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Greetings from the new Librarian – Knowledge is a source of enrichment–

Makoto NAGAO
Librarian of the National Diet Library

*This is a translation of the article of the same title in
the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 554 (May 2007).*

知識は我々を
豊かにする
長尾真

"Knowledge is a source of enrichment" written and signed by the Librarian



Somewhat to my surprise, I have been appointed Librarian of the National Diet Library, and I look forward to your support.

Starting after World War II with new hope for the future, the National Diet Library has achieved many results over some 60 years as an organization assisting the legislative activities of the National Diet and as the sole national library of the country, under the slogan "Truth makes us free." Looking toward the coming 40 years up to the 100th anniversary of our library, I would like to put up a new slogan: "Knowledge is a source of enrichment," for all the libraries in Japan

Japan has come to this day through everyone's steady efforts, supported by the concepts of development and advancement based on science and technology. However, looking back at the past at the beginning of the 21st century, we realize that while we have been building a rich culture, many serious problems have emerged: global environmental issues, shortage of food, resources, energy and explosion of population. Therefore, the next 40 years should be devoted to pursuing spiritual richness, besides solving these serious problems. We also have to consider what Japan can do for this earth in order to make the world what it should be.

I think what is most important for us as Japanese is that we should be better aware of our own culture and our essential wisdom, that is, Japanese knowledge and spirit. By trying to make their value widely appreciated all over the world, we can contribute to the realization of a sustainable and peaceful earth and society with richness of spirit. This is because, while specialized knowledge produces technology and brings social and economic development, wide and rich knowledge

creates better culture, enriches people's minds and thus becomes the dynamic force leading to a peaceful society worldwide.

Accordingly, libraries will play an increasingly important role because they are treasuries of knowledge. Much wider and more diversified activities will be expected of them. The National Diet Library will, from now on, do its best to fulfill these expanding expectations and contribute to society in cooperation with Japan's libraries of all kinds, taking the lead in new trends.

I welcome your opinions and your support for our future activities.

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128 portraits added to the "Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures"



Natsume, Soseki (1867- 1916)

Novelist. Born in Tokyo as the son of a town chief. After graduating from the English Department of the Imperial University in 1893, he worked as a teacher at. ...([more](#))

"[Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures](#)," one of the electronic exhibitions on the National Diet Library website, presents portrait photographs of people who had an impact on the making of modern Japanese society.

On March 15, 2007, 128 portraits of mainly scholars and literary figures such as Natsume, Soseki and Higuchi, Ichiyo were added to the exhibition.

This made other 350 people's portraits available in addition to the portraits of statesmen, government officials, military officers, and businessmen which had been already available from the opening of the exhibition.

If these peoples' works are included in the "[Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#)," you can jump to their digitized works from the link (available only in Japanese).

We hope you find the enlarged exhibition even more helpful and interesting.

**Higuchi, Ichiyo
(1872-1896)**



Poet and novelist. Born in Tokyo.

In 1886, she entered the Haginoya poetry academy of Utako Nakajima. Her father's death in 1889 forced her to...[\(more\)](#)

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New exhibit added to the “Picture Book Gallery” of the International Library of Children’s Literature

“[Picture Book Gallery](#)” introduces famous picture books of Japan and the West in the period from the eighteenth century to the 1930s.

The new exhibit, “[Modernism in the Picture Book: Art and Daily Life](#)” shows some of the excellent picture books produced in the period between the end of World War I and the outbreak of World War II. In those days, new art movements emerged in different parts of the world and expanded the scope of the arts, directly reflecting the daily lives of ordinary people and changes in society.

In this exhibit, ten picture books which reflect Modernism are now available with sound clips of reading or commentary on the works and our original BGM.



“Rice”

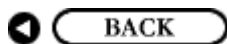
(Elementary Science Picture Book Series, vol. 11)

Compiled by Suzuki, Bunsuke(1888-1949)

Pictures by Natsukawa Hachiro

(pseudonym of Yanase Masamu) (1900-1945)





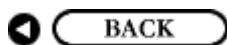
Bibliographic data in Japanese Periodicals Index (Science and Technology) retrospectively added to the NDL-OPAC

Some 420,000 bibliographic data of periodical articles, which were included in Japanese Periodicals Index (Science and Technology) from 1965 to 1971, were retrospectively added to the [NDL-OPAC](#) and became searchable via the Internet from February 26, 2007. As of May 31, 2007, the total number of bibliographic data of periodical articles searchable via the NDL-OPAC reached 7,910,026.

Japanese Periodicals Index (Science and Technology) was first issued in 1950 in book form, and was originally named Japanese Periodicals Index (Natural Science). Bibliographic data created in 1975 or later have already been searchable via the NDL-OPAC, but some 1,450,000 bibliographic data (including duplication) created before 1974 were not converted into machine-readable form. In FY2005, some 180,000 bibliographic data created from 1972 to 1974, and in FY2006, some 420,000 bibliographic data created from 1965 to 1971 became searchable via the NDL-OPAC.

We will continue retrospective conversion and maintenance of the data. We hope you will find it helpful.

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Cessation of publication in printed form of “Nihon Zenkoku Shoshi” (Japanese National Bibliography) –Japanese National Bibliography will be provided only via the NDL website–

Bibliography Department

This is a translation of the article of the “Zenkoku Shoshi Tsushin” No. 127 (May 2007).

The National Diet Library (NDL) has provided the “Nihon Zenkoku Shoshi” ([Japanese National Bibliography](#)) in two forms up to now, printed form and Web form. However, we now inform you of the cessation of publication in print version after the 22nd issue of 2007 (no. 2631), which will be issued on June 26, 2007.

1. Transition of the provision modes of the Japanese National Bibliography: from print to the Internet

The NDL has been publishing the Japanese National Bibliography to serve as a national bibliography as required by [the National Diet Library Law](#) Art.7 in order to compile the standard bibliographic information of domestically-published materials and Japanese-language publications issued abroad and acquired by the NDL, and to make a prompt announcement both at home and abroad.

Since 1948, the year of the NDL’s foundation, in which it started to publish the predecessor “Nohon Geppo” (monthly list of deposited materials), the NDL has up to now published the national bibliography in printed form, changing its names, coverage and other details. In April 2002 the NDL started putting the Japanese National Bibliography on its website, and has been providing it along with print. In 2006, when four years had passed since we began providing the bibliography on the NDL website, we conducted a review on the publication forms among the divisions involved, and decided to discontinue the printed form and to provide the bibliography only via the Web. In March 2007, partial amendments to the National Diet Library Law were enacted in the 166th session of the Diet, paving the way for the discontinuance of the print version.

The major reason is the pervasiveness of the Internet. In 2001, when it was decided to provide the Japanese National Bibliography (Japanese only) via the website, the Internet diffusion rate in Japan was only 44.0%, but this rose dramatically and reached 66.8% in 2005. In addition, Internet availability increased in libraries, the major subscribers to the Japanese National Bibliography, and it is now considered that the informational environment for the web version has been put in place.

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2. Internet and national bibliographies around the world

With the diffusion of the Internet, changes have been happening in the forms of publication of national bibliographies in countries around the world. According to a [survey conducted by the IFLA \(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions\) Bibliography Section in 2001](#) in which the question "What are the present format(s) for publication of the national bibliography?" was asked, of the 52 countries which replied, 39 were providing in print, 22 via the Web, and 12 in both forms. Some of these countries replied that they were considering discontinuation of the printed form and the national libraries of Australia, Canada, France and the United States replied that they had already discontinued the print form and were providing the national bibliographies via the Internet. In the same survey, it was assumed that "the format of the national bibliography has been changing from print to Internet to a certain extent and that this trend will continue and even accelerate in the years ahead." A [survey targeting the Asian region conducted by IFLA four years later in 2005](#), to which 14 countries and regions replied, proved this presumption to be true, showing the results that three of them which had been offering their national bibliography in print in 2001 had ceased publication and switched over to providing it via the Web (see accompanying table).

The switch-over of the medium from print to Internet can be explained by the advantages that the time for provision can be shortened by cutting down the time and effort used in printing, and that more users can be expected because of free of charge and open-ended accessibility.

Medium	2001 survey (52 countries)		2005 survey (14 Asian countries)
	world	Asia (11 countries)	
Print	39 (75%)	9 (82%)	6 (43%)
Microfiche or similar	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Computer	7 (13%)	1 (9%)	1 (7%)

tape			
Floppy disk	7 (13%)	1 (9%)	0 (0%)
CD-ROM	19 (37%)	5 (45%)	5 (36%)
Online access (other than Internet)	16 (31%)	4 (36%)	4 (29%)
Internet	22 (42%)	1 (9%)	6 (43%)
Print+Internet	12 (23%)	0 (0%)	2 (14%)

(chart prepared by NDL based on the IFLA survey results)

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3. Japanese National Bibliography from now on

The Web form of the Japanese National Bibliography appears on the NDL website two weeks earlier than its printed form and this has brought about rapid provision of information. Since the Web version is free of charge while the print has been provided for profit and the number of issues is limited, anyone with access to the Internet can now easily use the Web form, so the bibliography has become available to many more people. As for the back numbers, you still can see all the numbers after the 27th issue of 2002 (no. 2386) via the [NDL Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)](#) (Japanese only), although difficulty has been experienced in searching the pages of a specific number. After the cessation of the printed version, back numbers will be on their own new page on the NDL website.

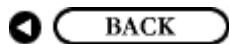
Bibliographic data carried in the Japanese National Bibliography will be searchable in [NDL-OPAC \(National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog\)](#) after 17 days for monographs and 52 days for serials. If you need more detailed bibliographic information, please visit the NDL-OPAC.

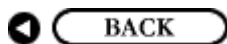
With the steady improvement of the informational environment, there is an ever-greater need to provide highly convenient information utilizing the advancing information technology. From now on, we would like to consider comprehensively how we should provide bibliographic data and tools for users, as well as linkage with our digital library services, bringing into view the improvement of our major bibliographic services and the databases including the Japanese National Bibliography, NDL-OPAC, and seek means of providing information better suited to the needs of users.

The printed form of the Japanese National Bibliography will be discontinued after

a history of about 60 years, but we would like you to visit our website and continue to utilize the Web form of the Japanese National Bibliography as well as the many other types of bibliographic data our library provides.

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“Preservation and Mass Conservation at the National Diet Library”

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*This is the article presented at the Conference of Directors of Centers of IFLA-PAC
Asia-Oceania Region & Preservation Meeting among China, Japan and Korea
at [the National Library of China, Beijing, January 16-19, 2007](#)*

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**1. Acid paper problem and the beginning of the efforts to
resolve the problem**

The deterioration of mass produced paper made in factories was recognized as a serious problem from the end of the 19th century in Western countries, but the one of the biggest triggers which raised people's awareness on this issue was the result of a survey conducted in 1957 by William James Barrow, an American conservator. Barrow examined the extent of deterioration of paper in publications issued during the first half of the 20th century by decades, and pointed out that the main factor which had been causing paper deterioration was the acid in the

paper. After this survey, a movement to encourage the use of acid-free permanent paper was successfully promoted in the U.S., and in 1984 the ANSI Paper Permanence Standard (ANSI Z39.48-1984) was established. In Japan, interest in the acid paper issue was stimulated by the booklet "Hon wo nokosu" (Preserving books), which was privately published in 1982 by Mr. Hirotaka KANAYA to introduce the movement with regard to acid paper issues in the U.S. The booklet had great impact on those involved in book-related industries such as publishing, book-binding, and paper-manufacturing as well as those related to mass media and, of course, libraries.

In 1983 the National Diet Library (NDL) set up an Anti-Acid Paper Unit to examine measures against paper deterioration and investigate the state of deterioration of the NDL collections. The survey was done on 5,449 items picked out by random sampling from the library's collection that had been issued during a period of about 100 years up to 1970 including domestic and foreign books, magazines and legal/parliamentary documents. We checked the samples of each decade to examine their flexibility and change in the color of the paper.

We found out that deterioration of the foreign materials published after the 1860s had generally become worse as the publication went back. The domestic materials, for whose preservation our library should be responsible, showed the worst extent of deterioration in the 1940s to 1950s. The paper made during this period was not only brittle but also suffered extreme changes in color. We attributed this to the conditions of the period when the quality of paper was extremely bad due to the aftermath of the war. Except for this period, deterioration of the paper was obvious in the publications issued from the 1880s to the 1910s, i.e., Meiji era. Other than that period, we found that the newer the paper the better its quality. From this survey we comprehended the general trend of deterioration of our collection. It was, however, still before we had our card catalogs fully converted into online catalog, so it was difficult for us to estimate the actual number of deteriorated collections including those that could not be used or restored.

To deal with mass deterioration of library collections caused by acid, we need to take a new approach because it is utterly ineffective to restore deteriorated items one by one by the traditional method. IFLA established the IFLA Working Group on Preservation in 1973, and upgraded it to the IFLA Section on Conservation in 1977. The Section set out new preservation principles in its 1986 report titled, "Principles for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials." The new principles defined preservation as including not only preserving the original artifacts but also preserving the content by reformatting. The principles also introduced a new idea that it is important to give priority to some materials in preservation while it is impossible to treat every material of the library collection in an equal manner. (In the same year the [IFLA Core Activity on Preservation and](#)

[Conservation \(IFLA/PAC\)](#) was established.)

In 1986 preservation and conservation work at the NDL also reached a major turning point. In 1986, the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library was completed, which increased the NDL's storage capacity from 450 to 1,200 million volumes. In tandem with the opening of the Annex Building, the whole library went through a structural reform. Taking this opportunity, the NDL renewed its basic policy for preservation and conservation with organizational backup, and the Binding Division, whose main duty had been restoring/mending damaged materials, was transformed into the Preservation Division, and the work of the Division was expanded to reflect the new principles of preservation and conservation. In addition, the Preservation Planning Office was established in the Acquisitions Department as an office specializing in the planning of preservation policy. The Preservation Division and the Preservation Planning Office began to work actively together. (In March 2002, the Preservation Planning Office was abolished in the library's reorganization and its responsibility was taken over by the Preservation Division.)

The three major objectives of the NDL's activities to deal with mass deterioration and the measures that we have taken so far for each objective are as follows:

1) Objective: We want to preserve the content of materials too badly deteriorated to restore.

Measure: We have determined to do reformatting as a new measure of preservation, and thus have been microfilming deteriorated materials since 1987 according to an across-the-library plan.

2) Objective: We want to treat a large quantity of acid paper materials.

Measure: We consider mass deacidification as a basic method and have started to investigate the current trends of mass deacidification methods.

3) Objective: We want to promote acid-free paper materials.

Measure: We started since 1986 the pH survey on newly-acquired materials aiming to figure out actual conditions of domestic publications.

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2. Microfilming of deteriorated collections

We found from the 1983 survey on deterioration of the sample collection that the domestic materials published during the 1940s to 1950s were in the worst condition, of which 30,000 extra volumes published during the period around the end of the World War II were most badly damaged and hardly seemed able to bear ordinary use. Domestic materials are regarded as one of the collections on which

the NDL should put the highest priority in preservation of not only the content but also the original materials. Therefore with this collection as the first target, the NDL started the microfilming programme of deteriorated collections in 1987. Before this microfilming programme began, the NDL had already been microfilming current newspapers since the 1950s and rare and old books, academic journals, and heavily-used magazines since the 1970s. The main purpose of microfilming these collections, however, was to preserve valuable materials and assure future access to them at the same time, rather than taking a countermeasure against deterioration.

Microfilming the above-mentioned collection of 30,000 extra volumes was not completed at one go, but was done bit by bit according to the budget and manpower available, and finally finished in 2000. The original materials which had been already microfilmed were put in preservation boxes and then stored in the stacks for preservation, and thus no longer served for readers' use. Master negative films are stored in the special storage space whose temperature and humidity are constantly kept much lower than the other ordinary book stacks, namely, at 18 degrees centigrade and 25%. Positive microfiches are made and served for readers' use. Making deteriorated materials into microfiches has enabled interlibrary loan and copying services, which had been prohibited with the original materials.

The collection found second-worst damaged in the survey was the books published in the Meiji era (1868-1912). Thus our second microfilming programme started in 1989 with the collection of about 160,000 volumes issued in this period. This programme was in collaboration with an external contractor, so the microfilming work was finished at one go within two years. After this programme, we have been working our way with microfilming domestic books in chronological order of publication, and we are now expecting that microfilming the collection published before World War II will be completed by FY2009. As for the domestic magazines, we have been microfilming deteriorated magazines published before around the first half of the 1960s. However, because the budget for reformatting is limited, some of the deteriorated collections were already damaged badly before being microfilmed. We know well that having these damaged materials copied does even more harm to them, but the reality is that we have to provide copies of the original materials if requested by library users and we have fallen into a vicious circle in that we are creating a pile of damaged materials which no longer bear normal use by readers.

With regard to colorful materials, large-sized materials, and non-book materials, we should consider other means such as preservation by digitization. We should look into the most suitable ways of reformatting according to the characteristics of each collection.

3. Survey and implementation of mass deacidification

Other than reformatting, deacidification is the only way to save a mass of materials damaged by acid. The Preservation Planning Office, established in 1986, embarked on research into state-of-the-art of mass deacidification methods already used in some other countries of advanced preservation technologies and a survey on the situation of R&D in Japan to promote the results to a wider community.

To promote and distribute information on the up-to-date mass deacidification technologies used in overseas countries, we translated and published in 1989 "Book Preservation Technologies" (issued by the Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, 1988). This report explains the mass deacidification plan of the Library of Congress based on the method called "DEZ process." The NDL also introduced information on other methods of deacidification. In the latter half of the 1980s, researches on acid paper and deacidification took off in Japan, too. The NDL provided samples to these researches and participated in some of the research projects as a partner.

In 1997 the NDL commissioned specialists in Japan to investigate the effectiveness of deacidification technologies for old books. The specialists reported to the NDL that there is an effective and practical solution, which is a new mass deacidification method by the gaseous phase called "DAE process" (dry ammonia ethylene oxide). In fall 1998, a private company put the DAE process into operation and still continues to provide the service. In 1999 and 2000 the NDL experimentally deacidified about 4,000 spare copies of domestic books published during the period from the 1950s to 1960s. The result was that after treatment the average pH value of 4.56 rose to 9.76 and that a tearing resistance test done by the company showed the paper becoming three to five times stronger. So what we got from the experiment proves that the method is effective for mass deacidification.

We also found, however, that an odor remained in the treated materials which made the staff feel sick, and to get rid of the odor it was necessary to give air wash more than 100 times. Later we found out that the cause of the odor was acetaldehyde which had been generated in the process of deacidification. This problem of odor was reported by other libraries, too: According to an assessment done by chemical substance specialists, the amount of acetaldehyde generated in the process does not exceed the safety standard and does not have an effect on the human body. Despite this assessment, there are still anxieties among the staff

about dealing with a mass of treated materials. For this reason, we decided not to adopt this method for mass deacidification at that point.

While we still keep a close watch on the improvement of the DAE process, which is the only mass deacidification service in Japan, we checked again the latest deacidification technologies in overseas countries from 2004 to 2005. It was only a literature search that we had done 15 years ago, but this time we could visit libraries to see actual on-the-spot deacidification, in addition to literature search. What we found this time is that there are different methods of deacidification which all succeeded in neutralizing the acid in paper but that each of the methods has some kind of risk of damaging the materials, such as discoloration and physical damage. Now we understand that each method has its pros and cons and that we need to examine all conceivable risks and merits of each method in the use and preservation of library materials. In 2007 a mass deacidification service by the method called BookKeeper is expected to start operation in Japan. Thus we need to compare different methods and move one step forward to decide which method would be most suitable for our library collections.

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4. Survey on use rate of acid-free paper and growth in publications using acid-free paper

If all publications issued in Japan and deposited with the NDL were made of acid-free paper, long-term preservation might be possible without any special care in terms of paper. Thus the Preservation Planning Office started surveys on the use rate of acid-free paper in newly-acquired materials in 1986 to figure out the actual conditions of publication and to urge the use of acid-free paper. They are random sampling surveys of new materials acquired by the NDL a year before to measure the pH level. Samples are categorized into four groups: according to publisher type, i.e., official or commercial; and publication type, i.e., books or periodicals.

In the first survey in 1986, the use rate of acid-free paper for commercial publications was around 50% and that for official publications around 30%. The rate for official publications remained consistently lower than that for commercial publications until 2001. We initially used flathead electrodes and pH indicator strips for in-depth measurement of the pH level, but when the use rate of acid-free paper for commercial publications became stable at around 80%, we switched to the simpler test method of using an acid-free paper checking pen from the 11th survey. The use rate for official publications, having remained around 50% for a long time, has begun increasing in the past decade, and both rates for commercial and official publications reached above 90% in the 2003 survey. For more details on survey method and background, please refer to "[Sixteen Years of pH Surveys](#)

[on Newly-acquired Materials](#)” (International Preservation News, No.28, December 2002).

Reflecting a growing interest in environmental issues, the recent trend is to encourage more use of recycled paper. Thus our surveys have also come to include the use rate of recycled paper for publications and the use rate of acid-free paper in recycled paper since 1997. The latest survey result showed that the use rate was about 20% and 90% respectively. It is difficult to grasp the actual state, however, because there is no standard definition of recycled paper and some materials have no indication that they are produced from recycled paper.

cf. [Result of the 18th survey on use rate of acid-free paper on newly-acquired materials](#) (NDL Newsletter No.150, August 2006)

In addition to publicizing each survey result in the NDL monthly bulletin, we have been working hard to stress the importance of preservation across the industries by creating/distributing pamphlets to promote the use of acid-free/permanent paper and by inviting guests from the publishing and paper manufacturing industries to hold symposia and lectures on preservation. We believe that alerting people to the importance of measures against the acid paper problem and promoting use of acid-free paper by these means must have contributed to the high use rate of acid-free paper in present-day Japan. Now that the use of acid-free paper for new publications has become almost a common practice, it can be said that the amount of acid paper materials for which the NDL needs to take measures will not continue to increase. The acid paper problem has changed from the one that will never stop causing trouble forever to the one which we can handle in a planned manner.

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5. Emergence of difficult new problems

The storage capacity of the NDL has remarkably increased, jumping from 12 to 18 million volumes due to the opening of the Kansai-kan of the NDL in October 2002. There was not only expansion of the library facilities, but also provision of bibliographic information on the Internet launched in 2002, which led to much greater use of our library collections. The number of requests for copying services has been increasing dramatically while requests for the lending services of our collections have not increased as much, since the NDL collections are not permitted to be lent out to individuals but only to libraries; the NDL is recognized as the “last resort” of the nation’s information resources. The annual number of copying requests from remote users of FY2005, counted by article, was about 300,000, three times as many as that of FY2002.

What worries us with such an increase in the use of our collections is the expanding deterioration of the collections. The number of repaired materials appears in the annual statistics of the NDL. An increase in the number of damaged materials, however, is not apparent in our statistics since the "stocks" of materials that are damaged but not yet treated are put on a waiting list and not counted in the statistics. Such "stocks" are accumulating in stacks, and they must not be left untreated.

Although it is difficult to restore all damaged materials, we thought if we could find out the characteristics of deterioration by each collection group, we could effectively implement preventive measures appropriate for each group. Accordingly a survey on deterioration of Japanese books on which we set high priority in preservation was conducted. About 1.9 million Japanese books that had been published within 50 years from the 1950s and had not yet been included in any specific plans for microfilming were targeted. A sample of 400 volumes was picked out at random, divided by each decade, and their paper and binding conditions were examined. In the same kind of survey carried out in 1983 we examined only paper condition. However in this survey we checked the degree of deterioration of the binding as well as paper condition in order to evaluate more easily whether they are strong enough for use. Also in this survey we simplified the evaluation scale because the purpose of the survey was to contribute to practical reviews for preservation measures (for example, as to durability, a 2-point scale was adopted, that is, "Fair" or "Not Fair," rather than the 5-point scale used in the survey of 1983).

The survey was conducted in 2005 and 2006, and the results are being compiled now. The major findings of the survey are as follows:

- the rate of acid paper has lowered drastically since the 1980s
- the rate of materials with a fair durability has elevated since the 1960s
- the rate of materials with adhesive binding has increased rapidly since the 1970s
- the rate of materials with good openability has remained unchanged

Dates Characters (%)	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999
Acid paper	95	96	96	66	26
Fair durability	48	82	96	100	100

Adhesive binding	0	2	26	56	78
Good openability	y	75	73	54	69

This random sampling survey enables us to roughly estimate the total number of books which have certain characteristics. Through the survey we can figure out, for example, how many materials should be microfilmed (materials that are made of acid paper and have become brittle), and which groups of the collection are suitable for mass deacidification (materials that are made of acid paper but have not become brittle). In this way we can forecast the scale of the countermeasures we need to take.

Even though acid-free paper lasts for a long time itself, adhesive binding materials, whose ratio has increased since the 1970s, are easily damaged, for instance, by only one time copying if the adhesive has keratinized with age. As such, new challenges for the future have just come up, and we should consider countermeasures against the damage that is caused not only by acid paper but also by modern binding methods.

The acid paper problem had such a big impact in the library world that we had tended to think of the countermeasure against acid paper as the first preservation measure for a great amount of paper materials. However, making books of acid-free and long-lasting paper is not enough to secure them long-time use for reader services. Durable materials must be made of acid-free paper bound in a suitable form for excellent usability for a long period. Now several approaches to deal with the acid paper problem have become available, we have to select the method best suited to the materials targeted. In addition, we need to work on various problems in preserving materials other than problems related to paper, such as binding and copying methods, in order to prevent mass deterioration.

Another new issue is the deterioration of microfilms. When a large volume of microfilms were transferred to the Kansai-kan from the Tokyo Main Library in 2002, we found in some microfilms a vinegary smell, which was the first sign of deterioration of cellulose acetate film. As that group of microfilms was not stored and used under particularly worse conditions compared with other groups of microfilms, we expected that other microfilms might possibly suffer deterioration in the same way. Thus we conducted an overarching survey on deterioration of the microfilms in our collections. At the same time we decided to replace the enclosure made of acid paper with acid-free paper so as to improve a storage environment at the micro level. We have been carrying out the survey and replacement of enclosures according to a plan for about 120,000 microfilms and 4.6 million microfiches since 2003 and have already finished some 80,000

microfilms and 800,000 microfiches by FY2005.

Duplicates were made of heavily-used cellulose acetate films out of those found to be seriously deteriorated through the survey, and the original films were discarded. As for low-use cellulose acetate films, we did not take any measures other than replacing the enclosures at the beginning. However, we found a case in 2006 where, in spite of the replacement of the enclosures, the replacement enclosures got acidified quickly because of gases released from the deteriorated materials inside, which led to acidification of the enclosures located around them. Separate placement of heavily deteriorated cellulose acetate films should be carried out urgently. The deterioration of cellulose acetate films with age will definitely occur. This has been recognized as one of the most urgent preservation issues and has attracted a lot of attention in Europe and the U.S., but not yet in Japan. We realize that it is our task to raise people's awareness and to create opportunities for information exchange on this issue in Japan.

For more information on the conference and other papers presented, go to the [IFLA-PAC China Center](#) (last access June 15, 2007)

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Selections from NDL Collections

Nishiki-e depicting *Iki-ningyo*

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*This is a translation of the article of the same title
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 553 (April 2007).*

Iki-ningyo (生人形; living dolls), one kind of Japanese *ningyo* (人形; dolls or figures) crafts, is a life-sized doll elaborately and realistically created to look like a real living person.

Misemono (見世物; literally, show or exhibit) of Japanese dolls dates back to the early years of the Edo period (1603–1867), and *iki-ningyo* exhibits were the most popular around the Ansei era (1854–1860) to the late of 1880s.

The forerunners of the *iki-ningyo* were the papier-mâché dolls portraying actors made by Oe Chubei (大江忠兵衛) displayed in Nanba-shinchi (present-day Chuo-ku area, Osaka) in 1852. The first of the *iki-ningyo* in Edo (present-day Tokyo) was *Mitate-onna Rokkasen* (見立女六歌仙) by Oishi Ganryusai Yoshihiro (大石眼龍齋吉弘), which gained popularity among people around Ryogoku-bashi Higashizume (両国橋東詰, present-day Ryogoku in Sumida-ku, Tokyo) in 1853.

The origin of the name “*iki-ningyo*” was the performance titled “*Chinzei Hachiro Shima-meguri Iki-ningyo saiku* (鎮西八郎嶋廻り 生人形細工)” in Nanba-shinchi in 1854 by Matsumoto Kisaburo (松本喜三郎, 1825–1891), a doll craftsman originally from Kumamoto.





Asakusa Okuyama Iki-ningyo

Set of two O-ban (large-size) nishiki-e, from "Azuma nishiki-e"

Artist: Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi

Publisher: Izutsuya

Published in 1856

Owned by the NDL

Call no. 寄別2511

The *nishiki-e* (Japanese full-color print) above, "*Asakusa Okuyama Iki-ningyo* (浅草奥山生人形)" by Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi (一勇斎国芳, 1797-1861), represents an *iki-ningyo* show of ethnographic and exotic figures by Matsumoto Kisaburo performed in 1855 in Asakusa Okuyama which was thronged with people at the time of the exhibition of the *Kanzeon* (観世音).

These odd-looking creatures who live in strange lands such as the "Long-Arm," the "Long-Leg," the "Bellyless," and the "Hole-in-Chest" countries, had been introduced in old books including the *Chinese Shan Hai Jing* (山海經; a Chinese geography book rich in myths), *Sancai Tuhui* (三才圖會; a Chinese encyclopedia completed in 1607), the Japanese *Wakan Sansai Zue* (和漢三才圖會; a Japanese encyclopedia with illustrations completed in 1712) and *Morokoshi Kinmo Zui* (唐土訓蒙圖彙; a Japanese encyclopedia widely covering affairs in China, published in 1719) earlier. The *nishiki-e* drawings of such outlandish figures reflect the social climate of those days that put pressure on Japan to open to foreign trade and diplomatic relations. It is known that there are at present three other *nishiki-e* featuring *iki-ningyo* of outlandish creatures, two by Kuniyoshi and one by Ichidosai Yoshitsuna (一登斎芳綱), whose compositions are different from that of

the picture above.

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The *nishiki-e* “*Furyu Iki-ningyo* (風流生人形)” below is drawn by Ichijusai (Baichoro) Kunisada (一寿齋(梅蝶楼)国貞, 1823–1880). It depicts a scene of an *iki-ningyo* performance (made by Matsumoto Kisaburo) held in Asakusa Okuyama; the scene of *Iki-ningyo* Mayuzumi, a courtesan from Sanozuchi-ya (name of a brothel), getting dressed at *Yoshiwara karitaku* (吉原仮宅).

[*click for larger image](#)



Furyu Iki-ningyo

Set of three O-ban nishiki-e, from “Nishiki-e”

Artist: Ichijusai (Baichoro) Kunisada

Publisher: Santetsu

Published in 1856

Owned by the NDL

Call no. 本別9-28

Mayuzumi was a respected woman who, when a great earthquake occurred in the Ansei era, donated 30 *ryo* (両; currency in pre-Meiji period) to a shelter to distribute food to victims of the disaster, although she herself had suffered loss. She was rewarded for this good deed with two silver coins from the *Bugyo-sho* (奉行所; the Edo city commissioners office).

In front of a pock-faced man on the left side of the tatami floored room, there is a box containing *Kushi* (櫛; combs), *Kogai* (笄; Japanese hairpins), and *Kanzashi* (簪; hair ornaments). Mayuzumi borrowed 30 *ryo* by pledging these luxurious accessories. The Peep-Show tent let audiences get a close-up look at Mayuzumi through a telescope at a charge of four *mon* (文; currency, 1 *mon* = 1/4000 *ryo*) in addition to the regular admission fee.

Nishiki-e of the Mayuzumi *iki-ningyo* seem to have been very popular; they were

printed in the greatest numbers of all the *iki-ningyo nishiki-e*, and Kuniyoshi and Toyokuni (III) (豊国(三代), 1786–1864) also painted pictures on the same subject.

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The National Diet Library (NDL) holds *nishiki-e* of other *iki-ningyo* performances exhibited in Asakusa Okuyama in 1856 together with that of the Mayuzumi *iki-ningyo*, such as Kuniyoshi's "*Furyu Ningyo-zukushi* (風流人形盡)" depicting three heroes in *Shui hu chuan* (水滸傳; a classic novel of Chinese literature), and *Tose mitate ningyo no uchi - Kume no Sennin* (当盛見立人形之内 糸の仙人).

[*click for larger image](#)



Furyu Ningyo-zukushi

Set of three O-ban nishiki-e

Artist: Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi

Publisher: Hayashiya Shogoro

Published in 1856

Owned by the NDL

Call no. 本別9-28

[*click for larger image](#)



Tose mitate ningyo no uchi – Kume no Sennin

Set of two O-ban nishiki-e

Artist: Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi

Publisher: Motoshige

Published in 1856

Owned by the NDL

Call no. 本別9-28

You can also see the same *nishiki-e* as shown here in *Misemono Gafu* (観物画譜; a collection by Asakura Musei (朝倉無声, 1877–1927) who was an authority of *misemono* research) and *Misemono-e* (見世物繪) held by the Toyo Bunko (Oriental Library).

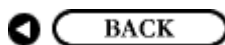
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Iki-ningyo was a folk art that soaked up ordinary people's desire. The *iki-ningyo* shows were characterized by boldly exposed skin, dynamic sensuousness and bruising battle scenes from such stories as *Shui hu chuan* and *Chushin-gura* (忠臣蔵; Revenge of Ako Warriors).

Nishiki-e depicting *Iki-ningyo* are interesting materials which offer a glimpse into the society, fashion and public entertainments of the end of the Edo period as well as providing an essential resource for *misemono* research.

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 155, June 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).

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No. 555, June 2007 [[PDF Format, 4.46 MB](#)]

- National bibliographies
- Fourth mutual visit program with the National Assembly Library of Korea [related article](#)
- 14th forum for libraries participating in the National Union Catalog Network
- 3rd forum for libraries participating in the Collaborative Reference Database Project
- <Announcement>
 - Announcement of Children's Day for Visiting Kasumigaseki
 - Call for participation in the questionnaire on this bulletin
 - Summer event of the International Library of Children's Literature: Fun with science "Let's enjoy unusual movements! – making models of rolling cocoons and flying seeds with things near at hand"
 - Announcement of lecture at the International Library of Children's Literature "Children's books and services in a multicultural world"
 - <Let's make a planisphere!> at the International Library of Children's Literature
 - Books printed in the Taisho era added to the Digital Library from the Meiji Era

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- Greetings from the new Librarian Makoto Nagao – “Knowledge makes us rich”
[related article](#)
- International efforts of NDL on preservation cooperation – from its activities in FY2006
- Present situation of cooperation on preservation with Nepal – official trip to Nepal – Kiyonobu Isaka
- Meeting of Directors of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centres in Asia and Oceania and the Preservation Conference in China with specialists from Korea and Japan – for the reinforcement of the preservation network in Asia – Yukiko Saito and Naoko Kobayashi [related article](#)
- 36th meeting of the Council on the Index to the History of Japanese Law
- Invitation of Ms. Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia [related article](#)
- Invitation of Mr. Dirk Tang from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek [related article](#)
- Partial amendments to the National Diet Library Law (commentary)
- <Announcement>
 - Announcement of regular exhibition
 - Renewal of the NDL HP
 - Data added to the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet
 - Cessation of publication in book form and donation of Japanese National Bibliography [related article](#)
 - Picture book Gallery “Art and Daily Life: Modernism in the Picture Book” open to the public [related article](#)
 - Call for participation in the questionnaire on this bulletin

