.

In contrast, J-BISC in a CD-ROM form is available with a personal computer, so sales were rising rapidly since it was released in 1988. The number of users was close to 1,200 at the peak time in 1997, among which nearly 100 were elementary or junior high school libraries.

Along with the J-BISC, the CD-ROM Line series was released in July 1994. The series consists of the National Union Catalog of Braille & Recorded Books in Japan, the National Diet Library Catalog (Meiji, Taisho Period and 1926–1945), the Japanese Periodicals Index and the National Diet Library Catalog of Serials.

NOREN and the Input and Correcting Management System (ICMS) were the two main systems established in the 1980s. ICMS was a data input and proof system for external punchers inputting and correcting data intensively. They deal with an average of twenty million characters per year so we should not forget their significant contribution to the basic databases of the NDL. The NDL staff also created various kinds of products from the input data, and the value of the products was maximized when they were carried on the NOREN. As NOREN has many features and it could be easily linked with a user program, we used it like a database management system.

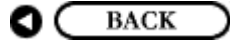


Punchers' office



Kanji keyboard

(To be continued in no.131)



# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 130, April 2003

◀ BACK

NEXT ▶

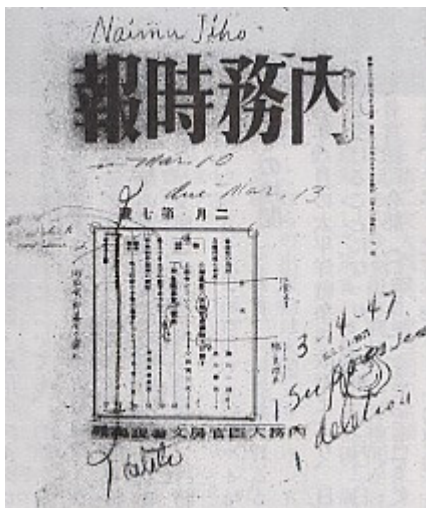
## Selections from NDL Collection Microform materials of the Prange Collection

The Gordon W. Prange Collection owned by the University of Maryland Libraries (USA) comprises virtually all genres of publications published from 1945 to 1949 in Japan. They were required to be submitted to the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (GHQ/SCAP) for censorship. Prof. Gordon W. Prange (1910–1980) who was in Japan as chief of General Douglas MacArthur's historical staff after his Navy service recognized their historical significance and sent them to his original university, the University of Maryland.

[Link to the Prange Collection website \(University of Maryland Libraries\)](#)

This is a unique collection of various Japanese publications of the immediate post-World War II years. It includes a considerable number of publications that are no longer extant in Japan.

In the National Diet Library, microfiches of the magazine collection have been available since April 1997. In addition, microfilms of the newspaper and news service dispatches collection became fully available on February 1, 2003.



Galley proof of the "Naimu jiho", no. 7 (February 1947)

### Magazine collection

Magazines of 13,781 titles with censorship documents on approximately 63,000 sheets of microfiches. Among them approximately 10,000 titles are not held in the NDL as originals. Over 40% of the collection was not commercial publications but were published by businesses, labor unions, schools, youth organizations, etc. They are a mine of information that casts light on life in Japan at the time.

### Newspaper and news service dispatches collection

Newspapers and news service dispatches of approximately 18,000 titles with censorship documents on 3,826 reels of microfilms. Besides major national papers and local papers, the collection includes news service dispatches, hometown papers, organ papers of labor

unions, and school papers. Some major papers such as the *Asahi Shimbun* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun* are in several different editions and local editions.

Magazines that were found in the process of newspaper microfilming were also microfilmed in 228 microfiches and opened to the public on February 1, 2003.

### **Exhibition: Children's Books in the Occupation Period from the Gordon W. Prange Collection, University of Maryland Libraries**

The Prange Collection includes many children's books (the book collection including children's books has not been microfilmed yet). From February 1 to April 13, 2003, an exhibition "Children's Books in the Occupation Period from the Gordon W. Prange Collection, University of Maryland Libraries" was held in the [International Library of Children's Literature \(ILCL\)](#), branch library of the NDL, which showed children's books from the Prange Collection and other materials from the NDL and other institutes.

The children's books from the Prange Collection have traveled throughout Japan. The first exhibition was held at the Yaichi Aizu Memorial Museum of Waseda University in May 2001. Exhibitions followed in Hiroshima, Hokkaido, Kumamoto, Okinawa and Tokyo (ILCL) again. Each exhibition was featured in different ways to highlight each city.



Dr. Charles Lowry (3rd from left) at the opening of the exhibition



On the opening day of the ILCL exhibition, Dr. Charles Lowry, Dean of Libraries, University of Maryland, and Prof. Shin Torigoe, Graduate School of Seiwa College, gave commemorative speeches. In total, about 22,660 visitors visited the exhibition.

### **Other materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan**

The NDL puts emphasis on acquisition of materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan. Besides the Prange Collection, GHQ/SCAP documents that show the actual conditions of the occupation administration in the period of the Allied Occupation of Japan have been

acquired. Since 1978, the NDL has been sending its staff members to the [National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\)](#), USA, to have materials of interest cataloged and microfilmed. The materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan comprise 460,000 sheets of microfiches and 12,000 reels of microfilms.

Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan including the microform materials of the Prange Collection are available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room.

- [Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(Kensei-shiryôshitsu\)](#)
- [About materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan \(Japanese only\)](#)



# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 130, April 2003



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

## National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No. 505, April 2003

- Developing science and technology materials in the digital resources environment : 43rd meeting of the Council on Organization of Materials on Science and Technology
- IT trends in Korean Libraries : Five-day trip for a glimpse of their experimental attempts – *by Akifumi Yonemura*
- [Training for information specialists for Japanese studies in FY 2002](#)
- Participating in the training for professionals in Japanese studies – *by Laura Moretti*
- <Announcement>
  - Study Rooms in the Kansai-kan now available
  - Moving or temporary closing of some reading rooms caused by the Tokyo Main Library remodeling
  - [Digital exhibition “Birth of the Constitution of Japan” available on the NDL website](#)
- Birth of the Imperial Library ( Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibitions,1) [related web page \(Japanese only\)](#)

No. 504, March 2003

- Commemorative Symposium of the Opening of the Kansai-kan: The New Century of Libraries
- Preservation and Conservation Training Programs in FY 2002: Activities of the IFLA/PAC Regional Center for Asia – *by Takao Murayama*
- <Announcement>
  - Wanted: information on the authors of Japanese books printed in the Meiji era
  - USCAR (United States Civil Administration of Ryukyu Island Records) materials of the Economic Affairs Department is now available
  - New column “Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibitions” will start from April 2003
  - New column on bibliographic control will start from May 2003

