

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 167, Jun. 2009

NEXT



Developing of Library Support Project –focusing on the training programs for librarians

This is an extract translation of article
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 574 (January 2009).

Introduction

What do you imagine when you read “Library Support”? Cooperation activities which directly link you to user services such as interlibrary loan, copying service, reference service might come to mind. It is true that these services for libraries are one of the main services of the National Diet Library (NDL), but the library support project is more than that. The NDL, as the sole national library in Japan, conducts many projects to support libraries and librarians in Japan and overseas.

In April 2002, as a result of reorganization involved in the opening of the Kansai-kan of the NDL, library cooperation services, of which the Library Cooperation Department was in charge, were shared out among different divisions of the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children’s Literature. At the Library Support Division of the Kansai-kan, we carry out such projects as the [National Union Catalog Network](#), [Collaborative Reference Database System](#) (in Japanese), training for librarians inside and outside Japan, and so on to provide a basis for libraries and librarians to develop their activities.

By providing these projects via the Internet, we are dramatically expanding the scale of participation of libraries and librarians. In this article, training projects will be focused upon.

Training programs of the NDL

To support the activities of libraries, it is also necessary to support librarians as human resources. As part of the library cooperation projects, we plan and organize training to enable librarians inside and outside Japan to acquire knowledge and skills.

After the reorganization in April 2002, training was positioned as one of the pillars of the library cooperation projects. Before then, there were only limited training programs for librarians outside the NDL such as “Open lectures on library information science,” which was a program for NDL staff also open to other librarians, “Preservation and Conservation Training Program,” “Interlibrary Cooperation Seminar” and “Training Program for Japanese Studies Librarians (Training program for information specialists

for Japanese studies in later years).”

Before the opening of the Kansai-kan, the NDL conducted a preliminary survey on research and training projects in FY1998, and a survey on needs for training in FY1999. Results of the survey showed that demand for training based on the unique collections of the NDL, on the knowledge and skills accumulated from our various kinds of work and on major topics of the current library community were high. Based on the results of these surveys, various training programs have been provided since 2002. The contents of the programs are divided roughly into four types: group training (gathering trainees at the NDL), internship training (accepting trainees from other libraries for a certain period), remote training programs via the Internet, and training programs carried out by dispatched NDL staff lecture

Of these programs, the group training is a training program by theme which makes use of the unique collections and knowledge and skill of the NDL staff. Subjects for fiscal year 2008 were “Preservation and Conservation Training Program,” “Library guidance for librarians,” “Training Program for information on science and technology,” “Training program on Asian information,” “Practical workshop for librarians on early Japanese books,” “Lecture on statutes, parliamentary documents and official publication” and “Training Program on reference.” For the internship training, we accept those who study library science at universities.

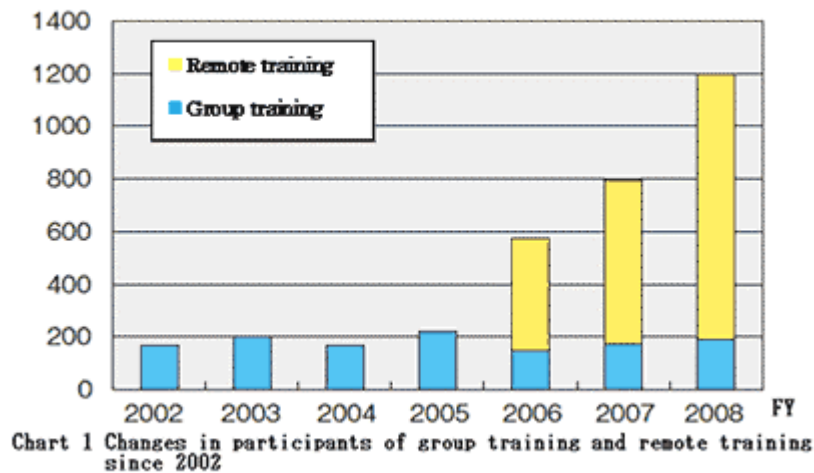
In providing these courses, there are limits of time, place and budget. In addition, number of participants in each training course is also limited. For developing the “Internet version of library cooperation project,” remote training programs using e-learning were started in FY2006 with the intention of overcoming various limits of the training programs and dramatically increasing opportunities of participation.



Portal site for remote training programs <http://tlms-p.ndl.go.jp>
(Japanese only)

People can apply for and attend the training via “Portal site for remote training

programs.” Participants can study according to their own pace and anywhere with a computer connected to the Internet.



From group training programs, one or two subjects are selected and educational materials are developed for remote training programs every year which are provided via the portal site.

For the fiscal year 2008, “Basic Idea of Preservation and Conservation,” “Various Old Japanese books,” “Basic knowledge for digitization of materials” and “Science and technology information-introduction” were provided and the total participation capacity was 1,000 people. As compared with ordinary group trainings, which accept about 20 to 30 people respectively, the opportunity for attending the course has remarkably increased. (Chart 1)

In fiscal year 2008, NDL started to dispatch its staff around Japan as lectures to provide trainings on a trial basis.

Conclusion

We can accomplish tasks which cannot be managed by oneself by gathering and sharing the collections of libraries, the knowledge and skills of librarians, and the information circulating around the library community and making most of them as collection knowledge. The library cooperation projects of the NDL play a considerable role in fostering cooperation.

Services for librarians provided by the NDL are on our website “Information for Libraries.” The same information is offered by the e-mail magazine “Library cooperation news.”

http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/library/library_news.html (Japanese only)

[up](#)

NEXT





<Collection development and its evaluation>

Situation of collection on Japan focusing on books newly published in the 2000s

Foreign Materials Division,
Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This is based on an article of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 571 (October 2008).



Examples of books on Japan in the NDL collection

1. Introduction

The fundamental task of a national library is to acquire, preserve and make accessible the publications of the country. The National Diet Library (NDL), the sole national library in Japan, in this role, has been extensively collecting domestic publications through the legal deposit system

At the same time, national libraries do not collect only domestic publications. It is an important mission for a national library to build the "national collection" including "foreign publications on the country, including translations of books by native authors and books published abroad by national authors"*1. The Imperial Library, one of the NDL's predecessors, collected books on Japan by foreign authors and translations of works written by Japanese authors. The NDL selects books about Japan and books written by Japanese people (including those of Japanese descent) among foreign publications, and takes an active approach to add them to our collection on Japan.

An overview of the materials on Japan that the NDL has collected so far offers a glimpse into a transition of foreigners' points of view on our country. While to date, historical studies, literary works and researches on traditional arts accounted for the most part, publications about pop culture including manga have been increasing recently.

There is a wide variety of materials in our collection on Japan: in the stacks, you can find on a shelf *Treize siècles de lettres japonaises* by R. Sieffert*[2](#), a book on the history of Japanese literature from the 7th to the 20th century, and *Koi* by S. de Kock and R. Watt*[3](#), a manual on how to breed colored carp, on another shelf.

[up](#)

2. Methods used to develop "Books on Japan" collection

We collect books on Japan by purchase through bookstores inside and outside the country, [international exchange of publications](#) with overseas libraries and institutions, and gifts from individuals and organizations in Japan and in other countries.

(1) Purchase

There are three methods for purchasing materials:

-to choose what to purchase from the catalogs of domestic and foreign bookstores

-Approval plan: to order books selected by bookstores

-Blanket order: to directly order all the books on subjects published in specified areas

We adopt the most suitable method according to the areas and countries, and price of the publication we need.

(2) Exchange

The NDL has been exchanging publications with ten national libraries. Most of them are in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe whose publications are difficult to purchase. We receive materials on Japan published in each country and sending out materials on each partner country. This is an acquisition method unique to national libraries.

We have been collecting materials on Japan in these ways, but, some publications are difficult to acquire. For example, publications issued by research institutions are often commercially unavailable, so we are obliged to depend on exchange and gifts.

3. Analysis of development of "Books on Japan" collection at the NDL

What proportion of books on Japan issued in foreign countries does the NDL hold? To figure out the amount of books not yet included in the library's collection, the NDL first conducted a survey in 2005. We used the "Bibliography of Asian Studies" database offered by the Association for Asian Studies, to see if the NDL holds the books on Japan published from 1995 to June 2005 included in the database. The result shows that 275 books are in the NDL collection, that is, 79% of 348 books in the database. Then, in 2006, we conducted another survey on the books on Japan particularly

published in Germany, France and Spain. Here is a brief introduction of the result of the survey.

(1) Surveyed countries

The reason why we chose Germany, France and Spain was as follows: –The NDL has never made analysis on the number of publications and the publication trends of these three countries.–The NDL’s approach regarding acquisition had been totally different for each of the three countries, so the result could be used to compare the effectiveness of each collection method.

–Publication trends could be compared between Germany and France where Japanese studies were active, and Spain where they were not.

[up](#)

Table 1: Catalogs used for the survey

Country	Institution	Catalog	Language	Number of titles
Germany	Deutsche Nationalbibliothek	Online-Katalog (https://portal.d-nb.de/)	Germany English	666
France	Bibliothèque nationale de France	Bn-Opale plus (http://catalogue.bnf.fr/)	French	519
	Agence bibliographique de l’enseignement supérieur: Abe	Système universitaire de documentation: Sudoc (http://www.sudoc.abes.fr/)		
Spain	Biblioteca Nacional	BN catalogo (http://catalogo.bne.es/uhtbin/webcat)	Spanish Catalan Basque Galician	176
	Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias: REBIUN	REBIUN EN LINEA http://rebiun.crue.org/cgi-bin/abnetop/)		

(2)Procedures

We searched catalogs of the national library and other major institutions of each country for books which have “Japan” in the subject heading among publications in each country between 2000 and 2005 issued. We excluded the following: books on Japan without subject heading “Japan”; books which the NDL does not usually collect, for example, books for entertainment, and sale catalogs; slightly different versions of and very similar book to a material already counted. (Data are as of September 2006.)

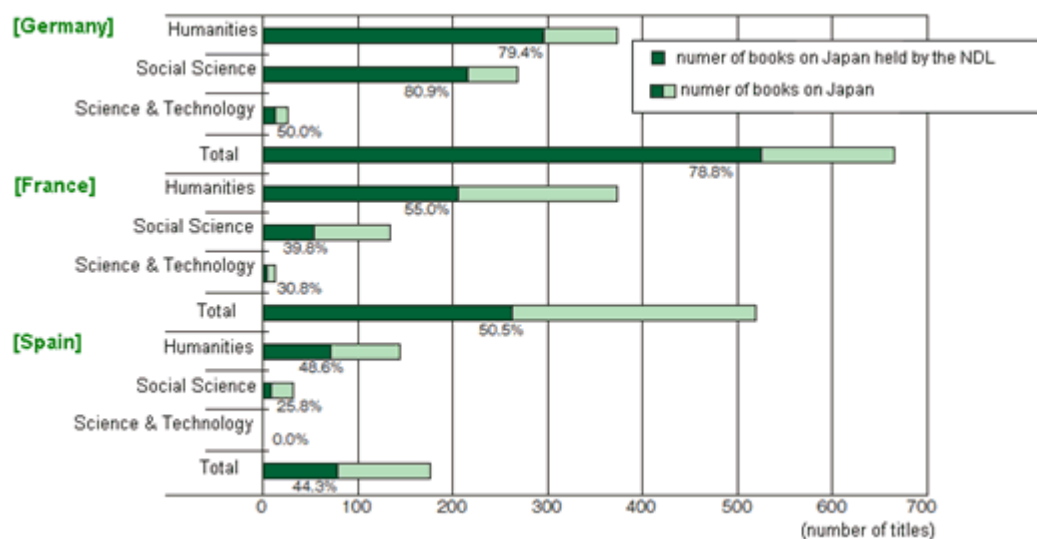
[up](#)

4. Results

(1) Publication trends in Germany, France and Spain

Publication trends in each country are as follows (see Chart 1).

Chart 1: Proportion of the NDL holdings to the number of books on Japan (published between 2000 and 2005)



<Germany>

The number of books on Japan held by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek was the largest of the three countries: 666 titles. About 130 books were published each year although there was slight difference from year to year. Scholarly books, 408 titles, accounted for over half of the total number. Among them, there were 373 books in the humanities field (56.0%) with high proportions of literature and arts. Especially noticeable was the large number of scholarly books on Japanese literature and linguistics. In addition, the larger portion of books in the field of social science, with 267 items (40.1%), than in the two other countries, might show German people's high interest in Japanese politics, economies and society.

<France>

Similar to Germany, among books on Japan held by the French libraries, the largest part was occupied by scholarly books, 218 out of 519 titles. One of the characteristics of France was that illustrated catalogs of exhibitions were published in three to four times larger numbers than the other two countries, with 86 titles. 373 books (71.9%) were in the humanities field, among which about 30% were about the arts. Especially, as Japanese antique arts were attracting a high level of interest, books on ukiyo-e (Japanese woodblock prints), pottery, netsuke (carved decorative toggle), etc. were especially noticeable. There were also a lot of books about Japanese cinema and "anime." The results indicated that interest in Japanese culture in France covered a wide range.

<Spain>

Libraries in Spain held 176 books on Japan, that is, about half of the holdings of the

other two countries. The largest group was composed of general books, 45 titles, while there were only 36 scholarly books. The major portion comprised the humanities field, 81.1%, with 144 titles. What was different from the other countries was that collections of the works of Japanese architects were published in large numbers. Among 31 social science books (17.6%), most had the subject "society," "labor" or "education."

[up](#)

(2) Bias in geographic coverage

Chart 1 shows the number of books on Japan published in the three countries and held by the NDL.

<Germany>

For the fields of social science and humanities, about 80%, rather large proportion, was held by the NDL. For books published in Germany, we have been mainly adopting the method of blanket order, which the result showed works well for these fields. However, only 50.0% of books in science and technology field were held by the NDL.

<France>

In social science, NDL's holdings were only 39.8% of the holdings of French libraries, which means that the NDL had acquired less than half of the books. Even the highest rate, for "politics" and "administration," was only 47.4%. With the low rate of 55.0% for humanities and 30.8% for science and technology, it became clear that we had to strengthen our acquisition. We suppose that one of the reasons for the large number of books not yet acquired was due to the insufficiency of the blanket order we were placing until 2004.

<Spain>

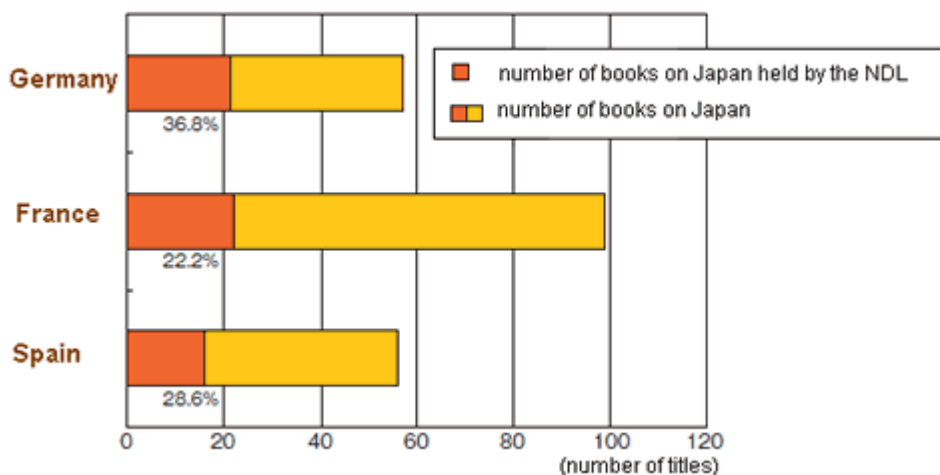
The proportion for humanities was the highest: 48.6%, and the holding rate of books on "language" and "literature" was especially high. For the Spanish books, we mainly purchase "on approval." It was clear that many books had not been covered, so we have to try to improve the acquisition method to find and acquire books which cannot be purchased "on approval."

Although it was rather a small-scale survey with only three countries surveyed, it became clear that publication trends differ from country to country, and that it is necessary to review the acquisition method according to the trends of each country.

(3) Problems of collecting materials not for sale

It was also made clear that the three countries shared the same problem in acquiring books on Japan: the NDL has only about 30% of the books published which are not for sale. This proportion is less than half the books commercially available (see Chart 2). Books not for sale include academic research books that the NDL is highly interested in obtaining. We will make constant efforts to find channels such as international exchange or gifts through which we will be able to acquire those books.

Chart 2: Proportion of the NDL holdings to the number of not-for-sale books on Japan (publications between 2000 and 2005)



up

5. Conclusion

Benefitting from the experience of this survey, the NDL started survey and acquisition of materials not yet held by the library using library catalogs of other countries in 2006. In the last fiscal year (FY2008), we tried hard to obtain books published in Germany, France and Spain, and purchased 884 books on Japan from the three countries. At present, we are focusing on the North America and European countries, and planning to enlarge the scope step by step.

For books not for sale, while most of the publications of Japanese studies institutions in the United States have been added to our collection through exchange and donations, publications in European and Asian countries have not been sufficiently covered. So we made a proposal for exchange of publications to Japanese studies institutions in Europe and in Asia. As a result, we reached new partnerships for exchange of publications with 16 Japanese studies institutions including L' École française d' Extrême-Orient. We plan to strengthen our further relationship with each institution to develop our collection.

▶[Related article in the NDL Newsletter No. 157, October 2007](#)

The NDL's collection on Japan covers a broad range of materials. A list of books on Japan in Western languages acquired by the NDL since 2002 is available on our website, from 金工books on Japan(bibliographic information of books on Japan in Western languages) (URL: http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/publication/books_on_japan/boj_top_E.html).

*1 Sylvestre, Guy. Guidelines for national libraries. Unesco, 1987.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0007/000761/076173eb.pdf>

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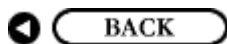
*2 Sieffert, Rene. Treize siècles de lettres japonaises. Publications orientalistes de France, 2001. [NDL call number: KG12-B12]

*3 Kock, Servaas de and Watt, Ronnie. Koi: a handbook on keeping nishikigoi. Firefly Books, 2006. [NDL call number: RB767-B3]

up

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 167, Jun. 2009



Lecture and Discussion by the President of the IFLA Libraries in the knowledge society – visions for the future

On March 10, 2008, an open lecture meeting “Libraries in the knowledge society – visions for the future” was held in the Tokyo Main Library, inviting Dr. Claudia Lux, President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Following the lecture meeting, an open discussion by Dr. Lux and Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, was held. ([Dr. Lux’s presentation file: 355KB in PDF format](#))



Dr. Lux gives a lecture at the NDL

Lecture: Libraries in the knowledge society – visions for the future

Library services for the knowledge society

Since ancient times, libraries have contributed to the development of human knowledge. In the 20th century, the role of libraries became more important with the exponential explosion of information. In this century, we are in the “knowledge society,” which stresses the fact that investment in intangible, human and social capital is seen as a valuable asset alongside knowledge and creativity. A lot of libraries have already started services for the knowledge society such as digitization, OPAC, 24-hour web reference service and RSS feeds. Our real challenge is to build the cyberinfrastructure of our society. A collaborative research environment should be extended outside universities through the network of public libraries. Technologies facilitate participation by users and outreach services. User-generated contents will be more important. Libraries should utilize Web 2.0 activities and other technologies and encourage users’ participation in libraries’ information services.

Future role of libraries

As in the past, libraries take an important role as facilitators for access to information and knowledge. Now libraries are becoming teachers for information literacy. People need to know how to use information and judge what is correct information on the web, and libraries are able to teach such kinds of things. Libraries have been keepers of cultural heritage but now also cover digital knowledge. These roles cannot be fulfilled without cooperation between libraries and other partners. In order to fulfil these roles, it is important to take a new role on top of the old ones. Staff development in IT and outreach services is also crucial.

Challenges in the knowledge society [] Libraries on the agenda []

Economic and legal aspects affect library activities. In a financial crisis, I think we have to advocate for libraries. This means informing politicians and citizens about the value of libraries for the development of society. We have to put libraries on the agenda. Many libraries fear that the big digitization project between libraries and Google could negatively affect libraries but I see opportunities in it. It could accelerate digitization in libraries and put libraries on the agenda. Diversified publishing models are also interesting. Open source will produce good business models which enable us to provide free access to better information. It may not be easy to solve some of the problems we face due to copyright issues but in the IFLA, we would like to promote our activities with a balance between economic and legal and other aspects.

Marketing, advocacy and IFLA activities

Libraries can contribute not only to culture and education but also to the fields of city planning, family policy, health, economy and administration. Libraries should analyze plans and strategies in those fields and find how they can take part. At the same time, libraries need to build advocacy capacity to guarantee the sustainability of library services. Librarians should make their importance visible as a key to the knowledge society.

IFLA is a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization which supports libraries and library associations in the world. It connects international professionals in library information services and that is why it is so important. If we do not work together, we will not be able to develop. IFLA's purposes are to promote a high standard of services, to work together, to develop international standards and guidelines and to speak up for libraries. IFLA advocates that libraries are part of our digital infrastructure. Libraries bridge the digital divide, and support development of culture, education and the society.

[up](#)

Discussion between Dr. Lux and Dr. Makoto Nagao

In the discussion, broad topics were picked up including IFLA's support activities for the development of libraries in various situations, actions for promoting digital library projects and domestic and international cooperation with libraries and related institutions. They also received many questions from the audience. Dr. Lux emphasized the importance of advocacy and said that librarians need to change themselves first and make their work

visible in order to gain understanding from politicians and users.



More details of this lecture and discussion will be published in NDL Monthly Bulletin no. 579, June (in Japanese).

[up](#)

◀ BACK

NEXT ▶

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 167, Jun. 2009



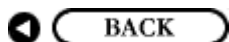
NDL contributes to the World Digital Library

On April 21, 2009, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Library of Congress and partner institutions launched a website, the World Digital Library (<http://www.wdl.org/en/>).

It collects digitized manuscripts, maps, rare books, photos and films from libraries and archives around the world, which you can search and browse by place, time and topic.

The National Diet Library (NDL) has contributed [15 items](#) from its "[Online Gallery](#)" including the [Hyakumanto Darani](#) with English commentary.

On the day of its launch, an opening event was held in Paris, which Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, and Mr. Hisanori Tanaka, Director of the Digital Information Planning Office, attended from the NDL.



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 167, Jun 2009

◀ BACK

NEXT ▶

RESEARCH NAVI launched -Navigator to information-

On May 11, 2009, a new service, [RESEARCH NAVI] (<http://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/rnavi/>), was launched on the National Diet Library website (mainly in Japanese).

RESEARCH NAVI shows you how to get information effectively: existing contents have been reorganized and new functions such as integrated search have been added. Just by entering keywords, you can reach the search results of the NDL-OPAC, a variety of NDL original databases, research guides and Wikipedia as well as jump to useful hints about how to research on each subject.

We hope you will find it useful.

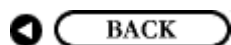
[up](#)

◀ BACK

NEXT ▶

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 167, Jun. 2009



Results of NDL User Survey FY2008

The National Diet Library (NDL) conducted an annual [user survey](#) from July to September 2008. The results have now been released on its website.

URL: http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/user_surveys/user_surveys_fy2008_01.html

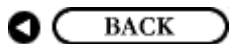
In the questionnaire for FY2008, we focused on our remote services which are available without visiting the NDL such as the [digital library services](#) and [copying service via the Internet](#). We asked users about their usage, degree of satisfaction and needs for improvement of library services.

Compared with previous surveys, the results show higher degree of users' satisfaction in the service elements such as digitization of materials on the NDL website. For details, please see the [Service Improvements Utilizing the User Surveys](#).

We will continue making efforts to provide more satisfactory services by utilizing the results of the user surveys. We thank participants for responding to the questionnaires, and also look forward to your continued support.

[up](#)



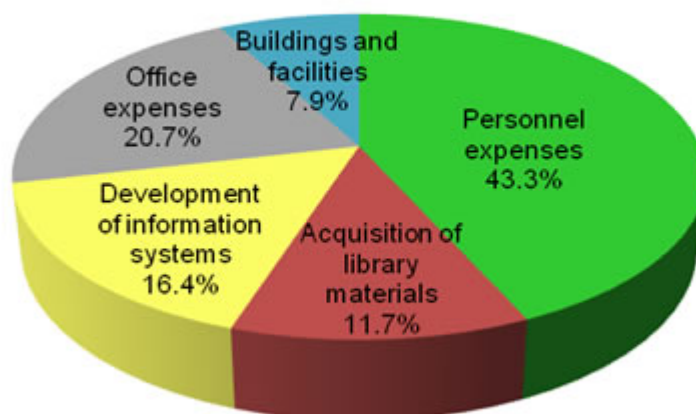


NDL budget for fiscal 2009

This is a translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 577 (Apr. 2009).

The fiscal 2009 budget bill passed the National Diet on March 27, 2009. The total amount of the initial budget appropriated for the NDL is 21,584,212,000 yen for FY2009 (April 2009 – March 2010), a decrease of some 381 million yen compared with the previous year's budget, caused by a decrease in the appropriation for development of information systems, and other reasons.

Distribution of Budget by Category



The composition of the total budget is:

- Personnel expenses: 43.3% (42.6% in FY2008)
- Acquisition of library materials: 11.7% (11.5% in FY2008)
- Development of information systems: 16.4% (17.7% in FY2008)
- Office expenses: 20.7% (20.0% in FY2008)
- Buildings and facilities: 7.9% (8.2% in FY2008)

Major expenditures of the 2009 budget are as follows:

1. Functional improvement of databases of laws and parliaments

About 99 million yen was approved: to add new functions to [the Index Database to](#)

[Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills](#) (in Japanese) to enable reference from the legislative history information of the Database to the text of laws and ordinances through external links; and to input image data into [the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet](#) (in Japanese) for the Meiji Era. The NDL plans to complete the inputting of the data into the Database System in FY2009 for the whole period.

2. Purchase of materials for Historical Records Archive

The Historical Records Archive Promotion Conference (HiRAC) launched a four-year plan from FY2009 to digitize and preserve early records (standard play) and metallic original disks, which are historically and culturally significant, recorded music conveying the social conditions of the times, and valuable speeches. To ensure the long-time preservation of the digitized sounds and provide them to the Japanese people, about 36 million yen was approved for their purchase.

3. Construction of Digital Archive

A digital archiving system which collects, preserves and offers digital information has been under construction since FY2005. For FY2009, as expenses for full-fledged operation of the system and the e-stacks etc., 754 million yen was approved. Of this, an act incurring liabilities on the national treasury* for the five years from FY2009 (total about 230 million yen) was approved for the operation of the e-stacks, that is, to add storage and other features.

*If an act incurring liabilities on the national treasury is approved, it will be possible to conclude a contract for multiple years.

[up](#)

4. Transfer of library materials from the Tokyo Main Library to the Kansai-kan

It is expected that the stacks of the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan will become full in FY2017. In order to use the stacks efficiently until then, some materials of the Tokyo Main Library are to be transferred to the Kansai-kan in FY2009 and FY2011. For FY2009, about 149 million yen was approved to transfer 370 thousand books.

5. Buildings and facilities

(1) Reinforcement of the Main Building against earthquake

The Main Building of Tokyo Main Library was built more than 40 years ago. As a result of the safety research on the architecture and the equipment since FY2006, it turned out that this building did not fully meet the earthquake-proof requirements against large-scale earthquakes (Japanese seismic intensity 6 plus to around 7). So the quake-resistant repair work is under planning. About 40 million yen was approved for design

costs.

(2) Expansion of International Library of Children's Literature

To advance its function as the national center of children's literature, the construction of a new building and a renovation of the existing facilities for the International Library of Children's Literature are planned. The designing is scheduled to take two years from FY2009. An act incurring liabilities on the national treasury for the two years from FY2009 (about 152 million yen in total) was allocated. For the first year, about 30 million yen was approved.

[up](#)

Amounts of National Diet Library's FY2009 Expenditure Budget

(1,000yen)

(Item) National Diet Library	19,885,078
▪ Personnel costs	9,337,131
▪ Regular office expenses	252,459
▪ Legislative research	395,130
▪ Acquisition of materials	2,528,684
of which recompense for deposit of publication	390,249
▪ Development of information systems	3,551,939
▪ Tokyo Main Library operations	2,137,855
▪ International Library of Children's Literature operation	454,881
▪ Kansai-kan operation	1,226,999
(Item) Expenses for facilities	1,699,134
▪ Improvement of quake-resistance of the Main Building	40,485
▪ Expansion of International Library of Children's Literature	30,406
▪ Construction of the Entrance/Exit Checking System of the stacks of the Tokyo Main Library	640,436
▪ Renovation of the fire protection shutters of the Main Building	419,814
▪ Renovation of the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library	320,792
▪ Renovation of the light fixtures of the Main Building	122,939
▪ Maintenance of the Tokyo Main Library	42,378
▪ Survey on the site and research on the building of the Kansai-kan	46,221
▪ Maintenance of the Kansai-kan	35,663

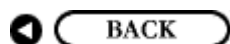
Total	21,584,212
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Large-scale digitization with the supplementary budget for FY2009

On May 29, 2009, the supplementary budget bill (No.1) for FY2009 passed the National Diet. With this budget, the NDL will conduct large-scale digitization of books, magazines, children's books and magazines, rare and old materials, theses and official gazettes published in Japan. The total amount of the expense is 12,598,000,000 yen, which corresponds to the cost of digitizing 900,000 items. Although the NDL has previously mainly duplicated materials into microforms as means of preservation, it will change its policy and shift to digitization for greater accessibility.

[Related articles](#)

[up](#)





Kodomo Manga Shimbun 子供マンガ新聞 a children's newspaper published in the early postwar years

Keiyu HORIKOSHI
Newspapers Division
Reference and Special Collections Department

This is a translation of the article of the same title in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 576 (March 2009).

The Kodomo Manga shimbun is a comic newspaper for children published from 1946 to 1953. The enthusiasm is shown in the introductory issue (vol. 1, issue 1, March 5, 1946), authors of the Kodomo Manga Shimbun are working hard to make children happy and cheerful. The newspaper was one of various comic magazines and comic newspapers launched right after World War II. However, unlike other comic newspapers, it was distributed through a home delivery system across the country and written by major cartoonists of the time (figure 2). Maybe because of that, it was published for a longer time than other comic newspapers.



Figure 1: Issue No. 300 (March 9, 1952)
drawn by Kaoru AKIYOSHI



Figure 2: Issue No. 307 (April 27, 1952)
drawn by Takeo NAGAMATSU,
one of the popular cartoonists

*Click on the figure for a larger image

The publisher was the Kodomo Manga Shimbun Company in Tokyo. It was published weekly

and consisted of 4–8 pages in tabloid format. From the twelfth issue (August 12, 1946), 2–4 pages in each issue were printed in color. The size and number of pages vary by issue.

Most of the authors were members of the Manga Shudan (cartoonists group) including Kaoru AKIYOSHI, Kazuo IZAKI, Hidezo KONDO, Eijiro SHIOTA, Kon SHIMIZU, Yukio SUGIURA, Yoshiro MINAMI, Ryuichi YOKOYAMA (figs. 1 and 3). Though cartoonists in the Manga Shudan drew caricatures and topical cartoons for adults for general newspapers and magazines, they created charming and amusing works in the Kodomo Manga Shimbun. As the Manga Shudan was engaged in a campaign against harmful publications (*) from that time, the works show the authors' spirit of "these are what we call excellent comics." Other than comics, this newspaper carried interesting news and stories both inside and outside Japan, gravure pictures, and letters from readers. It also featured political and social events such as the enactment of the Constitution of Japan, the holding of a general election, the Tokyo war crimes trial, the San Francisco peace treaty (Treaty of peace with Japan) and the outbreak of the Korean War.

[up](#)

We can see some articles written about the National Diet Library (NDL) which was established in 1948. In issue No. 124 (October 24, 1948), an article titled "Books on social studies are most frequently read: recent news on the National Diet Library" reports, "from forty to fifty children visit to read books every day. The most popular books are on social studies, followed by comics and adventure novels" with a photo of the children's reading room in a temporary library building in the Akasaka Detached Palace (now Geihinkan, the State Guest House). In an article on the first pages of issue No. 143 (March 6, 1949) titled "Children of new Japan (3) study together in the National Diet Library," Tatsumi NISHIKAWA wrote, "the children's reading room is filled with good boys and girls every day who like studying. In the large and beautiful garden, children are cheerfully playing and rest their brains tired from studying" with an illustration of children. It also carried interviews and comments by the first Librarian of the NDL, Tokujiro KANAMORI several times (figure 3).

Figure 3: Issue No. 258 (May 20, 1951)

Upper column is an interview of Tokujiro KANAMORI, the first Librarian of the NDL. The cartoon at the bottom is by Kazuo IZAKI

*Click on the figure for a larger image

The NDL holds introductory issues from vol. 1, issue 1 to vol. 1, issue 6 (April 25, 1946); from No. 1 (May 12, 1946) to No. 175 (October 16, 1949); and from No. 201 (April 16, 1950) to the last issue, No. 358 (April 26, 1953). Other than the NDL, the Kawafune Bunko in Matsumoto city in Nagano holds from No. 4 (June 9, 1946) to No. 350 (February 22, 1953). Both have many missing issues.

* Campaign against harmful publications (Akusho tsuiho undo): a grass-roots movement in the 1950s and 1960s against buying, selling or creating books and magazines harmful to juveniles. Some children's magazines were forced to cease publication, and regulations



restricting the sales were established by local governments.

- Introductory issues from Vol. 1, issue 1 (March 5, 1946) to vol. 1, issue 6 (April 25, 1946): published every ten days by Chigusa Shobo
 No. 1 (May 12, 1946) to No. 175 (October 16, 1949): published weekly by the Kodomo Manga Shimbun Company
 [NDL Call Number: VH3-Ko22/Ko23] (microfilmed from the Gordon W. Prange Collection [[related article](#)]) Available in the [Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room](#)
- No. 201 (April 16, 1950) to the last issue, No. 358 (April 26, 1953): published weekly by the Kodomo Manga Shimbun Company
 [NDL Call Number: YB-863] Available in the [Newspaper Reading Room](#)
 LINE.tmp addnavi.sh addnavi.sh.20110830.log addmainbody.sh convert.sh6
 convert.sh6.20110829.log convert.sh6.20110906.log converted files_list.csv forconvert6
 header1.txt header1_en.txt header2.txt header2_en.txt hooter.txt hooter_en.txt
 index.html.tmp navihtml_1 navihtml_10 navihtml_11 navihtml_12 navihtml_13 navihtml_14
 navihtml_15 navihtml_16 navihtml_17 navihtml_18 navihtml_19 navihtml_2 navihtml_20
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 navihtml_46 navihtml_47 navihtml_5 navihtml_65 navihtml_66 navihtml_67 navihtml_7
 navihtml_9 old out.html output.csv output.csv.tmp summarysort.tmp title.tmp
 w3ccheck.sh w3ccheck.sh.20110830.log Microfilms are provided for reading and copying
 as the original materials are badly deteriorated.

Reference:

Kose ONO, 『 『 Shukan kodomo manga shimbun』 no jidai』 Intelligence, No.9,
 ovember 2007, pp.11r3-123,71-G814

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 167, June 2009



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. 578, May 2009 [[PDF Format, 4.31MB](#)]

- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (8) Dr. Haruki Ii, Prof. E. of Osaka University
Power of reading, power of books
Classics and the present
- Services developed by the British Library to support entrepreneurs and small business development □ from a lecture by Mr. Nigel Spencer, Research&Business Development Manager of the British Library [related article](#)
- Toyo Bunko (Oriental Library) □ history and collections
- Learning in NDL (1) How to search information on Korea
- Materials recently designated as rare books □ 44th committee on designation of rare books
- <Announcement>
 - Launch of the RESEARCH NAVI □ useful web service for searching [related article](#)
 - New series of small electronic exhibitions □ Kaleidoscope of books□
 - Kaleidoscope of books (1) History of the President of the United States □ 220 years to learn anew
 - Kodomo no Kuni” now searchable on the “Kodomo no Kuni magazine article search”
 - Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (1) 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth and 150th anniversary of the publication of □ The origin of species□
 - Training programs for librarians in FY2009
 - 13th Preservation and Conservation Training Program
 - New bibliographic data add to the NDL-OPAC by the retrospective cataloging

No. 577, April 2009 [[PDF Format, 3.53MB](#)]

- National Library of Sweden: Challenges in the Digital Era

Dr. Gunnar Sahlin, National Librarian, National Library of Sweden

Lecture & Talks with the Librarian of NDL

- Development of the academic literature recording service □ production of library materials for users with disabilities and expansion of the service [related article](#)
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL: Legal Deposit in Japan How are publications sent to the NDL? How are collected materials used and stored?
- NDL budget for FY2009 [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
 - Records of the Public Safety Department, U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands (USCAR) now available
 - Data of the Japanese Periodicals Index (Natural Science), 1950–1958, added to the NDL–OPAC
 - □ Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan□ and the □ Gordon W. Prange Collection□ now searchable on the Internet version of NDL–OPAC
 - Relocation of library materials from the Tokyo Main Library to the Kansai–kan
 - Academic literature recording service will be expanded
 - Special event for children on Children□ s Day

[up](#)

