

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 160, April 2008

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New goals for the NDL's 60th anniversary

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Librarian of the National Diet Library

This is based on an article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 562 (January 2008).

This year, the National Diet Library (NDL) celebrates its 60th anniversary. In commemoration of this anniversary, a symposium and a special exhibition will be held in autumn. The NDL will also host the [Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania \(CDNLAO\)](#) in Tokyo to exchange information on the current status of each national library and discuss the common issues facing us.

On this occasion, we reconfirmed our mission and set again a vision for which we should aim in future as follows.

Slogan

“Through knowledge we prosper”

Concrete targets

Enhance our legislative support function by improving services for the National Diet

It is our primary mission to serve the Diet of Japan. So far the NDL has made efforts to meet a wide variety of Diet members' demands. We intend to strengthen our own anticipatory research on national political issues as well as improving our research services provided on request in order to function as “brains for the legislative body.” We will also be active as the “information center for the Diet members.”

Make an exhaustive collection of results of intellectual activities in Japan to preserve them as common resources of the nation

Even though the NDL collects a large volume of materials under the Legal Deposit System, not all publications in Japan are deposited, especially publications not commercially distributed and some reports issued by local governments. We try to gain public understanding that the Legal Deposit System is based on a sublime idea: it enables us to preserve the intellectual assets of Japan for long periods, provide them for all the people and for the activities of future generations, so that we can achieve a high rate of legal

deposit. We hope to develop as perfect collections as possible as the last resort for publications in Japan.

It is estimated that the amount of useful information existing not in paper form but only online will increase at an explosive pace. Since such information is also a part of our intellectual assets, it should be preserved for many years and be utilized for new creations. Therefore we consider that the NDL should collect information on the Internet. However the Legal Deposit System under the present National Diet Library Law does not cover it. At the moment we collect websites after obtaining permission on a site by site basis, but, there is a limit and a new legal framework seems to be essential to collect websites. We have just started efforts in order to win public acceptance as the first step.

Provide prompt and precise access or links to information needed by users

Until now the NDL has made efforts to improve our services through, for example, the [National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog \(NDL-OPAC\)](#) and the [Collaborative Reference Database](#) (Japanese only), which developed in cooperation with libraries and other institutions. In the future, we will enhance these services, improve convenience, try to cooperate with various information sources and enrich and upgrade digital library functions, so that people can easily retrieve the information they want.

Seek to provide equally good service to all users regardless of where they are

In the Internet age, we aim at providing services directly to all users across the country just as good as to on-site users. For this goal, it is necessary to carry on a full-scale digitization operation and to solve a host of issues. We intend to steadily make strides forward with this aim.

Offer a variety of appealing services to society and increase NDL's visibility

Although the NDL has gained trust from the Diet and general users as a result of its solid work, its usefulness has not yet become widely known and it is still far from providing sufficient services to all. In our time libraries need to work on not only providing library materials but also strengthening human creativity by providing people with a variety of information in various means including navigation services to information they need, and creating an opportunity for enrichment of spiritually rich lives.

We intend to be involved in such activities by, for example, producing a public relations magazine which can stimulate many people intellectually and holding lectures on appropriate subjects so that people can better recognize the value of the NDL and make more use of it.

Promote closer cooperation with libraries of various kinds in Japan including public libraries

It is a fact transcending time that local public libraries are most convenient and most familiar for people, even though the NDL has found a new direction to serve the public widely and directly thanks to the present Internet technology. Therefore, in addition to supporting such public libraries, the NDL will deepen mutual cooperation with public, academic and special libraries by building up a closer network to provide each other's

services and to mutually play complementary roles.

Try to share and exchange information by maintaining close relationships with overseas libraries

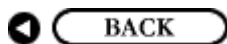
Such cooperation is needed among not only domestic libraries but also foreign libraries. When determining a measure and enacting a law, the nation should research and investigate sufficiently things such as consistency at the international level in addition to consideration of the domestic situation. Mutual cooperation with parliamentary libraries in each country is essential to obtain information necessary in these cases. As researchers require direct use of foreign libraries, it is ideal that major libraries around the world are linked effectively so that users can feel like accessing and using one library. As the first step to achieving this aim, the National Library of China, the National Library of Korea and the National Diet Library, as libraries in a cultural sphere using Chinese characters, agreed to cooperate to solve such difficult challenges and will launch concrete actions.

Although the above-mentioned challenges are not what we can resolve in a few years, under the conviction that we can achieve them some day by clarifying these objectives, we have made a fresh start for future aims on our 60th anniversary.

The information environment in the network era influences publishing industry and library world: it demands deep thought on what libraries ought to be in the long-range perspective. What I have described here is the entrance of the solution and I would like to carefully study it in future. I ask for your kind understanding and cooperation.

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Lecture meeting and discussion “Present and future prospects of web archiving – for international partnerships”

This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 565 (April 2008).



On January 23, 2008, a lecture meeting and discussion titled “Present and future prospects of web archiving – for international partnerships” was held in the National Diet Library (NDL).

Today, while vast amounts of useful digital information are distributed rapidly, the difficulty of long-term preservation and the instability of such information is becoming an issue. In particular, Web information is ephemeral and it is said that the average life span of a web site is only 44 to 75 days.

In this lecture meeting, experts who are actively and internationally involved in this issue were invited to talk about digital archiving, focusing on web archiving including its significance and the latest international trends.



Building an archive of the Internet: Challenges ahead of us

Unlike paper publications, anyone can publish his/her work in the Internet. It is said that the amount of information on the Web is a million times what is published in a year in the world. As libraries are leaders and administrators in information communities, they should archive the web information.

Web archiving has its limits, However taking customized sites for instance, we can capture only a moment of dynamically created pages. In addition, it is hard to archive the deep Web and we can capture the surface Web only. These are some of the challenges in web archiving.

Accessibility of online content

The appearance of the web enabled us to search a variety of contents via search engines. Now we have two new sources of content on the Web. One is web archives, which now preserve more data than is on the existing Web. The other is massive digitization projects.

However, these two new resources include archives which are not supposed to be open to the public and exclusive digitized collections which block search engines. These run the risk of destroying the openness of web archives. The European Commission currently addresses the need for public domain content to remain in the public domain while it is being digitized. The Web spread because of its characteristic of openness. We must not lose this advantage.

Examples of projects to move forward

Currently in Europe, there is a movement to establish a shared platform of web archives. The purpose is to remove technical difficulties for web archiving in repository institutions.

Web contents are distributed beyond national borders. Therefore international coordination and cooperation are needed to build web archives, which have to be utilized mutually. In the future, technologies to link archives in various countries will be needed, for example, one which makes use of dispersed indexes.



The Internet Archive (IA)

The Internet Archive (IA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1996 by [Dr. Brewster Kahle](#), as an 'Internet library', to provide universal and permanent access to digital information for the people.

The IA contains approximately three petabytes (three million gigabytes) of data, including web pages, films and videos, music and spoken word (audio books), books and texts, software, and images.

[The International Internet Preservation Consortium \(IIPC\)](#)

International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) is a group of thirty five or more libraries, archives, cultural institutions, and research centers from around the globe that are helping to collect and preserve a rich body of Internet content. It was founded by the IA and eleven national libraries.

We think that the NDL's participation in the IIPC from this year is very important because it can take an administrative role. We think the NDL has the ideal conditions for taking an administrative role because the amount of web pages in the JP domain is large and the NDL has already launched web archiving via WARP.

Web Archiving

Web archiving is the process of collecting, storing, preserving, and ensuring access to resources that are published online. Why do we need it? Because the Web is part of our society and culture, in other word, it is ourselves. Unlike analog content, web content here today may be gone tomorrow.

I will tell you why partnership is needed for web archiving. Selecting collections to archive, crawling, monitoring the crawls, managing collections, mining and analyzing data sets, ensuring access – we cannot address those tasks alone. Sharing out the burden to each institution can lead to achieving more results. We need to work closely to solve future issues such as harvesting the deep Web and coping with new web technologies.

I would like to talk about what we have learned from our projects. First of all, users count. What is not visible to your users is not important to them either. We need to spread information actively to justify the cost, time and resources spent on web archiving as well as to continue archiving by obtaining budget. Results also matter. Just building up a collection

is not sufficient. The quality of the collection has to be maintained. Active feedback is also important. Do not wait to get started. What is there today might be gone tomorrow. Partnerships can multiply your efforts, resources and results and share knowledge and tools.

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Lecture by Dr. Masaru Kitsuregawa, Professor, [Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo](#)



Prior to the panel discussion, Dr. Kitsuregawa introduced his research “Socio Sense.”

Things that happen to the real world are immediately reflected in the Web. We can say that the Web is a device to perceive the society, in short, a sensor to society. Socio Sense is a study which uses web archived data and I use data captured since 1999.

We can get an overview of the Web space by extracting or analyzing links. For instance, with regard to the websites of banks which experienced merger, we can see links to the merger partner tend to increase with age before the announcement of the merger. We can also see the transition of young peoples’ language or usage of new words. Thus web archiving enables us to have a time-series panoramic view of the society.

Search for web archives should be able to chase the development of web pages from past to present, which is impossible for existing search engines. Capturing dynamically updated pages or contents over and over again and developing technologies for analyzing data are also important in addition to just archiving them.

Panel discussion



In the panel discussion with Mr. Masanès, Ms. Carpenter and Dr. Kitsuregawa, the following issues were discussed.

The importance of web archiving in Asia

It is said that web contents of China, Japan and South Korea occupy one third of the world's web contents, so it is important to conduct web archiving in Asia. As the principles of processing these languages are similar, we expect that they will hold talks to ensure connectivity and mutual search.

Challenges in continuing web archiving

Full automation of crawling is impossible. Human skills are necessary for monitoring and responding to claims.

Google and IBM seem to deem cooperation with archives worthy in public relations. It is also important for Asian countries to gain funding by approaching the private sector.

Efforts in universities and libraries

Coordination and cooperation are needed to succeed in web archiving. In the United States, there is a program called National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) led by the Library of Congress.

We can see a sea change in the Web, for instance, the explosive increase of contents with high interactivity including so-called web 2.0 contents and video contents. In order to cope with these new technologies, budget and support are essential.

The European Union (EU) is being funded by the EC (European Commission) Framework 7 Programme (FP7). Six million euros were provided for a three-year plan to cope with spam and traps, and to conduct research on the time series variation of the Web.

Web archiving has a mission to conserve human cultural heritage. We should provide a wealth of information as an open library and promote research while ensuring transparency of national funding.

Copyright issues

In web archiving, it is important to cooperate with web administrators. We cannot avoid copyright issues in web archiving. However, digital information is lost unless we archive it. Enhancing copyrights leads to a great loss of the Web, which is cultural heritage.

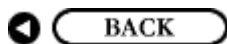
* Slides of lectures are available [here](#).

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Lecture meetings at NDL by overseas library experts

(Feb. 26, 2008)

- [“The National Library of South Africa and its Digital Library Projects”](#)

Mr. Andrew Malotle (Executive Head, Development, Communication and Marketing, National Library of South Africa)

Mr. Lesiba Stephen Ledwaba (Executive Head, Information and Communication Technology, National Library of South Africa)

(Feb. 27, 2008)

- [“Developments and Trends in Technical Services at the Library of Congress and Beyond”](#)

Mr. Beacher J. E. Wiggins (Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access, Library of Congress)

(Mar. 11, 2008)

- [“Undertakings of the National Library Board, Singapore, in the Digital Information Era”](#)

Dr. N Varaprasad (Chief Executive, National Library Board, Singapore)

The National Diet Library (NDL) invited four library experts from three countries and had opportunities to learn about the situation, projects and activities in each library through lecture meetings and opinion exchange sessions with the NDL staff members. People from outside also attended the lecture meetings. Here are brief reports on the lectures.

February 26, 2008

“The National Library of South Africa and its Digital Library Projects”

Mr. Andrew Malotle, Executive Head, Development, Communication and Marketing, National Library of South Africa

Mr. Lesiba Stephen Ledwaba, Executive Head, Information and Communication Technology, National Library of South Africa

From the National Library of South Africa (NLSA), we invited two executives. In the first half of the lecture meeting, Mr. Malotle gave an outline of the library and its activities. The NLSA has three facilities: the Pretoria Campus, Cape Town Campus and Centre for the Book (an organization mainly for promoting children’s reading), and offers services including



document supply and reference service, as well as participating in activities such as National Library Week. It plays a leading role among the national libraries in the African region and participates in activities of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development), in which it carried out a project for preserving precious manuscripts dated from the 13th century in Mali. Seeking to increase awareness of the library in the country, it succeeded in obtaining a budget for the construction of a new building in the Pretoria Campus.



Then Mr. Ledwaba introduced the digital library projects of the library. The NLSA participates in DISA (Digital Imaging project of South Africa), a joint project to digitize and enable access to materials of South Africa which have a high socio-political value. Another digitization project is that of newspaper clippings and photos by contract with a publisher group in South Africa. One of the largest challenges they are currently facing is the infrastructure of information and communications technology. In the field of human resources, they wish to develop staff's technological skills through personnel exchanges with us.

Handouts distributed at the lecture

[Mr. Malotle \(PDF: 858KB\)](#)

[Mr. Ledwaba \(PDF: 426KB\)](#)

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February 27, 2008

“Developments and Trends in Technical Services at the Library of Congress and Beyond”

Mr. Beacher J. E. Wiggins, Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access, Library of Congress



We invited Mr. Wiggins from the Library of Congress (LC) of the United States to learn from him about acquisition and bibliographic control at the LC. In his lecture, he first noted that library users expect to have more access to digital contents while the resources for acquisition and bibliographic work at libraries have been becoming scarcer. His lecture gave us an outline of the present condition and future of the technical services operations at the LC as it faces these trends.

Mr. Wiggins introduced the LC's undertakings and issues to be solved. For example, the LC has been exploring means to take advantage of bibliographic data from external sources, including those shared through the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. He also mentioned an organizational restructure planned for October 2008 to bring acquisitions and cataloging operations into one integrated operation with revised workflows. He also talked about the LC's response to the final report published in January 2008 by the LC Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, an external advisory group convened by the LC.

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March 11, 2008

“Undertakings of the National Library Board, Singapore, in the Digital Information Era”

Dr. N Varaprasad, Chief Executive, National Library Board, Singapore

We had the Chief Executive of the National Library Board (NLB), Singapore, Dr. Varaprasad, who talked about the strategy of the NLB, focusing on the “Library 2010” formulated in 2005. He started his lecture with a mention of the present situation where the functions expected of libraries are moving from an information repository to an information gateway in the developing global digital information environment. “Library 2010” aims at redefining the purpose of libraries to offer access to knowledge from anywhere and at transforming Singapore into a knowledge-based economy.

He also talked about the Collaborative Reference and Network Service, in which reference questions are answered by using the collective knowledge of librarians and experts, as an example of a construction of platforms to collaborate in providing services, stipulated as one of the goals of “Library 2010.” Then several cooperative activities of the NLB with domestic and foreign libraries and institutions were introduced.



He concluded his lecture by declaring that libraries assume an important role of providing useful information to the people, bringing about a change in their life, and that we should positively reach users without waiting for them to visit the libraries.

[Handout distributed at the lecture \(PDF: 1.88MB\)](#)

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Selections from NDL Collection

Bakumatsu-goro shomin fuzoku gashu
(Book of genre paintings of people
in the end of the Edo period)

Akito NAKAZAWA

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

This is a translation of the article of the same title
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 559 (October 2007).



[Fig. 1] *click for larger image

This item is composed of two booklets, into which colored paintings of the people's life and Buddhism in the end of Edo period are pasted. The title comes not from what was written on the booklets but from the slip on the cover of the folding case, which was made afterwards. The slip also reads "Oranda-fū gokusaishiki / Josefu Hiko kyūzō (Dutch-style full color /

previously owned by Josef Heco.)” “Dutch-style” might mean that the paintings came under the influence of Western art of painting that was introduced in Nagasaki. The details of the painters remain unknown. However, the cover of the first volume reads “painted by Shiba Kōkan(芝公漢),” which could be a parody of “Shiba Kōkan(司馬江漢),” who painted *vues d’optique* (perspective paintings meant to be viewed with optic glasses), introducing a Western style of painting.

Of these 29 x 24 cm booklets, vol. 1 contains 39 genre paintings, and vol. 2, 40 paintings related to Buddhism. Some paintings have descriptions of the scenes. In the upper right of the first painting on the inside cover of each volume can be seen “Heco,” the signature of Josef Heco, the previous owner. (See the upper right of Fig. 1)

Josef Heco (Hikozō HAMADA (1837–1897), commonly known as “Amerika Hikozō” (American Hikozō) was born in Harima province. The ship he was on board happened to drift, and he reached the United States at a young age. He was educated there, and was christened Joseph as a Catholic. In 1858 he was granted citizenship of the United States, and became Joseph Heco. His was the first case of a Japanese becoming an American citizen. Later he returned to Japan, and was active as an interpreter in the scene of diplomacy at the end of the Edo period. He also came to publish the first private newspaper in Japanese “Kaigai Shimbun” (foreign newspaper).



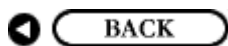
[Fig. 2] *click for larger image

The only remaining point of contact with Hikozō and this item at the moment is his signature, which arouses our interest in why he owned these volumes. The description of the painting below in fig. 1, for example, reads “nihon inaka no nanushi hausu (house of a village head in rural Japan),” and on some paintings the word “taikun” (tycoon), to mean “shōgun” to foreigners, is seen. The upper picture in fig. 1 may be a scene of bookbinding. For the Buddhist paintings, religious sects and the meanings of the actions of the monks

who appear in the scenes are added. The sentences on fig. 2 read “jōdoshū no sō / kaitori wo hanashi / kuyōsurukoto nari (monk of Jōdo sect / sets the caged birds free / for saying a mass).” Could this be intended to explain the scene to foreigners or could this a memory tickler for himself, who drifted away when he was too young to know much about his old country? Each painting could possibly be a copy of an original, which merits further research.

Received by the NDL in 1987. (Call number: W166-72)

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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin. 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](#))

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- New series commemorating the NDL's 60th anniversary "1998-2008"
 - "1998-2008" Topics during the last decade and future prospects (1) Services for the National Diet – providing legislative support [related article](#)
- People who use, people who maintain (4) Comic magazines
- Exhibition in the Monthly Bulletin
 - Door to the Czech Republic : The world of children's books
- Materials recently designated as rare books – Report of the 41st committee on the designation of rare books [related article](#)
- NDL budget for FY 2008 [related article](#)
- "National sport, Sumo" – happenings and sumo greats in modern times (Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibition, 29)
- Lecture meeting and discussion "Present and future prospects of web archiving – for international partnerships" [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
 - Electronic exhibition "The Meiji and Taisho Eras in Photographs – The Kansai in Photographs" now available
 - Special event for children on Children's Day
 - Book notice – publications from NDL
 - On renewal of Monthly Bulletin

No. 564, March 2008 [[PDF Format, 6.55 MB](#)]

- Bibliographic control
- Report of the conference on bibliographic control FY2007
- Introduction of the Japanese Periodicals Index
- Progress of the retrospective cataloging of bibliographic data
- Materials recently added to the NDL-OPAC
- Basic knowledge of Unicode and the Semantic Web – report of lectures held at NDL
- Fifth mutual visit program with the National Assembly Library of Korea [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
 - Announcement of regular exhibition
 - Application method for registration for interlibrary loan service to be revised
 - Lectures related to the exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Door to the Czech Republic: The world of children's books
 - Books in Hindi and Sanskrit now searchable on the NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC

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