

# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 162, August 2008

NEXT



## Tracking the acquisition of materials – during the last decade –

### Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This is based on an article of the same title in the series <“1998–2008”  
Topics during the last decade and future prospects> in  
the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 566 (May 2008).

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## Introduction

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As of the end of December 2007, the National Diet Library (NDL) holds a total of 34.39 million materials comprising 9 million books, 12.32 million serials (periodicals and newspapers), and 13.07 million non-book materials (microforms, phonographic records, CDs, DVDs, maps, musical scores, etc.) (See Table: Number of holdings as of December 2007). When the NDL opened, it held approximately 100,000 books. In 60 years, the holdings increased by 8.9 million volumes, that is, by about 90 times. In addition, there was an increase of 1.86 million volumes compared with 7.14 million in fiscal 1998, the year of the

NDL's 50th anniversary.

Such a well-stocked collection is the basis for all services provided by the NDL. With regard to publications published in Japan, the NDL strives to acquire materials exhaustively through book deposit in accordance with the [legal deposit system](#), which is now at the 60th anniversary of its establishment. At the same time, the NDL also acquires through purchase, donation, and other means. It acquires foreign materials through purchase, international exchange, donation, etc.

This article will show some changes in the acquisition of materials especially in the last decade, focusing on the legal deposit system.

Table: Number of holdings as of December 2007

		Number of holdings (round numbers)
<b>Books</b>	Japanese, Chinese, Korean (volumes)	6,520,000
	Western (volumes)	2,480,000
	Total (items)	9,000,000
<b>Serials</b>	Periodicals (volumes)	8,410,000
	Newspapers (items)	3,910,000
	Total (items)	12,320,000
<b>Non-book materials</b>	(items)	13,070,000
<b>Total (items)</b>		34,390,000

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## 1. Current situation of domestic publishing and increase in the number of deposited materials

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First of all, let's take a look at the situation of publishing in Japan in the last decade. In 2006, the number of newly published books exceeded 80,000, and the number of periodicals was 4,540 titles (of these titles, new periodicals were about 200). Compared with the numbers in 1998, newly published books increased by 27.9 % and periodicals by 2.1%. Compared with other countries in the world, the number of publications in Japan is the world's fifth largest after the United States, the United Kingdom, China and Germany <sup>1</sup>.

In proportion to the growth in the number of publications, deposited materials, which are acquired on the basis of the legal deposit system, are increasing (See Chart 1 and Chart 2).

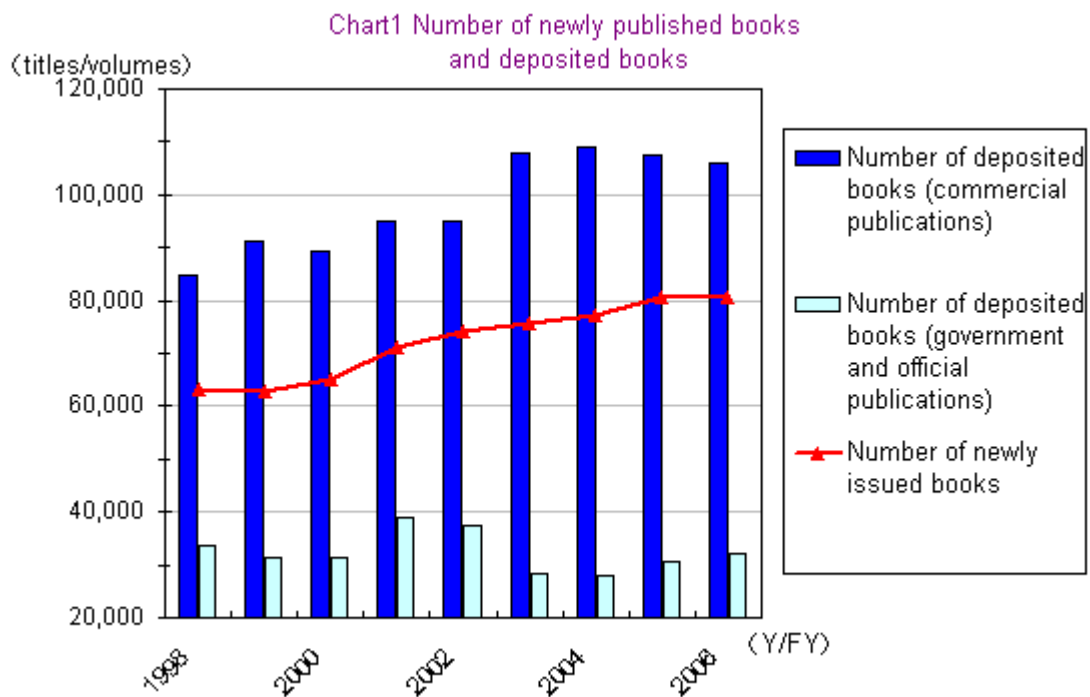
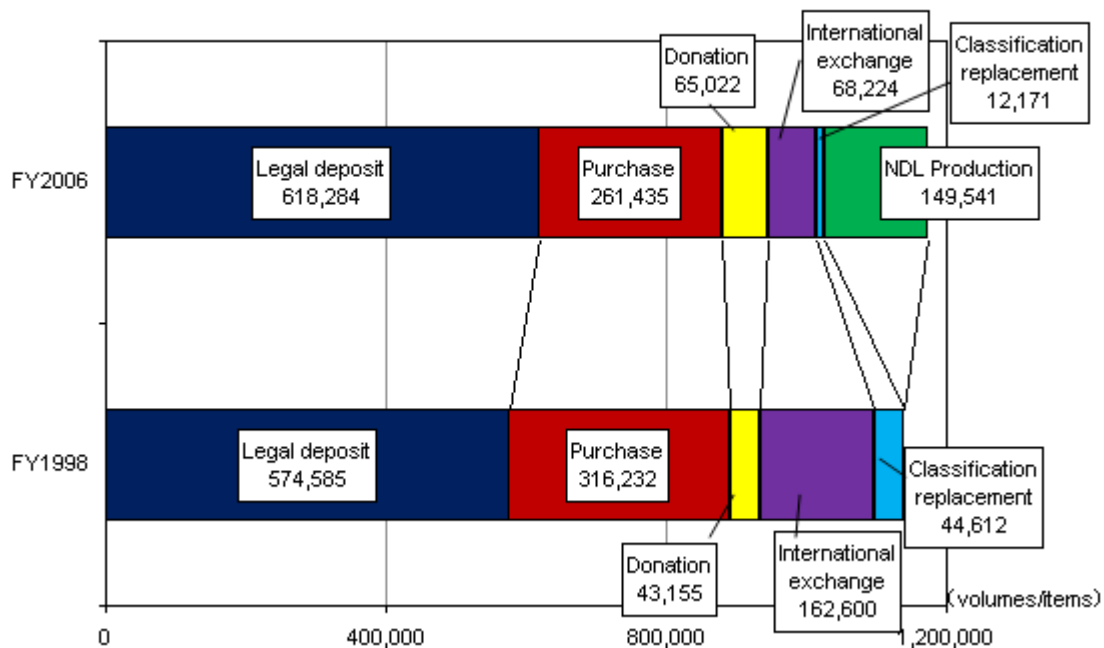


Chart2 Transition in number of collected materials by acquisition method



The number of deposited materials amounted to 620,000 in fiscal 2006 (See Chart 2). This means that 12,000 materials on average per week had been deposited to the NDL. Moreover, collections through deposit accounted for half of all NDL's collected materials, and especially in fiscal 2006, more than 70% of books (Japanese, Chinese and Korean) were collected through deposit. Thus, the legal deposit system is the essence of the acquisition of the NDL.

Turning now to the deposit situation by comparison with that of fiscal 1998, deposited materials increased by 16.4% in books, 2% in serials (periodicals and newspapers), and 41.8% in non-book materials (microforms, optical disks, etc.). The particularly large growth in the number of deposited non-book materials resulted from a change in the law: Publications in

which recorded electromagnetic information on tangible media such as CD-ROMs (offline electronic publications) are required to be deposited from October 2000.

One of the factors that increased the number of deposited books is the launch of a blanket deposit of textbooks and teachers' manuals through the Textbook Publishers Association of Japan. It was started in April 2002, when the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) was fully opened.

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## **2. Acquisition of materials through purchase, international exchange, and donation**

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The NDL acquires materials by purchase, international exchange, donation, and other means, as well as through deposit.

It purchases domestic and foreign materials which are judged as particularly essential in accordance with the Guideline for Acquisition of Materials and the Policy for Acquisition of Materials. In fiscal 2008, ¥2,077,000,000 is approved as the purchase budget [ii](#).

The NDL purchases materials published in Japan, such as old materials valuable for publishing culture in Japan, open-access materials provided in each room in the Tokyo Main Library, in the Kansai-kan, and in the ILCL, part of electronic publications provided in the library, etc. The number of materials acquired through purchase decreased from 316,232 in fiscal 1998 to 261,435 in fiscal 2006. This was because the classification by means of acquisition had been changed: Materials "produced" by the NDL by microfilming its materials would be classified not as "purchase", but as "NDL production." Without this effect, it can be said that the number of purchases remains roughly even.

The NDL acquires materials published in foreign countries through purchase and international exchange. Of them, international exchange with foreign governments and international organizations is the exchange of their own country's publications among signatories to the Convention Concerning the International Exchange of Publications (in 1984) and the Convention Concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States (in 1984). In international exchange, the NDL sends materials deposited from national and local governments through the legal deposit system.

These materials are used overseas to inform readers about Japan.

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## **3. Diversified publication forms and the legal deposit system**

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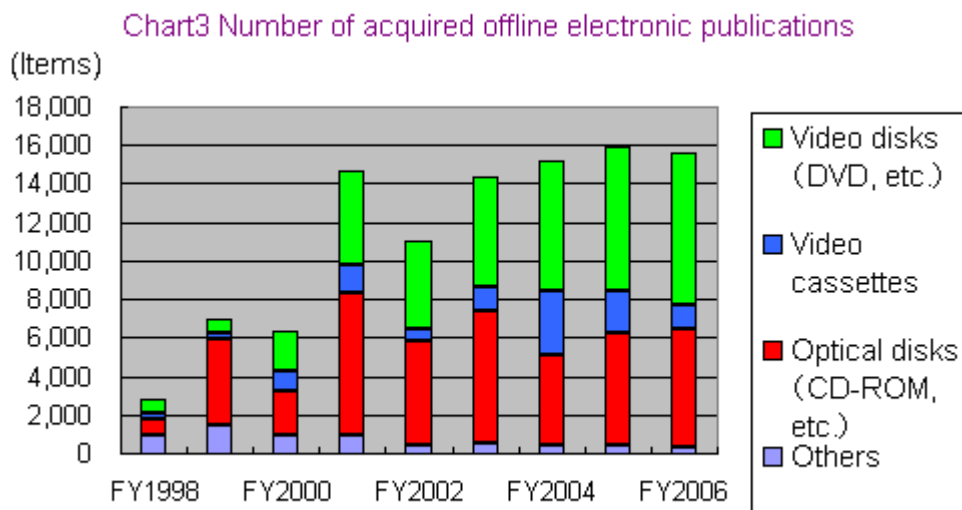
Though paper publications such as books, magazines and newspapers are still in the mainstream, forms of publication are becoming diversified and now electronic publications including CD-ROMs, DVDs and electronic journals are popular. The NDL also acquires such publications.

### 3-1 Offline electronic publications

Acquisition of offline electronic publications was incorporated into the legal deposit system by an amendment of the NDL Law in April 2000. The amendment came into effect in October 2000 ([related article](#)).

In Article 24-1(9) of the NDL Law, offline electronic publications are defined as “texts, images, sounds, or programs recorded by electronic, magnetic, or other methods which cannot be directly perceived by human senses.” This may sound a bit complicated but it actually means media such as cassette tape, CD, CD-ROM, MD, floppy disk, video tape, LD, DVD, and DVD-ROM.

Chart 3 shows the great increase in acquisitions after offline electronic publications became covered by the legal deposit system. Full-scale provision of acquired offline electronic publications started in July 2001.



### 3-2 Networked electronic publications

Networked electronic publications (publications made public via communication network) are ephemeral even though they include unique information. We need to preserve, and archive that kind of information and ensure access to it.

Following the report from the [Legal Deposit System Council](#) “Concept of the Acquisition System for the Networked Electronic Publications” (December 2004), the NDL has been considering a system to acquire networked electronic publications separately from the legal deposit system since January 2005. Under the current state that digital information sent across the computer network is impermanent and disappears day by day, the NDL, which is expected to take an initiative in preserving and archiving such information from a long-term viewpoint, recognizes the necessity of acquisition of those materials under a legal framework.

Currently a project for archiving networked electronic publications is being carried out by selecting websites of national & local governments and electronic journals with permission. It

is called [WARP \(Web ARchiving Project\)](#) and is open on the NDL website (Japanese only).

### **3-3 Revision of the legal deposit system**

Besides the above, we make appropriate reviews of the legal deposit system to respond to the changing times. When the amendment referred to in 3-1 was made, we also conducted a review of the number of copies to be deposited by national and local governments in keeping with the actual use <sup>iii</sup>. In response to the administrative reform, we also revised the system in December 2004 to mandate other entities with corporate status such as independent administrative institutions, national university corporations, and local independent administrative agencies, to deposit plural copies when they issue a publication. (For details, see “Partial amendments to the National Diet Library Law – Legal deposit system for independent administrative institutions and local independent administrative institutions” pp.28-29, [National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin No. 525, December 2004](#) (Japanese only) )

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## **4. Acquisition of foreign materials**

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We acquire foreign materials selectively through purchase or international exchange.

### **4-1 Scope of acquisition of foreign materials**

We intensively acquire core journals and newspapers, basic bibliographies and reference books, statutes and parliamentary documents, science and technology materials and materials on emigration <sup>iv</sup>, Asia and Japan (“Materials on Japan” means works on Japan or by Japanese authors). We started to build the collection of materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan in 1978, which include Records of the General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (GHQ/SCAP) and the Gordon W. Prange Collection. The Prange Collection was built through the GHQ censorship and is held by the University of Maryland. We have selected magazines and newspapers from the collection and since fiscal 2005 have been adding children’s literature to our collection.

A purchase budget for acquisition of foreign science and technology materials has been provided since 1952 and we have been spending it on PB/AD reports (since 1952), foreign journals (since 1953), nuclear reports (since 1954), foreign doctoral dissertations (since 1958) and others. Most of the materials are stored in the Kansai-kan, which was opened in October 2002.

### **4-2 Restructuring the international exchange of publications**

Recently more and more government publications are being digitized and provided via the Internet. We have to cope with this change. Aiming at meeting the needs of both the NDL and partners in the international exchange programs, we investigate partners and selection of materials for exchange.

### **4-3 Electronic journals**

Digitization of science and technology materials is rapidly expanding and “electronic journals” came into being. In order to provide that kind of information as library materials, we revised the NDL law in fiscal 2001, and started to provide electronic journals and databases in fiscal 2002. More than 20,000 titles of online journals are available now.

Electronic journals are advanced in search functions and enable us to search a word in a thesis freely. On the other hand, there are restrictions on many subscription types in general, which do not allow: (1) to select journal titles freely, (2) to view after the expiration date, (3) to provide to remote users. So the NDL still cannot set out a policy to gradually switch to electronic journals by stopping the purchase of paper materials.

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## Conclusion

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In fiscal 2002, the [NDL-OPAC \(National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog\)](#) was open to the public and it enabled people to search the NDL collections and to request copying service. These achievements are fruits of the NDL’s constant efforts in organizing bibliographic data of numerous daily acquired materials to make them available, as well as in clarifying the location and availability of each material. As acquired materials and bibliographic data created by the NDL form the basis for any service of the NDL, we need to aim at further enrichment of these.

In the NDL, the Acquisitions and Bibliography Department was established by the integration of the Acquisitions Department and the Bibliography Department in April 2008 ([related article](#)). On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to making efforts in collection development, providing prompt & accurate bibliographic information and further improvement in services.

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## May 25 – the Day of the Legal Deposit System

On May 18, 1948, the NDL sent 6,000 letters to ask private publishers and governments for deposit of their publications. Acceptance of deposited materials started on May 25. The NDL established the Day of the Legal Deposit System to commemorate the beginning of acceptance of deposit materials.

### What is the first deposit?

According to the records of the time, 15 materials assigned registration no.3841– 3855 are considered as the first materials deposited to the NDL. Of the fifteen, the material with the smallest registration number 3841 is “Butsurigaku gaiyou” (physics overview) by Ichinose, Masami, published by Baifukan, 1948. This book is now deteriorated and available not in original form but in microfiche (NDL Call no.: YD5-H-a420-15).

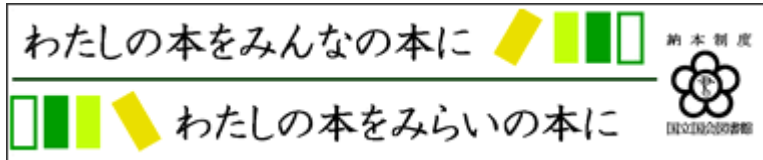
## Logo and slogans for the Legal Deposit System

### Logo

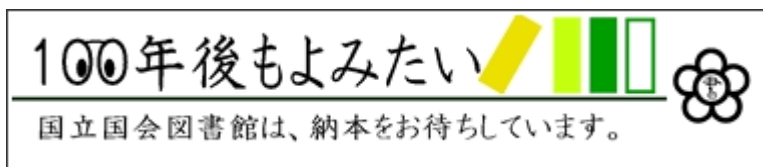


The five-petaled flower in the logo is used as logo for the National Diet Library.

## Slogans



“My book to everyone”  
“My book to future generations”



“Read in 100 years’ time”  
“National Diet Library welcomes your publication”



“When you publish...”  
“National Diet Library welcomes your publication”

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<sup>i</sup> Shuppan Nenkan 2003 (Publishing Yearbook 2003), Vol.1, Shuppan News Co., Ltd, 2003; Shuppan Nenkan 2007 (Publishing Yearbook 2007), Vol. 1, Shuppan News Co., Ltd, 2007.

<sup>ii</sup> In addition to the general purchase budget, a budget for research materials that are used to provide legislative support is allocated.

<sup>iii</sup> After taking into consideration the number of copies needed for Diet deliberation and for international exchange, we revised the system to set the number flexibly while maintaining the principle of 30 copies. For publications issued by local administrative institutions, we set the number at five or less.

<sup>iv</sup> Collection of materials on Japanese emigration in Latin America, Hawaii and elsewhere has been budgeted for since 1984. The NDL dispatches staff to acquire this kind of materials systematically.

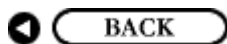
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# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 162, August 2008



**How many domestic publications does the NDL hold?  
– from the results of a survey on the percentage of  
national publications acquired by the NDL**

## Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This is based on the article of the same title  
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 566 (May 2008).

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#### 1. [Survey on official publications](#)

- [\(1\) National agencies](#)
- [\(2\) Local governments](#)

#### 2. [Survey on private publications](#)

- [\(1\) Books](#)
- [\(2\) Periodicals and newspapers](#)
- [\(3\) Audio-visual materials](#)

#### 3. [Survey on university publications](#)

### [Conclusion](#)

## Introduction

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The National Diet Library (NDL) is mandated to collect exhaustively domestic publications under the [legal deposit system](#). To what extent do we, in fact, cover of all publications in Japan? To figure out the number, we conducted a survey on the percentage of national publications acquired by the NDL from October to December 2007. It is likely that we can easily reach the approximate percentage if we divide the number of the national publications collected in a year by the total number of domestic publications issued in the same year. However, domestic publications are not simply what we see in bookstores. They include official publications edited and issued by local governments and similar bodies, which are not commercially available. Audio-visual materials such as CDs and DVDs, and single-sheet maps, are also considered as domestic publications. It is not an easy task to prove how

many domestic publications there are in total in Japan including these kinds of publications.

Consequently, the survey was conducted by picking up some sample bibliographic data from book catalogs and checking if the NDL holds them. All of the sample data are for materials published in 2005.

## 1. Survey on official publications

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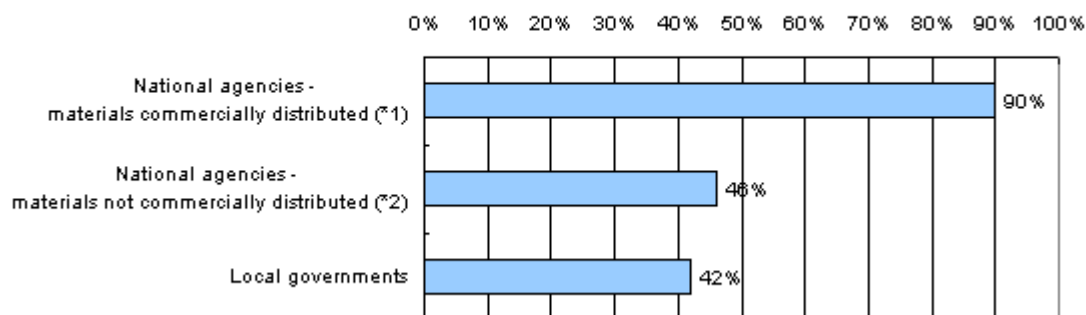
### (1) National agencies

In a survey sampling from [Seifu kankobutsuto sogo mokuroku](#) published by the Official Gazette Co-operation of Japan, a comprehensive catalog of official publications, the deposit rate was about 90% for publications on sale. On the other hand, when including publications not commercially distributed, according to [Seifu shiryō abstract](#) by the Government Data Research Center of Japan, it was under 50%. The data indicates a low deposit rate of so-called “internal information,” for instance, reports and deliberative documents by councils and research committees, research reports of private research institutions commissioned by agencies, and business documents. People sometimes misunderstand that these are not to be deposited. However, every material which is issued with a certain number of copies for distribution is a publication due to be sent to the NDL, except confidential matters, blank forms, specimen pages and other simple publications. We will proactively ask for deposit of these material groups that currently have a low deposit rate.

### (2) Local governments

The sample survey results on publications edited by local governments using the catalogs of administrative information centers of relevant prefectural governments and 17 major cities, or OPACs of prefectural and city libraries, showed that about 40% of publications were delivered to the NDL. However, as some data included “simple publications,” which are defined as not to be deposited, the actual figure can be higher if we exclude them and make a recalculation. The figure had varied quite a bit among local governments: the highest marked 94% and the lowest 9%. These differences might arise from the range of catalog (whether confined to paid-for publication, or covering all materials including leaflets). Also gaps in the perception of materials to be deposited can be another cause. We began to take action to deepen local governments’ understanding of the legal deposit system by delivering booklets on it and other means.

**Table 1 Survey on official publications**



(\*1) includes materials on sale.

(\*2) includes materials not on sale.

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## 2. Survey on private publications

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### (1) Books

In a survey on private publications utilizing commercial bibliographies including MARCs created by Nippan Toshokan Service Corporation and TOHAN Corporation, the deposit rate reached around 90%. It is reasonable to conclude that almost all books commercially distributed are deposited with the NDL because the other 10% includes materials which are out of list of the deposit such as calendars, notebooks and household account books. This high deposit rate seems to have a lot to do with the Japan Publication Wholesalers Association and the Japan Small Press and Regional Publications Distributing Center Ltd. who carry out deposit work for the NDL.

The result of a sample survey with [Jihi shuppan nenkan](#), a yearbook of self-published books published by Sanraizu Shuppan was about 70%, which was higher than we had expected. This is because in some cases authors or publishers donate their publications to us. Another reason is that, particularly in recent years, more self-published books have been delivered through wholesale distributing agents.

### (2) Periodicals and newspapers

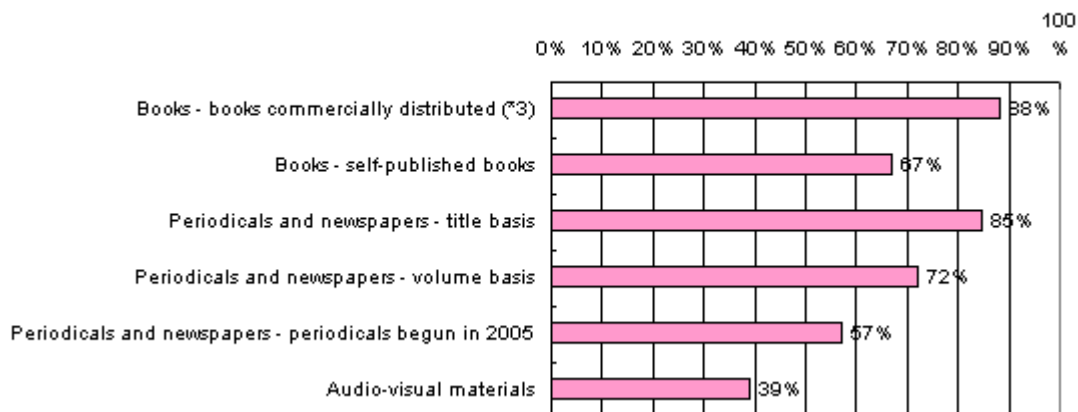
According to a sample survey using [Japan's periodicals in print](#), a total catalog of periodicals and newspapers edited by Media Research Center Inc., the deposit rate was 85% on title basis and 72% on volume (issued in 2005) basis. Due to the short-term distribution of periodicals and newspapers, some of them are already unavailable when we order missing issues. When limiting the scope to the periodicals begun in 2005, the rate was about 60%. If we exclude the kinds of materials which we are not willing to collect such as pornographic materials, the rate went up to 70%. On the other hand, a somewhat lower deposit rate compared with that of books is likely caused by an increasing number of publications not commercially distributed including free publications and others.

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### (3) Audio-visual materials

A sample survey with [HY-SFY](#) published by Ongaku Shuppansha Co., Ltd, a Japanese trade catalog of audio-visual materials, showed the deposit rate was about 40%. There are various versions with music CDs and DVDs such as a first limited edition and a standard edition. Therefore, the actual rate may be higher than the figure. We started to call for the related organizations to deposit materials to raise the deposit rate, as the rate is lower than for other kinds of materials such as books.

**Table 2 Survey on private publications**



(\*3) means materials available through agents.

### 3. Survey on university publications

The result of a sample survey for materials edited by universities, utilizing the [Webcat Plus](#) of the [National Institute of Informatics](#), a catalog of books and journals held in university libraries throughout Japan, was 78%. Viewed by university type, the rate of private universities was slightly higher than that of national and public universities. Serials including university bulletins were mostly deposited whereas the deposit rate of irregularly issued materials such as lecture reports was lower. We also found that the deposit rate of materials edited by faculties of science and engineering, medicine and pharmacy was lower compared with that of arts and social faculties.

### Conclusion

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the legal deposit system, we will strive to gain public awareness of the system to raise the deposit rate of publications in Japan, looking at further improvement of the NDL services.

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No. 162, August 2008



## KOREA – CHINA – JAPAN International Conference on Preservation

From July 7 to 11, 2008, a preservation conference with specialists from China and Japan was held in the National Library of Korea, in Seoul. From the National Diet Library (NDL), Ms. Kaoru Oshima, Director of the Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department, and Ms. Satoko Muramoto, Assistant Director of the same division, participated in the conference. Under the theme of “Preservation Cooperation and Update Conservation Techniques in Asia,” two presentations were made by the participants from each country; one about cooperative preservation work with other libraries and the other about case-study of conservation techniques.

Titled “National Diet Library’s Efforts in InformationSharing and Cooperation on Preservation ([PDF \[68KB\]](#)),” Ms. Oshima’s presentation introduced the NDL’s international cooperation as [the AsiaRegional Centre for the IFLA/PAC](#) and domestic cooperation as a deposit library, especially through publication, training programs, educational and awareness-raising events, and sharing information on research and survey results.



Conference on July 8

Ms. Muramoto introduced in her presentation titled “Condition Survey on Japanese Books Held by the National Diet Library ([PDF \[239KB\]](#)),” a recent survey conducted to grasp the deterioration tendency of the paper and binding of the Japanese books published during 1950–1999.

This is the third conference on preservation with participants from the national libraries of

the three countries. The first one was held in the National Library of Korea, in November 2004, with the theme of preservation of printed materials. In December 2005, the NDL hosted the Meeting of Directors of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centres in Asia and Oceania, with participants from China and Korea, where they discussed cooperation on preservation among the three countries. In January 2007, following another Meeting of Directors of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centres in Asia and Oceania, the second preservation conference of the three countries was held in the National Library of China, in Beijing. The three national libraries will continue to cooperate in the field of preservation.

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# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 162, August 2008



## 60th Anniversary of the National Diet Library – Invitation to the commemorative events in autumn –



In 2008, the National Diet Library (NDL) has reached its 60th anniversary. Commemorative events will be held in the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan as follows:  
(For details, please click [here](#) (Japanese only))

All the NDL staff extends our warmest welcome to you!

### Symposium

#### “Through knowledge we prosper –New role of the National Diet Library–”

(Admission free, prior application is necessary)

Date: November 19 (Wed) 10:00–16:30

Venue: Tokyo Main Library

Kansai-kan (by live stage broadcast)

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### Exhibition of rare books

#### “Rare books of the National Diet Library –The 60th anniversary”

Date and time: October 16 (Thu) to 29 (Wed) 10:00–18:00 (Tokyo Main Library)

Date and time: November 13 (Thu) to 26 (Wed) 10:00–18:00 (Kansai-kan)

\*including Sat. and Sun.

Lecture meetings will also be held:

(Admission free, prior application is necessary)

[Tokyo Main Library]

Date and time: October 25 (Sat) 14:00–16:00

Lecturer: Mr. Takashi ATODA (writer, president of Japan P.E.N. Club)

[Kansai-Kan]

Date and Time: November 22 (Sat) 14:00–16:00

Lecturer: Mr. Koichi FUJIMOTO (visiting professor of Ryukoku University)

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Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)

**International Symposium**  
**“Asia and Oceania NOW!**  
**-Libraries in the Changing Information Environment-”**

(Admission free, prior application is necessary)

Date and time: October 21 (Tue) 14:00–17:00

Venue: Tokyo Main Library

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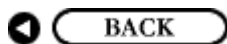




# National Diet Library Newsletter

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## Website User Survey FY2008

– We would like to hear from you!

The National Diet Library (NDL) is conducting a user survey on its website to ask for comments from website users.

URL: [http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/user\\_surveys.html](http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/user_surveys.html)

Survey Period: From Jul. 15, 2008 to Sep. 30, 2008

◆ After completing the questionnaire, you can download desktop wallpaper made of our rare books images.

We welcome your comments on how to improve our services. Please help us!

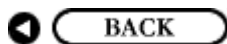
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# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 162, August 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. 568, July 2008 [[PDF Format, 8.57 MB](#)]

- Discussion: Offering information on laws and regulations via the Internet – from the Cabinet decrees of the Meiji Government to current laws
- Series commemorating the NDL's 60th anniversary
  - “1998–2008” Topics during the last decade and future prospects (4) Public services in the last decade [related article](#)
- Use rate of acid-free paper in commercial publications reaches 95% – result of the 19th pH survey on newly – acquired materials
- People who use, people who maintain (7) Microform materials
- Materials recently designated as rare books: Report of the 42nd committee on the designation of rare books
- To realize new vision – evaluation results, and objectives and standards for FY2008 [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
  - Minutes from the first year of the Showa era now available in the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet
  - Guide for Search by Theme – 50 industries now included in the Industry Guides
  - Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Hans Christian Andersen Award 2006 & IBBY Honour List 2006
  - Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: World of Illustrations for Children: Picture Magazines and their Artists
  - Lectures related to the exhibition: World of Illustrations for Children: Picture Magazines and their Artists
  - 19th forum on preservation: Keeping pests out or down – integrated pest management in libraries

- NDL Database Forum – NDL on the Web
- 12th Preservation and Conservation Training Program
- ILCL Lecture Series on Children’ s Literature FY2008 – utilizing the ILCL collections
- Copying and interlibrary loan services via the NDL-OPAC now available for materials held by the International Library of Children’ s Literature
- 2007 version of the National Diet Library List of Subject Headings now available
- Call for participation in the user questionnaire survey [related article](#)
- Book notice – publications from NDL

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