

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 169, October 2009



E-books in Japan: Distribution, Use and Preservation

Library Support Division,
Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

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

Introduction

As part of its library support projects, the National Diet Library (NDL) conducts a research study on libraries and library and information science every year. In fiscal 2008, we chose as the theme "e-books," which have been rapidly expanding their market and attracting social interest in recent years, and carried out a research by a study group composed of four experts to find out the situation of the distribution, use and preservation. This article introduces the current situation and issues of the distribution, use and preservation of e-books based on a reporting seminar of the research study, held in the Tokyo Main Library (and also broadcast live in the Kansai-kan) on March 9, 2009.

Increase in attention to e-books

The size of the e-book market has nearly doubled every year since the first survey conducted in 2002 (eBook marketing report, Impress R&D / Internet Media Research Institute, published since 2003). In the context of such market growth, news on e-books became active among library communities in Japan in 2007. Several university libraries and public libraries, under contract requiring a fee, started a service to provide users with e-books in Japanese via the Internet before the end of their copyright protection period. In addition, "mobile phone novels," novels which are provided on mobile phone networks, became popular mainly among young people, and paper books transformed from these mobile phone novels topped the fiction bestseller list.

Under such circumstances, the NDL conducted a research study on the current situation of the distribution, use and preservation of e-books in Japan using literature researches, questionnaires and interviews.

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What is an e-book?

What does the word "e-book" mean? Dr. Toshihiko Yuasa, associate professor of



Dr. Toshihiko YUASA

Associate professor of the Shukugawa Gakuin College In the research study, Dr. Yuasa was in charge of the overview of e-books, summary of interviews, and summary of the whole research

Shukugawa Gakuin College, explained that “e-book” was hard to define and grasp its nature. What are called “e-books” include paper books scanned and provided for PCs and mobile phones; electronic dictionaries used on dedicated devices; born-digital publications originated in digital media such as “mobile phone novels”; rare books and other materials digitized by the owning libraries. It is very difficult to identify all the websites that sell e-books even only for PCs and mobile phones, and the same titles of e-books are sometimes sold on several websites. Dr. Yuasa also pointed out that existing statistics on e-books were compiled using information from several websites that sold e-books, and therefore we needed to keep in mind that numerous e-books were not included in the statistics.

In view of the current industry situation and the connection with libraries, the research mainly focuses on (1) e-books which were digitized from paper publications and sold for use on PCs and mobile phones, and (2) born-digital mobile phone novels and other e-books, of which popular ones are sometimes printed and published in paper form. It also mentions e-book services such as the Aozora Bunko (freely accessible digital library of Japan) and Google Book Search as necessary in analyzing the change of the environment surrounding e-books.

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People around e-books

In the process from creating an e-book to delivering it to readers, people are involved

who are different from those handling paper books. For the sale of e-books digitized from paper books, related enterprises are as follows: publishers of the original books in paper form, contents providers which digitize the books and provide them, mobile-phone carriers which register the websites made by the contents providers as an official site for mobile phones and manage their sales, etc. The research study reports the history of how each enterprise has been involved in e-books mainly based on literature study, and seeks to find out how the current situation and issues are recognized by each enterprise, using questionnaire surveys and interviews.

According to the research paper on the history of e-books written by Dr. Yuasa, the publication in electronic media in Japan began in 1985 with a CD-ROM version of Dictionary of Science and Technology published by Sanshusha Publishing Co., Ltd. After its release, publishers began to publish the CD-ROM version of dictionaries and encyclopedias, and the publication of DVD-ROMs with much larger capacity appeared around 2000. In parallel with the sales of e-books on physical carriers, the e-book download service via the Internet was started in 2000 by major eight publishing companies intended for the use on PCs and [] personal digital assistances[] (PDAs). In 2004, the Matsushita Electric Industrial Company (now Panasonic Corporation) and Sony Corporation released special terminals for reading e-books, and a number of publishers started to offer contents for the terminals. However, such terminals were forced to cease production because of the stagnant sales, and taking their place, e-books available on a mobile phone, portable music player and portable game machine have spread since around 2007.

In response to such changes, contents providers which digitize books to be used on various devices, and mobile-phone carriers which manage the sales of e-books for mobile phones, have been playing an increasing role. According to eBook marketing report 2008, the sales of e-books for mobile phones accounted for approximately 80 percent of the total e-book sales including e-books for PCs. The number of websites which sell e-books and mobile-phone carriers registered as official websites reached to more than 600 in December 2008.

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Mr. Masaaki Hagino, President of Voyager Japan, Inc., analyzed how the three types of e-books—for mobile phones, for PCs and for mobile information terminals such as [] smart phone (mobile phone with portable information terminal function)[] , portable music player and portable game machine with communication function—were made and in what format and under what business model they were offered. In his analysis he pointed out that the printing companies which had handled the production of paper books before participated in the distribution of e-books by setting up contents providers to produce and deliver e-books or offering capital to contents providers. Now most paper books are printed and formed based on electronic data, so making e-books by converting them is thought to have an advantage. Mr. Hagino also pointed out that venture companies and affiliate companies of IT companies in charge of selling e-books as well as these printing companies were developing their businesses.



Mr. Masaaki HAGINO
President of Voyager Japan, Inc.

In the research study,
he was in charge of the distribution
of e-books and "reading"
for visually impaired people.

Readers of e-books and Libraries



Dr. Katsuichi KITA
Professor of the Graduate School for
Creative Cities, Osaka City University

In the research study, he was mainly
in charge of the use of e-books.

The market of e-books is expanding rapidly. Then, how are e-books used? Dr. Katsuichi Kita (Professor of the Graduate School for Creative Cities, Osaka City University) analyzed the use of e-books by individuals and organizations such as libraries while being conscious about business models. His remarks were as follows: As regards personal use, it was young women whose use rate of e-books with a mobile phone was high, and it was comics which were frequently used with mobile phones; As for

organization use, it was common to make a lump contract of access privileges to the marketed e-book collection; most of the organizations which have this kind of contract were university libraries; all types of libraries were trying to digitize their collections to make them available.

In addition, he pointed out the rapid change in the distribution environment of e-books progressing mainly in the U.S.: Google Inc. was going ahead with the business model in which they offered e-books for a charge as Google Book Search and gave the sales back to the rights holders; Amazon.com, Inc. launched "Kindle2," a new reading device for e-books, and immediately made it possible to use the contents for devices such as "iPhone," a smart phone by Apple Inc. Dr. Kita also said it became clear from his original research that domestic libraries did not hold as many bestseller mobile phone novels printed and published in paper form as the other bestseller books. He expressed concern that libraries might be missing the change of environment and users in the case of e-books.

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To preserve e-books as cultural heritage

As noted above, most of the e-books which are distributed and used now are offered via the Internet and do not have tangible form. Mr. Hidehiko Nakanishi, Vice President of the Nakanishi Printing Company, clarified the current problems for the preservation of e-books through questionnaires and interviews to publishing companies, a questionnaire to the staff of the NDL, and others.

A paper book published more than 1,000 years ago is still available now. However, the availability of the format of e-books provided now and the machinery to use it is not guaranteed in future ages. E-books provided via the Internet are in danger of disappearing not only through situations such as damage to the system and server machinery but also through the bankruptcy and business abolition of the providing enterprise. Moreover mobile phone novels and others are often written, revised and deleted by the authors without record of modification.

Through the survey of publishing companies, it became clear that they were conscious of the long-term preservation of e-books only at the level of the backup of data. On the other hand, the questionnaire survey to the staff of the NDL showed many opinions conscious of the importance of long-term preservation of e-books and the necessity for libraries to be concerned it. In the Western countries, libraries already take a lead and carry out some projects to preserve electronic journals for the long term with the



Mr. Hidehiko NAKANISHI
Vice President of the Nakanishi
Printing Company
In the research study,
he was mainly in charge
of the preservation of e-books.

cooperation of publishing companies. Mr. Nakanishi analyzed such a situation and proposed that it was necessary to preserve e-books as cultural heritage for the long term in Japan, too, and there is no institution other than libraries to take the initiative. In addition, he pointed out the necessity of the periodical conversion (migration) of electronic data into the most suitable form, which is called “electronic shikinen sengu,” a term taken from Ise-jingu, the grand shrine in Ise city, which observes shikinen sengu (complete reconstruction of the main building of the shrine every twenty years) since the era of the Empress Jito of the 7th century.

In the closing address of this reporting seminar, Dr. Yuasa said he expected this research study to be one of the opportunities for publishing companies, contents providers, mobile phone carriers and libraries to build a cooperative relationship for readers and users of the future. In the ensuing question-and-answer session, there were many remarks: the influence of Google book search; the difference in domestic and foreign spread of reading devices for e-books; how to expand the e-book users; the gap between the e-book users and the library users; the possibility of universal services such as offering e-books to visually impaired people. These remarks showed what high and various interests the participants had.

For details of the seminar, please refer to [“NDL Research Report No.11, E-books in Japan:Distribution, Use and Preservation”](#) and [documents of the seminar](#).

NDL website: [Top Page](#) > [For Librarians](#) > [Current Awareness Portal \(Japanese only\)](#)

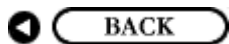
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National Diet Library Law Amended: the NDL authorized to archive websites of government-related institutions

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title in Current Awareness-E No. 154 (July 2009).

The Act for Partially Revising the National Diet Library Law (Law No. 73 of 2009) was enacted on July 10, 2009. This law enables the National Diet Library (NDL) to copy and collect Internet information, such as websites, produced by government and government-related institutions. The law will come into force on April 1, 2010.

The institutions affected are government departments, local authorities, independent administrative agencies and national universities; in other words, organs obliged to deposit their publications to the NDL under the Article 24 and 24-2 of the National Diet Library Law.

Collecting is mainly expected to be automatically carried out by a web crawler. The targeted institutions are required to disable security settings they have in place that hinders the NDL's crawler. In practical terms, it means the modification of robots.txt file on the relevant site. It is also a duty of the targeted institutions to provide the NDL at its request with information unavailable for automated archiving but notified in advance by the Librarian of the NDL to be highly worth collecting (e.g. a periodical previously published in paper form but has since migrated to the web). The public notice will be announced some time before April 1, 2010.

The duties above do not apply to (1) items which possess entirely different characteristics from traditional publications and are meant to replace routine office work (e.g. electronic tax system, facility reservation system) and (2) items meant for long-term accumulation and provision (e.g. database for academic papers) because in case of (2), long term storage and provision of internet information is already guaranteed. The NDL is expected, however, to collect the items in (2) in cases when they are likely to be lost for such reasons as termination of the relevant project.

The law revising the NDL law also includes the amendment to the Copyright Law exempting from copyright infringement copying in the process of collection specified above, whether carried out by the NDL or providing institutions.

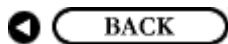
The Internet information thus acquired will be treated in the same way as other library materials; it will be made available on the premises of the NDL and only permitted information will be provided via the Internet.

As for the Internet information produced by institutions not covered by this revision (such

as private universities), the NDL continues collection, accumulation and provision based on permission through the Web Archiving Project (WARP), in operation since 2002.

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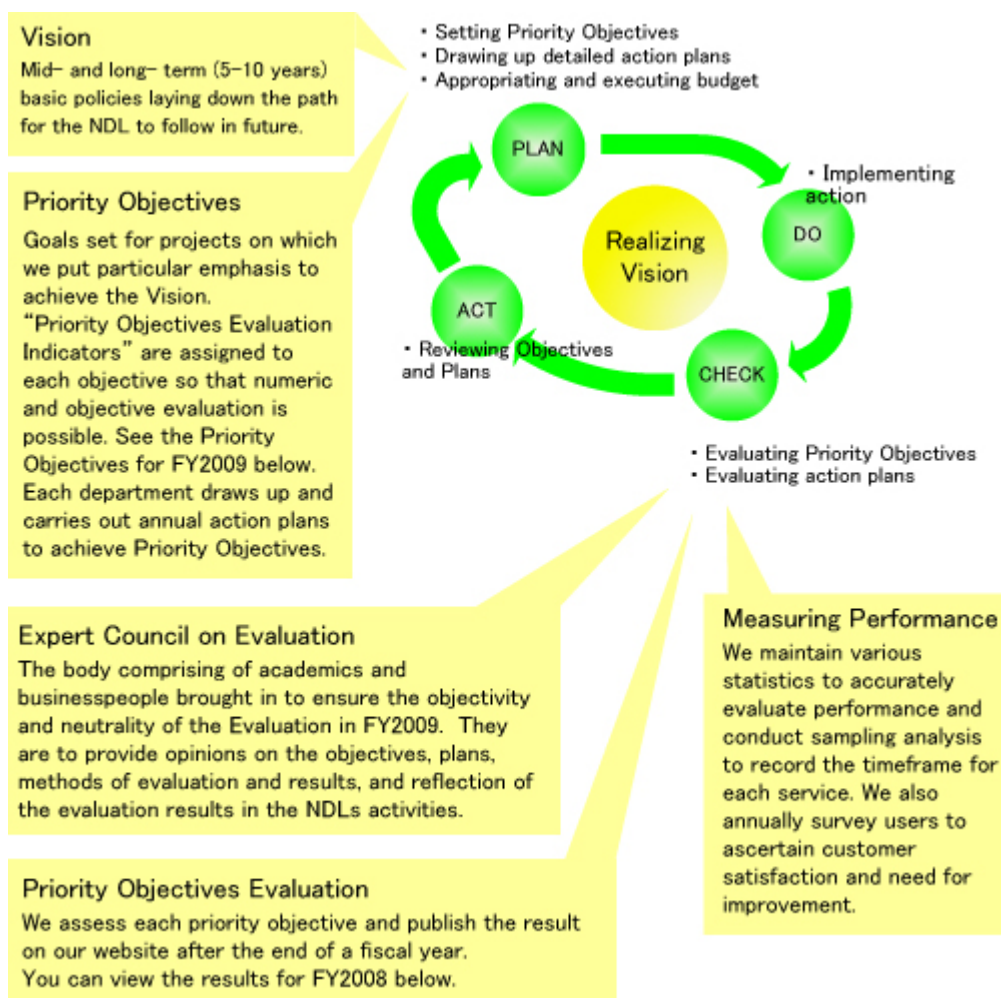


Activity Performance Evaluation of the NDL: Improving Our Service and Management

This article is a translation of the brochure in Japanese of the same title.











The National Diet Library has been striving continuously to improve its service and management since the introduction of Activity Evaluation in FY2004.

In FY2007, a year before its 60th anniversary, the NDL set out the ["Vision for the NDL's 60th anniversary"](#) and before the next FY reviewed Activity Evaluation to replace it with Activity Performance Evaluation. The new assessment framework is intended to enhance a management cycle PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT and maximize our limited resources to improve services from FY2009 onward.



The Priority Objectives represent mid-term (3–5 years) goals to achieve. See below for the objectives for FY2009, most of which are identical to the FY2008 version with minor modifications. You can refer to the Priority Objectives of FY2008 and their Evaluation on the following webpage.

http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/vision_60th.html

Priority Objectives for FY2009	Evaluation in FY2008	
	Progress	Achievement
Vision 1: Enhance our legislative support function by improving services for the National Diet		
To strengthen the function as 『 Brains for the legislature』 See Ref.1		◎
To organize and provide legislative information useful for deliberations of the Diet as a 『 Comprehensive Information Center for Diet Members』		◎
Vision 2: Make an exhaustive collection of results of intellectual activities in Japan to preserve them as common resources of the nation		
To publicize the legal deposit system in order to raise the percentage of domestic publications acquired by the National Diet Library		◎
To appropriately preserve collected materials and guarantee permanent access to them		○
To promote accumulating, preserving and providing digital information including Internet resources See Ref.2		○
Vision 3: Provide prompt and precise access or links to information needed by users		
To streamline library work and improve convenience of our services and user satisfaction		○
To organize information resources inside and outside NDL to provide them effectively		◎
Vision 4: Seek to provide equally good services to all users regardless of where they are		
To promote digitization of materials to extend the range of original materials available on the Internet See Ref.3		○
To increase degree of user satisfaction of copying services via the Internet		◎
Vision 5: Offer a variety of appealing services to society and increase NDL's visibility		
Through holding events and exhibitions, to gain more social		

recognition of NDL's roles and activities See Ref.4		◎
Vision 6: Promote closer cooperation with libraries of various kinds in Japan including public libraries		
As well as supporting various libraries in Japan, to enhance coordination and cooperation with them See Ref.5		◎
Vision 7: Try to share and exchange information by maintaining close relationships with overseas libraries		
To deepen coordination and cooperation among national libraries in Asia and Oceania See Ref.4		◎

In FY 2009, we set the following project based on the supplementary budget as a Priority Objective:

To digitize our materials intensively based on the FY2009 supplementary budget to strengthen the intellectual infrastructure of the Japanese people in an advanced information environment

Evaluation grades explained

Progress

Each project is graded into three ranks according to the extent of progress against our plan for FY2008.



Progress as planned



Less progress than planned



No progress

Achievement

Improvement of user services is graded into five ranks according to user response. Criteria for evaluation are whether we have made significant progress, attracted greater use, or created greater user satisfaction.

◎ Achieved sufficiently

○ Achieved to some extent;

△ Achieved little

× Achieved nothing

— Not due for evaluation

Ref. 1: Providing information to help deliberations of the Diet

The NDL assists the Diet members (DMs) by providing research and information services using the library materials. We offer prompt response to requests from the DMs, but also carry out anticipatory research on prominent topics in anticipation of requests.

In FY2008, we published more than 500 articles to be distributed in various publications and Chosa-no-Mado, the website for the Diet*. Requests for research from the DMs increased over last year to 47,000.

In FY2009, we strive to offer more client-oriented service including briefings with DMs.

*Most of them are also published on the NDL's website.

Ref. 2: Engaging in collecting and preserving Internet information

There is a recent initiative among the national libraries all over the world to collect and preserve the Internet information which is daily lost. The NDL continues collection, accumulation and provision of domestic Internet information based on permission through the WARP (Web Archiving Project) .

FY2008 saw the increase of collectible websites by 700 titles and access of 70,000. In FY2009, we continue to expand collectible websites and reinforce public relations to promote its use. Lastly, we finally succeeded in getting the National Diet Library Law amended so that the NDL can archive websites hosted by government and government-related without permission. A bill was introduced in the regular session of FY2009 and enacted as the Act for Partially Revising the National Diet Library Law. We will be able to comprehensively collect such information from April 1, 2010.

Ref. 3: Digitizing the collection

The NDL digitizes copyright-cleared materials and publishes them on its webpages such as "Digital Library from the Meiji Era." The Digital Library had more than 100,000 accumulated titles and attracted more than 7 million accesses in FY2008.

At the same time, we replaced microforming with digitization as a means of preservation as well as facilitating use. The year saw the amendment of the copyright law, enabling the NDL to digitize any library materials for the purpose of preservation without permission from copyright holders. The legal change is accompanied with the supplementary budget for digitization.

Capitalizing on this unique opportunity, we intend to carry out a large scale digitization project in FY2009. We also continue from FY2008 the coordination with other institutions to facilitate the use of digitized materials.

Ref. 4: Holding events to commemorate 60th anniversary

The NDL celebrated its 60th anniversary in FY2008. Commemorating the occasion, we held a symposium titled "Through knowledge we prosper – New role of the National Diet Library" and an exhibition of rare books titled "Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –." The exhibition is also shown in the online gallery on our website.

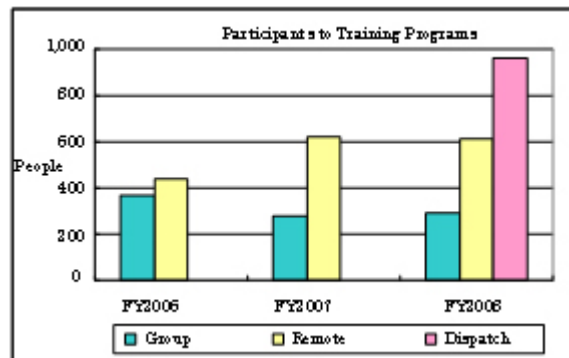
We also had the honor to host the 16th meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) in commemoration of the 60th anniversary. The Conference was attended by the delegates from 23 countries, the largest participation ever, and Dr. Nagao the Librarian of the NDL chaired lively discussions under the theme of "Cooperation in a Knowledge-based Society."

In FY2009, we are planning initiatives to promote reading and cultural activities in preparation for the 2010 National Year of Reading.

Ref. 5: Supporting librarians nationwide

The NDL provides training programs on a variety of themes to support librarians nationwide. They are provided either on-site by getting together applicants or remotely via the Internet. We carried out 13 types of group training and remote training in FY2008. We also launched a scheme to dispatch instructors to training sessions held by local libraries with 27 reference-

related sessions held in FY2008. With all these sessions combined, we catered to a total of 1,800 librarians. In FY2009, we intend to introduce new themes for remote training and continue to dispatch NDL staff.



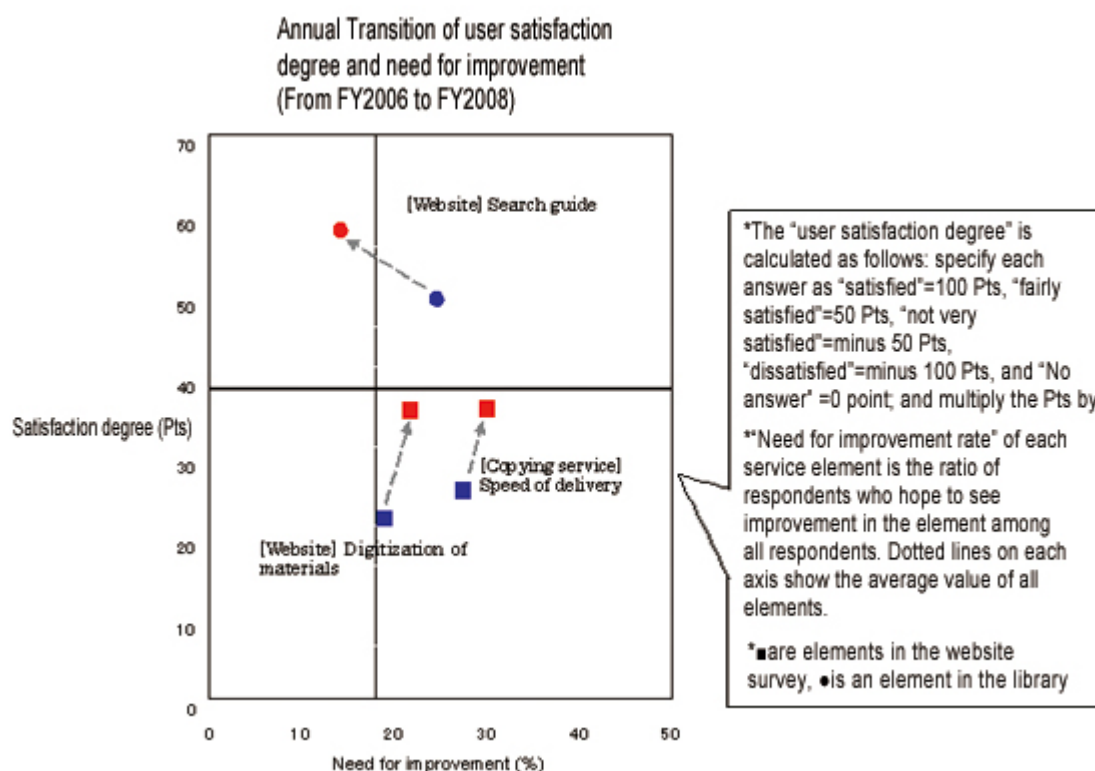
User Survey: Incorporating Feedback

The National Diet Library annually conducts user surveys, with on-site users and remote users (e.g. people accessing the website or ordering copying service by mail) researched alternately (e.g. on-site users in FY2007, remote users in FY2008).

The resulting data are analyzed applying the method of customer satisfaction survey employed by the private sector. This helps prioritize the need for service improvement demanded by the users. In the chart below, the elements in the lower right field are services with low customer satisfaction and strong demand for improvement. We have redoubled our efforts to improve them with the result that FY2008 showed a rise of satisfaction degree as seen below.

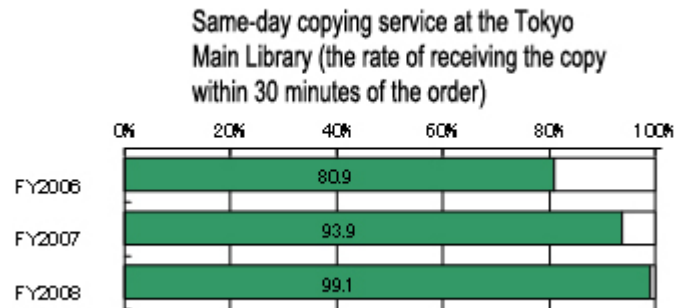
Hit the following link to see a more detailed account of the surveys.

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



Evaluating Performance: Data-based Appraisal

We maintain various statistics to accurately keep track of service use trends and workloads and conduct sampling analysis to record the timeframe for each service such as [time taken to receive ordered copy.] Such objective data provide the groundwork for the Activity Performance Evaluation and assist in finding problems and making an assessment at the end of a fiscal year.



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PORTA has been renewed

On July 7, 2009 the [National Diet Library Digital Archive Portal \(PORTA\)](#) was renewed.

PORTA is a national digital portal site which navigates users to digital archives: it guides them comprehensively to the digital contents of other cooperating institutions in addition to NDL's contents. As of the end of June, 41 kinds of digital archives are available through PORTA.

Improvement and new functions are as follows:

- Search response can be obtained more rapidly.
- List of search results is more user-friendly.
- Primary information (contents itself) is displayed first.
- Search results can be sorted by institutions which provide contents, Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC), year of publication, etc.
- Icons help to display results more clearly. For example, users can see whether a content found in the search results is primary information or secondary information (bibliographic data only).
- Bookmark function by which users can add comments and share them is now easier to use.
- Users can view bookmarks without user registration.
- Details of search results can be registered easily on social bookmarks.

example of search result

Target	No.	Icon	Provider	Title	Author	Publisher	Date of issue	Detail	Related information
1. Digital Library from the Way One	1.		国立国会図書館	伊勢物語 (文化遺産 第1巻)	藤原	国立国会図書館			
2. Digital Library from the Way One	2.		開成大学図書館	伊勢物語	開成大学	2005-01-26			
3. Digital Library from the Way One	3.		信託文化センター	伊勢物語	信託文化センター (1872-1983)	国立国会図書館			
4. Rare Books Image Database	4.		国立国会図書館	伊勢物語					
5. Rare Books Image Database	5.		国立国会図書館	伊勢物語 2巻					
6. Rare Books Image Database	6.		国立国会図書館	伊勢物語 2巻					
7. Electronic versions of the NDL	7.		国立国会図書館	伊勢物語			(正装巻)1巻		
8. Electronic versions of the NDL	8.		国立国会図書館	伊勢物語 1巻			巻1		
9. Rare Books Collection University of Tsukuba Library	9.		筑波大学図書館	伊勢物語 1巻			巻1(巻1)1-1		
10. Rare Books			国立国会図書館	伊勢物語					



Icons from the left:

types of resources (texts, images, moving images, etc.)

digitized or not

availability from the Internet or not

charged or not

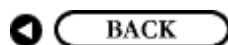
This example shows that it is a digitized material, included in the Rare Book Image Database of

NDL and can be read and downloaded free.

Related article: NDL Newsletter No.158

(http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/publication/ndl_newsletter/158/581.html)

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Renewal of the agreement between the NDL and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek / Japan–Netherlands online exhibitions

Renewal of the agreement

The National Diet Library (NDL) and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB; National Library of the Netherlands) renewed the agreement signed for the first time in August 2005. Having developed a cooperative relationship based on the agreement for these past four years, the two libraries agreed to renew it for the next four years. The new agreement came into effect on August 21, 2009, signed by Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, and Drs. J.S.M. Savenije, Director General of the KB. The two parties will be continuously working in cooperation, especially in the area of storage and long-term access to digital documents.

Japan–Netherlands online exhibitions

One of the major fruits of the first four years of cooperation of the two national libraries is the online exhibitions on Japan–Netherlands interchange. Sharing the same theme and objective of letting the people of both countries know about the long history of the relationship between Japan and the Netherlands, the NDL and the KB have each created an exhibition of contents selected from its own collections and other materials.



One of the materials to be included in the NDL online exhibition on Japan–Netherlands interchange: Shiiboruto Kangekizu (Siebold viewing a play) copied by Kakutai. This picture depicts Philipp Franz von Siebold (on the left), doctor at the Dutch trading house in Nagasaki, when he went to a theater in Osaka in 1826.

The exhibition including 134 digitized materials held by the KB is available on the [KB's website: Memory of the Netherlands>The Netherlands–Japan](#)

There are a variety of materials such as a painting by Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890) based on the woodblock print of Utagawa Hiroshige (1797–1858), letters exchanged between Shogun Tokugawa Ieyoshi (his advisors wrote for him) and the Dutch King William II, and a photograph of a porcelain bottle manufactured in Japan but with a decoration in Japanese Kakiemon style added in Delft.



The exhibition created by the NDL, introducing materials showing the exchanges between two countries in the Edo period (1603–1867), will be released on December 16, 2009.

NDL Online Gallery:

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/gallery/index.html>

Other material to be included in the NDL
online exhibition 『Japan–Netherlands
Exchange in the Edo Period』 : a page
from Ehon Azuma Asobi,
published in 1802, written by Asakusa-an,
illustrated by Katsushika Hokusai.
This scene shows Japanese people
looking at Dutch people with curiosity.

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Lectures by leading figures

Two lectures were held by the National Diet Library (NDL), inviting speakers who are leaders in the library world as well as major intellectuals.

Dr. Jean-Noël Jeanneney, former President of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, gave a lecture titled "Internet et la culture: une chance ou un péril?" (The Internet and culture: opportunity or danger?) on September 15 (Tue.) at the Tokyo Main Library and September 17 (Thu.) at the Kansai-kan, with emphasis on the importance of cultural diversity.

On October 2 (Fri.), Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), gave a lecture under the title of "From Papyrus to PDF: The Rebirth of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina," covering the ancient Library of Alexandria to the current activities of the BA, which was established in 2002 as the successor to the ancient library.

Each speaker had an open discussion with Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, after the lecture.

The summaries of both lectures will be reported in the NDL Newsletter.



Lecture by Dr. Jeanneney on September 15, 2009 at the Tokyo Main Library

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Selections from NDL Collection

Designs on the dances of Vaslav Nijinsky –Collection of illustrations of Ballets Russes–

Yuki Kanai
Humanities Division
Reference and Special Collections Department

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 579 (June 2009).

In the early 20th century, ballet was half forgotten as outdated entertainment in Western Europe. In that situation, Ballets Russes, the Russian Ballet Company, made a spectacular appearance. Even after ballet had declined in the late 19th century in the Western Europe, there remained a long cultural heritage of ballet under the imperial aegis Russia and ballet works such as 鉄sleeping Beauty and 鉄wan Lake, which are now popular classics, were created there.

Adding a touch of the exotic (figure1, figure2) to Russian Ballet, which was at the highest level in the world at that time, Ballets Russes made an impact in audiences of Western Europe centering on Paris and was accepted by them with enthusiasm as a composite art, including colorful costumes, stage art and music. During their 20 years of activities, a galaxy of artists including Picasso, Matisse, Cocteau, Debussy and Chanel were contributed to their stage performance.



Figure 1: 'Golden Slave' and 'Zubaida' from "Scheherazade"
Figure 2: 'L' Oiseau de feu' from "Le Festin"

"Designs on the dances of Vaslav Nijinsky" is a collection with twelve illustrations of stage works in which Vaslav Nijinsky, the main dancer of the ballet company during its early period, appeared. Based on the French version published in a limited edition in 1913 in Paris, a limited edition of 400 copies was published in London in the same year. The one held by the National Diet Library has the serial number "N° 375."

George Barbier, the author, is known as a French illustrator representing Art Deco who illustrated many fashion graphics in high class fashion magazines such as "Gazette du Bon Ton," but he was also active in a wide range of fields including stage art and costume design for film and stage.

Although bright colors are characteristics of Barbier's illustrations, only two or three colors are used and the color tone is subdued in this collection of illustrations. Instead of reproducing precisely the stage of Ballets Russes which was called "shower of colors," simple color and composition were used which make people recall strongly the actual stage. Figures 2 and 3, illustrate vividly Nijinsky's aerial dynamism, often described as "never coming down from the air." These illustrations reenact his legendary dance more than any stage photographs that have come down to our time.

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Figure 3: "Spectre de la rose"

This collection of illustrations is included in the "Ashihara Collection" which consists of materials formally owned by Eiryō Ashihara (1907–1981) who was known as a researcher and critic of ballet and chanson. This Collection includes many rare materials such as a

performance program <NDL call no.: VA32-D2-21>, and block print collections of Ludwig Kainer and Nathalie Gontcharova <NDL call no.: VA32-D2-12, VA36-15>, which are materials related to Ballets Russes.

Ballets Russes had many ballets which are even now loved and performed by people all over the world, such as "Petrouchka", a story of a puppet's sad love (figure4). This collection of illustrations also intrigues us as a work with its modern taste although it is about a century since it was published.



Figure 4: Petrushka

George Barbier. Designs on the dances of Vaslav Nijinsky.

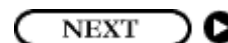
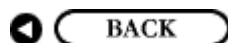
London, C. W. Beaumont 1913

< NDL call no.: VA31-N3-2 >

Reference

- Diagirefu no baree ryusu (Diaghilev's Ballets Russes) (NDL call no.: KD382-G10)
- Barubie korekushon (Collection of Barbier) (NDL call no: KC482-E352)

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National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 169, October 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. 582, September 2009 [[PDF Format, 2.60MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
- Yapon mohbiri—the sole magazine introducing Japan to Muslim countries of the world
Behind the library counter: how requested materials are delivered from the stacks
- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (10) Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, Professor and Executive Advisor for Academic Affairs, Keio University
- Exhibition in the Monthly Bulletin
- All Aboard! For a Trip around Books on Vehicles
- Public libraries expectations of NDL
- Stacks of the NDL (4) Improving the environment of the stacks (2)
- Cooperation among German government libraries
- <Announcements>
 - Enhancement of PORTA
CiNii and JAIRO newly added to search targets
Mobile phone website launched on a trial basis
 - More than 150,000 volumes available on the Digital Library from the Meiji Era [related article](#)
 - New service to link from search results of NDL-OPAC to other databases
 - Policy for Acquisition of Materials now available on the NDL website
 - Lecture at the International Library of Children's Literature: A place to link books, children and adults – twenty years in "Book Castle," the International Youth Library, Germany
 - Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (3) Looking over encyclopedias of various countries and eras
 - Kaleidoscope of Books (2) Western Shoes
 - Book notice publications from NDL

No. 581, August 2009 [[PDF Format, 2.72MB](#)]

- To collect the Internet resources – Amendments to the National Diet Library Law for acquisition of the Internet resources provided by national organizations and others
- Let 痴 visit the National Diet Library – Tokyo Main Library
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL – National Diet Library Branch Library System
- Learning in NDL (4) How to search newspapers of Meiji and Taisho eras
- Stacks of the NDL (3) Improving the environment of the stacks (1)
- Aiming at improvement of services and operations – Activity Performance Evaluation of the NDL [related article](#)
- <Announcement>
 - Lecture “Internet et la culture: une chance ou un p 騁il? (Internet and the culture: an opportunity or a danger?)”
 - Lecture “From Papyrus to PDF: The rebirth of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina”
 - NDL Database Forum in FY 2009
 - Lectures related to the exhibition at the International Library of Children 痴 Literature: “All Aboard! for a Trip around Books on Vehicles”
 - Kaleidoscope of Books (2) Western Shoes – meet, make and wear
 - Restart of provision of government officials lists and introduction of permission system for using the lists
 - Books in Thai now searchable on the NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC
 - 20th Forum on preservation
 - Training on science and technology materials in FY2009
 - Training program on Asian information in FY2009 “How to search information on modern India”
 - Japanese translation of 徹n the Record: Report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control now available
 - Book notice publications from NDL

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