



Japan specialist Dr. Steinhoff gave a lecture at NDL "Japanese Studies in the U.S.: Past, Present and Future"



Dr. Patricia Steinhoff at lecture

On November 30, 2007, Dr. Patricia Steinhoff, Professor of Sociology, [University of Hawaii at Manoa](#), was invited to the NDL to give a lecture. She has been playing an active role in the field of research on Japanese society for years. Joining the project of [the Japan Foundation](#), she has conducted a survey on specialists and institutions on Japanese studies in North America.

Based on [*the survey results](#) and her experiences, she analyzed historical and social changes and present state of Japanese studies in North America. She also spoke of the future prospects and hopes for the NDL and other institutions which provide helpful information for Japanese studies. The following is a summary of her talk.

"Japanese Studies in the U.S.: Past, Present and Future"

Trends of Japanese studies in postwar U.S.

There are three academic paradigms in Japanese studies in postwar U.S.: (1) Language and Area Studies paradigm, (2) Politic and Economic Competition paradigm after the '80s, and (3) Cultural Studies paradigm. These three paradigms were born in different epochs with the transition of the U.S interest in Japan.

Language and Area Studies paradigm

This paradigm is based on a part of the U.S. program for foreign affairs and national defense policies in the '50s and '60s under the Cold-War structure. In this program, while people learned foreign languages which had rarely been taught before, they also carried interdisciplinary research on the areas where those languages were spoken.

Politic and Economic Competition paradigm

This paradigm was born from economic competitions after the '80s. People began to pay more and more attention to the economic usefulness of Japanese language and studies. Accordingly practical Japan specialists with knowledge of the business field were produced.

Cultural Studies paradigm

This paradigm is new and became popular after 2000. Specialists here show interest in the humanities and Japanese culture. They study phenomena such as Manga , Anime and games.

[up](#)

Japan Foundation survey

This survey was conducted in 2005 as the third survey by the Japan Foundation following those in 1989 and 1995. This time, the number of specialists and research institutions on Japan had decreased compared with the peak in the '90s. The major causes of the decrease are as follows: retirement of the first-generation specialists, outflow of practical specialists increased in the Politic and Economic Competition paradigm age and culling of Japanese study programs with problems. However, committed specialists are still working and the number of students with Japanese language skills is increasing. The scale of institutions continuing Japanese studies is expanding and they offer more programs.

Information technology has a great impact on research materials. More than 40% of specialists are using online materials. On the other hand, we can say the significance of libraries which provide information on Japan is still highly recognized because three-quarters of specialists are using the collections of their institutions and other bodies.

IT progress, globalization and libraries' roles

The most important external change brought about by the IT revolution is that we can access information from anywhere. This is a big change not only for specialists in the U.S. but also for those in the rest of the world. However, when they use new information resources, library specialists' expertise remains helpful. Librarians are taking more important roles as information specialists.

The needs for materials vary depending on the paradigm. For example, grey literature is needed in the Politic and Economic Competition paradigm while mass magazines, pamphlets and other ephemeral materials are needed in the Cultural Studies paradigm.

It is impossible for libraries to cover all the materials demanded by specialists and they

do not expect that, either. Specialists want libraries to understand the changing paradigms and to provide information to obtain materials for new fields of research.

Dr. Steinhoff's presentation file will be available on [the International Cooperation page of the NDL website](#).

* The research result is included in **Directory of Japan Specialists and Japanese Studies Institutions in the United States and Canada: Japanese Studies in the United States. The Japan Foundation, 2007** and **Japanese studies in the United States and Canada: continuities and opportunities. The Japan Foundation, 2007.**

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 159, February 2008



Training Program for Information Specialists for Japanese Studies in FY 2007



Trainees and staff at the farewell party

Since FY2002, the National Diet Library (NDL) has jointly hosted the Training Program for Information Specialists for Japanese Studies with the [Japan Foundation](#) (JF), in cooperation with the [International House of Japan](#) (IHJ) and the [National Institute of Informatics](#) (NII).

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

Since FY 2005, a target region was reviewed and selected each year. This year's program targeted Japanese information specialists from the Americas. The program was held from November 26 to December 11, 2007, mainly in the Tokyo Main Library of the NDL and the Kansai-kan of the NDL. Ten trainees joined from four countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

The contents of the program were as follows:

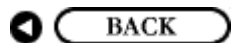
Date	Subject
November 26	Orientation Courtesy call on the Librarian of the NDL Introduction of the curriculum Guided tour of the Tokyo Main Library
November 27	Bibliographic database of the NDL: use of the NDL-OPAC Periodical indexes in Japan: focusing on the NDL Japanese Periodicals Index Japanese newspapers

November 28	Rare books and old materials Observation tour (International Library of Children's Literature)
November 29	Independent research Pre-workshop (on request, at IHJ) Workshop: Present and future of Japanese Studies in the Americas (jointly hosted by the JF and the IHJ, co-hosted by the NDL) (at IHJ) Reception
November 30	Japanese reference books 1 Japanese reference books 2
December 1	Travel to Kansai
December 2	Observation tour (Kyoto International Manga Museum) (Optional) Independent research
December 3	Courtesy call on the Director General of the Kansai-kan Orientation Observation tour of the Kansai-kan Digital library projects of the NDL How to use the information via websites in Japanese studies
December 4	Observation tour (Tenri Central Library) Observation tour (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
December 5	Travel to Tokyo Observation tour (Japanese Overseas Migration Museum) (Optional)
December 6	Statistics on Japan: statistics in English Japanese laws and regulations Japanese government publications
December 7	Preservation and conservation Observation tour (Keio University Mita Media Center)
December 8 December 9	Independent Research
December 10	Publishing industries in Japan Lecture on summary of services and databases provided by NII (at the NII)

December 11

Observation tour ([The Historiographical Institute, the University of Tokyo](#)) (Optional)
Documentation Delivery Service by the NDL
Trainees' evaluation meeting
Farewell party

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 159, February 2008



The 27th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China, and NLC Forum of World Library Directors

A National Diet Library (NDL) delegation visited China from November 4 to 11, 2007 on the 27th mutual visit program between the NDL and [the National Library of China \(NLC\)](#). Since it started in 1981, the program has alternately taken place in Japan and in China every year. This year, in addition to the program, the NLC Forum of World Library Directors was held at the same venue.

For reports of past programs, please see [here](#). For an outline of the programs and reports presented at the programs, please see [here](#).

NLC Forum of World Library Directors (November 5, 2007)



From left: Interpreter, Dr. Nagao (Librarian of the NDL) and Dr. Zhan (Director of the NLC)

The NLC Forum of World Library Directors is a part of lecture series of the directors of foreign national libraries invited by the NLC. Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, attended the forum and gave a presentation titled "Through knowledge we prosper –the development of the digital library."

He recounted the beginning of the digital library in Japan; the outline of the NDL digital library services including services for the Diet, digital library projects, [online galleries](#), and [the NDL Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)](#) (Japanese only), which plays a role in passing on Internet information of value to future generations; and technical issues essential for future digital libraries. He also said that, taking account of the tremendous increase of information, some tasks should be automated by utilizing natural language

processing system and information processing techniques, and we should aim at constructing a multimedia digital library. At the end he stressed the importance of cooperative relationships between the nations in a cultural sphere of the Chinese character, that is, China, Korea and Japan.

[up](#)

The 27th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China



Headed by Mr. Mikio Wanaka, Director General, Kansai-kan of the NDL, the delegation consisted of the following four other members: Mr. Kazuyuki Yamaguchi, Director of the Planning Division, Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Director of the Business, Science and Technology Division, Mr. Takehiko Sato, Director of the Digital Library Division, and Mr. Naotoshi Maeda, Asian Resources Division (interpreter).

The theme of the 2007 program was "Digital Library."

<p>Nov. 6, 2007 Opening Session (Keynote speech)</p>	<p>(1) "New Orientation for the Digital Library of NDL" by Mr. Mikio Wanaka (Director General, Kansai-kan of the NDL)</p> <p>(2) "Chinese Digital Collection Development in NLC" by Dr. Chen Li (Deputy Librarian, NLC)</p>
<p>Nov. 7, 2007 Section</p>	<p>(1) "Integrated Library System of NDL" by Mr. Kazuyuki Yamaguchi (Director, Planning Division, NDL)</p> <p>(2) "Technology Implementations for National Digital Library of China" by Mr. Wei Dawei (Director, Information Technology Department, NLC)</p> <p>(3) "Digital Archiving System and Digital Archive Portal of NDL" by Takehiko Sato (Director, Digital Library Division, NDL)</p>

meeting

(4) "Digital Newspapers Repository Project (DiNeR) of NLC" by Mr. Li Chunming (Assistant Director, Newspapers and Periodicals Department, NLC) (read by Mr. Wang Zhigeng, Director, Newspapers and Periodicals Department, NLC)

During the program, six speakers introduced each library's recent activities. The NLC and the NDL have shared so many issues that both sides had a lively exchange of views on this theme.

At the keynote speech, Mr. Wanaka introduced the history of development of the internal system and plans for providing digital library services in the NDL, ongoing construction of the digital archiving system and related issues, and the [Digital Archive Portal \(PORTA\)](#) opened in October 2007. Dr. Chen presented the current situation of the NLC, an outline of the National Digital Library of China to be completed within 2008, digitized resources, electronic journals introduced in the NLC and so on.

At the section meeting, Mr. Yamaguchi introduced the Integrated Library System of the NDL, which controls present library services and carries more than 16 million bibliographic data, and its future tasks, especially the NDL System Optimization Plan. Mr. Sato's presentation was focused on the Digital Archiving System and the NDL Digital Archive Portal (PORTA), a navigation system to digital information in Japan. Present issues include metadata elements, rules of metadata description, standardization of communication protocol and extension of the search range.

From the NLC, Mr. Wei gave an explanation of the National Digital Library of China, including the objectives, systemic framework for realization, and services after construction. The NLC places an emphasis on construction of a large scale Chinese digital archive, seamless transmission of digital information and provision of an advanced reading environment for on-site users. Then Mr. Li's report introduced the system design, system structure, data management and preservation of the Digital Newspapers Repository Project (DiNeR) started in 2005. The NCL has received digital data from publishers as well as collected newspapers in the PDF format.

In the latter part of the program, the delegation visited the [Peking University Library](#), the Capital Library of China, the [Tsinghua University Library](#), Tsinghua Tongfang Co. LTD, and the [National Science Library](#), where they learned the current situation of library services and digital resources in China.

In addition, they discussed a cooperative relationship among China, Korea and Japan, and agreed to hold a tripartite meeting in October 2008 in Tokyo, when the NDL hosts the 16th [Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania \(CDNLAO\)](#).

More details of this program will be published in NDL Monthly Bulletin no. 563, February 2008 (in Japanese).

[up](#)



The 5th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Assembly Library of Korea



NAL delegation and NDL executive members (from left: Dr. Nagao (Librarian), Ms. Rha, Ms. Lee, Mr. Ikuhara (Deputy Librarian), Mr. Iwaki (Director General, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau))

The 5th mutual visit program with the [National Assembly Library \(NAL\)](#) of Korea was held from December 10 to 16, 2007 at the Tokyo Main Library of the National Diet Library (NDL). Two staff members of the NAL, Ms. Hae-Sook Rha, Japanese Language Specialist, Foreign Resources Division, Legislative Information Office, and Ms. Jin-Kyoung Lee, Assistant Director, Legislative DB Division, Legislative Information Office, visited Tokyo for the program.

The mutual visit program between the two libraries started in 2000 as a staff-training program with the aim of enhancing understanding of each other's parliamentary services. The framework of the program was reviewed in 2003, in which two staff members are sent to the partner library every two years to report and discuss both libraries' major issues. In 2007, the two libraries concluded an agreement to continue this program in the same form for the next two years.

In 2007 program, two of the NAL staff visited the NDL and the following main sessions were successfully completed.

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Paper session I: Collection and provision of digital information to the parliament

- NAL report from Ms. Jin-Kyoung Lee
- NDL report from Mr. Ryoichi Minami, Assistant Director, Legislative Reference and Information Resources Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Paper session II: Provision of overseas legislative information to the parliament

- NAL report from Ms. Hae-Sook Rha
- NDL report from Mr. Kei Okahisa, Researcher, Overseas Legislative Information Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

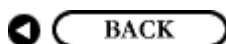
In Session I, Ms. Lee, starting with outlining the concept of legislative information, introduced the services of the Legislative Information Office such as the e-mail services which provide useful legislative information to the legislative staff in the National Assembly. Mr. Minami explained the acquisition of digital information in the NDL and the digital information services which the NDL provides for the National Diet. These reports were followed by questions on maintaining neutrality and objectivity, the coverage of contents released to public and other matters.

In Session II, Ms. Rha outlined the history of the support system for utilizing materials in foreign languages in the legislative activities of the National Assembly, and then she reported the current services such as the research and translation of legal materials in foreign languages. Mr. Okahisa explained the overseas legislative information services provided by the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, with an emphasis on the editorial work of Foreign Legislation (the Bureau's publication issued quarterly). Based on these two reports, the participants vigorously asked questions about proofreading systems for faithful translation, the topics taken as information on Japan and others.

In addition to these sessions, the delegation from the NAL had meetings with the staff of the Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Division (Ms. Lee) and the Overseas Legislative Information Division (Ms. Rha). They exchanged views on topics including research methods. At the end of the program, the NAL delegation and the NDL staff talked about future programs. Both libraries agreed that the next program will be held in the NAL with two delegates dispatched from the NDL.

[▶Reports of past programs in the NDL Newsletter](#)

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 159, February 2008



NDL Statistics FY2006 (part 2/2)

This is an abridged translation of the series of articles
"Excerpts from the Annual Report of the NDL, FY 2006: statistics (2)"
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 559 (October 2007).

Contents

([Last issue](#))

I. [Collection development and provision of bibliographic information](#)

- 1. [Collections](#)
- 2. [Acquisition](#)
- 3. [Collections of the digital library](#)
- 4. [Provision of bibliographic information](#)

II. [Services for the National Diet](#)

- 1. [Legislative research services](#)
- 2. [Library services](#)

(This issue)

III. [Services for the executive and judicial branches](#)

IV. [Services for the general public](#)

- 1. [Services for remote users](#)
 - a. [Interlibrary loan](#)
 - b. [Copying service for remote users](#)
 - c. [Reference services](#)
- 2. [On-site services](#)
 - a. [Opening days, visitors and circulation](#)
 - b. [Copying service](#)
 - c. [Reference services](#)
 - d. [Characteristics of each facility](#)

III. Services for the executive and judicial branches

The NDL extends its services to the executive and judicial branches of Japan chiefly through its branch libraries established within the government ministries and agencies and the Supreme Court. There are 26 branch libraries and 6 sub-branches as of October 2007.

<Table 1>Branch Library services

Branch library	Visitors	Circulation (persons)	Circulation (volumes)	Copying	Reference	Note
Board of Audit Library	–	3,445	6,842	–	2,246	
National Personnel Authority Library	2,858	1,588	3,026	0	426	
Cabinet Legislation Bureau Library	–	520	1,265	0	195	
Cabinet Office Library	–	6,431	9,522	1,700	388	Including a sub-branch
Library of Science Council of Japan	210	65	108	0	28	
Imperial Household Agency Library	–	2,172	11,407	2,456	237	
Fair Trade Commission Library	–	1,727	3,555	–	78	
National Police Agency Library	–	817	1,227	413	1,095	
Financial Services Agency Library	–	1,537	5,236	–	94	
Ministry of						

Internal Affairs and Communications Library	4,760	3,141	7,152	–	480	
Statistical Library of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	6,283	1,216	3,734	631	6,677	
Ministry of Justice Library	20,769	4,555	8,544	–	547	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Library	44,405	5,702	10,515	811	2,161	
Ministry of Finance Library	–	4,133	16,220	–	9	
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Library	–	4,054	8,085	1,492	673	
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Library	10,492	2,139	5,839	–	6,141	
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Library	30,616	6,010	13,035	8,856	12,116	Including 3 sub-branches
Forestry Agency Library	5,716	1,569	2,852	302	1,104	
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Library	7,870	3,471	8,118	1,545	3,409	

Patent Office Library	8,621	975	1,653	6,298	1,996	
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Library	18,859	6,379	12,331	9,285	2,890	Including 3 sub-branches
Meteorological Agency Library	3,245	683	1,115	1,678	5,982	
Japan Coast Guard Library	1,355	400	833	341	104	Including a sub-branch
Ministry of the Environment Library	2,043	553	1,088	–	1,068	
Ministry of Defense Library	26,108	5,599	7,880	577	7,802	
Supreme Court Library	–	9,927	21,365	7,869	5,346	
Total	194,210	78,808	172,547	44,254	63,292	

Note: “–” are uncounted items.

[up](#)

IV. Services for the general public

Services for the general public are offered in the Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan, International Library of Children’s Literature (ILCL) and Toyo Bunko. These facilities offer services for both remote and on-site users.

The Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan have introduced a user registration system to improve the convenience of both remote and on-site services. Once registered, a person can enter the library with a simplified procedure and may also request copying service via the Internet. There were 5,377 registered libraries (496 newly applied) and 84,155 individuals (31,376) as of FY2006.

1. Services for remote users

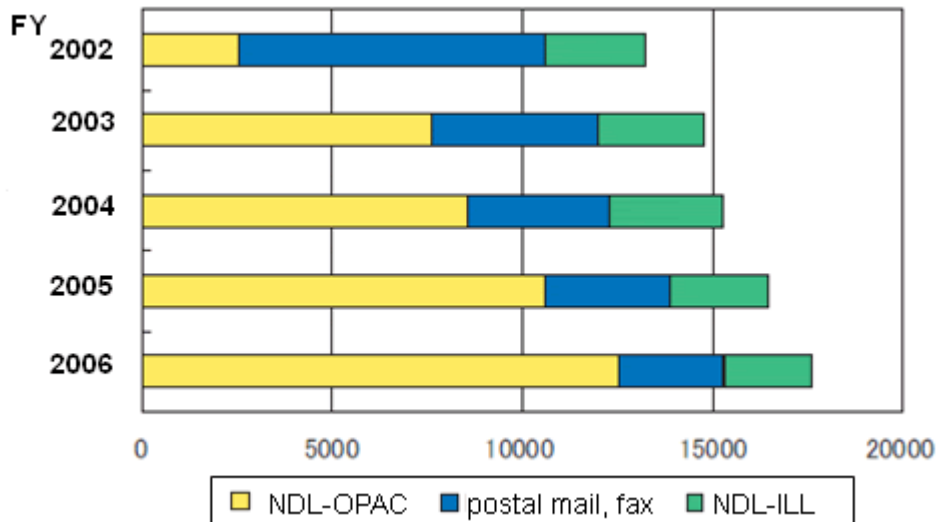
a. Interlibrary loan

The Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan lent out 16,677 items of materials to 3,478

institutions and libraries including 95 new member institutions and libraries in FY2006. They can make a request for individual users via the NDL-OPAC in addition to postal mail, fax and through the National Diet Library Interlibrary Loan (NDL-ILL)* system. The number of requests via the [NDL-OPAC](#) was 12,518 (71 % of all the requests) in FY2006.

The ILCL lent out 238 items of materials to public libraries, and from November 2002, a Book Sets Lending Service for school libraries was started and 8,734 materials were lent out in FY2006.

<Chart 1> Number of interlibrary loans (by form of request)

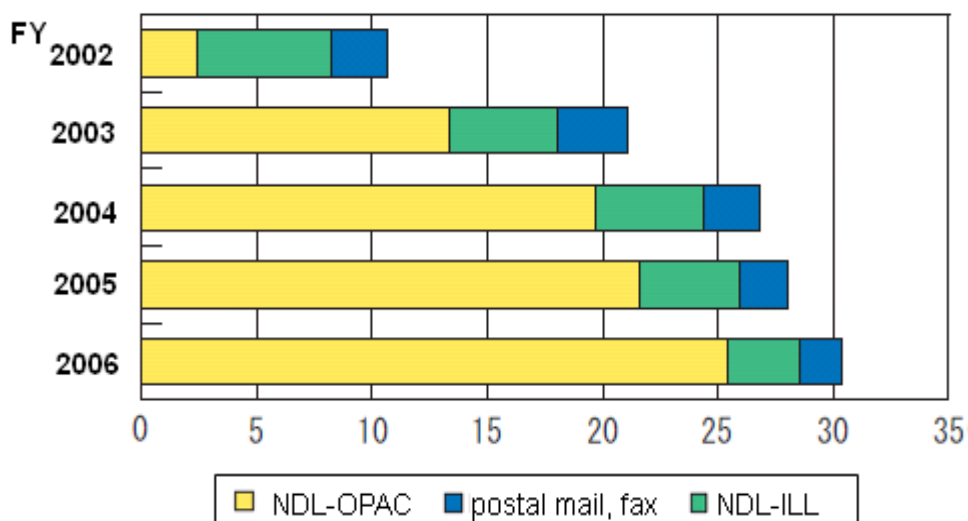


[up](#)

b. Copying service for remote users

We received requests for 305,904 articles for copying service in FY2006 from remote users (283,357 in the previous FY). This includes the number of items requested at ILCL (1,092). We receive requests via the NDL-OPAC as well as postal mail, fax, and the NDL-ILL. The number of requests via the NDL-OPAC comprised 83% of all the requests in FY2006 (76% in the previous FY), and of them requests from individuals make up 67 %.

<Chart 2> Number of articles requested for copying service from remote users



(From FY2002 to FY2004, the number shows the transaction, while later than FY2005 shows the requests received.)

*Request of loan and copying service via the NDL-ILL was discontinued at the end of FY2006.

c. Reference services

Remote reference services are available by phone, letter, fax or e-mail. In FY2006, there were 6,332 written (letter, fax, or e-mail) requests from domestic libraries.

Reference service by e-mail is also available to registered libraries in Japan and overseas users. In FY2006, 61% of the requests from registered libraries in Japan were made by e-mail.

[up](#)

2. On-site services

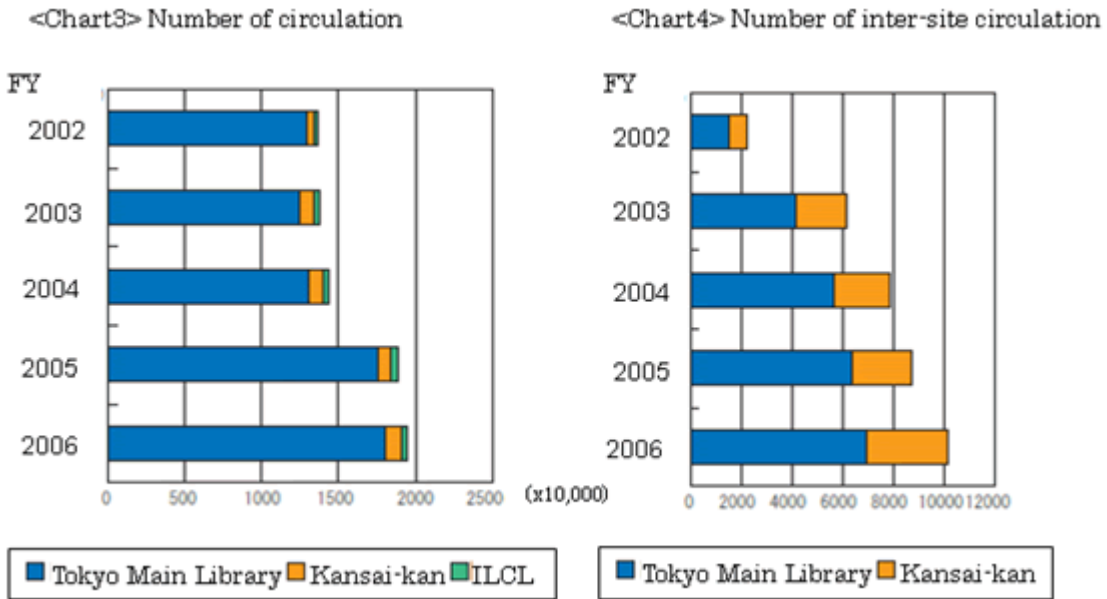
a. Numbers of opening days, visitors and circulation

The following table introduces opening days, numbers of visitors and circulation at the 3 facilities in FY2006.

<Table 2> Number of opening days, visitors and circulation

	Tokyo Main Library	Kansai-kan	ILCL
Opening days/year	280	280	286
Visitors	428,742(1,531/day)	63,861(228/day)	140,637(492/day)
Circulation	2,373,139	104,226	35,896
Inter-site circulation (materials sent from Kansai-kan)	6,968	-	-

Inter-site circulation (materials sent from Tokyo Main Library)	-	3,185	-
---	---	-------	---



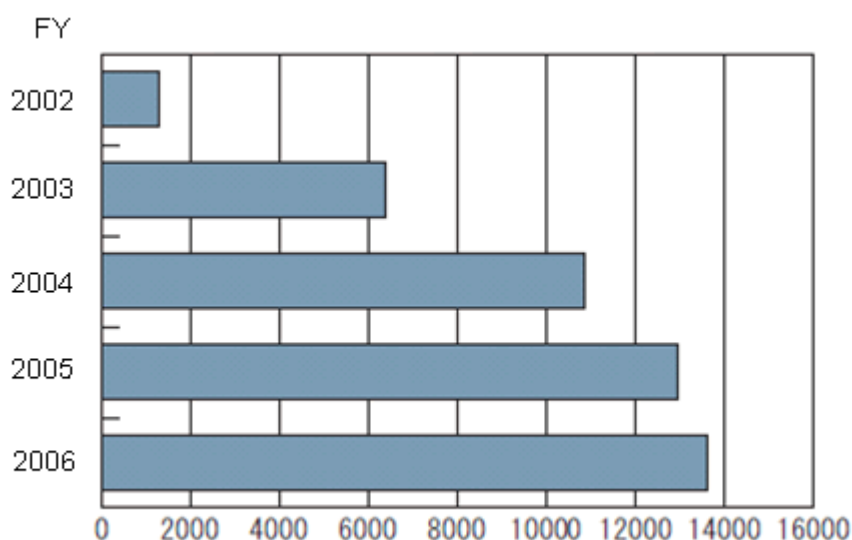
[up](#)

b. Copying service

The amount of copying counted by requests was 800,399 at the Tokyo Main Library (731,420 in the previous FY), 66,484 at the Kansai-kan (63,176) and 6,720 at the ILCL (8,562). In FY2006, services including the following were expanded: copying fee reduced; new copying menu added; color copying service of microfilms started in the ILCL. In the Tokyo Main Library the page limit has been eased for same-day photoduplication service, and as a result the number of requests for this service increased by 10%.

The number of copying includes printout of microforms and electronic materials in addition to paper form. The number of requests for printout has been increasing year by year, and was 13,812 in FY2006 (12,976 in the previous FY). Especially in FY2006, new digital information provision services were introduced, and materials available for copying and service menus were expanded. Request for copying was made available via terminals instead of the former paper application form. As a consequence of these changes, user-friendliness of digital information copying has been improved. In addition, the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan provide on-site remote photoduplication service, for interlibrary use of materials.

<Chart 5 > Number of copying (print out)



c. Reference service

The number of reference replies for visitors was 487,686 at the Tokyo Main Library (467,511 in the previous FY), 53,012 at the Kansai-kan (52,154) and 6,582 at the ILCL (7,366).

d. Characteristics of each facility

Tokyo Main Library:

Tokyo Main Library improved environment to make it possible to provide on-site users offline electronic publications (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM etc.), online journals, online digital information (online databases etc.) and Internet information, and introduced new digital information provision services in October 2006. With these improvements, reading and request of online journals and some offline electronic publications have become available from ten special materials rooms. As for copying, improvements have been made as mentioned above.

Kansai-kan:

The Kansai-kan, which holds 80,000 materials on the open shelves in the General Collections Room, changed the layout for more efficient use of the vast amount of materials.

International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL):

In October 2006, ILCL started providing color microfilm use of about 300 volumes of children's literature, a part of the productions of the first phase of the cooperative microfilming project of the Prange Collection.

For the past statistics, please see [here](#).

[up](#)

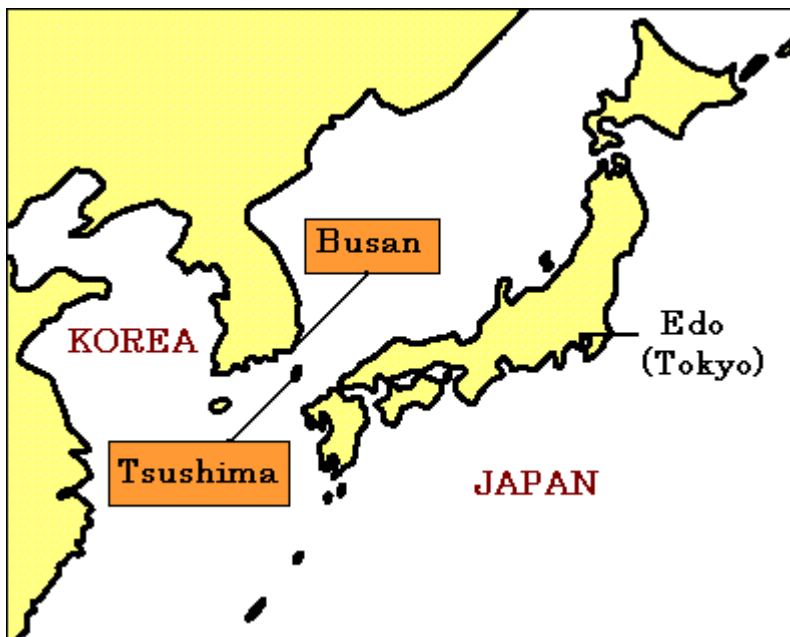


Material recently designated as national important cultural property

Soke monjo 宗家文書

(Tsushima Soke Wakan kankei shiryō 対馬宗家倭館関係資料)

The National Diet Library holds 1,593 documents of the Soke (So clan) which ruled the Tsushima domain and was in charge of the practical activities in trade and diplomatic relations with Korea during the Edo period. These documents are collectively called "Soke monjo." In June 2007, it was officially announced that this collection was designated as a national important cultural property based on the report of the Cultural Affairs Council. The official designation of the collection as a national important cultural property is "Tsushima Soke Wakan kankei shiryō."



Most of the records and documents of the Soke had been stored in three places: the main office of the Tsushima domain (called "Fuchu," in current Izuhara, Tsushima City, Nagasaki Prefecture), Wakan (Busan, Korea) and the So clan's residence in Edo (Tokyo). The NDL's present collection comes in large part from those held in the Wakan, which was transferred in 1894

from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to the Tokyo Library, one of the NDL's predecessors. The NDL also holds a part of what had been stored at the clan's residence in Edo, which was purchased in 1912 from Yogyoku-in, the So clan's family temple in Edo.

[up](#)

What is Wakan?

The word "wakan(倭館)" literally means "Japanese house or embassy." The Wakan was actually a Japanese settlement in Korea, where emissaries from Japan were

accepted, and trade and diplomatic negotiations took place. It was already being mentioned at the beginning of the 15th century. Most of the documents and records in the NDL collection date from about the 200 years between 1678 and 1873, when the Wakan was placed in Choryang, Busan. All the residents in the Wakan were sent by the Tsushima domain and about 500 residents including government officials and merchants are estimated to have been living in the Wakan in Choryang.

Introduction of documents in the NDL collection

"Kanshu nikki"

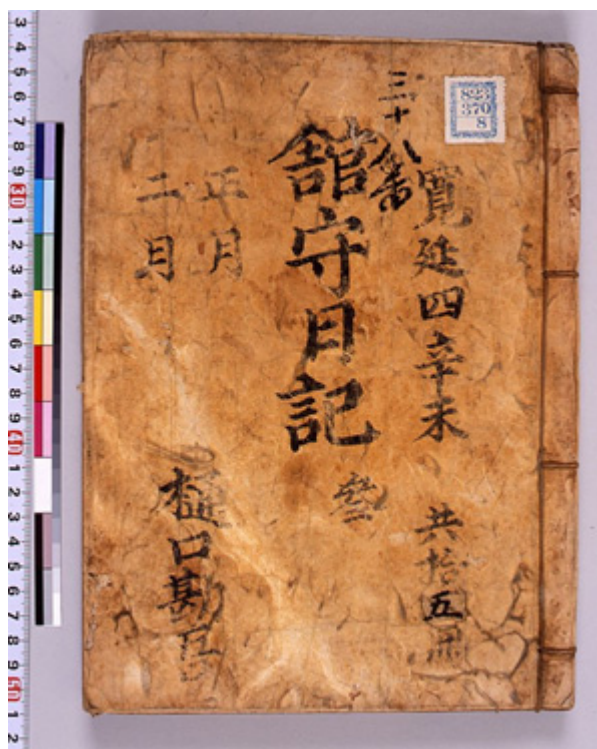
館主日記

(diary of chief keepers)

*Part of them is titled

"Mainichiki (毎日記 :journal of every day)"

NDL holdings: 863 volumes



front cover of "Kanshu nikki"

Responsible officials of the Wakan, called kanshu, kept business diaries that contain detailed records of day-to-day events such as the weather, incomings and outgoings of ships, visitors, letters sent and received, disputes inside the house and the accidental appearance of a tiger. The diaries included in the collection cover with hardly any gap from 1687 to 1870. In those days people put much faith in past events and precedents when conducting diplomatic negotiations. For this reason, these diaries were referred to so frequently that indexes for them were compiled. "Somokuroku (惣目録:general list)" (54 volumes) consists of lists of dates and main items extracted from the dairies;"Bunrui jiko (分類事考:classification index)" (21 volumes) is a subject index.



“Kanshu nikki”

“Saihan kiroku”

裁判記録

(business records of diplomats)

NDL holdings: 239 volumes



front cover of “Saihan kiroku”

Diplomats called *saihan*, who were sent to the Wakan each time diplomatic problems occurred, also kept business diaries. As *saihan* were also in charge of the reception of emissaries, they took down in the diaries not only the processes of negotiations but also details such as menus at reception parties and gift items.

“Ryokoku ofukusho utsushi”

両国往復書牒

(copies of letters between two countries)

NDL holdings: 209 volumes

All the diplomatic correspondence sent from and received in the Wakan was recorded by monks at Tokoji temple inside the settlement. While other documents in the collection were written in cursive writing, printed style characters were used in these documents because they were copies of official documents, and the writing in the



Ryokoku ofukusho utsushi

original documents was reproduced in every detail.

This collection of documents "Soke monjo" is important not merely for the study of Japanese history of diplomatic negotiations and that of trade and commerce, but it also has a great value, passing on to us of the life and cultural exchange in the special environment of the Wakan as the only Japanese quarter overseas during the period when Japan was closed off to the world.

[up](#)

Physical aspects of the documents

Most of the documents are bound with covered binding (four-hole) and some are Korean style (five-hole binding). Some of them are still kept in their original bindings, although most of them were repaired by putting a new cover over the original one while the Imperial Library, one of the NDL's predecessors, was holding them. Some documents were put together to make one volume and some were divided into several volumes. They range in height from approximately 22cm to 28cm.

Documents of the Soke held by other institutions

It is said that there exist over a hundred thousand documents of the Soke in total. They are held by seven institutions including NDL, Nagasaki Kenritsu Tsushima Rekishi Minzoku Shiryokan (Nagasaki Prefectural Tsushima museum of history and folklore), Kyushu National Museum, the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo, Keio University Library, Tokyo National Museum, and the National Institute of Korean History in the Republic of Korea. The collection held by the Kyushu National Museum, which consists of 14,078 documents, was designated as national important cultural property in 2005.

User information

The NDL's "Soke monjo" was newly designated as a rare book in NDL in July 2007. In accordance with the designation, NDL call numbers of the documents were changed from 823-1 to -40 into WA1-6 with numbering from 1 to 40 assigned to each group of documents. All the documents are available in microform in [the Rare Books and Old](#)

[Materials Room.](#)

Rare Books and Old Materials Division, Reference and Special Collections Department

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 159, February 2008



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. 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. 563, February 2008 [[PDF Format, 4.95 MB](#)]

- What Japan's biggest library can do – Library Fair & Forum 2007
- Report of the 27th mutual visit program with the National Library of China and NLC Forum of World Library Directors – Toward cooperation in digital library projects in East Asia [related article](#)
- Future issues concerning the Collaborative Reference Database Project – 5th year from the start of system provision
- Children of the Collaborative Reference Database Project – Hiroki Yamazaki from Akita Prefectural Library
- Expectations for the Collaborative Reference Database System from a special library – Present situation and future issues of the Labour Reference Library
- Japanese studies in the US: past, present and future – lecture by Dr. Patricia Steinhoff [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
 - Announcement of regular exhibition
 - Introductory tour of the gallery related to the exhibition Door to the Czech Republic: The world of children's books
 - Special events for children during the spring vacation

No. 562, January 2008 [[PDF Format, 11.2 MB](#)]

- New goals for the NDL's 60th anniversary – Makoto Nagao [related article](#)
- International Policy Seminar: Attempts at a solution for juvenile problems in the U.K. – lecture of Ms. Claire Bullement
- NDL viewed by on-site users: report of user questionnaire survey FY2007
- Recovery of water-damaged materials – practical training for recovery work

- Current status of university libraries –FY2007 meeting between NDL Librarian and directors of university libraries
- <Announcement>
 - Announcement of regular exhibition
 - Data of the Japanese Periodicals Index (Natural Science, 1959–1964) available on the NDL-OPAC
 - Event at the International Library of Children's Literature: Picture books and music for children: the Nutcracker

[up](#)

