



Electronic exhibition "Birth of the Constitution of Japan" launched

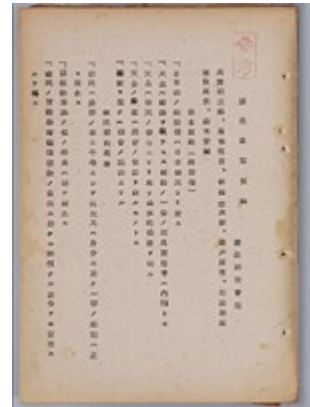
This is a translation of an article in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 505 (Apr. 2003)

May 3, 2003 was the 56th anniversary of the coming into force of the Constitution of Japan. To commemorate the anniversary, the National Diet Library (NDL) launched a new electronic exhibition "Birth of the Constitution of Japan" on the NDL website (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/e/index.html>) on May 3.

Under the general title "Memories of Japan", [a series of electronic exhibitions of the NDL](#) introduces library holdings as cultural heritage in electronic form. As part of the series, the "Birth of the Constitution of Japan" focuses on the process of the formulation of the Constitution, introducing important contemporary documents.

Approximately one hundred historical documents, from well-known ones that appear in school textbooks to rare documents that are not easily accessed by the general public, are introduced.

Among the exhibits, the "[Outline of Constitution Draft](#)" (Constitution Investigation Association, Dec. 1945), one of the private constitution drafts that engaged great interest at the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (GHQ/SCAP), the "[MacArthur Notes](#)" (Feb. 1946) that show General Douglas MacArthur (1880–1964)'s Three Basic Points of revision of the Constitution, and the "[New Constitution – Bright Life](#)" (Constitution Popularization Society, May 1947) that was distributed to every home in Japan to popularize the new Constitution, are included.



["Outline of Constitution Draft"](#)

Generally, the exhibition consists of two parts: "[Outline](#)" and "[Documents with Commentaries](#)."

The "Outline" consists of five chapters with brief explanations of the process of establishing the new Constitution from the end of World War II to its proclamation and coming into force.

["Explanatory Illustrations of the Constitution of Japan"](#)

In "Documents with Commentaries", all pages of the documents can be displayed as digital images. These images are in two sizes, Zoom (1024 × 1536 pixels) and Full Size (512 × 768 pixels), so that visitors can select a suitable size according to their electronic



environment. Each document is displayed with commentary that will help you to understand its value more deeply. Some documents are provided with text data so that full text search is available.

Besides, reference materials such as "[Historical Figures](#)", "[Glossary](#)", and "[Chronological Table](#)" are also available.

We hope many of you will visit our site to view this exhibition and understand the process of the birth of the Constitution of Japan in depth.

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Training program for information specialists for Japanese studies in FY 2002

by Kazunori Kojima

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This is a translation of an article in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 505 (Apr. 2003)



Trainees and staff of the program (3rd from left of the back row is the author)

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1. Preface

The National Diet Library (NDL) jointly hosted the Training program for information specialists for Japanese studies in FY 2002 with the Japan Foundation (JF), in cooperation with the International House of Japan (IHJ) and the National Institute of Informatics (NII). The program was held from December 2 to 20, 2002, mainly in the [Tokyo Main Library](#) of the NDL, the [Kansai-kan of the NDL](#) and the NII. Nine trainees from eight countries (Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden and USA) attended.

This training program was organized as one of the "Group Tour Programs for Specialists" of the JF in FY2002. Staff from the JF, the IHJ, the NII, and the NDL formed a planning committee, and planned and organized the program together.

Tokyo

Date	Subject
December 2	Orientation (at the JF) Courtesy call on the Librarian of the NDL Introduction of curriculum Trends and issues on distribution of Japanese academic publications
December 3	Japanese newspapers Japanese reference books 1
December 4	Information on Japanese studies on the Internet Guided tour of the NDL Japanese reference books 2
December 5	Distribution of government information Japanese laws and regulations (optional) Japanese government publications (optional)
December 6	Trends and issues on distribution of Japanese publications Rare and old materials (optional) Statistics (optional)
December 9	Trends of resources and media on Japanese language education Observation tour 1 (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
December 10	Information services of the NII□ Introduction and practical training of (at the NII)
December 11	Information processing in Japanese language (primary) (optional) (at the NII) Introduction of authority file for authors of the NII (optional) (at the NII)
December 12	Guided tour of the International Library of Children's Literature (optional) Workshop: Reference Services in the Digital Age: Focusing on Information about Japan (jointly hosted by the JF and the IHJ) (at the IHJ)
December 13	Preservation and conservation Cultural heritage and information: cooperation between libraries and archives

Kansai

Date	Subject
December 14	Commemorative Symposium for Opening of Kansai-kan: International Exchange and Libraries
December 16	Observation tour 2 (Kyoto University Library)
December	Observation tour 3 (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)

17	Courtesy call on the Director General of the Kansai-kan
December 18	Digital library projects in Japan: with a focus on NDL projects Guided tour of the Kansai-kan
December 19	Use of the NDL-OPAC Observation tour 4 (Nara National Museum)
December 20	Independent research Information on library and information science in Japan Trainees' evaluation meeting Ceremony of completion

2. History

The NDL held five times the "Training Program for Senior Japanese Studies Librarian" (after FY1998, "Training Program for Japanese Studies Librarians") from FY1996 to FY2000 by request from the JF ([related articles](#)). This program was intended for Japanese studies librarians working at overseas university, institute, national and public libraries.

The "Training program for information specialists for Japanese studies" was organized to take over and enhance the "Training Program for Senior Japanese Studies Librarian"; the scope of the trainees was broadened and not only librarians but also Japanese studies specialists working in the same kind of institutions could attend the training, the contents of the program were expanded to include not only library and information science related but also archive and museum related subjects. These changes reflected the increase of demands for primary resources with the deepening of overseas Japanese studies and the expansion of resources demanded for Japanese studies from "academic resources" to various media*. In addition, a study of the trends of resources and media on Japanese language education was also provided.

*"Linking research, materials, and information: the proceedings of an International Conference on the Enhancement of Information Availability for Scholarly Resources in Japanese Studies", edited by the International House of Japan Library, published by the Japan Foundation. Dec. 2002, pp.1-3

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3. Outline of the program

Aims of the program were :

1. To understand systems of information creation and circulation in Japan, information resources and access to them.
2. To comprehend the outline and characteristics of useful information resources both in paper form and digital form.
3. To develop and expand the network of personal contacts with staff members of major information institutes in Japan and among the trainees.
4. To learn how to use various media and information channels to get information about

Japan

5. To learn how to use computers to obtain electronic information in the Japanese language.

In the first and second week, lectures on systems of information circulation in Japan and useful information resources were provided.

Besides lectures on various subjects based on Japanese materials and experience of the reference work of the NDL, lectures on trends and issues of distribution of publications in Japan and Japanese information resources on the web were provided. In addition, lectures on the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, National Archives of Japan and resources and media on Japanese language education were also provided to introduce the activities of related institutes.

At the NII, introduction of databases produced by the NII and a lecture on information processing in the Japanese language were provided.

On December 12, a workshop "References Services in the Digital Age: Focusing on Information about Japan" hosted by the JF and the IHJ was held. On the themes of "Useful Web sites for information on Japan and the efforts of librarians for the creation, maintenance and supplying of information on Web sites" and "Collaborative reference services through e-mail, mailing lists, and web-based networks", reports from domestic institutions and trainees were presented and animated discussion was exchanged.

In the third week, the venue was transferred to the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library. Besides lectures on NDL's digital library projects and document supply services, there were observation tours to the Kyoto University Library, the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, and the Nara National Museum. To understand the circumstance of libraries in Japan, a lecture on library and information science in Japan was provided.

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4. Conclusion

According to the results of the questionnaire survey conducted after the training program, trainees were satisfied with the latest information provided in the program and rated it highly. Trainees also estimated the program as a good opportunity to develop a network of personal contacts. It could be said that our goals were accomplished. New attempts such as two venues in Tokyo and Kansai, broadening scope of trainees and expansion of contents of subjects were highly evaluated as well.

This training program will also be provided in FY2003 and FY2004. The Library Support Division regards it as an important part of its training and exchange programs. From now on we will discuss issues such as provision of lectures on modern Japanese culture and traditional arts of Japan that were requested by trainees, to construct a more fulfilling training program that introduces Japan and Japanese studies from many directions.

Follow-up training for trainees is also an issue to be discussed.



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NDL budget for fiscal 2003

This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 505 (Apr. 2003).

The fiscal 2003 budget bill passed the National Diet on March 28, 2003. The total amount of the initial budget appropriated for the NDL is 23,875,867,000 yen for FY2003 (April 2003 – March 2004). The decrease of 2.4 billion yen from the FY2002 level is mainly because both the construction of the Kansai-kan and the rearrangement of library holdings from the Tokyo Main Library to the Kansai-kan have been completed.

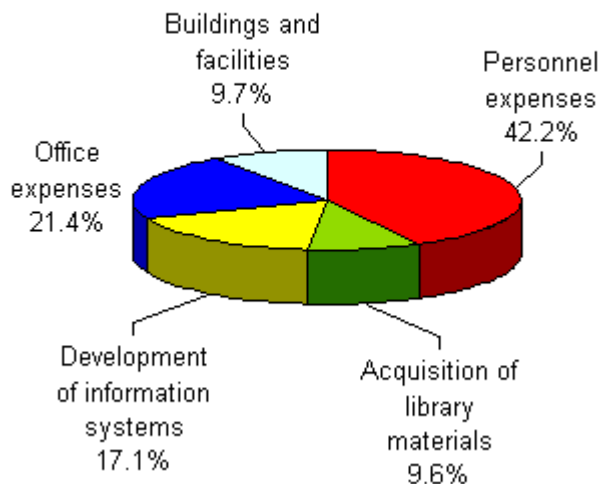
The following are the budgetary steps that the NDL will take in FY2003:

1. Renovation of the Tokyo Main Library.
2. Reduction of budgetary allocation for the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) to a standard level.
3. Improvement of library services under close cooperation of the three facilities (the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the ILCL).

The composition of the total budget is:

- Personnel expenses: 42.2% (39.2% in FY2002)
- Acquisition of library materials: 9.6% (8.1%)
- Development of information systems: 17.1% (14.5%)
 - Office expenses: 21.4% (22.0%)
 - Building and facilities: 9.7% (16.2%)

Distribution of Budget by Category



Major expenditures of the FY2003 budget are as follows:

1. Renovation of the Tokyo Main Library

After the Kansai-kan opened, part of the library materials and services were transferred to

it from the Tokyo Main Library. In consequence, the Tokyo Main Library is now relocating library materials, reading rooms and offices. The NDL is also executing a three-year plan started in FY2002 to renovate the Catalog Hall and reading rooms so that library users can request materials and photocopies via computer terminals.

As expenses for the renovation and reorganization of the Tokyo Main Library, the Diet approved approximately 1.39 billion yen for FY2002. The total budget of the three-year plan will be about 2.5 billion yen. A further 350 million yen was approved for the relocation of library materials, reading rooms and offices.

2. Digital Library Service

The Electronic Library Infrastructure System that enables the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the ILCL to provide integrated services has been constructed since FY1998. For FY 2003, approximately 2.63 billion yen was allocated for these expenses.

Expenses for increasing the content of Electronic Library Services have been included since the FY2000 supplementary budget. For FY2003, 300 million yen was allocated which will be used to operate projects such as the digitization of Japanese books published in the Meiji era.

3. Services for the Diet

Expenses for constructing a database system for the statutes and parliamentary documents were budgeted for FY2002. The system will provide the Diet members, executive and judicial agencies and the public with information on the Diet.

In order to deal promptly with requests from Diet members, increased expenses for the purchase of research materials for legislation and expenses for improving electronic devices in the Diet members' Reading Room were budgeted.

4. Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

The Diet approved the land acquisition cost for Phase 2 construction of the Kansai-kan in FY2002. For FY2003, approximately 770 million yen was allocated for the next expenses.

5. Acquisition of library materials

In order to provide scientific and technological information promptly and precisely, 190 million yen was budgeted to purchase more electronic journals to be provided in the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan.

(Accounts Division, Administrative Department)

Amounts of National Diet Library's FY2003 Expenditure Budget

(1,000 yen)

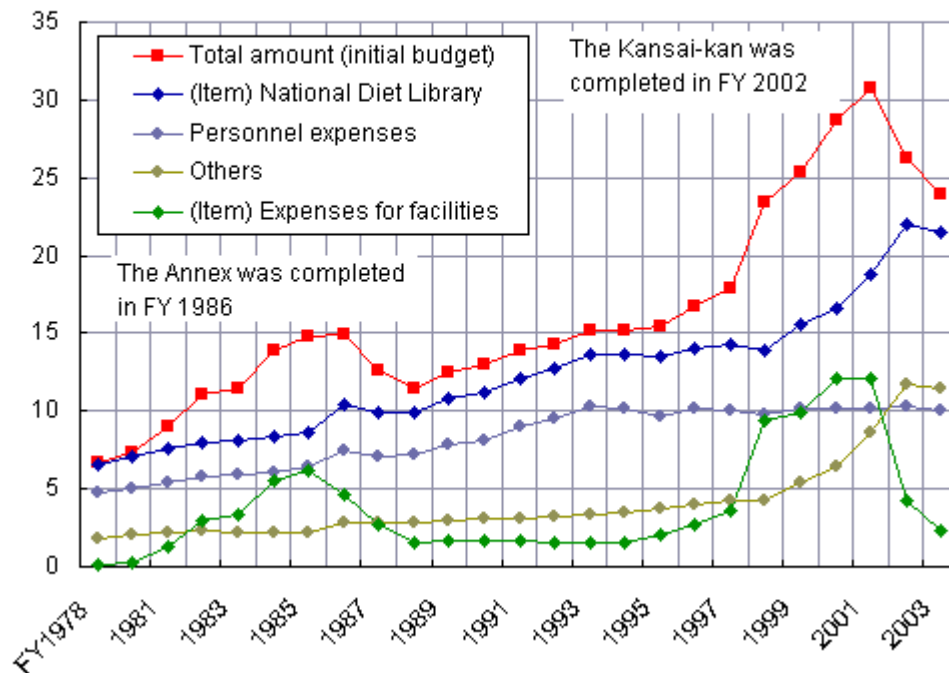
(Item) National Diet Library	21,551,282
• Personnel costs	10,079,182

• Regular office expenses	402,774
• Library operations	602,712
• Office automation	4,078,720
• Acquisition of library materials	840,039
• Legislative research	358,910
• Editing and printing of basic bibliographies	31,665
• Acquisition of materials related to the U.S. Occupation of Japan	80,524
• Preservation of library materials	70,327
• Extra office expenses	177,851
• Library services for the blind	29,756
• Acquisition of materials related to Japanese Immigrants	10,728
• International Library of Children's Literature operation	682,427
• Annex of the Tokyo Main Library administration and maintenance	597,265
• Kansai-kan operation	2,171,267
• Administration of Full-text Database System for Minutes of the Diet	75,453
• Relocation of library materials, reading rooms and offices in the Tokyo Main Library	354,111
• Acquisition of science and technology materials	907,751
(Item) Expenses for facilities	2,324,585
• Land acquisition cost for the Kansai-kan	771,907

• Expenses for the renovation of the Tokyo Main Library	1,393,801
• Expenses for the Tokyo Main Library facility	158,877
Total	23,875,867

National Diet Library's Budget

NDL initial budget
(billion yen)



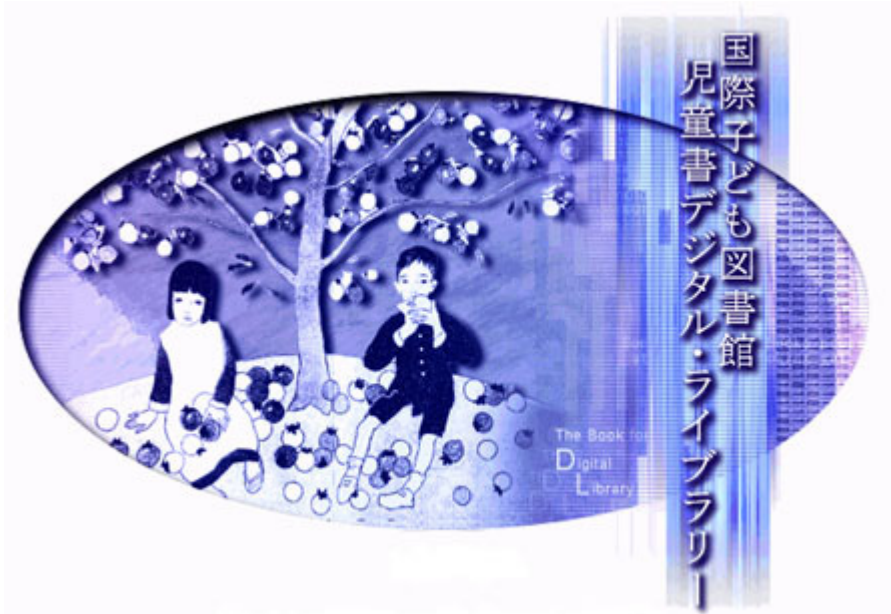
related articles: [FY2002](#), [FY2001](#), [FY1999](#), [FY1997](#)

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Digital Library of Children's Literature now available



The International Library of Children's Literature started providing image data of 323 children's books on the Internet in April 2003 (Japanese only, <http://kodomo4.kodomo.go.jp/web/ippangz/html/TOP.html>).

Background

The ILCL spent three years from FY1995 to FY1997 creating and accumulating digital image data of 10,000 children's books published in Japan before 1950. Having obtained the permission from the copyright holders, the ILCL has been providing image data of approximately 1,500 titles within its building since its partial opening in May 2000. They can be accessed and printed out through the Union catalog database of children's literature.

Digital Library of Children's Literature and its features

Among the above-mentioned 1,500 titles, 323 titles are accessible on the Internet under the name of the Digital Library of Children's Literature, as their copyrights have already expired. They can be accessed through the ILCL's website (<http://www.kodomo.go.jp>).

The Digital Library has several functions which facilitate the use;

Search functions

- Keyword search by title, author and words in the table of contents
- Comprehensive lists of titles and authors in Japanese syllabary order

Table of contents

- Users can jump to a specific page they want to see. Page numbers are displayed as pull-down menu.
- Table of contents information is displayed in the left frame so that users can directly access the image they want to see by clicking the indices.

Commentary

- Commentaries are attached.

(Table of contents information and commentaries are only partially provided. They will be developed one by one.)

Future plan

The ILCL is planning to expand the collection of the Digital Library and make more titles available online. For some of the digitized works, which are yet to be included in the Digital Library, the ILCL has not so far been able to find the copyright holders. This year, it will request a compulsory license issued by the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs to clear the copyright of these works. It will also work on other copyright-related issues which need to be solved before the release on the Internet.





Thinking back over the thirty year history of the NDL host computer (part two 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 (Jan. 2003).*

Contents

(part 1, No. 130, last issue)

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[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, this issue)

[4. Mature age– the age of online service](#)

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[Conclusion](#)

[4. Mature age– the age of online service](#)

From the late 1980s to the early 1990s, we began to feel strongly that all the workflow should be systematized. We called the idea “the total system” and created a committee in 1987 to consider a systematizing process of books in Japanese and periodicals from the comprehensive perspective. However, we had to face challenges lying between the departments.

In case of the system for periodicals, we mapped out a plan which covered Western and Japanese serials and newspapers, but we faltered even at the accession process. It was the worst-case scenario that we could not launch the development even after seven years of consideration. We finally decided to divide the functions and begin with Western serials. Hitachi and the NDL staff developed an online system and a batch system respectively and managed to operate the whole system in the eighth year. After we got over that hump, we applied the system smoothly to Japanese serials and newspapers. We also succeeded in developing other systems such as the bibliographic information creation system and the binding management system. So we somehow managed to build a kind of “total” system.

In case of the system for Japanese books, we planned to link materials with online bibliographic data by putting an ID bar code on each accession in order to have overall

control of accession records and location. However, because of many difficulties in linking, we had to give up the idea. Instead, a checking system that controlled Japanese books by quantity started in 1990. As well as the system for periodicals, we spent a long time on preparation and produced an advanced system, though it was hardly "total". In July 1997, ACAT, an online data retrieval and input system, was started. It controlled and input bibliographic data which links with authority data. A number of automatic functions were added after that, giving ACAT over one million steps and greatly contributing to the improvement of the Japanese books data quality.

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

The Internet wave hit the library in the middle of the '90s and the NDL LAN was laid in 1995. LAN was literally "LAN" (means irruption in Japanese) because it opened the gates to competing hardware in the library, where only HITAC had had a monopoly.

Machine organization had been expanded every few years since the start of HITAC 8400 in 1971, and reached the maximum scale in 1997. The CPU was MP 5600/210 (2 processors). Its main memory was 1,024MB, a 16,000-fold increase in capacity over the original computer. The external disk storage capacity was 186.6 GB, 6,500-fold the original one. Something like 1,000 PC terminals also appeared.

After clearing the Y2K problem, the host computer reached its final years. Its last task is to hand over the accumulated data to the new system and act as back-up until it is running steadily. The data accumulated over 30 years consists of 19 million items of about 40 kinds. Although not everything has been transferred, all the staff involved will be filled with deep emotion when they see the data from the old host computer living on in the new system. The host computer is going to be turned off in December 2003. That will be the end of its thirty-three year history.

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Conclusion

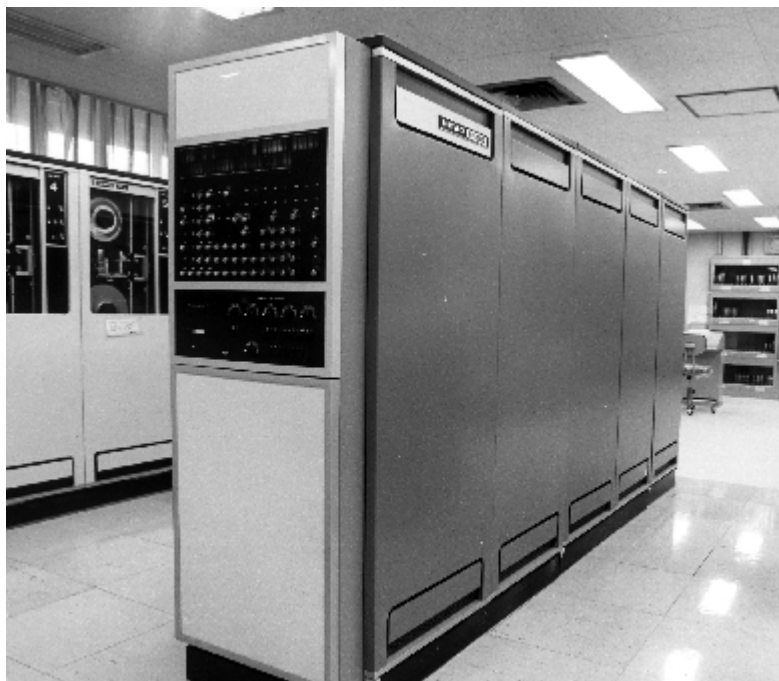
In retrospect, the systems of the host computer were basically handmade by the NDL people who developed the programs. I cannot deny that it turned out to be disorganized as a whole because it had a lot of different systems without sufficient linking functions. That means we did not have a clear vision of the overall picture when planning the long-term developments. But actually, it was impossible to anticipate such sweeping changes in computer technology and the network environment.

The new infrastructure system is an integrated one that will be built in short term with a stupendous budget and input from many people after time has been taken to map out the full picture. I believe a stable backbone is most important for the new system. We can take time for side issues later. I would like the new system to fulfill the dream of the old host computer.

The NDL host computer (HITAC) was very reliable. Though it sometimes brought a minor

system down, I think its thirty-year service deserves more than full marks. I hope it will come to a successful conclusion in its last year. A great number of staff have been involved with the host computer. I would like to speak for them and close with " Thanks a lot. You did a really nice job."

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HITAC 8400

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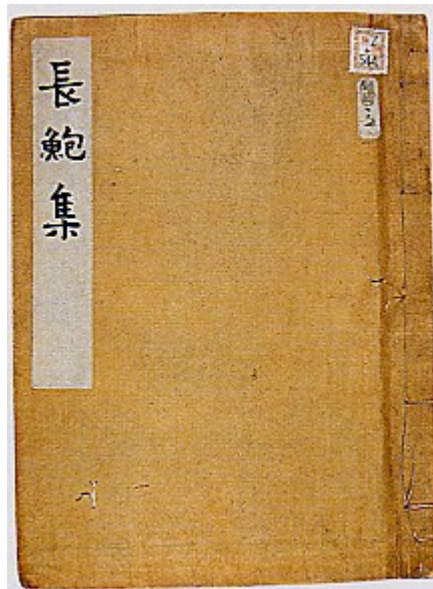
Selections from NDL Collection

Chohoshu

Chohoshu is also introduced in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 504 (Mar. 2003).

Title:	Chohoshu
Collector:	Yamanaka Kyoko (1850–1928)
Date:	1914
Description:	32cm × 24cm, 4 books
NDL call no.	ki-betsu 7-9-3-2

Attaching a noshi, a kind of emblem originally consisting of dried ababi (abalone) and paper, at the topside of a package when we send a gift at the fortunate event, is an old custom in Japan. (For more information about noshi, please click [here](#).)



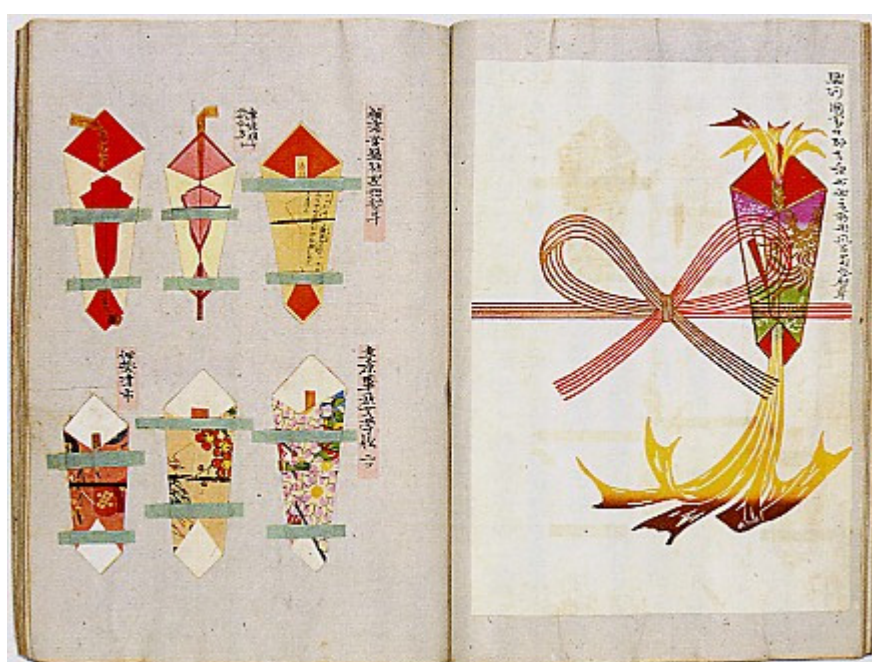
Chohoshu is a collection of real noshi by Yamanaka Kyoko (1850–1928), a noted researcher of folklore and old objects. This noshi collection seems to come from his academic interest in folklore, although we cannot deny the possibility that it might be a product of his favorite pursuit.

Chohoshu consists of four books of Japanese binding. Each book has approximately 30 sheets and in all, over 400 noshi are mounted. The binding is thought to have been done by

Kyoko himself and we can see a note at the end of one book, which suggests that these books were completed on a hot day in August 1914.

Front cover of *Chohoshu*

Not all of the collected noshi were taken from the gifts received by Kyoko, but some were, and indicate his personal connection with other distinguished people of his time, such as Shimizu Seifu (1851–1913), a researcher of toys, and Matsuura Takeshiro (1818–1888), an explorer of Hokkaido (the northernmost prefecture of Japan). It also includes slips of paper on which images of noshi are printed, possibly attached to a little gift and distributed by chat artists, actors or musicians. Seeing the noshi with provincial features, we can follow in the footsteps of Kyoko in his life.



Right: "Noshi-gami" used in a town in Suruga (part of present-day Shizuoka prefecture)
Left: Noshi used by a school for girls of noble families, one with a phrase from the Bible
(Kyoko was a Christian).

In addition to the noshi of classical style using slivers of dried abalone, the collection shows various designs of noshi which became popular in later times; noshi using a yellow tip of paper instead of abalone, the so-called "noshi-gami", a paper on which picture of a noshi is printed, and even those represented simply by writing "no-shi" in hiragana (the Japanese syllabary) on paper. We can also find a noshi which has leaves of seasonal plants instead of the abalone. In general, we may say that the designs of a century ago reflected the seasonal changes more sensitively than those of today. Noshi-gami once attached to daily commodities such as a bottle of soy sauce might be interesting for people who are interested in history of commercial design.

The NDL bought *Chohoshu* on May 28, 1930.

About noshi

"Noshi" is said to have been a contracted word for "noshi-awabi", which is made by shaving a shelled awabi (abalone) into ribbons and drying them in the sun. Since a long time ago, though we cannot clearly tell when it takes its rise, Japan has had a custom of attaching "noshi-awabi" when people send gifts or congratulatory presents to others.

The reason for attaching a noshi was, according to some folklore researchers, to symbolize the immunity to evil things: the sender's pure mind and the harmlessness of the gift. In the past, Japanese people seldom ate animal products and even avoided them on sorrowful occasions such as mourning. Animal products were associated with the happy events, and as a representative of them, noshi-awabi, once perceived as "the best gift", were attached to the gift they send to show their goodwill. In addition, there is a legend that awabi provides perpetual youth and longevity. That might have also affected the rise of this custom.

Today, the original significance of noshi-awabi has been lost, but the custom survives. A typical noshi is composed of a narrow piece of yellow paper, which is a substitute for noshi-awabi, folded in a special way in a piece of white-and-red paper to form a hexagon. Very often, noshi is replaced by a "noshi-gami", a piece of paper on which an image of noshi is printed, or the word "no-shi" in hiragana (the Japanese syllabary) are printed. We use a noshi for a happy event, not for a sorrowful one, just as in the past.

Reference;

Louis Frederic, translated by Kathe Roth, *Japan encyclopedia*, Cambridge, Mass. /London, 2002

Ajio Fukuda et al., *Nihon Minzoku Daijiten*, Tokyo, 2000



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 131, June 2003



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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No. 507, June 2003

- [Remodeling of the Tokyo Main Library and its new services for library users](#)
- Electronic Library National Liaison Conference FY2002: Digital library and present and future of libraries [related article](#)
- Digital library development in the New York Public Library (NYPL):
Report of the lecture *by Mr. William D. Walker*, Senior Vice President and the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries of the NYPL [related article](#)
- Materials recently designated as rare and semi-rare books: Report of the 34th committee on the designation of rare books
- <Announcement>
 - Moving or temporary closing of some reading rooms caused by the Tokyo Main Library remodeling
- Exploring European-style historic architecture in Tokyo (Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibitions, 2) [related web page \(Japanese only\)](#)

No. 506, May 2003

- [Great move in the 21st Century:](#)
 - [Overview of the rearrangement of stack materials in conjunction with the Kansai-kan opening by Yutaka Terai](#)
<Appendix> [Materials plan of the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan](#)
 - Tidbits about the move
- 7th meeting of the Legal Deposit System Council
- Report of the 10th forum for libraries participating in the National Union Catalog Network
- Report of the 15th forum on preservation: Preparing against disasters – Disaster prevention and salvage planning for library materials
- What's bibliographic control? (1) Introduction

