

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 168, Aug. 2009

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Stacks of the NDL □ Tokyo Main Library

Facilities Management Division, Administrative Department

This is based on an article of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 579 (June 2009).



Photo 1: Stacks of the Annex (Light well)

Introduction

The National Diet Library (NDL) holds approximately 36 million library materials, the largest collection in Japan. It increases by about 200,000 books and 600,000 magazines and newspapers a year. The NDL also holds materials of various forms and contents such as maps, music CDs, doctoral dissertations, etc. These materials are preserved with great care to be used for wide-ranging services provided by the NDL as the parliament's library as well as the sole national library in Japan.

Unlike ordinary public libraries, most of the collections are stored in the stacks, and they are delivered to counters by the staff in response to users' requests. Readers are not allowed to enter the stacks. The NDL chose the closed stack system to achieve

a good balance between the preservation and utilization of the large collection.

Showing the inside of the stacks that are normally closed to users, this article introduces the structure and facilities of the stacks, and many different efforts made for the preservation and utilization of the collections.

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Stacks of the Main Building

The first phase of construction of the Main Building was finished in 1961 and the construction was fully completed in 1968. The stack unit is 45m by 45m and is located at the center, surrounded by office units (Figure 2 below).

At the planning phase, four alternative layouts were considered for the stacks: (1) stacks at the center of the building, (2) stacks at the bottom of the building, (3) stacks around the outside of the building and (4) stacks at the rear of the building. The stacks-at-the-center system was adopted after discussions among the library staff and at a committee composed of specialists. In the discussions, it was pointed out that the Library of Congress (U.S.), which had functions similar to the NDL, used the centralized stack system, and all offices would benefit from being situated close to the stacks.

<Tiered stacks>



Photo 2: Stacks of the Main Building
(Upper and lower decks viewed from stairs)

Each concrete floor of the stacks is divided into three (partly two) steel-frame decks, and in total the stacks comprise seventeen decks (Photo 2). Square steel pipes for supporting steel-frame decks are arranged in every 1.4m x 0.9m area, and also serve as poles of bookshelves. The poles have holes every 30mm and shelf boards can be set at any level.

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Stacks of the Annex

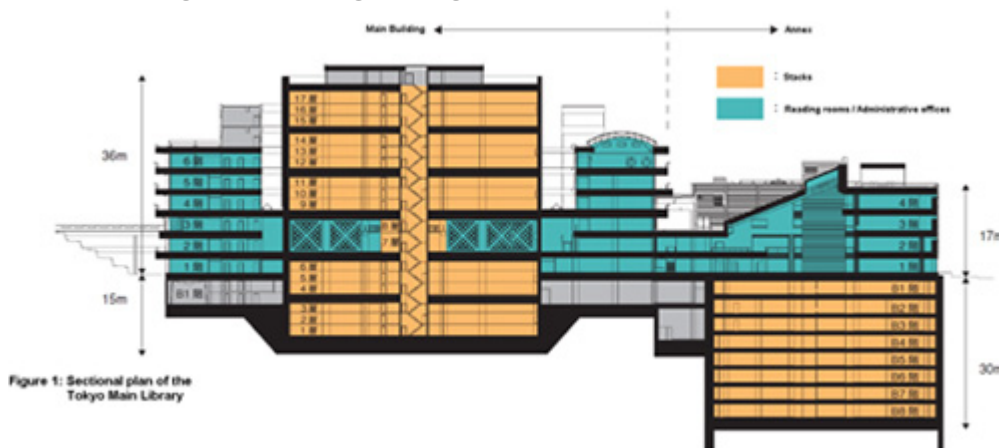
The construction of the Annex was completed in 1986. All the stack spaces, consisting of eight floors, are placed at the bottom of the building and the foundation reaches to a depth of 30 meters (Figure 1 below). As the Tokyo Main Library is situated next to the Diet building, the library building needed to be at as a low level as possible to preserve the landscape. Another reason for the depth is that there is firm ground, called the Tokyo gravel layer, around 30 meters below the surface, which is suitable for building the foundations.

Stacks below ground are less affected by the outdoor air temperature throughout the year and so are cost-effective and energy-saving. There is less shaking from earthquakes in the underground stacks, which is also an appropriate environment for preservation. To avoid flood damage, a great threat for library materials, the outside of the outer wall and the flooring of the ground floor are waterproofed, and thus prevent the inflow of rainwater and groundwater.

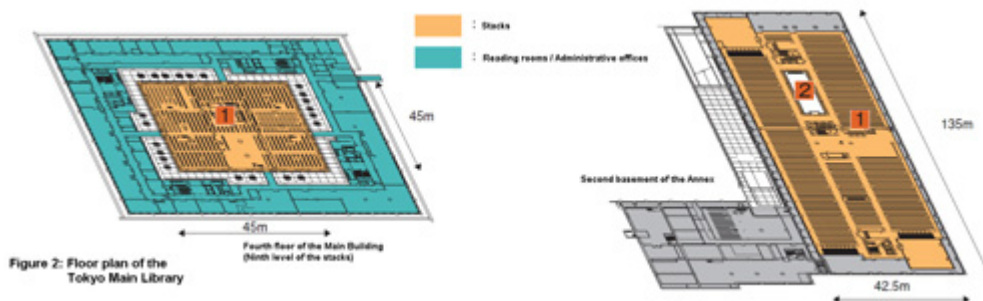
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Plans of the Tokyo Main Library

* Click the figure for a larger image



[*Figure 1. Sectional plan of the Tokyo Main Library](#)



[*Figure 2. Floor plan of the Tokyo Main Library](#)

1 Book conveyer systems

Book conveyer systems are installed to deliver materials effectively. On each floor of the stacks, there is a station where the conveyer system is controlled (Photo 3), and

materials on trays come and go between the stacks and counters (Photo 4). As ID numbers are assigned to each tray, we can identify the tray's position at any moment by using a tracker.



Photo 3: Book conveyer system control station Photo 4: Trays on the conveyer

2 Light well

A light well is built into the stacks of the Annex so that the sunlight reaches right down to the eighth basement level (Photo 1). It eases the worker's feeling of oppression in the closed environment of the underground stacks, and at the same time, serves as an insurance against a power outage.

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	Main Building	Annex
Gross floor area	74,911m ²	72,942m ²
Stack area	32,185m ²	45,861m ²
Completed in	1961 (1st phase) 1968 (2nd phase)	1986

Column: Construction work of underground floors of the Annex

The construction of the Annex was state-of-the-art at the time, as there were few cases of construction work which reached to a depth of 30 meters.

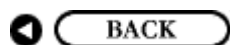
In ordinary underground construction, buildings are constructed from the bottom to the top after digging out the soil. However, it was not possible to dig down to the lowest part of the planned Annex at one stretch, because of the intense pressure deep in the ground. Therefore, first, thick ferroconcrete walls (diaphragm walls) were constructed in the ground to form a huge enclosure. Next, floors of the ground level and the first basement level were built (inverted construction method), and the walls were fixed between these two floors. After that, the deeper parts were excavated.

It took about three years before the building appeared at ground level, so at the time, it was said to be a weird building that never come into sight despite the long term of construction. The amount of earth removed was equivalent to 280 swimming pools. (*Size of a swimming pool is calculated as 50m x12m x1.25m.)

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Development of the academic literature recording service [] production of library materials for users with disabilities and expansion of the service

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

1. Introduction

The library service for persons with disabilities is in a phase of major change. There is an increasing demand for the service, which has hitherto been expected to serve the visually-handicapped, to cater to other physically/mentally-handicapped and bedridden elderly who all suffer print disabilities. Going with the times, the National Diet Library amended the [] National Diet Library Regulation for the Use of Recorded Academic Literature etc.[] to enroll more people to provide the service and to widen the materials to be produced.

Here, we introduce the service we currently provide and that increased by the amended regulation.

2. Academic Literature Recording Service

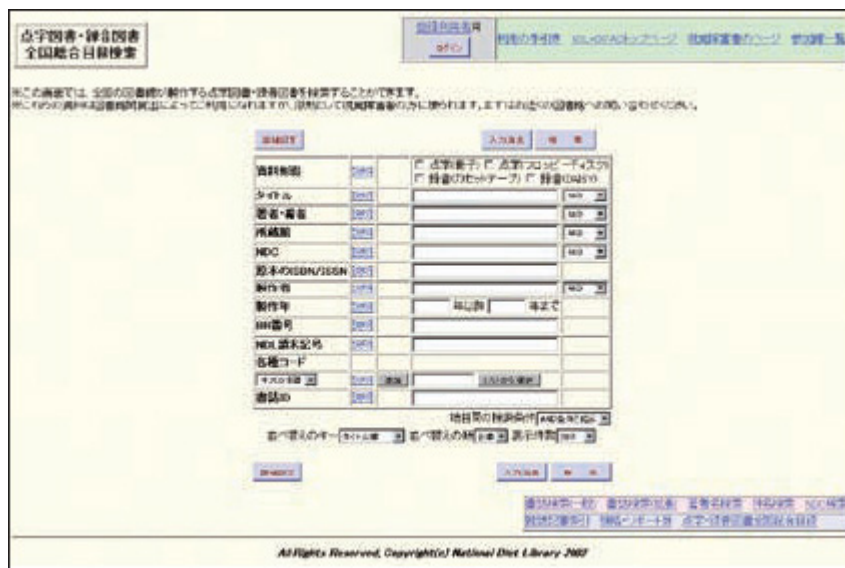
The academic literature recording service consists of audio-recording academic literatures held in the NDL, and lending out those materials through the nation-wide network of the public libraries, the braille libraries and others registered as intermediaries for the use of the disabled at the relevant libraries or at home. We had been producing recorded books on cassette since 1975 and from 2002 on have been producing them in DAISY format (DAISY books, henceforth).

DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) is an international standard for digitally creating audio-recorded books for the use of people with print disabilities, such as the visually-handicapped. The contents of DAISY books are stored on CDs readable on digital playback devices or on computers equipped with digital playback software.

The DAISY books are characterized by the ability to provide cues for captions of the main text or chosen pages, and to pack 50 hours or so of audio-recording on a single CD.

We produce DAISY books at the request of registered lending libraries. The books thus produced are searchable on [] [NDL-OPAC National Union Catalog of Braille and](#)

[Recorded Books in Japan](#) (Japanese only) and the lists are available on the [Library Service for the Visually-Handicapped](#) (Japanese only) webpage on the NDL website. Braille versions of the catalog are also distributed among the registered lending libraries.



Search page for the National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books in Japan. Braille and recorded books produced by member libraries and institutions all over Japan are retrievable by title, author and holding libraries.

As of the end of March 2008, the NDL had produced 2,112 titles of audio-recorded books on cassette, 574 on DAISY. In FY2008, we produced 112 titles on DAISY. We have a track record of lending out 133 titles on cassette and 307 on DAISY in FY2007.



DAISY books and cassette tapes

The production of the DAISY books entails such tasks as copyright clearance, researching words difficult to read, setting out the policy for the audio-recording and editing of DAISY, audio-recording, editing DAISY, printing CDs with necessary

bibliographic information and labeling CDcases with the same information. At presently all the work except for copyright clearance is outsourced (though the NDL takes part in the research of words difficult to read).

The NDL's collection of recorded literature prominently features orthopedics anatomy, acupuncture/moxibustion, oriental medicine such as Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Chinese classics including books appropriate for postgraduates.

To ensure accessibility and preservation, we have been digitizing the books already recorded on cassette into DAISY books (planned to be suspended between FY2009–2011).

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3. Recent trends

According to the research and experience of services for users with disabilities in recent years, DAISY books have proved useful in reading for persons with learning disabilities such as dyslexia (those who cannot read words or those who can read but cannot understand the meaning), intellectual disabilities or bedridden elderly. Some public libraries started to provide DAISY books to these users.

In 2004, the "Agreement on comprehensive permission on production of audio-recorded materials in public libraries and the like" was concluded between the Japan Library Association and the Japan Writers' Association and the "Guideline for use of audio-recorded materials for persons with disabilities" was established. In this guideline, in addition to visually-handicapped persons, seriously disabled and bedridden elderly are also included.

After discussion between persons concerned in the Council for Cultural Affairs Subdivision on Copyright (Agency for Cultural Affairs), a bill for partial amendments to the copyright law was enacted in the 171st Diet session, and will come into force on January 1, 2010. The law includes the provision that permission from copyright holders of the original is not required by those who are designated by cabinet to carry out welfare business for the visually-handicapped and others when they produce recorded books for visually-handicapped and the like. Use of recorded books produced under this provision is permitted to visually-handicapped or persons with other types of disabilities described above.

Thus, circumstances surrounding the disabled are greatly changing and it is also necessary for library services to aim for further enhancement. Under these many changes in circumstances, we amended the regulation to provide more recorded books for use.



Shelves of DAISY books

4. Amendment of the Regulation for the Use of Recorded Academic Literature for expanding the service

Major three points of the recent amendment of the regulation are as follows:

(1) Expansion of users

Use of recorded academic literature was formally limited to visually-handicapped persons aged 18 or over, but it is expanded to users who have difficulty in using academic literature by reasons of visual or other types of disabilities, including those under age 18 when their needs for use for research and study are accepted.

(2) Expansion of materials to be produced

As DAISY books enables to provide cues for directing words easily, dictionaries, encyclopedias, yearbooks, catalogs and bibliographies are newly targeted for production.

(3) Selection of materials to be prepared for loan

We basically limited the selection of academic literature to requests from registered lending libraries, but will select some materials beforehand for which requests for loan are likely to be made in future.



Example of players of DAISY books

(right: play-only model, left: model with multiple functions such as recording capability, etc.)

5. Future of academic literature recording service

As information technology developed remarkably in recent years, development and diffusion of multimedia DAISY books including audio and literal information are ongoing and users perusing text data by readout software are increasing. Services such as delivering digital voice via the Internet for use through PC and mobile phone are provided by Japan Braille Library and Nippon Lighthouse. As just described, circumstances of various media and means to provide services according to individual needs of users are increasingly improved. It is necessary for the NDL to review future direction of services to be provided to meet the development.

Recently, although bookstores are full of books, those reproduced as recorded books are limited, fewer still for specialized academic literature. We hope that by providing as many academic literature recordings as we can, the service of the NDL will be of some help for enriching the informational environment for persons with disabilities.

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Minutes from 1911 to 1947 now available in the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet



Top page of the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet (Japanese only)

Data for about 76,000 pages of the minutes of the Imperial Diet from the 28th to 51st sessions (December 1911 – March 1926) were added to the [Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet](#), which enables users to search for and view the minutes on the Internet. The addition was made on May 7, 2009.

The minutes can be searched through their tables of contents and index, as well as by a speaker's name. The text of the minutes can be viewed in image format.

With this addition, about 250,000 pages of minutes of the Imperial Diet sessions from the 28th to the final 92nd, including the post-World War II, became searchable. For the post-war period (September 1945 – March 1947), full-text search of the minutes is available. We are planning to complete the database, by adding data from the first session, before the end of this fiscal year.

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Materials recently designated as rare books -From 43rd committee on designation of rare books

This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 573 (Dec. 2008).

On July 16, 2008, the 43rd committee on designation of rare books designated 12 materials as rare books and 2 materials as semi-rare books. Including the materials designated on February 18, 2009 by the 44th committee, the National Diet Library (NDL) holds 1,255 rare books and 787 semi-rare books in total as of August 1, 2009. The following introduces some newly-designated materials.

1. Rare book "Tsukimitsu no soushi"

Printed around the Genna and Kan'ei eras (1615 to 1644), old movable-type edition, 1 book, 27.5×18.7cm, <NDL call no.: WA7-267>



Tsukimitsu no soushi

This is one of the "Otogizoushi," Japanese fairy tales of the Muromachi era (1392-1573). It is also known as "Tsukihi no soushi." The story is like this: Houou and Sansou, sons of a millionaire in "Magada-koku," Tenjiku (old name for India), were exiled to Shiomizu Island by their stepmother. Their dead birth mother changed herself into a large bird of paradise to protect and bring them up. Then, their father saved them, and they grew up to be the sun and the moon.

This is the oldest printed edition of "Tsukimitsu no soushi." Only the one held by the Department of Japanese Language and Literature of Tokyo University is known as the same edition. All the illustrations of this book were colored red, green and yellow by hand. The British Library possesses an old movable-type book of "Tsukihi no sousi" (former collection of Sir Ernest Satow), which is a different edition with some different sentences and no illustrations.

2. Semi-rare book "Gikei ki"

Printed in the Kan'ei 12 (1635), 8 books, 27.0 $\bar{7}$ 18.7cm, < NDL call no.: WB2-10>



Gikei ki

This illustrated "Gikei ki (biography of Minamoto no Yoshitsune, a famous military commander of the 12th century)" was published in 1635, after the old movable-type edition. This book has 66 illustrations in total. It is colored red, green and yellow by hand and called "Tanroku-bon." It is thought that the designated book was printed and colored between 1635 and about 1646, because the next edition of the woodcut illustrated book of "Gikei ki" was published in 1646.

While the Kyoto University Library holds the same edition, in both the writing part and the picture part, the print is not so clear because of some wear of the printing blocks. Its coloring is also a little different from the designated book.

3. Semi-rare book "Tsukijima"

Printed at the end of the Kan'ei and Shouhou eras (1633 to 1648), 2 books, 24.9 $\bar{7}$ 17.6cm, < NDL call no.: WB2-11>



Tsukijima

This is one of the texts for "Kouwaka-mai," a Japanese classic ballad drama of the Muromachi era. It is also called "Tsukishima" or "Hyougo." In this story, Taira no Kiyomori (a general and a noble of the 12th century) was gathering human sacrifices to enable the construction of Fukuhara Port. Gyoubuzaemon Kuniharu was seized in the Ikuta Forest, and his daughter Meigetsu-nyo and her husband asked to be substitutes for her father's life. In the end, Kiyomori buried his page, Matsuou, and 10,000 volumes of the Lotus Sutra instead of sacrifices and completed the construction.

This book was published after the old movable-type edition, and has 12 illustrations colored simply with red, green and yellow by hand. The print is clear. Although the same version is not found in Japan, the New York Public Library has the same version with similar coloring.

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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](#))

No. 580, July 2009 [[PDF Format, 3.43MB](#)]

- World Digital Library: viewing cultural treasures
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL
 - Behind the library counter: how requested materials are delivered from the stacks
- Exploring modern Japanese political documents: acquisition of modern Japanese political history materials □ using documents relating to Yoshio Matsushita as an example [related article](#)
- Stacks of the NDL (2) Kansai-kan of the NDL and International Library of Children's Literature [related article](#)
- Learning in NDL (3) How to research materials on medical and technological information
- <Announcement>
 - Renewal of the PORTA [related article](#)
 - List of Japanese online journals to which ISSN's were assigned now available on the NDL website
 - Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Children's books link the World -Hans Christian Andersen Award 2008 & IBBY Honour List 2008
 - NDL to participate in the Children's Day for Visiting Kasumigaseki
 - So Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (2) Eclipse chasers from past to present □ in connection with the total solar eclipse on July 22
 - NDL Database Forum in the Kansai-kan of the NDL
 - ILCL Lecture Series on Children's Literature FY2009 - utilizing the ILCL collections
 - Book notice □ publications from NDL

No. 579, June 2009 [[PDF Format, 3.40MB](#)]

- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (9) Dr. Claudia Lux, President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
To an assertive library
- Libraries in the knowledge society—visions for the future
- RESEARCH NAVI □ you can find clues to help your research [related article](#)
- Stacks of the NDL (1) Tokyo Main Library [related article](#)
- Distribution, use and preservation of e-books in Japan □ from a research seminar on libraries and library and information science [related article](#)
- The making of the Kaleidoscope of Books
(1) History of the President of the United States □ 220 years to learn anew
- Learning in NDL (2) How to search materials on science and technology
- <Announcement>
 - Minutes from 1911 now available in the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet [related article](#)
 - Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: □ All Aboard! for a Trip around Books on Vehicles□
 - 2008 version of the National Diet Library List of Subject Headings now available
 - Library guidance for librarians in FY 2009
 - Summer event of the International Library of Children's Literature: Fun with science □ Wonder of magnets□
 - NDL to take part in the 16th Tokyo International Book Fair
 - Book notice □ publications from NDL

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