



## The 26th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China



(from left) Mr. Yan Xiangdong, Mr. Zhang Yuhui, Ms. Han Hui, Mr. Wang Zhigeng, and Ms. Shen Xiaojuan in the session

A [National Library of China](#) (NLC) delegation visited Japan from November 14 to 21, 2006, on the 26th mutual visit program between the NDL and the NLC. The program started in 1981 and since then, the NDL and the NLC have alternated sending a group each year.

Headed by Deputy Director Mr. Zhang Yuhui, this year's delegation consisted of the following other four members: Mr. Yan Xiangdong, Director, International Cooperation Division, Mr. Wang Zhigeng, Director, Department for Serials, E-resources & Audiovisual, Ms. Shen Xiaojuan, Deputy Director, Digital Library Administrative Division, and Ms. Han Hui (interpreter), Cataloging Section for Oriental Languages, Acquisition & Cataloging Department.

The theme of the 2006 program was "Library services via websites."

<b>Opening</b>	(1) "Short-term development plan of the National Library of China"
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<p><b>Session</b></p> <p><b>(Keynote speech)</b></p>	<p>by Mr. Zhang Yuhui (Deputy Librarian, NLC)</p> <p>(2) "Aiming at library service under the digital resources environment" by Mr. Yoshitaka Ikuhara (Deputy Librarian, NDL)</p>
<p><b>Section Meeting</b></p>	<p>(1) "Library services via website of the National Library of China" by Mr. Wang Zhigeng (Director, Department for Serials, E-resources &amp; Audiovisual, NLC)</p> <p>(2) "Providing reference information of the National Diet Library" by Ms. Tomoko Kitagawa (Senior Librarian, Reference and Special Collections Department, NDL)</p> <p>(3) "Adjustment between the construction of the Digital Library of the National Library of China and traditional library duties" by Ms. Shen Xiaojuan (Deputy Director, Digital Library Administrative Division, NLC)</p> <p>(4) "Provision of the digital archives and construction of the portal service" by Mr. Kenji Uetsuki (Director, Digital Information Planning Office, Planning Division, Administrative Department, NDL)</p>

At the Opening Session, each library's recent activities were introduced. Mr. Zhang reported in his keynote speech, Chinese Digital Library Project, the second-phase construction of the NLC, the reform of the service system, reinforcement of acquisition and preservation of various materials, promotion of cooperative activities in domestic and overseas, and other matters. Mr. Ikuhara introduced the activities and management of NDL in this information society.

At the Section Meeting, both parties had a lively exchange of views on the theme. From the NLC, Mr. Wang showed the NLC's website and the services which it provided, after explaining the NLC's three main strategies (human resources, information technologies, services) and the four targets of service (general public, libraries, research institutes and companies, central government). Ms. Shen introduced the outline of the National Digital Library Project and its progress based on the Five Year Plan for the Construction of Digital Resources. She also reported the construction of a new modern library system which integrates the digital library system and the traditional one.

The speaker from the NDL, Ms. Kitagawa introduced methods of providing reference information via the website, for example, "[Subject Guides](#)" (in Japanese) and "[Collaborative Reference Database System](#)" (in Japanese). Mr. Uetsuki reported on the provision of the digital archives and construction of the portal service.

In the latter part of the program, the delegation visited the Kansai-kan and had the Closing Session. To wrap up the program, Mr. Zhang and Mr. Ikuhara stated that they had been able to finish a fruitful program and had deepened mutual understanding and a friendly relationship. The 27th program will be held at the NLC in 2007.

The delegation also visited the Detached Library in the Diet, [International Library of Children's Literature](#), [University of Tokyo Library](#) and [Tokyo Metropolitan Library](#).

More details of this program have been published in NDL Monthly Bulletin [no.551, February 2007](#) (in Japanese).

For reports of the past programs, please see [here](#).

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## The 4th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Assembly Library of Korea



**Dr. Sang Pal Lee (left) of the NAL and  
Mr. Hideaki Nakagawa (right) of the NDL in the session**

A mutual visit program with the [National Assembly Library of Korea \(NAL\)](#) was held from January 29 to February 1, 2007 at the NAL. Two staff members of the National Diet Library (NDL), Mr. Hideaki Nakagawa (Senior researcher, Interdisciplinary Research Service, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau) and Mr. Satoshi Tanaka (Researcher, Social Welfare and Labor Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau) visited the NAL for the program.

The mutual visit program between the two libraries started in 2003 with the aim of enhancing understanding of each other's parliamentary services. In the 2006 program, the following main sessions were held.

### **January 29, Monday**

#### **Session I "Current Issues"**

- NDL report by Mr. Hideaki Nakagawa
- NAL report by Dr. Sang Pal Lee, Legislative Research Officer

**January 30, Tuesday**

**Session II "Policies for an Aging Society"**

- NDL Report by Mr. Satoshi Tanaka
- NAL report by Dr. Hyun-Chool Lee, Legislative Research Office

In Session I, Mr. Nakagawa reported on the development and current practice of "Guidelines for Services for the National Diet" and "The Second Basic Plan for Services for the National Diet." Dr. Sang Pal Lee reported on the NAL's reorganization and the work contents of each department. The NLA and the NDL exchanged their views regarding the role of the parliamentary library.

In Session II, Mr. Satoshi Tanaka described the current state of the aging population in Japan. After that he outlined Japanese systems for pension, medical care and elderly nursing and reported the main issues concerning these systems. Dr. Hyun-Chool Lee reported on the characteristics found in the voting behavior of the elderly and its effects on politics in light of the aging population in Korea. Here the two libraries had an opportunity to discuss the issues caused by the aging population in each country.

In consideration of the NAL reorganization of its legislative research service sections, the NAL and the NDL agreed to continue discussion about the future mutual visit program through the staff in charge.

For reports of the past programs, please see [here](#).

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## Recent NDL lecture programs by leaders from abroad



February 6, 2007

### Digital Preservation in Development

**Ms. Nancy McGovern, Digital Preservation Officer, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**

[Handout distributed at the lecture \(PDF: 289KB\)](#)

The National Diet Library (NDL) held a lecture meeting titled "Digital Preservation in Development" on February 6, 2007, inviting Ms. Nancy McGovern, Digital Preservation Officer, [Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research \(ICPSR\)](#).

She outlined the foundations of digital preservation and described the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) which has been approved as the ISO standard ([ISO14721:2003](#)) for long-term preservation of digital resources. She introduced the trends in the global digital preservation community and emphasized the need for self-assessment, audit and certification to monitor the functions of long-term digital preservation activities.



February 27, 2007

### The Challenges of Managing a National Library

**Ms. Jan Fullerton, Director-General,  
National Library of Australia**

[Handout distributed at the lecture \(PDF: 2.27MB\)](#)

Ms. Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the [National Library of Australia](#) (NLA), was invited to the NDL and gave a lecture titled "The Challenges of Managing a National Library in the Digital Age."

She talked about what the NLA focused on in setting its goals and what services they strove to provide for achieving the goals. She introduced "Strategic Directions for 2006–2008" and explained that the NLA's major undertaking in that period would be to enhance learning and knowledge creation by further simplifying and integrating services that allow its users to find and get material, and by establishing new ways of collecting, sharing, recording, disseminating and preserving knowledge.

She said that collaboration with library colleagues, nationally and internationally, was critical in making progress in collecting and preserving online documents and introduced the NLA's partnership with the [International Internet Preservation Consortium](#) (IIPC). She also outlined the NLA's achievement in world-leading projects such as [PANDORA](#) and [PictureAustralia](#). After showing NLA's projects and activities with a wealth of photo slides, she concluded that technology was important but we must never forget that our endeavors were to meet all the needs of people and that technology only helped us to do so.

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**March 13,2007**

### **Digital Library Initiatives at the National Library of the Netherlands**

**Mr. Dirk J. Tang, Project Manager,  
National Library of the Netherlands**

[Handout distributed at the lecture \(PDF: 1.65MB\)](#)

In March, the NDL invited Mr. Dirk J. Tang, Project Manager, [Koninklijke Bibliotheek](#) ([National Library of the Netherlands; KB](#)). He gave a lecture titled "Digital Library Initiatives at the National Library of the Netherlands" for the NDL staff members.

Mr. Tang introduced the history and current activities of the KB. The KB functions as a research library as well as a deposit library which collects domestic materials exhaustively based on agreements with publishers.

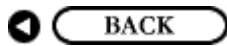
The KB promotes projects on acquisition and preservation of electronic resources and digitization. In 2002, it became the first national library to build a digital repository of academic resources (e-Depot). He outlined the "Policy Plan 2006–2009" whose main objectives are:



- Extending national programs on digitization
- Investing in mass digitization of minutes of the Dutch Parliament, newspapers and special & rare collections
- Integrating the catalogue of the European Library

He also introduced various electronic exhibitions and suggested a future cooperative project of an electronic exhibition between the KB and the NDL, referring to the Dutch–American relationship built through one of those exhibitions.

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## National Diet Library's network with libraries in the executive and judicial agencies: Branch Library System (part 2/2)

*This article is based on the article in Japanese of the same title in the NDL Monthly  
Bulletin No. 545 (August 2006)*

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  - 2.2. [Development of the System](#)
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  - 3.1. [Appointment of the directors of the branch libraries and the regular number of branch libraries staff](#)
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### 4. Services for the executive and judicial agencies

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The NDL central library plays a role in assisting library services of the branch libraries. The Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division serves as a contact between the central library and the branch libraries. The staff of each ministry/agency are able to enjoy the central library's services including loan, copying and reference services through the branch library of the ministry/agency

they belong to. In October 2004, timed with the renovation of the Tokyo Main Library, the central library increased the level of its services by, for example, increasing the maximum loan restriction, extending its library hours and providing systematized library services through the adoption of the Electronic Library Infrastructure System. Now the staff members can search and request materials which they wish to read and confirm if they are available through the NDL-OPAC at their own branch library before visiting the central library. The number of materials loaned from the central library to the branch libraries has been continuing to rise significantly.

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## **5. Acquisition of government publications**

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The NDL collects publications in Japan mainly under the Legal Deposit System. This System mandates that copies of all new publications published in Japan must be sent to the NDL in accordance with the National Diet Library Law for official use and use in international exchanges as well as being accumulated as cultural goods and handed down to subsequent generations. The branch libraries themselves deposit "each publication issued by any agency of the government" as stated in Article 24 of the National Diet Library Law, that is, government publications, to the central library.

The central library sends a car regularly on a circuit around government agencies to collect government publications to be deposited from each branch library, in addition to collecting and distributing materials to be exchanged and donated among the branch libraries.

This network for depositing government publications through the branch library system has been a great success in terms of collecting government publications speedily and reliably. On the other hand, the ministry/agency to which each branch library belongs does not necessarily have a completely organized structure that keeps comprehensive and intensive control on issuing and distributing publications and public relations. In particular, at a time when paper form publications have been replaced by digital form publications, much more effort is required to recognize the actual status of publishing and to collect those publications.

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## **6. Toward further improvement of the Branch Library System**

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In March 2001, the "Basic Plan for Library Services to the Administrative and Judicial Agencies" was formulated for the purpose of upgrading the branch libraries' function to adapt to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and also providing library services

in the information age, in response to the environmental changes surrounding the branch libraries.

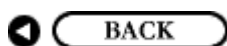
The plan aims especially to develop the information infrastructure of each branch library and to construct a digital network between the central library and branch libraries. As for the network, an integrated network system started operating on the Kasumigaseki WAN (wide area network among the government offices) in April 2004. This system was developed based on the "Second National Diet Library Central Library-Branch Libraries Digitization Basic Plan" to replace the network system which had started working in 1998. It features the distributed union catalog database as its main sub-system. The database, which is available to staff members of each ministry/agency, enables them to execute a cross search of branch libraries' bibliographic databases which are open on the Kasumigaseki WAN and browse the search results in an integrated way. Holding data of 14 branch libraries are now searchable.

In order to stimulate good use of library materials, the NDL set out, at the start of the Branch Library System in 1948, to compile a union catalog of about 1.8 million books which were held by all the branch libraries at that time. However, the compilation was discontinued in mid-course because of the enormous workload although it had produced some useful results. It can be said that the uncompleted union catalog project has been revived as the present distributed union catalog database.

Since the formulation of the "Basic Plan for Library Services to the Administrative and Judicial Agencies" in 2001, the information environment has been advancing more and more. In addition, through exchanges of opinions at conferences and on other occasions, it has become clear that each branch library is in a different, unique, situation and is faced with its own issues to be solved as well as sharing some of the same problems. In response to this perception, the central library and branch libraries agreed to the necessity of new plans. In April 2007, the "Central Library-Branch Libraries Medium-term Management Guideline" was established and we are now working on the "Third National Diet Library Central Library-Branch Libraries Digitization Basic Plan."

The Branch Library System and all the branch libraries which support the network will continue to work on improving their service and reforming the management in response to the rapid environmental changes. Based on the ideals behind the establishment of the Branch Library System and its subsequent development, we will be undertaking further informatization and digitization as a library network in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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## **“Being the Brains for the Legislative Branch, as well as the MPs’ Information Center” The Latest Service Developments after Confirming Both Functions**

by Hisae UMEDA

Overseas Legislative Information Research Service  
Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

*This is the article presented at the 9th APLAP (Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific) Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, in November 2006.*

### **Summary**

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Facing severe challenges both financially and politically, the National Diet Library has been elaborating a new strategy to reinforce its services to the Diet in the new era. Most recently, the Library adopted the guiding principle for services to the Diet for the purpose of manifesting its basic stance of willing to play the role of the brains, and at the same time, the information center for the Diet Members. Both functions of the services are more clearly identified as integral parts of the legislative support services of the Library. Under the principle, the Library has implemented and promoted some measures including a partial reorganization so that it can provide more competent and responsive analytical research services, as well as fact-finding information services more efficiently and reliably, to the Diet Members.

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## 5. To Support Strengthening of the Legislative Branch

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### 1. "The Guiding Principle for Services to the Diet"

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"Being the Brains for the Legislative Branch, as well as the MPs' Information Center," shown above in the title of this paper, indicates the guiding principle for the services to be provided to the Diet (or Parliament) by the National Diet Library. The principle was adopted early this year to set out the basic stance of the Library in performing its services to the Diet<sup>1</sup> more competently and responsively.

#### **The Brains**

The "Brains" symbolize such services as producing in-depth and/or analytical research that is based on higher expertise in each special subject, as well as on extensive and objective data and information, to assist the Diet Members to fulfill their duties. The services vary from writing a brief research paper in response to an individual request, to more comprehensive, interdisciplinary and long-range research projects undertaken in anticipation of the issues to be discussed in the Diet in the near future. Sometimes the "Brains" provide face-to-face services to the Members or their working groups, in briefing or lecturing on the topics in question. Also the "Brains," upon request, may advise and assist any Committee in the analysis or evaluation of pending legislation. In short, the "Brains" will play the role of a think-tank or consultants for the legislative branch.

All such services are exclusively assigned to the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau ("the Bureau") of the Library.

#### **The Information Center**

On the other hand, the "MPs' Information Center" literally refers to the function of providing appropriate information and materials relevant to the requests of the Members quickly and accurately. Not only the whole of the materials collected by the Library under the legal deposit system<sup>2</sup>, totaling more than 8 million volumes of books, 180 thousand titles of periodicals, 10 thousand titles of newspapers and thousands of other materials in various forms, but also any information that is available for us today, domestic or foreign, digital or non-digital, might be used for these services.

The function of the MPs' Information Center is carried out by the Library as a

whole, while it is assumed that the Bureau has an actual and primary responsibility in the services of this function, too. Especially the Bureau has been emphasizing development of the information services through its own Intranet web-site known as "Chosa no Mado" (literally meaning "Windows on Research Services," or gateway to electronic services) for several years<sup>3)</sup>.

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## 2. The First Survey of the Needs of Members

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Before adopting the Guiding Principle, the Library conducted a systematic survey of the needs of the Diet Members for the first time in its 58 years' history, from July through August 2005. The 47 Diet Members answered quite candidly and conscientiously to the queries of the interviewers, most of the senior and associate senior specialists of the Bureau.

### Findings of the Survey

The findings of the survey suggested very clearly that the Members perceived both functions of the Library, namely its in-depth analytical research and fact-finding information services, as essential and integral parts of the services they needed. The findings most favorable to the Library were as follows:

- Most of the interviewees put much confidence in the services provided by the Library, citing appropriateness, impartiality and promptness in the research.
- They also recognized the basic fact-finding services as quite helpful for them.
- Some of them much appreciated the face-to-face briefing services as helpful in making the points clear in preparation for debates in Committee.
- Most of them acknowledged the high quality of the research papers and publications the Library provided.
- Some answered that they preferred to ask the Library for information rather than the departments of the executive branch, since the Library was free of any conflict of interest.

At the same time, some negative perceptions were mentioned as follows:

- Some of them were dissatisfied with the Library's research products because they had no specific recommendation for policymaking.
- Some Members were frustrated that they had few contacts with the specialists in the Library who might produce advice for them.
- Some pointed out that they received too many materials when they needed only more focused and selected information, and vice versa.

- Others commented they received a wrong answer missing what was needed.
- Some mentioned that they had no way to know what kind of specialists the Library had and what kind of assistance they could provide.

### To Respond to the Findings

The findings convinced the Library that it should provide the Members with as much basic fact-finding information and materials as analytical research services in an effective manner. Thus the Guiding Principle was drafted on the basis of the findings.

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## 3. The Latest Reorganization and Other Developments

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According to the Guiding Principle, the Library worked out an implementation program for fulfilling each type of service more competently, efficiently and responsively. One of the efforts prescribed in the program was a partial reorganization of the Bureau.

### Effective Sorting and Assigning of the Requests

The reorganization was carried out April 2006, in the purpose of more effective sorting of the requests and their assigning to the appropriate division in the Bureau.

In the Bureau, through which most of the services to the Diet are substantially provided, there are 10 research divisions and 4 supporting or information divisions. Each of the research divisions is responsible for a special subject, such as politics/parliament, judicial affairs, diplomacy/defense, finance, economy/industry, agriculture, land/communication, education/culture, social welfare/labor, and foreign legislation. The staff of each research division takes on research or analytical work according to requests received. Where book lending, copying or simple fact-finding services are requested, the Legislative Reference and Information Resources Division, one of the 4 supporting divisions above, is responsible for the services.

Nevertheless, a certain part of simple fact-finding services used to be carried out by each research division, mainly because of a dramatic increase in the total number of requests, which might curtail the capacity of research or analytical services. An effort to simply expand personnel without substantial knowledge of information and experience in research services would hardly have brought an effective impact.

This time the Bureau seems to have achieved the reorganization more successfully, in adopting a noticeable deployment of personnel in the Legislative Reference and Information Resources Division. In the reorganization, one head researcher was



posted in the Division, especially to be responsible to sort the requests and assign them to the appropriate divisions. In addition, 3 junior chief researchers who had considerable experience of research services in one subject area, politics, economy, and social affairs respectively, were assigned to the Division to provide more reliable fact-finding services. Consequently some 45% of the requests are now handled by the Division, compared with about 30% in the years prior to the reorganization. Each research division now has been able to concentrate more on the research and analytical services including face-to-face lecturing services to the Members.

### Other Developments

- Some measures other than the reorganization mentioned above have been introduced or reinforced according to the implementation program. They include: Providing more value-added services to the Diet in making timely in-depth and analytical reports on the crucial issues.
- Adding more lecturing services to such research results in answering the requests of the Members.
- Furthering the "Interdisciplinary Research" launched 5 years ago to accomplish analytic and comparative research from a multiple perspective.
- Training the staff to be specialists in certain subject areas with high expertise competent to analyze and evaluate legislation, or draft bills.
- Holding an International Seminar for Policymaking annually for the Diet Members and their staff.
- Holding briefing sessions more frequently to explain the services of the Library especially for the newcomers in the Diet following an election.
- Visiting the Members' offices any time upon request, to explain what the Library provides and how to use its services.
- Implementing a continued systematic survey of the Members' needs.

Most of those measures are designed to promote the function of the "Brains" in a much more conspicuous manner. In relation to the function of the "Information Center" too, some efforts have been launched or enhanced as follows:

- Reinforcing provision of digital information produced by the Diet, such as the "Full Text Database System for the Minute of the Diet" or the "Index Database of Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills" through the Bureau's Intranet website "Chosa no Mado." The construction of the "Full Text Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet" has also been proceeding with the target of

completing the inputting information by 2009.

- Expanding other contents on the web-site, including research papers and articles in periodical publications issued by the Bureau and other articles in digital journals permitted by contract.
- Enhancing the accessibility of the web-site so that the Members can make the most of its usefulness in upgrading the software for retrieving information on the site and quickening response speed.
- Integrating the Detached Library in the Diet, another division of the Library located in the center of the Diet Building, into the Bureau from FY2007. The integrated Detached Library will play an essential role to provide information services to the Diet with some 200 thousand volumes of its own collection.

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#### 4. The Library Facing Serious Challenges: A Review of the Decade

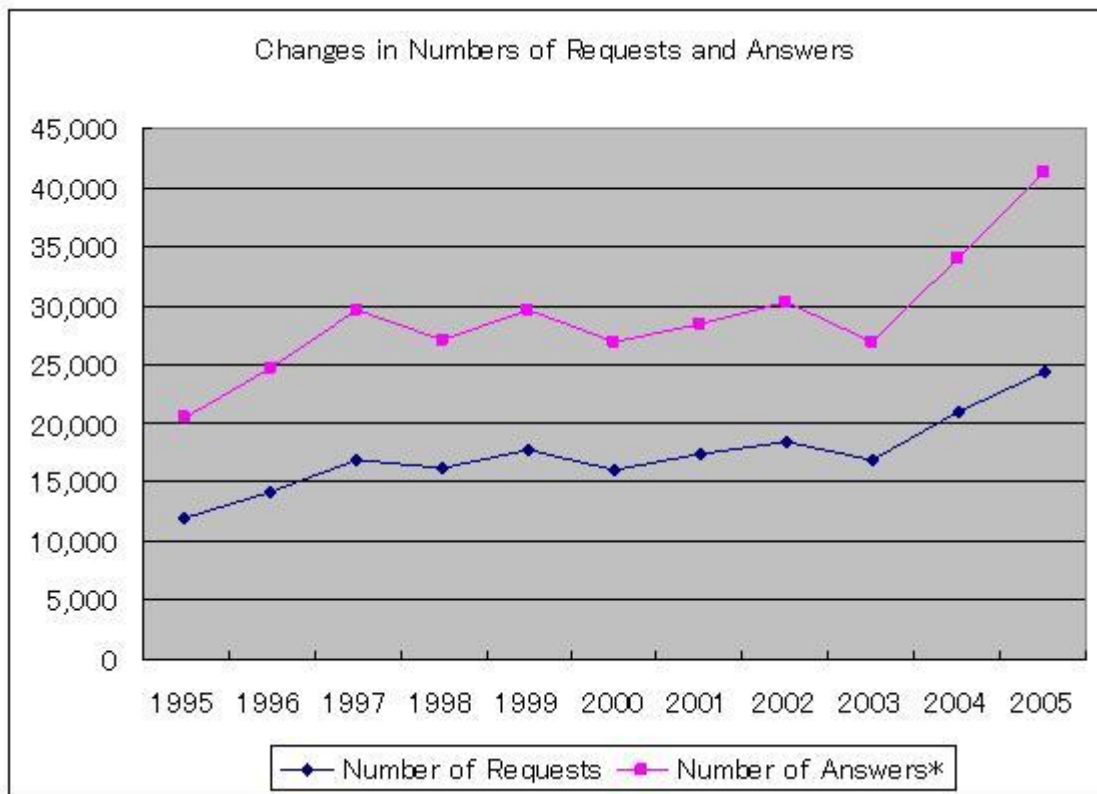
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One of the major reasons why the Library especially now has confirmed and set out the determination for further improvement of its services, taking into account the findings of survey of the Members' needs, lies in the developments of serious challenges faced by the Library during the decade.

##### br> [Tighter Budget and More Requests](#)

Since early 1990s, Japan has fallen into a difficult financial situation which obliges the government to incur less budget and cut down the services it provides. Restructuring has proceeded everywhere in both private or public sectors. In relation to the Library, the increase in the number of staff for the services to the Diet has been very small, though the number of requests for legislative support services from the Members has radically grown. In FY2005, answers provided by the Bureau in reply to requests totaled 41,394, showing an increase of 170% during the decade, while the number of staff of the Bureau grew modestly from 152 to 176 during the period.

[\[Fig.1\]](#)

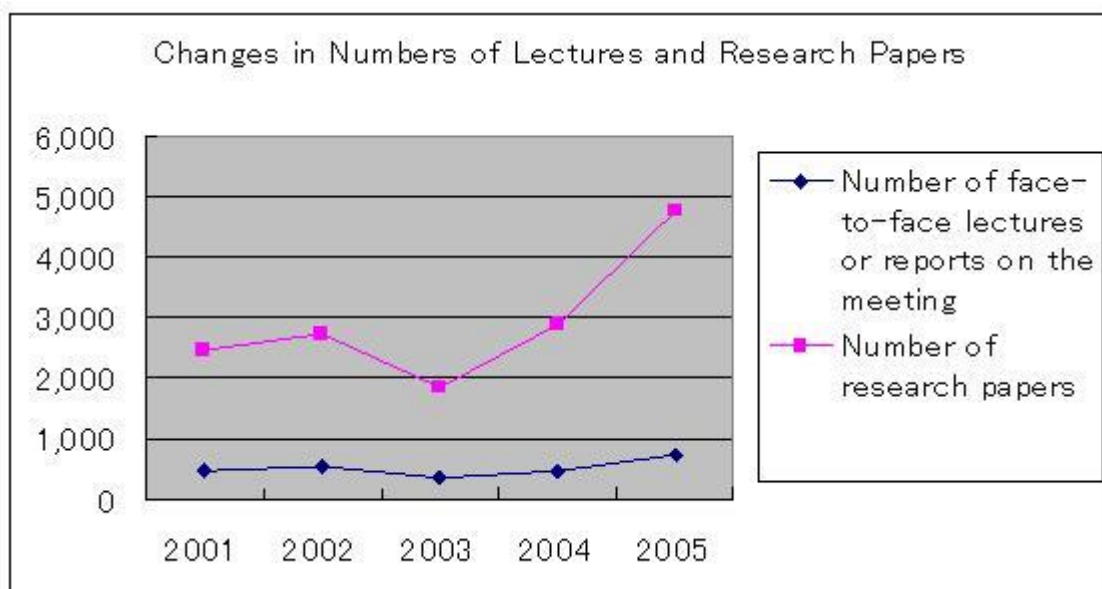


\* When researchers use plural answer forms (e.g. book lending, copying, lecturing, research paper etc.) for one request, the number of answers becomes more than one. Therefore, the total number of answers does not accord with the number of requests.

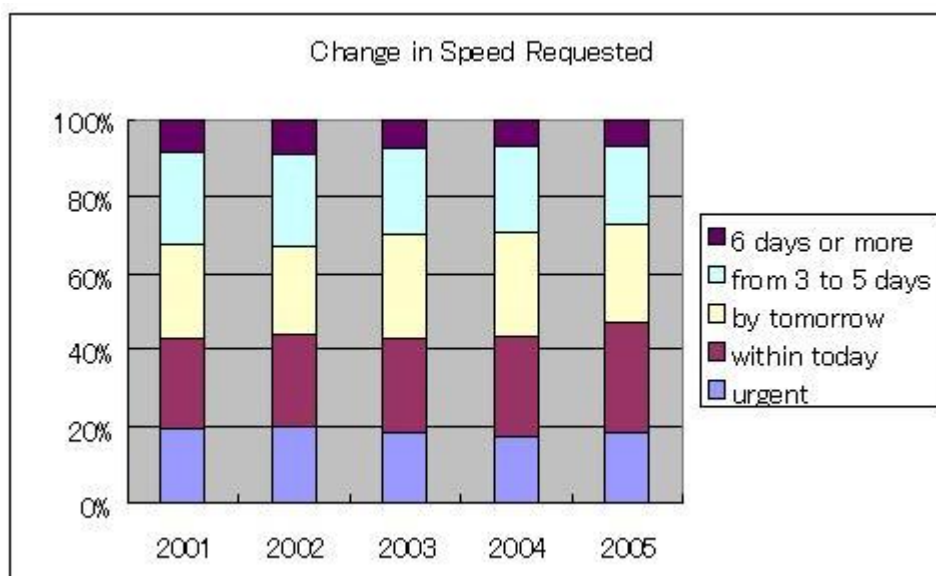
### Trends of Political Reform

The severe financial situation led to discussions to call for more efficient and accountable political decision-making and stronger leadership in the government. Fair distribution of limited resources and adjusting the interests of various parties in the society have become most important matter of politics. The international circumstances after the end of the Cold War also urged a change in the way of policy-making in the country. A clear policy-making process was needed instead of the traditional paternalistic or bureaucratic form. After long discussions, a new electoral system (single-member constituency/proportional representation) for the Lower House was introduced in the mid-1990s and has been carried out 4 times since. Both political candidates and political parties now appear to be more policy-oriented and eager to collect information and analysis helpful for their policy-making. Consequently, the requests to the Library have been more demanding not only in the quality of research required but also in the promptness of reply (See figures 2 and 3).

[Fig.2]



[Fig.3]



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### Trends of the Diet Reform

In step with the political reform, the Diet itself has been exposed to reform trends. The way and manner in which deliberation is conducted in the Diet has interested more of the public. Most of the live debates on the Floor and in the Committees in both Houses are now provided by the Secretariats of the Houses on the Internet and are accessible to the public. The records of texts of the debates also are available to everybody through the "Full-Text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet," which is produced by the Library and provided on its Home Page, as well as on the Intranet web-site. More transparency in the discussions in the Diet has made it much more important for the Members to carry out their debates competently. Thus, more Members request data and materials and other information from the Library to prepare for questioning or discussions in the Diet.

## Further Impacts of the Reform Trends

What is more, some support organizations in the Diet other than the Library have actively undertaken their own research projects with competent staff, following the trends of Diet reform. The Research Service of the House of Representatives and each Committee research service of the House of Councillors currently publish periodicals full of substantial articles helpful for the Members. And also, the political parties have recently established their own think-tanks to provide research and recommendations for policy-making. In short, there exist more competitive circumstances now both within and outside the Diet.

## First Strategy and its Developments in 2001~2005

Against these trends, the Library elaborated a strategy and developed a succession of remarkable measures. The first strategy was established in 2001, in which the Library identified its services to the Diet in putting stronger emphasis on the analytical approach to research, as well as on the provision by electronic media of more information useful for the parliamentary process. During the period 2001 to 2005, the following efforts were developed under the strategy:

- A major reorganization of the Bureau in 2001, to reinforce the planning and administrative function of the Bureau, as well as to streamline the jurisdictions of the divisions,
- Establishment of the Constitution Room in the Bureau specializing in research on constitutional problems, both domestic and foreign, in 2001,
- Introduction of the Interdisciplinary Research Project under subjects such as
  - “Crisis management systems in western democracies” (2002)
  - “Structural reforms in the U.S.A. since 1980s” (2003)
  - “Aging society with fewer children” (2003-04)
  - “Regional revitalization” (2004-05)
  - “Expanding European Union-present and future” (2005-06)
  - “Establishment of peace-the role of Japan” (2006)
  - “Foreigners in a society of decreasing population” (2006-07),
- Reinforcement of research on foreign legislative affairs,
- Promotion of publication of the research findings and their provision on the Intranet web-site,
- Reform of the staff training system in the Bureau in order to enhance the competency of the research staff, which included an introduction of the program of sending younger or middle researchers to higher education or research institutions, domestic or foreign.

## 5. To Support Strengthening the Legislative Branch

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“The Guiding Principle for Services to the Diet” mentioned earlier in this paper also reflects a series of such strategies to provide better services to the Diet under severe circumstances. This time, however, both functions of the services, the brains and the information center, are more clearly identified as integral parts of the legislative support services of the Library.

Today crucial political issues on both international and domestic affairs have been emerging one after another, which requires more accountable and substantive debates in the Diet. The Library is willing to develop both functions under the Guiding Principle in making more competent, efficient and responsive services helpful for the Diet to perform its duties and strengthen its functions.

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1) The reference to “the services to the Diet” refers to the services to be provided for the two Houses, Committees, Members and other persons concerned, such as aides to the Members or the staff of political parties.

2) The Library collects all publications issued in Japan under the legal deposit system, including packaged electronic publications, films and disks.

3) Developments of the Intranet web-site “Chosa no Mado” have been referred to in the following papers:

- Shozo Nakano, “The electronic legislative support services of the National Diet Library,” APLAP : the parliamentary library : research and information services in the new era : report of the Conference with papers and proceedings : the 6th Biennial Conference, Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific, October 2–6, 2000, Tokyo, Japan, pp.38–39.
- Kazuko Sakata, “How the staff of the parliamentary library should serve the parliament in the digital age”, APLAP 2002: the 7th Biennial Conference on ‘the role of parliamentary libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age’ : Report of the Conference 9–14 September 2002 Ankara, Turkey,” pp.48–56. <http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/aplap/pdfs/06-session2.pdf> (last access, 30 October 2006).
- Keiji Tsuchiya, “Development of programs for enhancement of research and reference services to Diet Members in the third millennium,” (The 8th Biennial Conference, New Delhi, India, 18–22 January 2005) <http://aplapindia2005.nic.in/Country%20report%20-%20Japan.htm> (last access, 30 October 2006).



## Fascination of the Winnington–Ingram Collection of Children’s Books

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journal of the International  
Library of Children’s  
Literature, No.003 (March  
2003). Translated into  
English by the editorial office  
of the NDL Newsletter.*

When were children’s books born and how have they developed? It is truly a luxurious pleasure to trace the course by reading books which actually mark each period of the development of this genre. Illustrations in those books clearly show the period in which they were drawn. We can also see how the vocabulary used in their stories has been changing. The Winnington–Ingram Collection gives us this luxurious experience.

### About the Collection

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To outline the Collection briefly, it consists of about 1,560 books and is formally called “*The Winnington–Ingram Collection of Children’s Books*.” The [Reverend Edward Henry Winnington–Ingram](#)<sup>①</sup>, a distinguished English clergyman, began to collect children’s books which corresponded to the moral and religious values of the Victorian Age, and after his death, the Collection was inherited by his daughter Constance.

The content of the Collection is most impressive. It shows the progress of



English children's literature in the 18th century, with publications by [John Newbery](#)<sup>(ii)</sup>, a representative publisher of the time, to the late 19th century after the [Grimms'](#)<sup>(iii)</sup> and [Andersen'](#)<sup>(iv)</sup>s fairy tales, which appeared in the early 19th century, delighted children and powerfully advanced children's literature.

In the mid-19th century, stories for young people written by [Charlotte M. Yonge](#)<sup>(v)</sup> influenced many girls' stories including those by [Louisa M. Alcott](#)<sup>(vi)</sup>. The latter half of the century saw the popularity of stories of daily life stemming from Yonge's work, but this period was characterized, above all, by the flourishing of fantasy fiction for children and adventure stories for boys, represented respectively by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by [Lewis Carroll](#)<sup>(vii)</sup> and by *Treasure Island* by [Robert Louis Stevenson](#)<sup>(viii)</sup>.

One of the fascinations of the Collection lies in our encounter with forgotten children's books. They are, now, less represented, being behind the best-known books for boys and girls, but some of them are worthy of reading, and very valuable as research materials.

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## About fairy tales

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*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *At the Back of the North Wind* by [George MacDonald](#)<sup>(ix)</sup>, and *The Water Babies* by [Charles Kingsley](#)<sup>(x)</sup> are well-known masterpieces of fantasy literature in 19th century England, and the continuous publishing of this kind of books apparently took the place of the literary fairy tale, and was a factor in the decline of that genre. But, even now, Japanese readers are enjoying *The Happy Prince and other tales* of [Oscar Wilde](#)<sup>(xi)</sup> as an example of fairy tales written in 19th century England.

This Collection clearly tells us that fairy tales were not declining in the least. Charlotte Maria Tucker, a writer of this period, wrote evangelical novels for children under the grand pseudonym of [A. L. O. E.](#)<sup>(xii)</sup> (A Lady of England). One of her works, *Fairy Know-a-Bit* (VZ1-18), is included in the Collection.



*Fairy Know-a-Bit (VZ1-18)*

This fairy tale begins with a scene where Philibert, son of a rich family, found a fairy sitting on a large book while loitering over a meal ignoring other people's annoyance. This fairy has the objective of conveying to the boy useful knowledge, and ultimately, ethics and human morality. The fairy introduces himself at the beginning as follows:

*"My name is Know-a-bit," continued the stranger; "I was once a fairy, living under the greenwood tree, dancing my rounds on the soft green turf, to the light of the glow-worm's lamp, and the sound of the nightingale's song. Then I drank honey-dew from the blossoms, and decked myself out in the petals of flowers, or spoils from the butterfly's wing. But times have changed – and so have I. A railway now runs right through the valley which was our favorite haunt – there are engine lights instead of the glow-worm's, and the scream of the whistle drowns the song of the bird! Education is now all the fashion, and fairies, like bigger people, are sent to learn lessons at school. As for me, I was the first of my race, to give up a rural life. For more than four hundred years, ever since printing was invented, I have taken to books; and I now make my home within the leaves of this volume,"*

Living in a book, this ex-fairy naturally has a rich knowledge from which he provides one item after another for the boy who needs to learn a lot. Thus this book may be called an educational book in the form of a fairy tale.

From only the part of the fairy's self-introduction, we can see the following

aspects:

1. A literary fairy tale reflects clearly the epoch in which it was produced.
2. A fairy tale, published one year after *Alice*, still had an excessive emphasis on knowledge, a notable feature of the 18th century.

As for the first statement, some might wonder whether only one work is sufficient to make a judgment like this, but children's literature, on the whole, evidently shows that it has been reflecting quite directly each epoch up to the present.

More interesting from the historic aspect of the literature is the second statement. *Alice*, a nonsense story, has been pleasing many audiences, and is regarded as a watershed in literary history. After *Alice*, books for boys and girls became obviously unconstrained and pleasurable, free from didacticism.

*Fairy Know-a-Bit* tells us that the tendency toward moralism and excessive emphasis on knowledge was still alive even after the appearance of *Alice*, and this naturally led to the question whether Carroll's masterpiece itself was didactic or not.

In the latter part of 19th century, there were as many literary fairy tales as fantasy fiction. Authors such as [Juliana Horatia Ewing<sup>\(xiii\)</sup>](#), [Mrs. Molesworth<sup>\(xiv\)</sup>](#), [Dinah Maria Mulock<sup>\(xv\)</sup>](#), [Mary de Morgan<sup>\(xvi\)</sup>](#), Oscar Wilde, to name them at random, wrote and published literary fairy tales and fantasy fiction and they are still well read. Most of them are interesting and easy-to-read stories which express insight into humanity, with excellent writing skill, but toning down the didactic attitude, unlike the works of A.L.O.E.

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### **The Pedlar's Pack <VZ1-100>**

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In 1904, *The Pedlar's Pack* written by [Mrs. Alfred Baldwin<sup>\(xvii\)</sup>](#) was published (the Collection's edition is not an original copy, and the Osborne Collection does not have an original edition either). This book contains nine fairy tales. Their titles are rather interesting, and you may take the fancy to read such a tale as "The child that dropped from the clouds." "Conrad of the Red Town" may be the one which has the most characteristic atmosphere of a traditional fairy tale.

Conrad the boy in the Red Town has curly hair called "fairy curls" and he was told by an old lady, Ulrika, to be careful about being whisked away by fairies. But young Conrad did not care and went to see the fairy ring which was where the fairies danced on a bright moonlight night. In traditional fairy tales, whenever

fairies dance in a fairy ring, silver moonlight is shining, the scent of wild brier fills the air and a nightingale is singing. This tale also depicts that kind of scene in a simple and beautiful manner.

Conrad fell under the spell of that scene and as he went to see it every moonlight night he became gradually weaker. At last, he was discovered by the fairies, who made a knot in his hair. This knot could never be opened even with a knife or scissors. One day, when Fairy King Oberon and Fairy Queen Titania passed through the town with Puss in Boots, Dick Whittington, Cinderella, and Little Red Riding Hood, Conrad joined in the procession and was never seen again.

To have the heroes and heroines of traditional literature walking in procession somewhat destroys the mystery, but the motif of this story is similar to "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" and reminds us of a poem of John Keats, and also points to the heathenism that caught on in England at the end of the 19th century. The Pedlar's Pack is also a mirror reflecting the epoch.

And now, the first ten years of the 20th century are the years of James Barrie, [Kenneth Grahame](#)<sup>(xix)</sup> and [Rudyard Kipling](#)<sup>(xx)</sup>. In England, people were enjoying the opulent and peaceful Belle Epoque basking in the afterglow of the Victorian Age.

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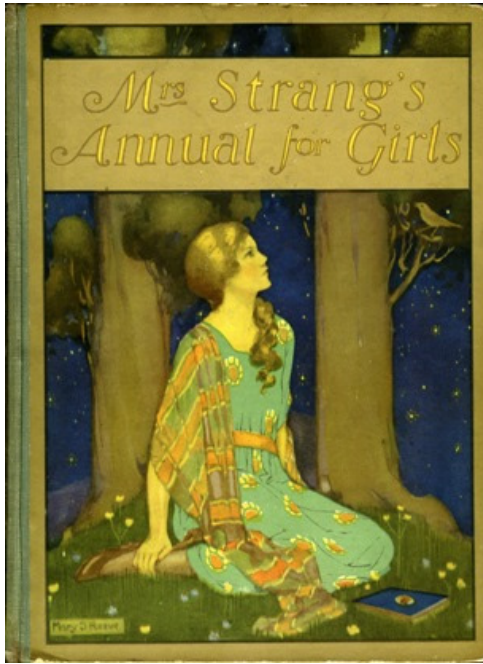
## Fascination of the yearbook

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One of the volumes of *Mrs Strang's Annual for Girls* <VZ1-814> (c.1910) which gives off an aura of this age is included in this Collection. This is a very amusing book. As it is an annual, it has all kinds of contents. You can enjoy interesting life stories and pleasing fiction. "On taming wild birds" and "Patty, a real golfer," are "how-to" stories. The variety is the great value of this book. From the viewpoint of children's literature, I was interested in two stories: "My introduction to motor cycling" and "Our canoe expedition."

"My introduction to motor cycling" has two pages with pictures introducing two young girls, Ann and Esel, traveling around the countryside of England in a sidecar. It was the time when women had no political suffrage, and when cars and airplanes had just come into practical use.

"Our canoe expedition" is a story of three young girls traveling by canoe on rivers and canals with camping outfits for a week from June 12. In this story, there is an illustration of a small person with wings on a tree by the side of a river, which gives us a flash illusion of a fantasy, a mysterious world breaking into everyday life. But the truth was that it was a boy visiting from France with his family who was wearing a costume.



*Mrs Strang's Annual for Girls* <VZ1-814>

After reading these two stories, I came to Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. The Collection has the edition of 1954. In this book, written by Grahame in 1908, cars appear and boating is shown. From these two books, we can see that cars and motorcycles had spread in everyday life although they were still a little uncommon in those days. But Grahame's world of the riverside was only for men, so maybe he was prejudiced against women.

In England, recreational boating started when rivers were opened to the public after their role in mass transportation was finished by the completion of the rail system. Comparing "Our canoe expedition" and *The Wind in the Willows*, we can see the change of period clearly.

As a method to introduce the Winnington-Ingram Collection, I mentioned a few books whose motifs seem rather out of date. This only emphasizes the richness of the Collection. Probably because the founder of the Collection was a Church of England clergyman, there is a sort of bias in that books such as those written by Oscar Wilde or James Barrie are not included in the Collection. But almost all the major authors of children's literature, mainly in England, from the 18th century to the early 20th century, such as Lewis Carroll, Mrs. Ewing who excelled at both fairy tales and realism, picture book author [Kate Greenaway](#)<sup>(xxi)</sup> and adventure story author [G. A. Henty](#)<sup>(xii)</sup> are included, which makes this Collection fascinating not only for research but also for reading. Furthermore, literary works which had fulfilled their role and preserve each epoch are found in every category. Call the classic works major, and works which could not get over the wall of age, minor.

I believe it is by researching both major and minor works that the history of children's literature will be synthesized to be seen from various angles.

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## Notes

\*<VZ1-###> shows NDL call number for the Ingram Collection

- (i) Edward Henry Winnington-Ingram, 1849–1930
- (ii) John Newbery, 1713–1767 <VZ1-796~798>
- (iii) Jacob Ludwig Carl, 1785–1863 & Wilhelm Carl, 1786–1859 Grimm  
<VZ1-483, 484>
- (iv) Hans Christian Andersen, 1805–75 <VZ1-30~35>
- (v) Charlotte M. Yonge, 1823–1901 <VZ1-1146~1151>
- (vi) Louisa M. Alcott, 1832–1888 <VZ1-12, 13>
- (vii) Lewis Carroll, 1832–1898 <VZ1-210~223>
- (viii) Robert Louis Stevenson, 1850–1894 <VZ1-986~998> [back to the text](#)
- (ix) George MacDonald, 1824–1905 <VZ1-687~690>
- (x) Charles Kingsley, 1819–1875 <VZ1-630~635>
- (xi) Oscar Wilde, 1854–1900
- (xii) A. L. O. E., 1821–1893 <VZ1-17~25> [back to the text](#)
- (xiii) Juliana Horatia Ewing, 1841–1885 <VZ1-360~393>
- (xiv) Mrs. Molesworth, 1839–1921 <VZ1-769~772>
- (xv) Dinah Maria Mulock, 1826–87 <VZ1-276~277>
- (xvi) Mary de Morgan (Mrs. Alfred Baldwin), 1850–1907
- (xvii) Mrs. Alfred Baldwin (Mary de Morgan), 1850–1907 <VZ1-100>  
[back to the text](#)
- (xviii) James Barrie, 1860–1937
- (xix) Kenneth Grahame, 1859–1932 <VZ1-459~467>
- (xx) Rudyard Kipling, 1865–1936 <VZ1-643~649> [back to the text](#)
- (xxi) Kate Greenaway, 1846–1901 <VZ1-471~477>
- (xxii) G. A. Henty, 1832–1902 <VZ1-516~562> [back to the text](#)

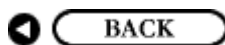
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# National Diet Library Newsletter

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*No. 154, April 2007*



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. 553, April 2007 [[PDF Format, 3.49 MB](#)]

- Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) Report of the 9th Biennial Conference in Wellington – Hisae Umeda and Satoshi Iwasawa [related article](#)
- 47th meeting of the Council on Organization of Materials on Science and Technology
- NDL budget for fiscal 2007 [related article](#)
- Invitation of Ms. Nancy Y. McGovern, Digital Preservation Officer, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
  - Special event for children on Children's Day
  - Bibliographic information of books in Persian now searchable on the NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC
  - Cessation of publication in book form and donation of Japanese National Bibliography [related article](#)

### No. 552, March 2007 [[PDF Format, 3.37 MB](#)]

- Transmission of digital information by the NDL
  - NDL Database Forum



- Digital library services of the NDL – Kenji Uetsuki
- Reports of the NDL Database Forum
- List of databases introduced in the NDL Database Forum
- Report of the conference on bibliographic control FY2006
- Practical workshop for librarians on early Japanese books FY2006
- General Collections Room reborn! – rearrangement of the General Collections Room of the Kansai-kan
- <Announcement>
  - Announcement of regular exhibition
  - Announcement of the employment examinations for FY2007
  - Events related to the exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Look up at the Sky: Children's Books on the Sun, Moon, and Stars
  - Retrospective data of the Japanese Periodicals Index (science and technology) added to the NDL-OPAC [related article](#)
  - Discontinuance of copying and interlibrary loan services via the NACSIS-ILL and the National Union Catalog Network
  - 128 portraits added to the digital exhibition "Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures" [related article](#)
  - A new series "Subject Information Services" will start soon!

