

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 150, August 2006



How do the on-site users view the NDL? : Report of user questionnaire survey of FY2005 (part 1/2)

This is a translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 540 (March 2006).

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Introduction

The National Diet Library (NDL) has been conducting a user questionnaire survey since FY2003 to get a true picture of how users actually use the NDL, their degree of satisfaction and their needs. The survey conducted in FY2003 extensively covered the on-site users of the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan of the NDL and the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL), the users of the NDL's website, and libraries and other related institutions in Japan. In contrast, the survey of FY2004 was focused on "remote users" utilizing our website and copying service by postal mail, since we had not collected enough responses from remote users in the previous year. In FY2005, the survey targeted for on-site users of the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the ILCL was newly conducted.

In this article, we report the gist of the results of the FY2005 survey.

Table 1: Survey period and the response rate

Respondents	Period	Number of visitors	Questionnaire distributed	Responses collected	Response rate
	Aug.				

Users of the Tokyo Main Library	26 - 29 (3 days)	4,436	3,907	1,990	50.9%
Users of the Kansai-kan	Aug. 30 - Sep. 10 (11 days)	2,913	1,787	1,118	62.6%
Users of the ILCL (adults)	Aug. 20 - 27 (7 days)	2,632	1,842	1,209	65.6%
Users of the ILCL (children)		445	377	268	71.1%

1. Characteristics of users

1.1 What is your purpose in visiting the NDL? How often do you come?

In the survey of FY2003, a large part of the users of the Kansai-kan and the ILCL visited there for "seeing the facilities" and for the "first time" because both libraries had just opened about a year before. The survey results of FY2005, however, show that, in regard to the purpose of visiting the NDL, frequency of visits and time spent in the NDL, there is a similar tendency between users of the Tokyo Main Library and those of the Kansai-kan, but that those of the ILCL have different characteristics (Figure 1, 2, 3).

In the Tokyo Main Library, although there is no significant change in the survey result compared with FY2003, the number of users visiting for "general research, hobby & cultural interests" increases (36.1%).

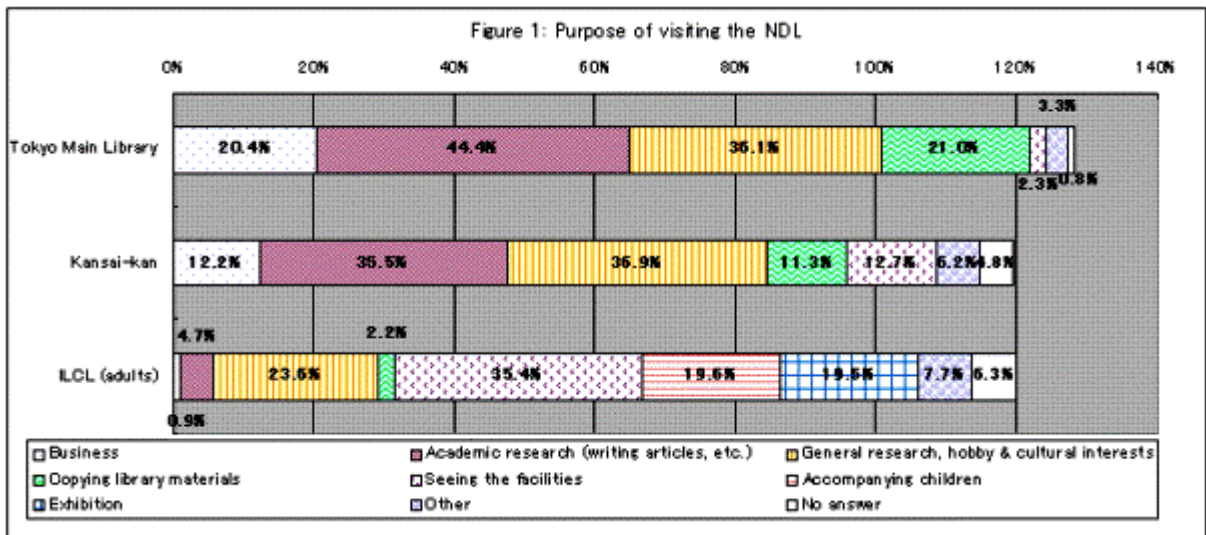
In the Kansai-kan, the number of users visiting for "seeing the facilities" decreases (12.7%) while visiting for "academic research" increases (35.5%) compared with FY2003. Also the number of users who visited for the "first time" and users staying there for "less than one hour" decreases (28.1% and 12.8% respectively).

In the ILCL, the number of users visiting for "seeing the facilities," which accounted for nearly 60% in FY2003, decreases (35.4%). Instead "accompanying children" and "for exhibition" increases (19.6% and 19.5% respectively). As to frequency of using the ILCL, although the ratio of users who visited for the "first time" still remains high, i.e., 73% in FY2003 and 65% in FY2005, it decreases slightly. In addition, the periods of time spent in the library are longer than before.

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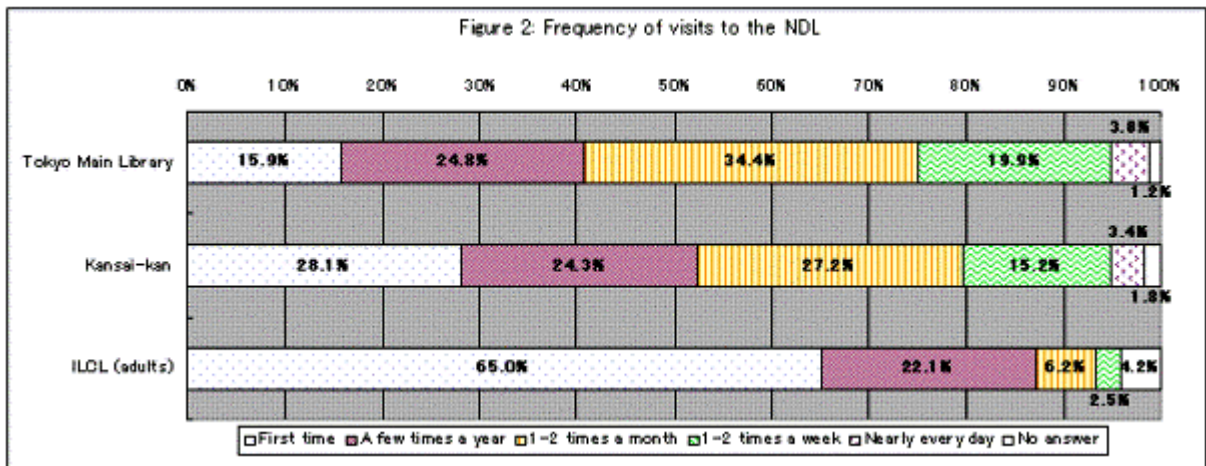
Figure 1: Purpose of visiting the NDL

Note: Totals are over 100% because multiple answers were allowed.



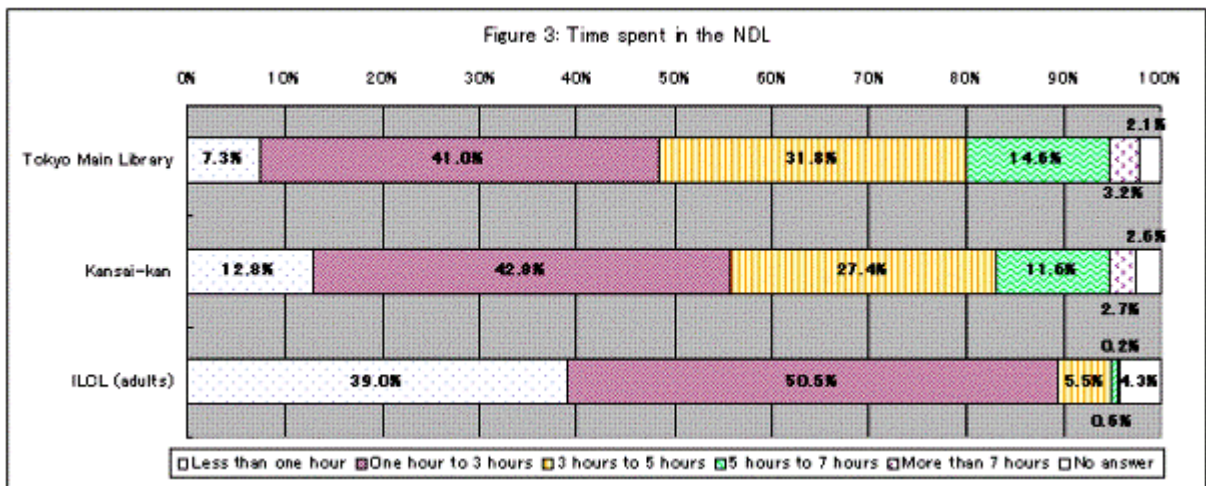
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Figure 2: Frequency of visits to the NDL



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Figure 3: Time spent in the NDL



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1.2 Which libraries do you use most?

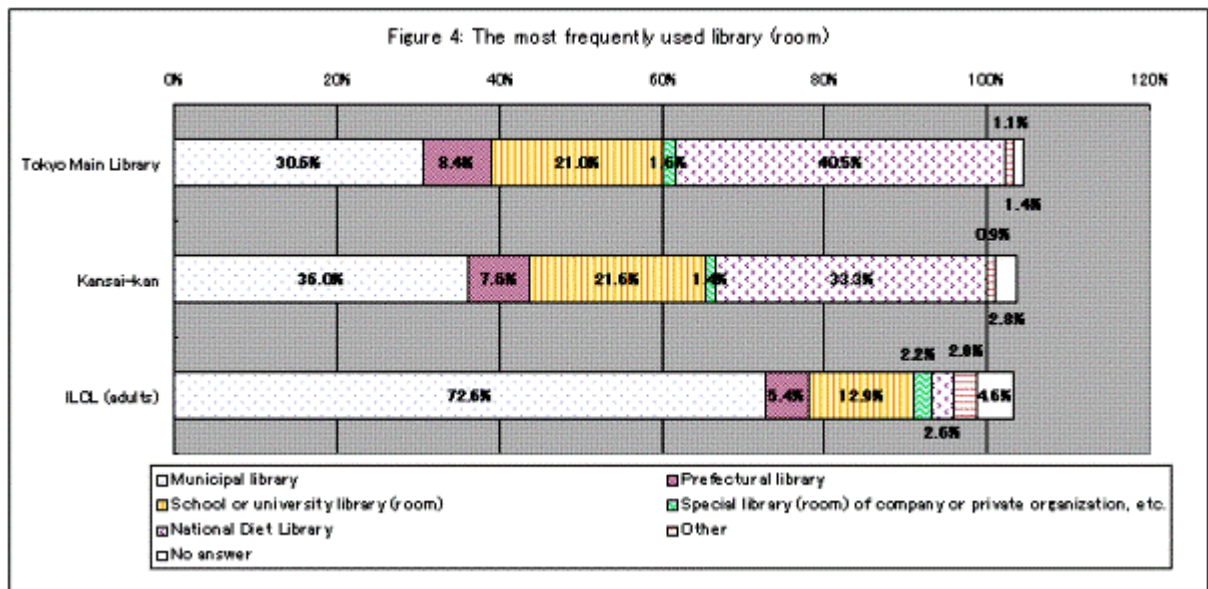
40.5% of the Tokyo Main Library users and 33.3% of the Kansai-kan answered that they

used the NDL most frequently. Naturally, the visit frequency of these respondents is high. On the other hand, 72.6% of the ILCL users used prefectural libraries or municipal libraries the most and only 2.6% visited the NDL most (Figure 4).

In addition, many of the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan users visiting for "business" purposes answered that they used the NDL the most frequently.

Figure 4: The most frequently used library (room)

Note: Totals are over 100% because multiple answers were allowed.



*click on the graph for clearer image

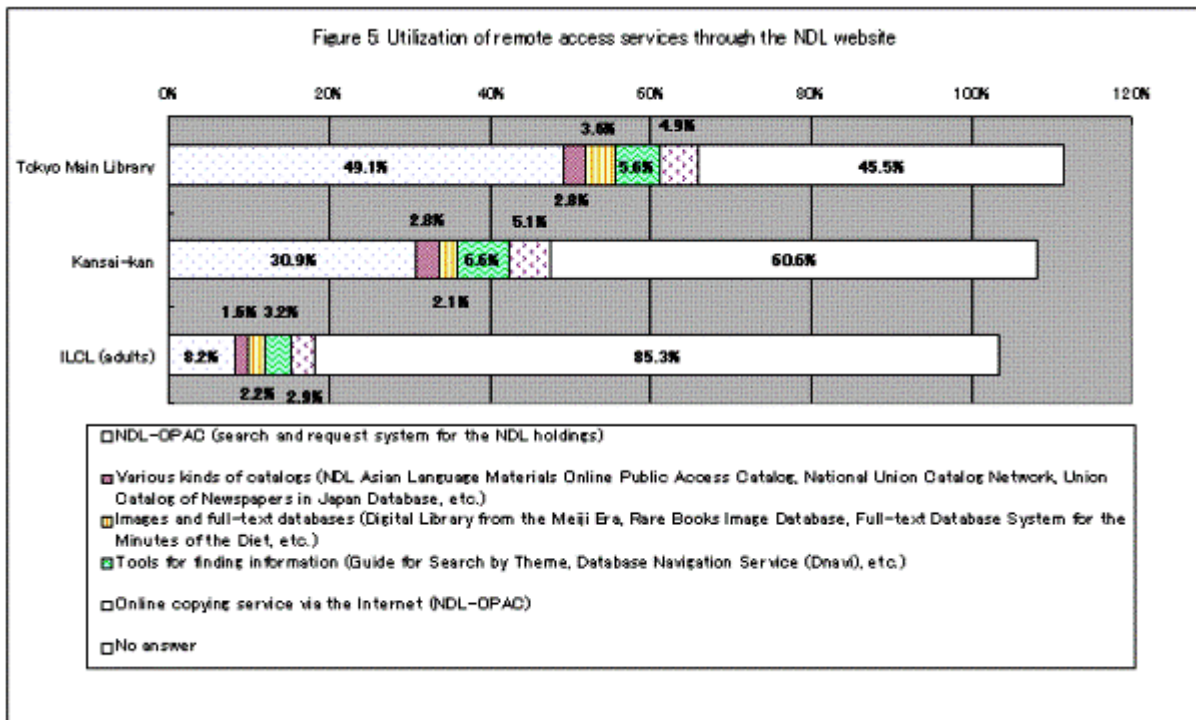
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1.3 Do you use the remote access services?

55% of Tokyo Main Library users, 39% of Kansai-kan and 15% of ILCL visited our website for the remote access services. They mainly used the online catalogs. The use rate of the online remote copying service via the Internet (NDL-OPAC) is only 5% (Figure 5). The use rate of the remote access services through the nearest libraries or by postal mail is also extremely low (Figure 6). Putting this result and the survey result of FY2004 together, which shows that users of remote services do not visit the NDL frequently, it is assumed that the on-site users are not the same people as the remote users.

Figure 5: Utilization of remote access services through the NDL website

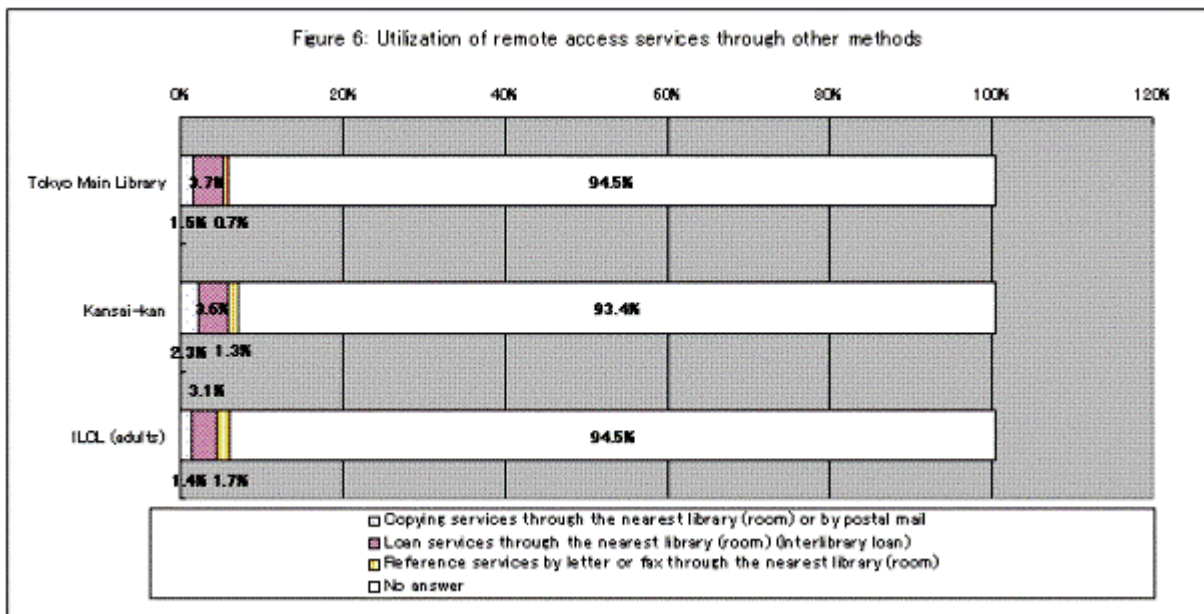
Note: Totals are over 100% because multiple answers were allowed.



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Figure 6: Utilization of remote access services through other methods

Note: Totals are over 100% because multiple answers were allowed.



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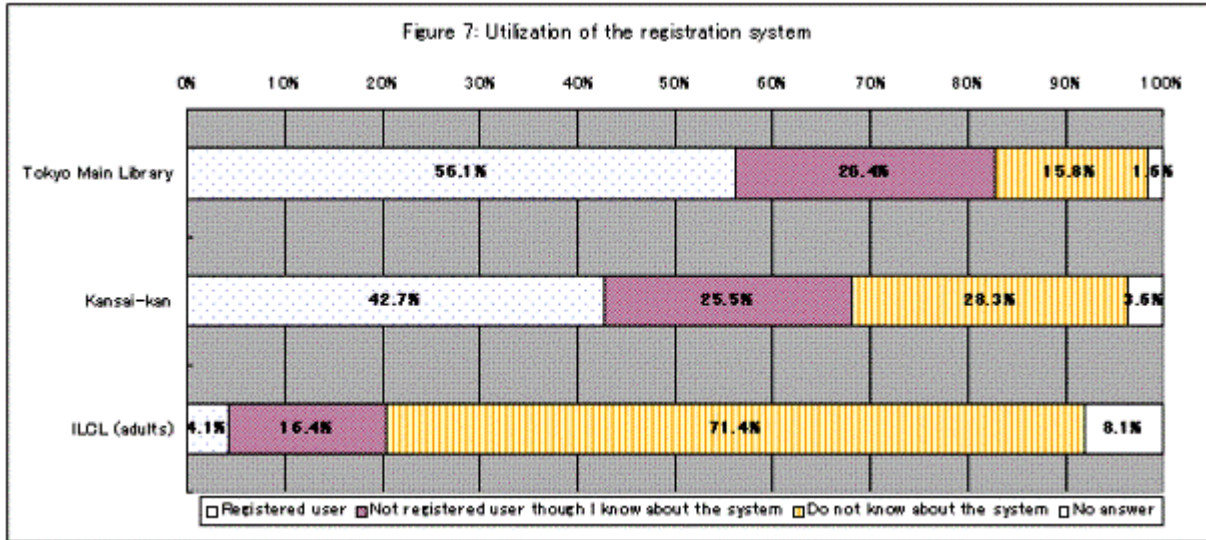
1.4 Are you a registered user?

The NDL introduced a simplified procedure to enter the Tokyo Main Library for registered users, after the completion of its remodeling in October 2004. This led to a significant increase in the ratio of registered users compared with the survey of FY2003. In contrast, in the ILCL, where the entry procedure is different, more than 70% users answered that they did not know about the registration system itself (Figure 7).

The more frequently users visit the NDL, the more they tend to be registered. More than

60% of the users who visited the NDL more than once a month replied "Yes" to the above question.

Figure 7: Utilization of the registration system



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To be continued in the next issue (No.151)

Related article: [Report of user questionnaire survey of FY2003](#)

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Associate Librarian of the Library of Congress, United States, invited to the NDL

Dr. Deanna Bowling Marcum, Associate Librarian for Library Services, Library of Congress, was invited to the National Diet Library (NDL) and gave a lecture titled "The Roles of National Libraries in the Changing Electronic Environment" for the NDL staff members. The Library of Congress has been playing a leading role in developing a digital library and has successfully developed many projects in the digital arena, from digitization projects such as the world-famous American Memory to web archiving and long-term digital preservation including the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP).

Dr. Marcum spoke to the NDL staff very warmly as she addressed them as fellow librarians working in the counterpart of the library she serves in the U.S. This implies not only that the NDL was modeled after the Library of Congress when founded but also that both libraries are facing the same kind of opportunities and challenges in this rapidly changing electronic environment. She explained about the strategic plan under which the Library of Congress is currently operated. The plan has the following four goals: 1) to build and preserve a comprehensive collection of knowledge and creativity in all formats and languages for use by the Congress and other customers; 2) to provide maximum access and facilitate effective use of the collections by the Congress and other customers; 3) to lead, promote, and support the growth and influence of the national and international library and information communities; and 4) to expand, manage, and communicate Library of Congress digital strategies and roles.

The plan has already been forced to be adjusted in order to adapt to the recent technological developments. The Library of Congress has begun to work on a new plan to guide the library in the five-year period, 2008–2013. She gave the audience a brief overview of this new plan as it is still in a draft state.

Next she explored the four major areas in which she believes national libraries should play a leading role in the immediate future. The first three responsibilities are already familiar to librarians, namely, standards development, bibliographic control, and preservation. There also is potentially a fourth, however, that national libraries should take up as a new major role: to create digital libraries larger than their own, that is, to become libraries for the world, not only by putting their collections online, but also by integrating their individual digital collections into aggregations that people can access through a single portal. This kind of attempt has already been started by private companies such as Google and Yahoo.

Dr. Marcum also predicted that national libraries are more instrumentally involved in such aggregative projects as the European Library, which provides access to the combined resources of the forty-five national libraries of Europe. She also introduced the recent project in which the Library of Congress has offered to collaborate with other libraries through UNESCO to create a World Digital Library. This library would concentrate on "rare and unique cultural materials" from many different cultures and "work with private funders to begin digitizing significant primary materials of different cultures from institutions across the globe." The Library of Congress recently appointed a senior advisor for this project who will direct a team drawn from various parts of the library and will develop a plan for the initial content. She assured us that we will hear more about this project in the near future.

With these ongoing projects in mind, she envisions that in the future a student in Siberia or Polynesia or anywhere in the world could stay at home and yet browse at leisure through the collections of the Meiji Era materials of the NDL or the historic photographs of Jazz music digitized by the Library of Congress through a UNESCO website or a similar portal drawing on multiple libraries' collections.





A new electronic exhibition “Modern Japan in Archives” launched

Reference Service Planning Division, Reference and Special Collections Department

This is a translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 544 (July 2006).

A new electronic exhibition titled “[Modern Japan in Archives – 100-year history from the opening of the country to the San Francisco Peace Treaty](#)” has been available on the NDL website since July 20, 2006.

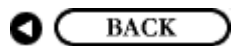


Japanese politics, economics and society had drastically changed during the century from the arrival of Commodore Perry in 1853 heading the US fleet at Uraga in Edo (Tokyo) Bay, to Japan’s recovery of the independence in 1952 with the San Francisco Peace Treaty after the World War II.

This exhibition, which traces 100 years of Japanese modern history, consists of five chapters: 1. Initial Steps toward a Constitutional State; 2. Evolution of the Meiji State; 3. Taisho Democracy; 4. Crisis in Constitutional Politics; 5. Reconstruction of Japan. It shows digitized images and texts of about 150 primary historical materials including manuscripts, journals and letters kept in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room. They are accompanied by photos that reflect the mood of the time and commentaries on the background of each item. In addition, there are also columns that introduce behind-the-scenes episodes relating to the materials, as well as an introduction on how to read these historical sources by showing concrete examples. We hope that these additional contents

will help you to enjoy the materials and the history behind them from different perspectives.

We will be happy if this exhibition gives as many people as possible an opportunity to see the precious materials held by the NDL.





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Use of acid-free paper established – Result of the 18th survey on use rate of acid-free paper on newly-acquired materials –

Preservation Division, Acquisitions Department

*This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 542 (May 2006).*

Introduction

National Diet Library (NDL) has responsibility to acquire comprehensively publications issued in Japan and preserve them as cultural heritage. For this responsibility, surveys on use rate of acid-free paper on newly-acquired materials have been conducted for the purpose of promoting production and use of acid-free paper (paper made with alkaline sizing. In the NDL survey, paper which registers pH 6.5 or over is regarded as acid-free paper) and permanent paper (acid-free paper which reaches a constant level of pH from 7.5 to 10.0 and contains more than 2% of alkaline reserve) to publishers and paper manufacturers. This survey is the 18th from the first survey in 1986.

From the first survey (1986) to the 10th survey (1995), books of both official and commercial publications were examined. From the 11th survey, it was decided that a survey on commercial publications should be conducted every four years, as the 10th survey showed that almost eight out of ten (79.3%) commercial publications used acid-free paper. The emphasis of the survey was shifted to books and periodicals of the government publications. The result of the 17th survey (2003) showed steadily high use rate of acid-free paper which was 93.8% on books and 86.2% on periodicals of the commercial publications.

1. Objects and method of the survey

The survey on books was done on 3.5% (302 volumes) of central government publications and 3.5% (234 volumes) of local government publications picked at random from 15,313 volumes which had been acquired and cataloged by the NDL by September 13, 2005, of all publications issued in 2004. For periodicals, 3.2% (152 titles) of central government publications and 3.2% (339 titles) of local government publications were picked at random from 15,355 titles which was regularly acquired as of September 13, 2005, and from each title, one issue published in 2004 was examined.

Like the previous survey, publications of central government and local government were picked at random at the same rate to maintain unity of the condition of the survey. From these items, 412 books and 360 periodicals excluding coated paper materials and materials in use were examined by using Nikken Chemical laboratory's pen-style indicator.

As before, coated paper was excluded from the survey. Coated paper cannot be surveyed by this method as one or both sides of coated paper is covered with a clay coating. Of all the objects in this survey, 119 books and 79 periodicals, a total of 198 volumes, were coated paper materials. This is 19.3% of all surveyed objects (536 books and 491 periodicals), increase of 2.2 points from 17.1% of the previous survey.

A survey on recycled paper which was started from the 12th survey (1997) was also conducted. The survey was done by checking marks or descriptions indicating recycled paper use near the foreword or colophon of the materials.

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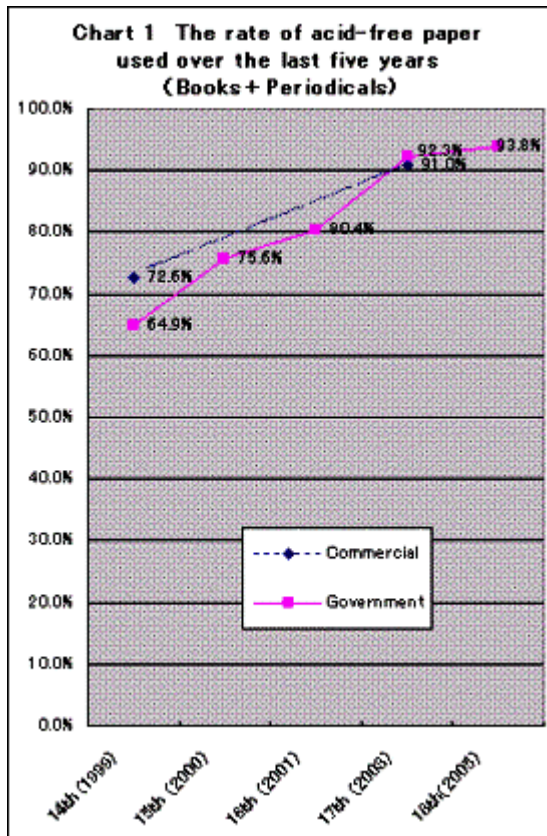
2. Results

Table 1 Result (All)

		Acid-free paper	Acid paper	Total
Books	Central government	257 vol. 97.0 %	8 vol. 3.0 %	265 vol. 100 %
	Local government	137 vol. 93.2 %	10 vol. 6.8 %	147 vol. 100 %
	Total	394 vol. 95.6 %	18 vol. 4.4 %	412 vol. 100 %
Periodicals	Central government	113 vol. 95.0 %	6 vol. 5.0 %	119 vol. 100 %
	Local government	217 vol. 90.0 %	24 vol. 10.0 %	241 vol. 100 %
	Total	330 vol. 91.7 %	30 vol. 8.3 %	360 vol. 100 %
Total		724 vol. 93.8 %	48 vol. 6.2 %	772 vol. 100 %

The result of the survey is round up in Table 1. The use rate of acid-free paper on all materials was 93.8%, an increase of 2.4 points from the previous survey. All the material groups exceeded 90% for the first time since the first survey. Chart 1 shows the rate of acid-free paper used in books and periodicals over the last five years. The use rate of acid-free paper in local government publications used to exceed that of central government publications. According to the result of the previous survey, the use rate of acid-free paper on central government books exceeded those of local governments, and in the present survey, both books and periodicals of central government exceeded the local government rate.

Chart 1



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Recycled paper

The survey on recycled paper was done on 970 volumes of acid-free paper, acid paper and also coated paper. The rate of recycled paper was 22.0%, 213 volumes (of those, 52 volumes use coated paper). As there is no standard for recycled paper the survey was done by checking marks or descriptions of recycled paper use. Therefore the actual use rate of recycled paper may be higher than the result of this survey shows.

Table 2

The rate and amount of acid-free paper in the recycled paper (coated paper excluded)

	Central government	Local governments	Total
Acid-free paper	28 (books:15 periodicals:13) 100%	120 (books:45 periodicals:75) 90.2%	148 (books:60 periodicals:88) 91.9%
Acid paper	0 (books:0 periodicals:0)	13 (books:4 periodicals:9)	13 (books:4 periodicals:9)

	0%	9.8%	8.0%
Total	28 (books:15 periodicals:13) 100%	133 (books:49 periodicals:84) 100%	161 (books:64 periodicals:97) 100%

NB: the numbers show volumes.

Conclusion

Judging by the results obtained, the use of acid-free paper on governmental publications seems to be well established. From now on, a survey on official publications will be conducted every four years, the same interval as the survey on commercial publications. The next survey will be done in FY2007 for commercial publications and in FY2009 for official publications.

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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)

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin (no.517-). The text is provided in PDF format* (Japanese only).

*To see the full-text (PDF), you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download). Click [here](#) to download. ([Adobe Website](#))

[No. 545, August 2006](#) [PDF Format, 3.50MB]

- Network of NDL and its branch libraries in the executive and judicial agencies
 - the NDL Branch Libraries System –
Introduction of the NDL branch libraries
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs Library, Branch of the NDL
 - Imperial Household Agency Library, Branch of the NDL
 - Statistical Library of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Branch of the NDL
- NDL Second Plan for the Organization of Science and Technology Information
 - Outline of the Second Plan for the Organization of Science and Technology Information
- Conference with directors of prefectural and major municipal libraries in FY2006
 - The centennial commemorative events of the former Imperial Library building
 - <Announcement>
 - Announcement of regular exhibition
 - <Invitation>
- Practical workshop for librarians on early Japanese books FY2006
 - Training program on Asian information FY2006
 - Call for participation in the user questionnaire survey

- Partial suspension of the digital information service at the Tokyo Main Library
 - Important notice to registered users

[No. 544, July 2006](#) [PDF Format, 2.50MB]

- Report of the 14th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) and the 13th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL)
[related article](#)
- Materials recently designated as rare and semi-rare books – Report of the 38th committee on the designation of rare books –
 - Japanese Books
 - Western Books
- Announcement of regular exhibition
 - <Invitation>
- ILCL Lecture Series on Children’s Literature FY2006 – utilizing the ILCL collections
 - Invitation to the 10th Preservation and Conservation Training Program
 - Training program on digitization FY2006
- <Announcement>
- WARP goes into full-scale operation and full-text search of its contents is available
 - Introductory tour of the gallery related to the exhibition at the ILCL
 - Temporary change of opening hours at the ILCL on August 18
 - Digital exhibition “Modern Japan in Archives” now available on the NDL website
[related article](#) [related webpage](#)
 - Call for participation in the user questionnaire survey
 - Energy conservation measures in the NDL
- “Books not Commercially Available” – Acquisition of materials by the Legal Deposit System (Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibition, 20) [related webpage](#)
([Japanese only](#))

