

National Diet Library Newsletter

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Lecture and Discussion by Dr. Jean-Noël Jeanneney

“Internet et la culture: une chance ou un péril?”

(The Internet and culture: opportunity or danger?)

On September 15, 2009, an open lecture meeting “Internet et la culture: une chance ou un péril?” was held in the Tokyo Main Library, inviting Dr. Jean-Noël Jeanneney, former President of the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Following the lecture meeting, an open discussion by Dr. Jeanneney and Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, was held. Another lecture was also given in the Kansai-kan on September 17, 2009. Here are outlines of his lecture and discussion held in Tokyo Main Library.



Dr. Jeanneney gives a lecture at the NDL

Lecture: Internet et la culture: une chance ou un péril?

Ambivalent nature of the Internet

It is marvelous that the new technology has enabled us to diffuse cultural heritage in an unprecedented way. We first have to admire and be grateful for the progress of the technology. However, new technologies have a dual nature. For example, reviewing history, you can find that the invention of printing greatly developed the diffusion of the culture, which was, until then, rather limited. But at the same time, it caused cultural inequality, leaving minority culture behind.

The Internet has the same ambivalent nature. So it is important to know which final purposes the technology serves as a tool: diversity of culture and languages, the

relevance of what is said (question of truth and falsehood), and the maximum access to the people.

Relating to these purposes, three threats or dangers are posed. The first is pursuit of profit. The second is the circulation of inaccurate information with remarkable rapidity. The third is the intellectual paralysis caused by a flood of unsystematized information.

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Digital library and private companies



Dr. Jeanneney

The first reaction to the Google announcement in 2004 of the intention to create a digital library was a kind of elation. It immediately presented a problem, however, of how to avoid the dangers mentioned earlier when providing a large amount of books. In addition, as the selection of books tends to be done automatically giving preference to the Anglo-Saxon culture, such a monopoly must be ruled out.

Another problem is that classification or ranking of the contents may be affected by advertisements when a commercial enterprise conducts the project. This might cause the removal of some works which at first publication sell few printed copies but are potentially of value and may be highly estimated in future.

While the dynamism of the market has its own advantage, we cannot leave everything to the market alone. For example, we can introduce a framework similar to that of broadcasting in which public broadcasters compete with commercial ones.

It is often said that the Internet is good because it offers information for free, but there is nothing which is really free. People are sometimes not aware that they are paying in a certain way such as through advertisements. It is essential to recognize this fact and ponder how to pay to obtain accurate information, guaranteeing, at the same time, wide access and cultural diversity.

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European digital library

I took Google's announcement for a challenge, having in my mind the French word "défi," which implies a challenge which can be at the same time a great opportunity. Actually, this led to the creation of the European digital library named "Europeana" with libraries of European countries working together. Unlike commercial companies, libraries are experienced in the classification and organization of knowledge, which enables them to provide information methodically. Some people may argue that the libraries provide services using public funds. But for great nations, the budget necessary for the promotion of digital libraries is not so large.

My book* has been translated into 15 languages, including minority ones. I believe that

is because my point appealed to many people. It is also because Google is making many linguistic minorities feel threatened: they are aware of the risk that they might be squeezed out if they do not defend their position officially.

*Quand Google défie l'Europe : plaidoyer pour un sursaut. Mille et une nuits, 2005.

Digitization and libraries, authors and publishers

Digitization of works with copyright greatly affects authors and publishers. The question is the balance between profit and culture. Bookstore owners and librarians were also concerned with their future. But we can say that if digitization is carried out thoroughly, intermediaries who classify the information will be needed more than ever. For the sake of publishers, it is required to establish a system which reduces fraud and provides access to books at a low price.

Google has pressed on with its digitization project without obtaining the agreement of publishers and right holders until now, but it seems that the wind is changing direction. In Europe, publishers express their objections, and in the United States, people are paying attention to how cases against the company will be settled as the risk of monopoly tends to be increasingly stressed these days. These are signs of change and we need to continue our legitimate resistance so as not to let things of value be absorbed into narrow interests.

Necessity of systematization of information and question of inaccuracy

Thought is a form of classification, in which explication and demonstration are conducted. Data which are just thrown together without any order of significance are not good for thought. It is necessary for information to be classified and systematized, to be provided, for example, in a tree structure, so that everyone can examine information critically. Such a guide is needed if we hope that not only popular culture, but high culture, can be shared by the many.

As we can see from Wikipedia, there is an idea that information on the web will eventually end up being accurate even if it is not so at the beginning. However, this is a dangerous idea because inaccurate information may cause significant damage on the way of circulation.

Is the Internet culture sweeping away the long-lasting humanist culture? I believe that humanity has a great capacity for response and imagination. Active optimism is better than grumbling pessimism.

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Discussion between Dr. Jeanneney and Dr. Makoto Nagao



Dr. Jeanneney and Dr. Nagao, Librarian of the NDL

In the discussion, picking up broad topics including questions from the audience, Dr. Nagao posed questions to and exchanged opinions with Dr. Jeanneney.

Dr. Nagao: How will Europe cope with Google in general?

Dr. Jeanneney: I have been making the point that cultural diversity should be considered by taking the whole of Europe as a cultural sphere. Each country, taking responsibility for the books of its own country, needed to cooperate in having a technical standard and in intellectual coordination. This led to the realization of Europeana with support of the then president of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac, and others.

Dr. Nagao: We have been hearing a lot about libraries having contracts with Google these days. However, there seem to be many issues to consider such as possible violation of copyright and monopoly. What is your opinion?

Dr. Jeanneney: One of the reasons why some libraries signed up with Google is that digitization costs a lot. It is comforting that no large national libraries have a plan to work with the company at the present, and I am confident that the BNF, in France, after a short hesitation, will fortunately abstain from going into that way. There are always the same opponents: advocates of a laissez-faire policy who do not want government interference, and young people who blindly admire information available for free and are not aware of the necessity of well organized knowledge.

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Dr. Nagao: What is your opinion or what kind of discussion do you have in Europe about Google search?

Dr. Jeanneney: One of the problems is the selection of books and how to present them. We have another concern about the long-term availability of digital data including metadata because there is no guarantee that a commercial company will not disappear in the future.

Dr. Nagao: Are European publishers concerned about digitization? In addition, I would also like to know more about the system of micro payment you proposed.

Dr. Jeanneney: In France there are three types of publishers according to their attitude to digitization. Few publishers of the first type are just worried about their future

without taking any action. The second type is a few small publishers who decide to cooperate with Google to compete with large publishers. The third type is those who reject Google. The system of micro payment is an economic and technical model, in which users pay a small amount and publishers and authors get a part of it.

Dr. Nagao: I also proposed the concept of a similar system about one and a half years ago. I would like to pick up another important topic for libraries: collection of online publications including websites. What is the situation in Europe? In Japan, at present, we need permission to collect websites and we collect those created by the national and local governments and the like. There are large amounts of important information on nongovernmental websites which are not yet collected.

Dr. Jeanneney: Preservation of all the information on the Internet is a great challenge. For example, when we want to conduct analysis of the results of a certain election, various information including printed materials, recordings of radio and websites will be needed. In France, Institut national de l'audiovisuel (National Audiovisual Institute) preserves all the websites concerned with radio and television. We had the same problem about legislation for the collection and preservation of web information in France. With a government decree, it is now possible to make digital archives of web information collected by the national library available inside the library.

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Dr. Nagao: I received questions from the audience relating to the possibility of a digital library that can largely improve services for the disabled.

Dr. Jeanneney: We studied a lot about this issue. The rapidly improving technology will benefit minorities with richer reading opportunities. I would like to point out another important issue: newspaper digitization. In France, our policy is that public institutions digitize old newspapers to make them available all over the world.

Dr. Nagao: In Japan, newspaper companies have digitized most of their papers, so libraries do not necessarily give priority to newspapers except for old ones and local papers. By the way, how do you cope with the digital divide in France?

Dr. Jeanneney: It is essential that children learn how to use computers in school. The same concern was seen when television appeared in the 1960s. The important thing is to develop skills to understand contents in relation to other contents and to grasp the essence.

Dr. Nagao: To conclude this discussion, I would like to hear your opinion about how the libraries of the world should cooperate with each other in sharing the knowledge and culture of various countries to make the world prosper.

Dr. Jeanneney: Throughout human history, "otherness" has sometimes proven to be a source of attraction; it must not be that of hostility or segregation. The Internet can be a tool to smooth out the complexity of the world as well as to review its diversity. By using the Internet wisely, we can promote better understanding among peoples.

Note: The lecture was given in French with Japanese interpretation. This report is created based on the Japanese transcript and the recordings in French.

More details of this lecture and discussion will be published in NDL Monthly Bulletin no. 586, January 2010 (in Japanese).

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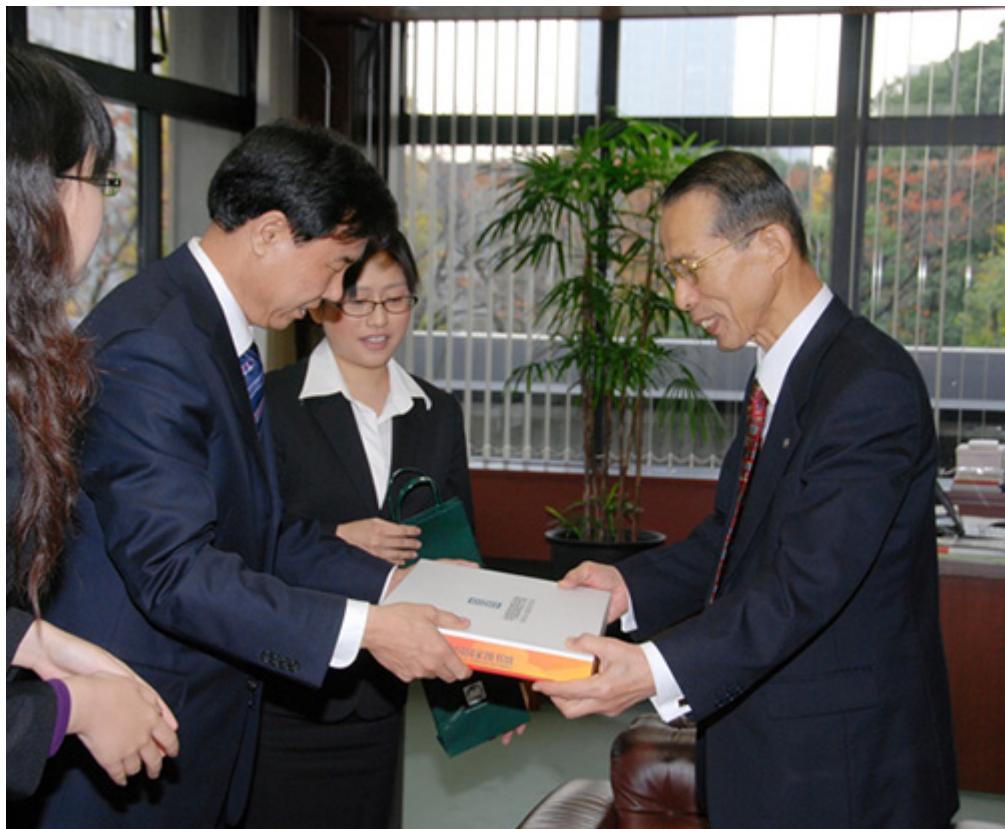
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The 28th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China



Meeting of Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL (right)
and Dr. Zhan Furui, Director of the National Library of China (second left)

A delegation from the [National Library of China](#) (NLC) visited Japan from November 24 to December 1, 2009, on the 28th mutual visit program between the NDL and the NLC. The program started in 1981 and since then, the NDL and the NLC have alternated sending a delegation each year.

Headed by Dr. Zhan Furui, Director of the NLC, this year's delegation consisted of the following other four members: Ms. Li Xiaoming, Director, Stack Management and Reading Services Department; Mr. Cao Ning, Director, Culture and Education Department; Mr. Li Chunming, Deputy Director, Department for Digital Resources and Service; and Ms. Liu Yun (interpreter), Foreign Language Publications Reading Section, Stack Management and Reading Services Department.

This year's program was as follows:

Opening Session (Keynote speech)	<p>Theme: National Libraries in the digital era</p> <p>(1) "The developing idea of National Digital Library of China" Dr. Zhan Furui (Director, NLC)</p> <p>(2) "Current status and future of the digital library" Dr. Makoto Nagao (Librarian, NDL)</p>
Session meeting I	<p>Theme: Archiving of Internet information</p> <p>(1) "Current status and future plans for preservation of web information at the National Library of China" Mr. Li Chunming (Deputy Director, Department for Digital Resources and Service, NLC)</p> <p>(2) "Archiving of web information at the National Diet Library" Mr. Takehiko Sato (Director, Digital Library Division, Kansai-kan of the NDL)</p>
Session meeting II	<p>Theme: Digitization of library collections</p> <p>(1) "Challenges and measures for long-term preservation of digital resources at the National Library of China" Mr. Cao Ning (Director, Culture and Education Department, NLC)</p> <p>(2) "Digitization of collections at the National Diet Library" Mr. Toshiyuki Muto (Director, Planning Division, Administrative Department, NDL)</p>

At the Opening Session, Dr. Zhan made a presentation featuring the National Digital Library, which opened in 2008, and reported its new services and future strategies. Dr. Nagao reported recent movements of the NDL, especially those focused on digitization, provision and preservation of digital materials. In the Session meetings I and II, experts from both libraries reported on their recent activities and progress on digital themes.



Opening Session

In the latter part of the program, the delegation visited the Kansai-kan of the NDL, and had a discussion on the trilateral cooperation of the national libraries of Japan, China and Korea. The whole program concluded with a Closing Session and the two libraries agreed to advance to future cooperation.

The delegation also visited the National Diet (Japanese Parliament) including the Detached Library in the Diet, the International Library of Children's Literature, the University of Tokyo Library and the Nara Prefectural Library & Information Center.

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More than 150,000 volumes are now available on the "Digital Library from the Meiji Era"

The National Diet Library digitizes books issued in the Meiji era (1868–1912) and Taisho era (1912–1926) from its holdings after copyright clearance and provides images of the text on the "[Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#)" website (in Japanese).



"Kenchiku Shashin Ruiju"

Edited by Kenchiku Shashin Ruiju Kanko-kai
(Koyosha, 1920–1943)

On August 25, 2009, about 7,800 volumes were added to the "Digital Library from the Meiji Era." The number of books added this time is about 1,300 volumes (about 1,000 titles) of the Meiji era and about 6,500 volumes (about 5,800 titles) of the Taisho era. About 70 volumes of "Kenchiku Shashin Ruiju," a series of construction photographs and drawings published from the Taisho to the early Showa era, are available (at present, only those published in the Taisho era). In addition, "Manatsu no yo no yume (A Midsummer Night's Dream)" translated by Shoyo Tsubouchi (2009 marks the 150th anniversary of his birth) and "Meiji Jingu annai," a guidebook published in the year the Meiji Jingu Shrine was completed, are included. The list of these added materials is also available on the "Digital Library from the Meiji Era" website.



"Furusato"

Written by Toson Shimazaki

Illustrated by Yumeji Takehisa

(Jitsugyo-no-Nihon-sha, 1920)

We aim to continue adding to the contents, and are preparing to provide books published from the Taisho to the early Showa era.

URL: <http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/index.html>

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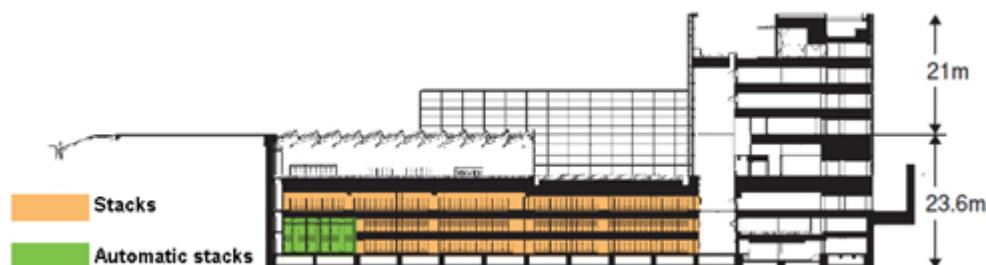
Stacks of the NDL – Kansai-kan and International Library of Children's Literature

Facilities Management Division, Administrative Department

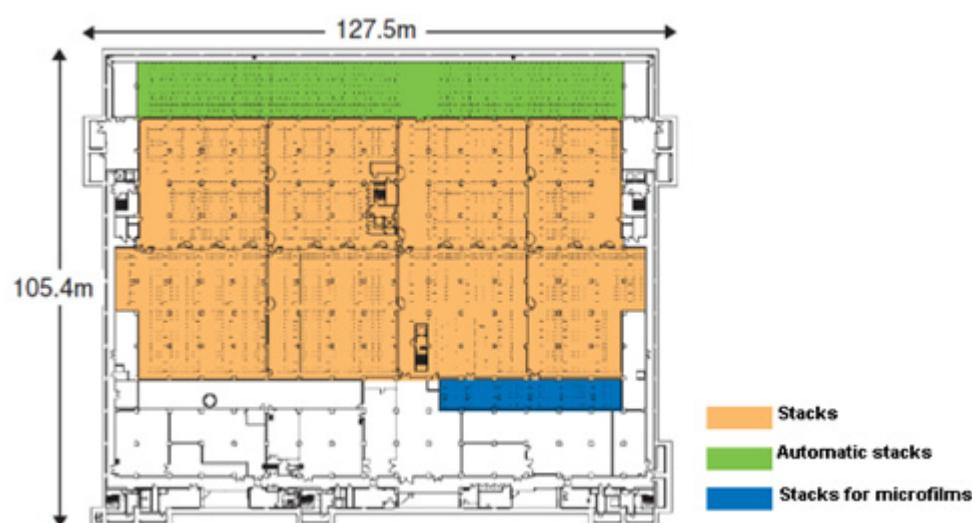
This is based on an article of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 580 (July 2009).

1. Stacks of the Kansai-kan

The construction of the [Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library \(NDL\)](#) started in 1998 and was completed in 2002. The building has four floors above ground and four floors underground, and has a total floor area of about 60,000 square meters, of which 80% is situated underground. The stacks, located from the second basement level to the fourth basement level, have a capacity of about six million books.



Sectional plan of the Kansai-kan



Floor plan of the Kansai-kan (fourth basement level)

Siting stacks below ground has the advantage that there is less shaking from earthquakes, but on the other hand, they could be threatened by flood damage. To doubly prevent the inflow of water into the stacks, machinery rooms and corridors are arranged around the

stacks, and water resistant barriers are set up.

Fixed-shelf stacks, in which frequently used materials are stored (Photo 1), are installed from the second basement to the third basement, and electric compact-shelf stacks are installed on the fourth basement level. A two-story hall is built on the north side of the third and fourth basement level, and automatic stacks are installed there.



Photo 1: Fixed-shelf stacks

* Shelves are color-coded in eight colors. In the south area of the stacks, shelves are colored with warm colors such as red and yellow, and in the north area, they are colored with cold colors such as blue and green. Identification by colors and compartments is also used in the Tokyo Main Library.



Photo 2: Conveyor shaft

* The conveyor shafts are installed to vertically carry the trays with materials through the wells which penetrate the stacks from the fourth to the first basement and the office area.

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To make the circulation in the broad stack area efficient, book conveyor stations and elevators are installed at both end and in the center of the stacks (Photo 2).

As with the [stacks of the Tokyo Main Library](#), there are book conveyer systems connecting

the stacks and office area, or stations in the stacks. Self-propelled trolleys, which move on the rails built on the ceiling of the second basement of the stacks, carry the trays with materials horizontally (Photo 3). The total length of the rails is about 750 meters, and the maximum speed of a trolley is about 120 meters per minute.



Photo 3: Self-propelled trolley



Photo 4: Station

There are twenty-eight stations for the dispatch and collection of trays with materials (Photo 4). Trays with materials come and go between the stations in the stacks and counters.

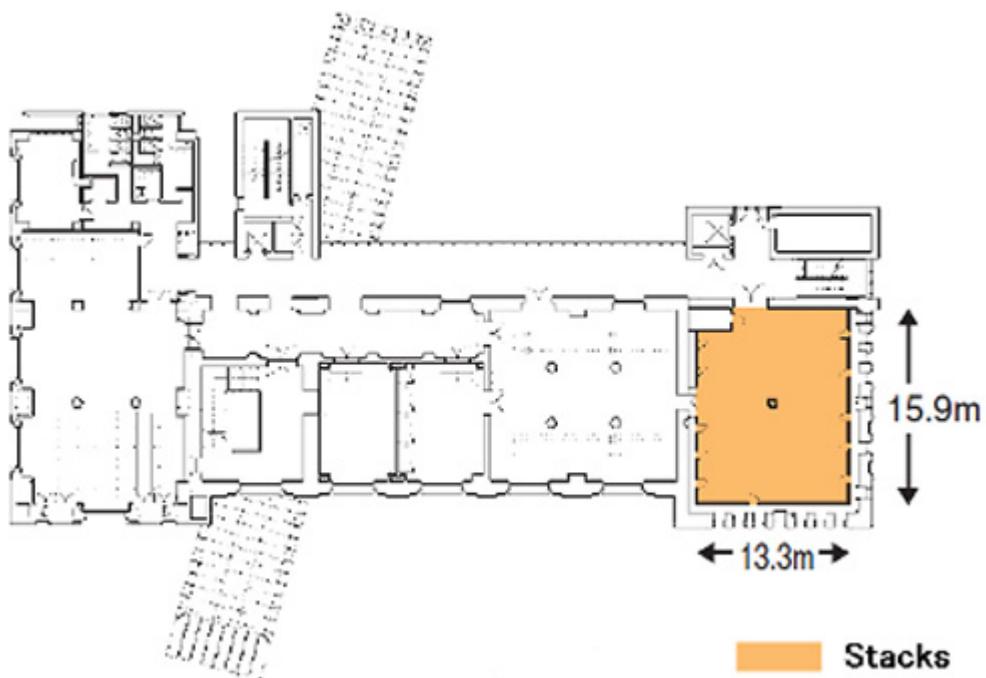
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2. Stacks of the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL)

The building that now houses the [ILCL](#) was constructed in 1906, extended in 1929, and totally renovated for the opening of the ILCL in May 2002.



Sectional plan of the ILCL



Floor plan of the ILCL (Second floor)

The building, which was originally used as the Imperial Library, had been designated as a historic building by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and as the building had historic value, the seismic isolation retrofit method, which makes a building a quake-absorbing structure while trying to preserve its original shape, was adopted.

In the retrofitting, the building was lifted up with hydraulic jacks and seismic isolators were installed in the basement. The seismic isolators are composed of laminated rubber bearing isolators (Photo 5) and lead dampers (Photo 6).

The seismic isolator is a device which raises a building in the air from the foundation to absorb the shaking from earthquakes and bear the weight of the building. Though the isolator reduces the shaking from earthquakes, it does not immediately suppress the shaking of the building, and thus a lead damper was installed as well.



Photo 5: Laminated rubber bearing isolator



Photo 6: Lead damper

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Although the current stack area had been designed for the stacks from the beginning, the floors and posts of the stacks were demolished and rebuilt in order to have firm enough floors for the installation of compact shelves and to ensure fire control performance

conforming to the latest Building Standards Act of Japan. The stack space occupies the second to the fourth floors of the building and is divided into six vertical levels in total. It has a storage capacity of approximately 400,000 books. In the stack area (Photo 7), windows are boarded up from the inside, and buffer corridors (stack surrounding spaces) are built in the inside (Photo 8), thus keeping out the sunlight and the temperature changes of the outside air.



Photo 7: Stack area (circled in red) with windows boarded up from the inside



Photo 8: Boarded windows (right), buffer corridor (center) and wall of stacks (left)

	Kansai-kan	ILCL
Gross floor area	59,311m ²	6,671m ²
Stack area	23,926m ²	1,525m ²
Completed in	2002	1906 1929 (extended) 2002 (totally renovated)

For more details on the stacks of the Kansai-kan and ILCL:

- Kokuritsu kokkai toshokan kansai-kan jigyo kiroku, Government Buildings Department, Kinki Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and

Tourism, August 2002 <NDL Call No. UL521-H4>

- Kokusai kodomo toshokan jigyo kiroku shu, Government Buildings Department, Kanto Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, March 2002 <NDL Call No. UL521-H5>

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Exploring Modern Japanese Political Documents—acquisition of modern Japanese political history materials “MATSUSHITA Yoshio Papers” as an example

Modern Japanese Political Documents 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. 580 (July 2009).

The National Diet Library (NDL) collects modern Japanese political history materials (Kensei-shiryo) such as letters, diaries and documents kept by political leaders, government officials and military officers from the late Edo period to today, and they are open to the public in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the Tokyo Main Library. Kind donations from bereaved families or purchases from antiquarian bookshops are the main means of collecting Kensei-shiryo. There are also many cases in which we acquire materials from bereaved families through the mediation of researchers. In this article, the process of donation of “MATSUSHITA Yoshio Papers” and the contents of the materials open to the public are briefly introduced.

INOUE Kaoru Papers” from the collections
of the Modern Japanese Political History
Materials Room



Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room

Obtaining information about materials



Figure 1

We received an e-mail from the adjunct researcher who was in charge of Kensei-shiryo. It said "A researcher is looking for a place to receive donated materials left by Dr. Yoshio Matsushita. The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room is thought to be a one of the candidates. Why not get in contact?" Outlines of the materials were also attached.

We referred immediately to biographical dictionaries, historical dictionaries and handbooks in our office (Figure 1) for information about Dr. Matsushita, and we found the following.

He was born on May 4, 1892 in Niigata. After graduating from military academy, he became a second lieutenant and a first lieutenant, but was suspended in 1920 as he was reported in a newspaper as "a lieutenant sympathizing with socialism" (he became a reserve officer in July 1921). After he came to Tokyo, from 1921 to 1924, he was in charge of editing the legal journal Chuo Horitsu Shimpo, in which Jiro Hoshijima and Tetsu Katayama played a central role. At the same time, he got to know people like Eiichi Makino and Tadahiko Mibuchi through requesting articles for the journal. In December 1930, he became a central executive of the Social Masses Party, and in January 1932 became a member of the central committee of the Party. Next, he became a lecturer at Nihon University and a temporary employee of the Inspectorate General of Military Training, and in 1952 of the postwar era, he became a lecturer (later professor) of Kogakuin University, and obtained a doctorate in Jurisprudence. He died on April 9, 1983.

Dr. Matsushita was famous for his research on Japanese military history. We found out by searching the NDL-OPAC (National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog) that NDL held more than 100 titles of his works such as Meiji gunseishiron (Yuhikaku, 1956), and Chohei rei seiteishi (Naigaishobo, 1943). Dr. Matsushita's biography Ginga no michi by Kinya Nakajima (Kobunsha, 1989) was also in the NDL.

Putting together the outlines of the materials and biographical data of Dr. Matsushita, the materials left by him were at the level of modern Japanese political documents, including

letters from politicians involved in national politics such as Tetsu Katayama, which meet the NDL's policy for acquisition.

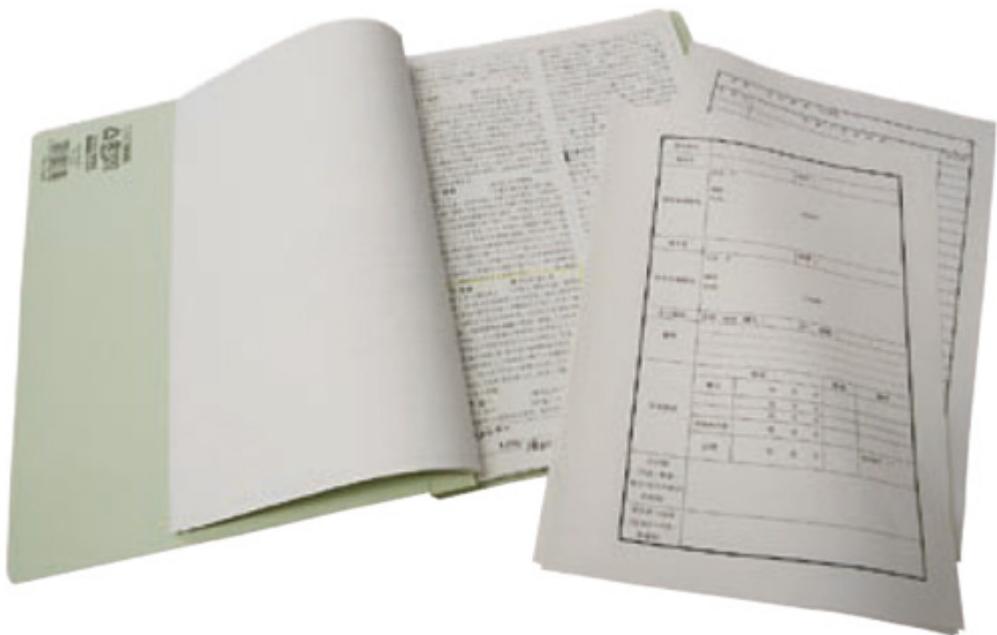


Figure 2

In the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, a file was prepared for the documents (document group) as is usual to record the historical trail and negotiations on donations. It is called "Document Information File" (Figure 2). This document group was tentatively named "MATSUSHITA Yoshio Papers" and we started to fill in the contact information of people involved and the process of work and negotiation. Related information such as biographical data previously researched was also clipped together.

Contacting the mediator and the family

We made contact with the researcher who served as an intermediary, and told him that we would like to have the materials donated to the NDL if possible. The researcher told us that the materials would about fill a large cardboard box, and there were about 200 items including letters and postcards, handouts and manuscripts. To our relief, he also offered to make a list of the materials.

We contacted Dr. Matsushita's family by telephone, informed them how to proceed, and consulted about how to receive the materials. After confirming the quantity and the place where the materials were kept, it was decided that we would visit to pick them up.

Picking up the materials



Figure 3



A chest of drawers received from Sakae Osugi.
Dr. Matsushita developed a friendship with him over
the Taisho years as they came from the same town.

When we visited Dr. Matsushita's family, the materials were all packed in a cardboard box and were ready at the door (Figure 3). We checked the contents briefly and asked and learned about the materials and research interests of Dr. Matsushita in his later years. After that, we had an opportunity to observe the storage (Figure 4). We also had an opportunity to see other materials that were not contained in the cardboard box such as appointment letters and notebooks with messages. We received some of these materials and returned to NDL. Everything we learned on the day was written down as a report before the memory

faded and was clipped into the "Document Information File."

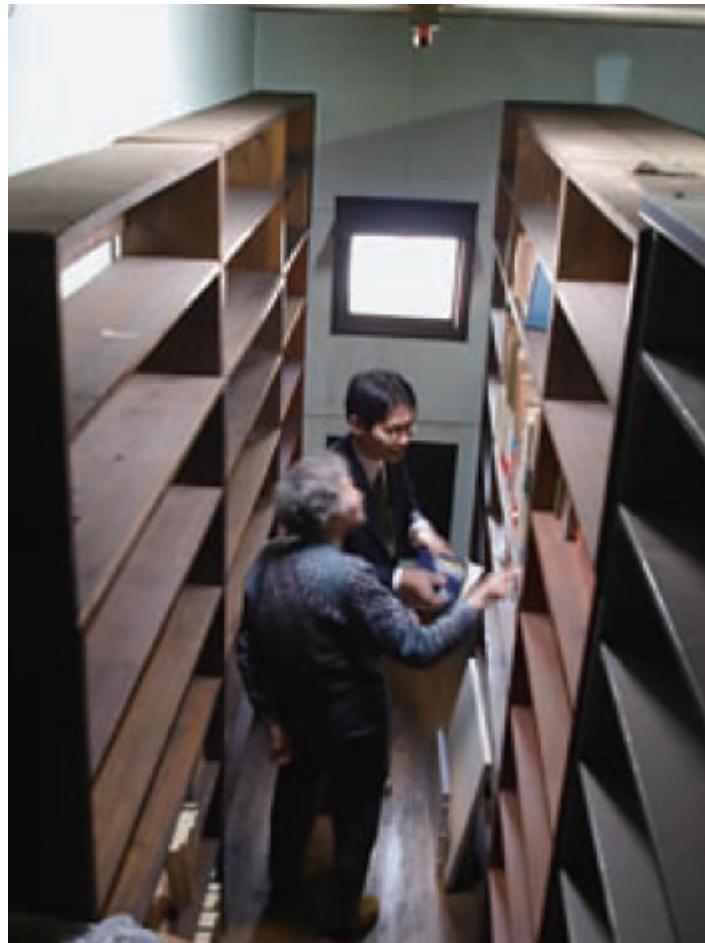


Figure 4

Cataloging the materials

To provide materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, we check each item and make a catalog (Figure 5). To show the person's activities from the catalog, we create a classification of items based on existing materials, biographical data and the person's works. Titles, creators and years of creation and so on are recorded for each document. This time, the catalog was made by using the list provided beforehand by the mediator.



Figure 5

Letters, postcards and writings are packaged into filing envelopes made of acid-free paper for Kensei-shiryo and stored in the stacks (Figure 6). After the NDL call number is determined, the documents are sorted in order.

After this process is finished, the donation procedure is taken between the bereaved family and the NDL and the materials are then made available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room.



Figure 6

Introduction of open materials

The total of 699 items of "MATSUSHITA Yoshio Papers" donated at this time includes more postwar materials than prewar materials. That is probably because Dr. Matsushita's house was reduced to ashes in the incendiary bombing just before the end of the war. Many letters and postcards addressed to Dr. Matsushita thanking him for donating his writings are extant. The senders can be divided into military men, people connected with Sakae Osugi, and people involved in Chuo Horitsu Shimpo (Tetsu Katayama, Eiichi Makino etc.). Apart from that, there are photos which Dr. Matsushita gathered for his research, galleys of writings and appointment letters.

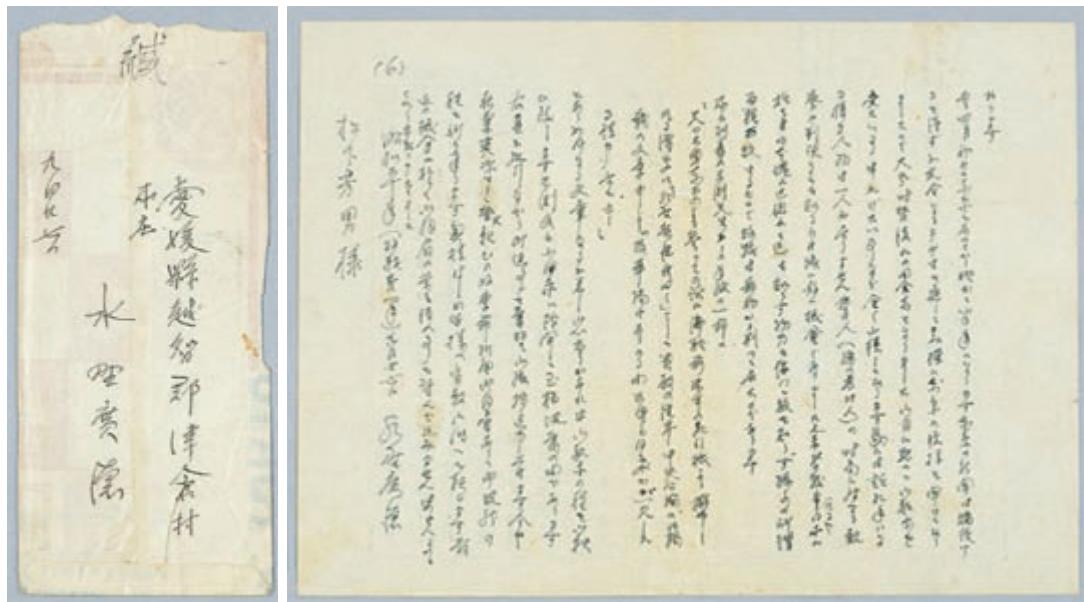


Figure 7

A letter from Hironori Mizuno (MATSUSHITA Yoshio Papers No. 434)

Especially, a large number of letters from Hironori Mizuno has been left. Hironori Mizuno (1875–1945) was a naval officer, and was active as a military commentator after he retired. Dr. Matsushita visited the Arms Limitation Society in 1922 and met Mizuno to become his pupil. After Mizuno's death, Dr. Matsushita wrote a biography, Hironori Mizuno (Shishusha, 1950), and even built a monument inscribed with Mizuno's poem in Mizuno's hometown at

his own expense. The materials showing this activity are also in the collection.

The letter above (Figure 7) was sent by Mizuno from Iyo Oshima, his evacuation place, on September 26, 1945. It was written on both sides of three pieces of manuscript paper. In the letter, he said "The war ended less painfully than we had expected, and we escaped joint suicide with a bomb. But facing unconditional surrender, I think that the medicine of peace worked slightly too much." He also criticized the current affairs such as soldiers looting supplies at their demobilization, Hideki Tojo's unsuccessful suicide attempt and the cabinet composed of members of the Imperial family. He declined to stand for the next election, which Dr. Matsushita had suggested in his earlier postcard. Including this one, letters to Yoshio Matsushita are included in the 7th volume of Mizuno Hironori Zenshu (Yuzankaku, 1995).

At the time when Dr. Matsushita won Mizuno's favor, he tried to organize a study group on lasting peace. But troubles caused by the Great Kanto Earthquake and a visit to Europe by a prospective participant of the group discouraged his intention. However, a send-off party for the visitor to Europe led to the formation of the "Nikakai," a group gathering on the second Tuesday of every month. The dates of the meetings, participants, words of participants, portraits, fun songs and a variety of other things were written in the message notebook. (Figure 8)

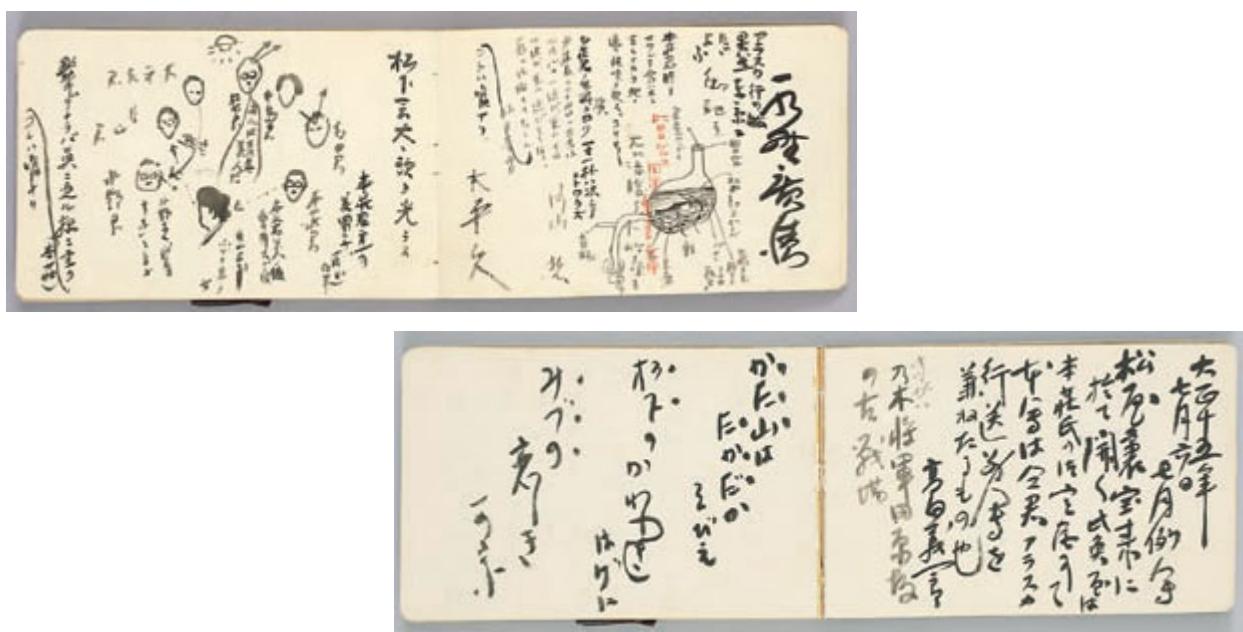


Figure 8

A notebook of the Nikakai regular meetings (MATSUMISHITA Yoshio Papers No. 532)

Dr. Matsushita became friendly with Takeki Osatake (1880-1946), a member of the Nikakai, a jurist and a researcher on the cultural history of the Meiji era, when he was an editor of Chuo Horitsu Shimpo. Osatake gave books written by Dr. Matsushita to Senjuro Hayashi and others before the war, and the postcards of thanks from them are also in "MATSUMISHITA Yoshio Papers." Dr. Matsushita had a close relationship with Osatake all his life. After Osatake's death, he was involved in the publishing of the complete works of Takeki Osatake, writing the explanatory notes and others. In a letter of September 8, 1945 (Figure 9), Takeki Osatake wrote that his manuscripts had been burnt to ashes by an air raid in

Fukui prefecture, to where he had evacuated, and he wondered what he should do — stay in the country or not.



Figure 9

A letter from Takeki Osatake (MATSUBITA Yoshio Papers No. 392)

Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (Kensei-shiryoshitsu)

- Location: The 4th floor of the Main Building of the Tokyo Main Library
- Collections: "Modern Japanese political history materials (collections of private papers kept by politicians, militaries, government officials and others in the late Edo period to today)", "Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan (collection mainly of the U.S. official documents concerning the Allied Occupation of Japan after World War II)" and "Materials on Japanese emigration (collection of materials relating to Japanese emigration to mainly the North and South America)" are held.

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Selections from NDL Collection

Tenjin-ki



3 volumes, transcribed in the early 17th century, 3 books, 33.8 × 25.0 cm.

Owned by the National Diet Library

* The picture is painted from the 6th leaf to the 7th leaf of the first volume

Sugawara Michizane (845–903), worshipped today as Tenjin-sama, the god of learning, was a leading figure in the early Heian era as a scholar and a politician. He showed academic and literary talent from his childhood and gained exceptional promotions, eventually appointed Udaijin, one of the two main ministers. However, as a result of slander by his political opponent, Fujiwara Tokihira, suddenly Michizane was demoted to Dazai-gonnosotsu, a post at a provincial government branch in the Kyushu district. He died there in poverty and disappointment.

After his death, Michizane began to be worshipped as a god to calm his vengeful spirit which was believed to be responsible for a series of eerie happenings in the capital city. Tenjin-ki, which tells about his life and the origin of Tenjin worship, is an illustrated manuscript ascribed to the early 17th century. Some illustrations run over several consecutive leaves.

In this picture, Michizane at 14 years old was composing a Chinese style poem, "氷封水面聞無浪 雪点林頭見有花[*]," while he lifted up a bamboo blind to look at the ice on the surface of the pond and the snow on the trees. The picture is painted from the 6th leaf to the 7th leaf of the first volume.

*氷封水面聞無浪 雪点林頭見有花

With the solid ice on the surface of the water, no sound of waves is heard. The snow on the top of the trees in the forest looks like flowers.

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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Gepo)

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. 584, November 2009 [[PDF Format, 2.10MB](#)]

- Shin Tankikai Zuroku – a pictorial record of antiquarianism Book of the month – from NDL collections [related article](#)
- Turn crisis into opportunity: National libraries' challenges in the age of change The 36th Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)
- Building a foundation of the library: Policy for Acquisition of Materials (2009)
- Viewing Asia via the Internet: Information transmission services of the Asian Resources Room in the Kansai-kan [related article](#)
- The making of the Kaleidoscope of Books (2) Western Shoes – civilization through footwear
- Stacks of the NDL (6) Stacks inside the stacks – the stacks for rare books [related article](#)
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL: Library Holidays for refilling
- The United Nations documents – materials available in the Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room
- The NDL in figures [related article](#)
- <Announcements>
 - J-STAGE now searchable on PORTA
 - Library services at the year-end and New Year
 - Reference training program FY2009
 - Lecture at the International Library of Children's Literature – Current status of children's literature in India (tentative title)
 - Book notice – NDL publications

No. 583, October2009 [[PDF Format, 3.25MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections – Birth of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany parliamentary documents of the Parliamentary Council
- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (11)
For a sustainable and prosperous society
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL – Legislative research services
- Let's visit the National Diet Library – Detached Library in the Diet
- Stacks of the NDL (5) Bookshelves for efficient storage
- Company histories as a treasure box of information
- <Announcements>
 - Brief research instruction sessions for visitors at the Tokyo Main Library
 - Library Fair & Forum 2009
 - International Policy Seminar: Toward establishing a sustainable society
 - Training program for librarians in charge of services for persons with disabilities
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