



## Shosai no gakujin

• a book bound with bagworms published by Tembo shah

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\*Click on the figures for larger images



Photo 1: Back strap and cover (part) Photo 2: Case and book (The picture on the case is "Teien o haikai suru hito (A person walking around a garden)" by Inokichi IBARAKI, a mountain painter.)

An ocher cover and dark brown back strap (Photo 1 and 2)—what do you think this book is made of? Though the cover looks like thick washi (Japanese paper), it is actually a thin layer of bark. Surprisingly, the back strap is a mosaic made of cut-open cases of bagworms pasted together.

This binding was designed by Shozo SAITO (1887–1961), a book lover who called himself a "book freak." He was interested in banned books and books on the earthy side of culture, and wrote and edited Meiji bungei sokumen sho (『明治文芸側面鈔』) (1916) and Kindai bungei hikka shi (『近代文芸筆禍史』) (1924). He also had a deep interest in arts and crafts connected to books, such as ex libris stamps and books with unusual bindings, and headed up the fun magazines titled Imozuru (『いもづる』) (1923–1941) and Aisho shumi (『愛書趣味』) (1925–1930).

In December 1931, Saito started a book-review magazine titled Shomotsu tembo with his friends. He also began to issue books with unique bindings from the publisher of the magazine, Shomotsu tembo sha. The first book was Shimi hanjo ki (『紙魚繁昌記』) written by Roan UCHIDA (1932). Based on the title, he pasted an old paper with worm holes on the endpaper and printed an illustration of bookworms (Shimi in Japanese) in silver. In his work titled Shochi no sanpo (walking of a book freak) published in the same year, he used the paper from old umbrellas as a cover. Kunio YANAGITA, a folklorist, described such special bindings as "gete (bizarre) tastes." Saito himself also called them "gete (bizarre) bindings" and published books one after another using strange materials such as mosquito netting, the sheaths of bamboo shoots and laver. These special-bound books are called "Shomotsu tembo sha bon (books published by Shomotsu tembo sha)" or "Tembo sha bon" combined with other superb or limited books.

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The support of a bookmaker was necessary in order to make books with special materials. Shigeyoshi NAKAMURA, a bookmaker, collaborated with Saito. Saito brought in materials such as salmon skin, snake skin and old newspapers and asked for ideas on using them for binding, and Nakamura enjoyed contriving it. Saito's idea and Nakamura's techniques created many books published by Shomotsu tembo sha.

Though "gete (bizarre) bindings" are startling, Saito seemed to have chosen the materials of binding not only for being novel, but also for their relevance to the content. Shosai no gakujin (Mountain climber in a study) is no exception. The author Usui KOJIMA (1873–1948) was a specialist in old books and block prints of various countries, and knew Saito. Kojima was also a pioneer alpinist in modern Japan, who worked for the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. This work is an anthology of mountaineering, old books and block prints; and the bagworms were used on the book strap for the reason that they also live in mountains. The bark used on the cover is timber from Southeast Asia and Oceania, which corresponds to a sentence in the book about Paul Gauguin, the painter who depicted Tahiti. A drawing of Walden Pond, near which Henry Thoreau, the U.S. writer, lived his "Life in the Woods", is printed on the front end paper, a drawing by Hokusai is on the off end paper, and a drawing of the Tateyama mountains is on the inside cover (Photo 3). All of these drawings relate to the content of the book.



Photo 3: Inside cover

Doho HATTORI, a student of Basho Matsuo, wrote the following haiku, “蓑虫の音を聞きに来よ草の庵” (Come to my thatched cottage to listen to the sound of autumn bagworms.). Usui KOJIMA enjoyed the subdued and elegant binding and quoted this haiku in the preface of the book. 30,000 bagworms were used in publishing this book. Saito wrote humble words in the editor’s note of the Shomotsu tembo, September 1934, that “I must hold a memorial service for bagworms some day in the future.”

- Usui Kojima, Shosai no gakujin, Shomotsu tembo sha, 1934
- NDL call no.: 新別し-4
- Note: The above material is designated as a rare book and an extra copy (without the case) is provided for use. (NDL Call no: 663-83)
  
- Reference:
  - Fujujiro Yagi, Shochi Saito Shozo to Shomotsu tembo sha, Heibonsha, 2006 (GK123-H49)
  - Nihon kosho tsushin, vol. 27, issue 2, Nihon kosho tsushin sha (YA5-1135)
  - Shozo Saito, Kanpan shokoku junreiki, Shomotsu tembo sha, 1933 (656-51)
  - Shozo Saito, Gete sohon no hanashi, a privately printed book of Seienso, 1943 (Not in the National Diet Library)
  - Shozo Saito, Shintomicho tayori, Imogoya sanbo, 1950 (UE9-4)

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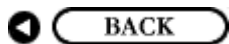
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# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 175, October 2010



## Lecture and Discussion by Ms. Barbara Lison “Libraries and Reading in Germany and Europe”

On July 13, 2010, an open lecture meeting “Libraries and Reading in Germany and Europe” was held in the Tokyo Main Library, inviting Ms. Barbara Lison, former president of BID (Bibliothek und Information Deutschland), the national umbrella organization of German library associations and information associations, and also the Director of the Bremen Public Library at present. Following the lecture meeting, an open discussion by Ms. Lison and Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, was held. Here are outlines of her lecture and the discussion.



Ms. Barbara Lison gives a lecture at the NDL

### Lecture: Libraries and Reading in Germany and Europe

#### Introduction

Knowledge and information have always been crucial for the development of societies, nations and even worldwide progress. But with the digital revolution there is an emerging fundamental change in handling information. This change, subsumed into the terms “information society” and “knowledge society” has a strong impact not only on people’s working methods but also on their everyday lives. Libraries always have been dealing with information. They acquired information and stored it, made it accessible, and mediated information; they also told people how to use information properly. The most important issues of the work of modern libraries are support for intellectual development and for satisfaction of the cultural needs of people, lifelong learning for all

age-groups, independent decision-making, promotion of reading as a key competence in modern life, media literacy, overcoming the gap between information rich and information poor, and so on. Giving support for reading and by offering a mix of printed and non-printed material in welcoming premises and with friendly staff, libraries will continue to be important institutions also in the future. The combination of people, ambience and information on the spot as well as in the worldwide web is the unique sales point of libraries.

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### **Co-operation and Networking as a basis for innovation in Europe**

In all countries belonging to the European Union (EU) libraries play a major role in securing free and unrestricted access to information, supporting education and lifelong learning. But the situation of the libraries in the 27 EU countries is quite diverse and the European library landscape shows rather great differences in funding, quality, performance and legal status. The legal status of libraries is often the basis for the level of their resources and, in consequence, their potential effects and outcome. Unfortunately, Germany is among ten states without a specific library act. So far only two out of 16 federal States in Germany actually do have a library law which, unfortunately, contains no obligation for local authorities to maintain a public library.

Those EU countries with a national library law indeed mainly profit from this fact. They mostly have a better basis for their work in relation to resources and political acceptance. Also in these countries the library associations and related bodies like unions have to lobby steadily in order to bring the libraries into the scope of the political decision makers.

This rather complex situation in particular European countries is mirrored on the level of the EU. The EU Commission as the administrative body of the EU as a whole, unfortunately, at first did not pay very much attention to the European libraries as important players in the intellectual development of the European citizens. Only in the early nineties did the European Commission discover the libraries. But initially they were not regarded as players in the world of the knowledge and information society but rather as players in the development and application of information technology. There were some projects and a very few projects, were not or not only orientated on the use of IT-features in libraries, but most of them are mainly focused on IT-application.

Starting from the mid-nineties there were also projects with a more general scope in the European public libraries. The main frame of the project was called PubliCA (Public Libraries Concerted Action). PubliCA was meant to help support the development and enhancement of public library services throughout the EU as essential information resources for their communities, sustaining democratic opportunities and creating social cohesion. PubliCA's objective was to enable a coherent approach to the development of new services to meet the needs of the citizens in the information society, while ensuring that the new services were integrated with traditional public library services. Within PubliCA there were several sub-projects like PLIS (Public libraries and the information society) which examined the challenges for public libraries in Europe in

establishing their role in the information society. Another major project in the PubliCA was the project PULMAN (Public Libraries Mobilising Advanced Networks). This project was designed to strengthen the performance of public libraries in their innovative new roles by consolidating, packaging and translating relevant social and technical standards and best practice guidance.

In 1999, at the end of the PubliCA project, it also produced an important final communication underlying the potential of libraries for the European citizens. This document, the so-called "Copenhagen Declaration" was directed to the library professionals, to the EU Commission and to national policy and decision makers responsible for culture as well. This declaration requires key priorities to be addressed, covering actions by the European Commission which should set up a program framework, especially for libraries, and establish a European level information policy.

The most striking effect of these more holistic library-related projects was the growing awareness amongst the library professionals about the need for co-operation and networking in order to meet the huge challenges of the information society and the digital revolution.

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### **EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Documentation and Archive Associations)**

To secure access for all to the benefits of the information society in all formats, EBLIDA with its motto "Lobbying for libraries" was established to cooperate and support libraries in aspects of legislative and administrative issues which are of relevance to the library and information sector, culture and education. EBLIDA's working strategy is based on networking with other institutions such as the European Parliament, the European Commission and other European libraries. And, of course, EBLIDA is also involved in the Euro-wide crowning achievement of all European library projects, Europeana.

### **Europeana**

With its motto "Think Culture!" Europeana is a Thematic Network funded by the European Commission to make European information resources easier to use in an online environment. At the moment, Europeana offers links to six million digital items and by the end of 2010 it will be 10 million items. With the extension of Europeana to Europeana Local, there will be a huge enlargement of the number of digital items which are searchable through the Europeana portal. The aim is to establish simple, efficient and sustainable processes through which local and regional institutions can easily make their content available through the Europeana portal. And with the development of Europeana German, like many other European countries, has established a national widespread collaborative project in order to contribute digital content to Europeana. This project is called The German Digital Library. This project will be going public in 2011 and will provide a national portal for digital content from more than 30,000 memory institutions like libraries, archives and museums.

Drawing a conclusion from the development of libraries in Europe in the last 20 years I

would like to present six all-embracing proposals:

1. Through intensive lobbying and good experience, European libraries were recognized by the European Parliament and by the European Commission as important players in the information and knowledge society.
2. European libraries were successful in lobbying for their interests by forming an European-wide coalition in EBLIDA as an umbrella organisation of the national library associations.
3. European libraries profited from the European strategy of fostering IT-application in the member states.
4. European libraries are aware that learning from each other and learning from the experiences of other sectors is efficient and crucial for innovation and professional progress.
5. European libraries are more effective in serving the interests of the users by joining their forces to build up a European Digital Library.
6. European libraries understood that they need to cooperate with partners from different cultural sectors when creating an innovative user-friendly cultural interface for the European citizen: the Europeana.

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### **How German libraries promote reading as basic competence**

Public libraries in German are well used, but when the results of the PISA-OECD (Program for International Student Assessment) study 2000 deeply shocked Germany, promoting reading in public libraries became popular. The shocking results for Germany have their roots in the fact that the German libraries were not recognized by the politicians as important players in education and in supporting reading and media literacy. After having set this background, I would like to present to you some of our "Post-Pisa-strategies" of German libraries in promoting reading and supporting reading skills. The reading programs for the youngest clients, babies and toddlers use the library services with the help of their parents as mediators. The library developed measures for early childhood education and carried them out together with the nursery teachers. We developed a program called "Start to read" which is addressed to the parents of babies to make them understand the importance of reading aloud to their children. This program is a co-operation with an association of paediatricians in Bremen. When the children go to the kindergarten the library tries to reach them as well through the co-operation with the nursery teachers. At that stage we start with a special modular programme called "Spiral Curriculum," which comprises a whole set of different measures for reading promotion up to the seventh grade.

The evaluation of this concept shows that most of the teachers are very happy with this service as they confirm that the children gain a lot from the library programs. Many children who have regularly visited these arrangements are regular library users.

Reaching out to young adults, who today have a huge variety of commercial entertainment distractions, is much more difficult. But it is important that the library keeps on contact with these young adults at the age from 14, 15 onwards and offers

them services beyond mere school material for homework or lessons. Therefore it is very important to find out the personal interests of this target group and to start at that point when designing services for them. The library should be "a place" for them. That means that the library premises should have a special young adult zone, totally different from the children's zone. Next step is to give them the media they want, that is books on topics which are relevant for them. But that is not enough. Young adults want and need permanently special attention and want to be courted. That is why we developed special programmes also for them. One programme which in this year is being run for the fourth time is the "Summer Reading Club." Last year we had over 500 participants of whom nearly 40 percent were male. Reading promotion even works with young adults when you meet their interests and find the right way of addressing them.

We think that by inviting a football star as a testimonial we might come nearer to our goal to have more young men among the participants. Using popular people as testimonials for reading promotion is practised also by the German Library Association in the nationwide Reading Campaign "Germany reads the library is THE meeting place." This campaign is directed to the general public and is carried out in over 2000 libraries. The objectives of the campaign are promoting a positive image of libraries and their services, promoting the importance of reading and media literacy, and promoting the other different function of libraries.

### **eBooks**

Since the arrival of eBooks and digital reading, reading is going digital by the appearance of Amazon and Kindle. Libraries cannot ignore this fact and stick to the good old physical media. Therefore in Germany, the public libraries together with a library supplier have built up a consortium which offers eBooks to be lent out to the PC at home or even to a mobile device. With a very comfortable user-interface which can be designed accordingly to the respective library homepage and a sophisticated digital rights management system, more than 100 public libraries offer 24 hours a day eBooks and other digital content for download at home. This service is a very useful innovation for the German libraries which shows their awareness of the need to integrate the possibilities of the new technology into their activities. And this service promotes reading in a totally new way for the library clients.

### **Conclusion**

Coming to the end of my talk, let me conclude with some final proposals as a perspective:

1. As long as libraries will be able to integrate technological and other innovation into their services and make them accessible for their users, libraries will be useful and well used public institutions.
2. As long as libraries design their services in the interests of their users, whatever ages those might be, libraries will be attractive service providers.
3. As long as libraries are attractive and welcoming physical public places, libraries will be highly frequented and will be recognized by the patrons as a special branch of their "personal living room."



4. As long as libraries promote reading and support it as a basic human competence, there is a good chance of further intellectual development of our society.

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#### Discussion between Ms. Lison and Dr. Makoto Nagao



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

**Dr. Nagao:** I got an impression that the EU supports European libraries, which seems to affect Germany and other countries. Is there any difference between each country's approaches?

**Ms. Lison:** The EU has 27 member nations, which means there are 27 different library policies. The copyright policy of each country differs, as in France and in Germany, although the directive of copyright that comes from EU is quite open. The difference depends on each country's interests and lobbying possibility. When we look at the EU, on the one hand it is a body which is becoming more and more united, and on the other hand, there is still sovereignty in each nation. So, there is a competition between the EU and each nation that requires a compromise. Compromising in the EU is a big issue.

**Dr. Nagao:** The European libraries have various problems and have been making efforts to overcome them. In this context, how are you tackling the issue that each library uses a different language? I would also like to know the effect the Europeana or the European Digital Library have brought about.

**Ms. Lison:** When the librarians in EU assemble, English is used as a common language. However, the Europeana is a multilingual portal where various languages other than English are used. EU respects the culture in each country though English is a special common language. I think that it is important to have an identity as a European citizen and also as a German.

**Dr. Nagao:** In Europe, the concept of the library seems to be broadly understood to

include museums and document archives. How are these broad-ranging activities done in this context?

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**Ms. Lison:** For example, a citizen who is interested in knowledge is not interested in where it from. A cultural institution like a library, an archive or a museum must come to be a kind of one-stop-shop for users. A lot of European library projects are intended to combine the contents and services of libraries, museums and archives into one new digitized map. Users are interested in that kind of digitized map. We think it very important in Germany. If you realize that you are working for the users, perhaps you can understand that it is not necessary to discriminate between the institutions.

**Dr. Nagao:** Cooperation of museum, library and archive has been considered an important issue in Japan, too. In your lecture, you talked about some trials for reading promotion for youngsters in Germany. What kinds of initiatives are carried out to increase their reading ability in schools?

**Ms. Lison:** That really depends on the teachers. They are very important partners for us. We need to catch the teachers and tell them that they may have an easier life when they bring students to the library. I think there is a lot of good cooperation between librarians and teachers in Germany. An even more important thing is to start from babies or very small children, to get them used to the service of libraries. It's too late when you catch them at 12 or 13 years old. We have to make them think of addressing libraries when they have questions.

**Dr. Nagao:** Here we received a lot of enquiries from the audience about PISA problems which also gave a big shock in Japan. We have been making various attempts to recover from it, but they are not always working out since professional school librarians are very hard to hire. The school libraries are not operating well. Could you tell us the current situation of school libraries and the organic cooperation between school libraries and public libraries in Germany and in Europe?

**Ms. Lison:** That is not such a nice topic for Germany. Many German school libraries are not very well equipped or developed. Local administration is unfortunately not much interested in school libraries. The library association lobbied for school libraries from the 2001 PISA results, but it was not successful in general. School libraries are not attractive for young people because the materials are not interesting. That is a big problem in Germany.

**Dr. Nagao:** This is an interesting question, if there is a concrete way in Germany or in Europe to nurture children's ability to think, judge and express themselves, as these abilities are important besides enhancing reading ability.

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**Ms. Lison:** I think it is very important. Libraries support the development of creativity and the potential of the children to the maximum. For example, we show "Picture book cinema," which is a digitized picture book, to children and get the children to develop

stories. To make them create and tell stories as they like is a simple but very effective way to improve their expressiveness. To learn on their own initiative is also important for children. We try to show them that they can be creative by making something by themselves using various tools in the library. We give them an opportunity to express themselves. We also try to show them that they need to express themselves. Of course there is a quiet zone in the library, but we also offer a place where you can talk and express yourself.

**Dr. Nagao:** It is a difficult question, how much educational guidance for children libraries provide that ought to be done in the schools. But I think that is something we cannot ignore. There is another question. I think the number of immigrants into Germany is increasing. Could you explain what kind of educational support or activities libraries provide to those children?

**Ms. Lison:** We provide different measures for immigrants. We do not organize language courses, but we lend out digitized materials and books which can be used for reading the German language. We provide information on the German political system, social system and other lifestyles as well as information on the country where they came from in order to support their personal identity. We think it is not good to lose your identity. And we try to indirectly reach immigrants who came from countries where there is no library culture through their children.

**Dr. Nagao:** Yes, I understand. How many languages are included in the collection of the Bremen city library, for instance?

**Ms. Lison:** Books and DVDs in 38 languages are collected in the Bremen city library. There are books in 50 languages in the International Children's Library. Parents can also learn German through bilingual children books.

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**Dr. Nagao:** Now the budget of the libraries has been decreasing on a global basis. In Germany, what kind of effort do you make when you select books for collection, taking foreign books into consideration?

**Ms. Lison:** Budget reduction is very frequent also in Germany. However, the libraries can set priorities according to the library's concept and the budget can be used wisely as a result. The concept of the book collection is different according to the library. When the budget is reduced, the library checks the concept. We decide where to set our priority between users' demand and the commission of the library set by the politicians.

**Dr. Nagao:** The resident complains when the local public library does not buy a lot of copies of best-seller books in Japan. On the other hand, publishers and authors complain to the library because they fear their books won't sell. In Germany, do you buy only one or two copies of a best-seller book?

**Ms. Lison:** German libraries have a "Best-seller book service." It means if you pay 3 Euros voluntarily, you can read a book earlier than other people. We try to convince the

publishers that this system is lawful and not bad because we are not doing it for the money profit. Some people buy the book because after having read it, it becomes more attractive for them.

**Dr. Nagao:** In Japan it is hard to imagine paying some money to the library, because using library must be free. But in your lecture, you said that sometimes you need to pay to get a library user card. In what case do you need to pay money to the library?

**Ms. Lison:** Of course taxpayers can enjoy general services. It is free to come to a library and to receive services on site. In Germany, if you have a general user card for an annual fee you can borrow books and get internet services etc. However, if the service becomes more personal it will be charged. For instance, people who cannot wait for a best-seller book can pay some money to borrow it earlier. As a general rule, some fee is incurred when the service is a personal one. Copying service is charged as it is provided for individual request.

**Dr. Nagao:** Such a charge system also might serve as a reference in the libraries of Japan in the future. Please tell us about the German current state and future prospects of reading terminals like "Kindle" or "iPad" and a digital library which provides contents to them.

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**Ms. Lison:** Although neither Kindle nor iPad so far is very much used in Germany, PDA and portable terminals are widespread and many people use digital contents. Not only the public libraries but also the entire library world should deal with this situation. About one hundred libraries are providing a service which enables users to download an e-book for one week. I want to develop contents in our e-library more, and to enhance it, although there are already 30,000 titles in it now.

**Dr. Nagao:** There is a problem that publishers and authors complain that they may lose sales when it becomes possible to read digital contents free of charge by downloading. In addition, digital contents cannot be distributed without the permission of the author. How is it in Germany?

**Ms. Lison:** German Copyright Law is also stringently regulated. However in Germany it works out to pass the copyright to the publisher after the author passes the publisher the contents. Therefore, we only have to deal with the publishers, and not with the author. The authors get compensation through a collecting society which is paid by the German states for the use of their works in libraries. There is a big collecting society which distributes a lot of money to various authors in Germany. Publishers also agree to this model because when someone downloads a book, other people cannot read it. This is the same way as borrowing books in a "physical" library.

**Dr. Nagao:** I think it is a wonderful system that the country makes compensation to the author. I think that some efforts are also necessary for us as a nation in Japan. This will be the last question. Directors of public libraries are mostly males in Japan. Does having a female director like you make any difference from a male director?

**Ms. Lison:** When I became the director of the library most library-directors of metropolitan libraries were male in Germany. But now female directors are twice as many as male directors. That situation owes a great deal to the equal opportunity legislation for men and women. I think it is a good example of legislation changing a situation and society itself.

**Dr. Nagao:** Thank you for your very valuable talk for such a long time.

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# National Diet Library Newsletter

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## Japanese Pre-war Documents in the Library of Congress

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in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 592 (July 2010).



### Introduction

The National Diet Library (NDL) has a plan to start digitizing Japanese documentary records owned by the Library of Congress (LC)<sup>1</sup>. This January I visited the Asian Division of the LC and during my stay I did preparatory research on the pre-war documents and books that were requisitioned by the GHQ while Japan was occupied after World War II.

Old Japanese records remain not only in Japan but also all around the world. Especially in the US, some documentary records can be found which we are unable to find in any libraries and museums in Japan including the NDL. There is a record that the LC made a request to the Japanese government through the Smithsonian Institution for international exchange of publications in 1875<sup>2</sup>. Regarding the Japanese records owned by the LC, many catalogs and lists are available thanks to prior researches. In addition, researches on Japanese materials requisitioned and shipped to the US by the Washington Document Center after World War II are very helpful<sup>3</sup>.

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### Japanese documents held in the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is one of the largest libraries in the world. All the library staff, library users and tourists need to be security checked when entering the building. In

addition, when leaving the library, they are required to show the contents of any bag they are carrying.

Most of the Japanese books, including the ones that were published outside Japan, are held in the Asian Division; maps and posters are dealt with by the specific divisions in charge<sup>4</sup>. The staff kindly prepared a space in the stack room for me. Their office space and the stack room of the Asian Division are located in different buildings. Since a specially authorized card is required to enter the stack (the NDL has the same system), it was necessary for me to be helped by one of the staff of the Asian Division to get to the stack through an underground passage every morning during my research.

The target of my research was the Japanese pre-war documentary records that are to be digitized. The records of pre-Edo period and recent ones were excluded from the research<sup>5</sup>. However, I thought it interesting when I found a lot of book seals of the Japanese Military Academy in the pre-Edo materials<sup>6</sup>, taking into account the process of how the materials came to be owned by the LC. Before the visit I had studied some collections such as books censored by the Home Ministry<sup>7</sup>, documents of the pre-war Japanese army and navy<sup>8</sup>, and Japanese pre-war magazines. In addition to these, I tried to catch an overview of other collections, such as records of the South Manchurian Railway Company and pre-war collections of translation.



Stacks of the Asian Division inside the John Adams Building

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What I researched in the stack was the organization of the bibliographical data, status and the volume of the materials. Although I had already checked in advance the bibliographical data of the materials to some extent via the lists provided by the LC website, it was very valuable for me to see the actual materials because I was able to understand broadly their special qualities such as how they are preserved and what kind of documents they contain.

As it was almost impossible for me to research all of the materials in detail during my short stay, I tried to check a part of them whether the NDL had collected them or not. The bibliographical data of most materials were available in the LC. I noticed that sometimes only one set of data was assigned for more than one item. Usually, each item has its own data such as title, author, and publisher. I even found a group of collections for which only one set of data was assigned as their catalog ("collection-level catalog"). For example, the title "Senzen senchu no hon'yaku tosho. Naimusho ken'etsu. Shukyo oyobi tetsugaku" includes bibliographical data for eleven books. While the search results showed the titles and the authors of each item by the Hepburn system of Romanizing Japanese, because such information was sometimes insufficient to specify the items, I often used prevailing databases such as the [NDL-OPAC](#), "[Webcat](#)" by the National Institute of Informatics and "[Nihon no Furuhon'ya](#)" (Japanese only) to confirm the bibliographical data. I felt the big advantage of the Internet when using such Japanese databases even though I was in the US.



Shelves for Japanese documents

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## Conclusion

In my research I put emphasis on whether the collections were worth digitizing in the first place, which collections were easy to start to digitize in the view of the enrichment of the bibliographical data, and whether the collections were strong enough for digitization. I thought most of the materials were in better condition than I had expected, considering their age. Some bear an identification such as "books censored by the Home Ministry," and others such as "Records of the South Manchurian Railway Company" are classified by theme. Because the content of their bibliographical data differs from one to another, I found it difficult to stick to one rule when dealing with them. It seemed to me that the "collection-level catalogs" were insufficient as bibliographical data for digitization.



Though some “books censored by the Home Ministry” items have already been returned to the NDL and some of them have been microfilmed, which are accessible at the NDL<sup>9</sup>, the red letters put on by the censors are more clearly visible on the originals. I am sure this digitization project would attract many researchers amid the recently increasing research into the censored pre-war materials<sup>10</sup>.

### Acknowledgement

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Eiichi Ito, Ms. Mari Nakahara and Ms. Kiyoyo Y. Pipher for their generous help with my research. It was very helpful for me to be able to communicate in Japanese in the US.

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<sup>1</sup> On July 6, 2010, the cooperative agreement for digitization was concluded between the LC and the NDL. Digitizing work is planned to start in FY 2010, targeting about ten thousand titles of “books censored by the Home Ministry,” “documents of the pre-war Japanese army and navy” and “Japanese pre-war magazines.”

<sup>2</sup> Tsuyoshi Saito, “Nihon ni okeru shuppanbutsu kokusai kokan jigyo no rekishi,” *Toshokan Kenkyu Shirizu* (5), 1962.3, pp.165–198.

<sup>3</sup> In considering the current status and future tasks, Atsuhiko Wada, “Ryutsu, shozo johō o toraeru bungaku kenkyū e: Bei Gikai Toshokan shozo no senryōki hisesshu bunken ni tsuite,” *Nihon bungaku* 57(1), 2008.1, pp.56–67, was very helpful. On the WDC, I referred to Keiko Yoshimura, “Beikoku Gikai Toshokan Nihonka no WDC korekushon,” *Intelligence* (10), 2008.8, pp.12–19. Atsuhiko Wada, *Shomotsu no nichibei kankei: riterashishi ni mukete*, (Shinyosha, 2007), gives details of the history of Japan–America book exchange. On Japanese materials in the LC, the following catalogs are particularly informative along with their explanations: *Bei Gikai Toshokan shozo senryo sesshu kyu Riku-Kaigun shiryō somokuroku: 1992–nen 5–gatsu genzai*, (Toyo Shorin, 1995), ed. Hiromi Tanaka; *Senzen, sengo kenetsu shiryō oyobi bunsho: 1955–nen izen: Beikoku Gikai Toshokan shozo maikuroka shiryō chekku risuto 1–3*, (Bunsei Shoin, 2009, containing forecited Yoshimura’s thesis), ed. Keiko Yoshimura; *Beikoku Gikai Toshokan shozo senzenki Ajia kankei Nihongo chikuji kankobutsu mokuroku*, (Ajia Keizai Kenkyujo, 1995), ed. Tetsuo Imura. Materials introducing specific themes are: Eiichi Ito “Beikoku Gikai Toshokan shozo Minami Manshu Tetsudo Kabushiki Gaisha kankei shiryō no hokan to riyo ni tsuite,” *Nichi Bei Chu ni okeru Mantetsu kankei shiryō to no riyo to hozon o meguru shomondai: kokusai waku shoppu hokokusho*, ed. Ajia Keizai Kenkyujo Toshokan, (Nihon Boeki Shinko Kiko Ajia Keizai Kenkyujo, 2009.3), ([http://opac.ide.go.jp/asia\\_archive/documents/kanren\\_workshop/kanren\\_workshop.pdf](http://opac.ide.go.jp/asia_archive/documents/kanren_workshop/kanren_workshop.pdf)); Mie Hoshi “LC shozo Nihon senryōki hakko zasshi no seiri ni tazusawatte,” *Kokukritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo* (380), 1992.11, pp.14–17

<sup>4</sup> On maps, *Kindai Nihon no chizu sakusei to Ajia Taiheiyo chiiki 'Gaihozu' eno apurochi*, ed. Shigeru Kobayashi, (Osaka Daigaku Shuppan Kai, 2009), contains several informative theses. The Prints and Photographs Division holds the Yanker Poster Collection including post-war posters of Japanese political parties (searchable with the online

catalog of the Prints and Photographs Division (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>)).

<sup>5</sup> On pre-Edo materials, see Beikoku Gikai Toshokan zo Nihon kotenseki mokuroku, ed. Beikoku Gikai Toshokan zo Nihon kotenseki mokuroku Kanko kai, (Yagi Shoten, 2003).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., preface.

<sup>7</sup> I had an opportunity to have an interview before visiting the US with Mr. Noritada Otaki (professor of Tokyo University of Agriculture), who is conducting related researches. He afterward presented "Beikoku Gikai Toshokan shozo no Nihon kenetsu korekushon no igi: kindai hakkin tosho no shozai o sagashite" at a regular meeting of the Japan Association of Library and Information History.

<sup>8</sup> Searchable with the forecited Tanaka's catalog.

<sup>9</sup> Searchable with the forecited Yoshimura's catalog. The NDL opens part of them as "Japanese government documents and censored publications: publications" in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room in the Tokyo Main Library.

<sup>10</sup> e. g. Kunio Asaoka, Toru Koizumi, "Senzenki Naimusho ni okeru shuppan kenetsu: kinshi shobun no iroiro," Daigaku Toshokan Mondai Kenkyukai shi (32), 2009.8, pp.29-42.

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## **"Web NDLSH", web version of the National Diet Library Subject Headings, is now available**

The National Diet Library (NDL) made the "[Web NDLSH](#)," the web version of the National Diet Library Subject Headings (NDLSH), available on June 30, 2010 (Japanese only).

The NDLSH is a thesaurus (controlled vocabulary list) maintained by the NDL as a subject access tool, and is also used for search by "subject heading" in the NDL-OPAC. The NDL had formerly been providing the NDLSH in book form; since 2005, in PDF and text format on the NDL website. Now the Web NDLSH is released using the SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System), aiming to be applied to various applications or systems on the web.

The SKOS data model adopted in the Web NDLSH is suitable for expressing controlled vocabularies like subject headings or classifications on the semantic web, and has already been used for providing subject headings in other countries, as in the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH).

The Web NDLSH allows the following services:

- 1) Reference function to the URIs of subject headings by assigning a URI to each of them
- 2) Download of each datum in three formats: RDF/XML, RDF/Turtle, JSON; download of the entire data in two formats: RDF/XML, TSV
- 3) Mechanical coordination with external systems that enables searching from external applications by using the SPARQL, an RDF query language
- 4) Creation and display of links to the LCSH and the Wikipedia when they have subject headings or terms corresponding to each subject heading of the NDLSH
- 5) Search by the National Diet Library Classification (NDLC) and the Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC) as well as by headings or reference
- 6) Provision of main-heading/subdivision combinations such as "United States -- Foreign relations -- Japan -- History -- 19th century" in addition to main headings of topical names
- 7) Graphical display of the NDLSH thesaurus structure

We also intend to provide resources other than the NDLSH, such as name authority or the NDLC, to make them more user-friendly on the web.

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## Lecture by leading figure



Lecture by Prof. Chartier on September 7, 2010 at the Tokyo Main Library

On September 7, 2010, a lecture by Prof. Roger Chartier of the Collège de France was held by the National Diet Library (NDL), attracting a large audience.

Prof. Chartier, who holds the chair of writing and cultures in modern Europe at the Collège de France, gave a lecture titled “Qu’est-ce qu’un livre? Métaphores anciennes, concepts des Lumières et réalités numériques” (What is a Book? Old Metaphors, Enlightened Categories, and Digital Realities) at the Tokyo Main Library, talking about the history and future of books and reading.

After the lecture, a three-way discussion was conducted between Prof. Chartier, Prof. Norihiko Fukui (President of Gakushuin University) and Dr. Makoto Nagao (Librarian of the National Diet Library). Based on questions submitted in advance by the audience, they discussed the characteristics of e-books and e-publishing, roles of the public and private sectors in constructing digital libraries, comparison between the Printing Revolution led by Johannes Gutenberg and the present Digital Revolution, copyright issues, roles of a library in the digital era, etc.



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## **Symposium “Enhancing the Culture of Reading and Books in the Digital Age – Copyright as a means to foster creativity and access – ”**

A symposium “Enhancing the Culture of Reading and Books in the Digital Age – Copyright as a means to foster creativity and access – ” will be held at the National Diet Library.

Date and time: December 1, 2010 (Wed.) and December 2, 2010 (Thu.)

Venue: National Diet Library (Auditorium, Annex, Tokyo Main Library)

How to apply: Please fill out the application form on the website. Admission is free of charge.

In association with: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Publishers Association (IPA), Japan Reprographic Rights Center (JRRC), Japan Academic Association for Copyright Clearance (JAACC), Japan Book Publishers Association (JBPA)

General Information, Program Schedule & Registration can be seen at

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/event/events/sympo1201.html>

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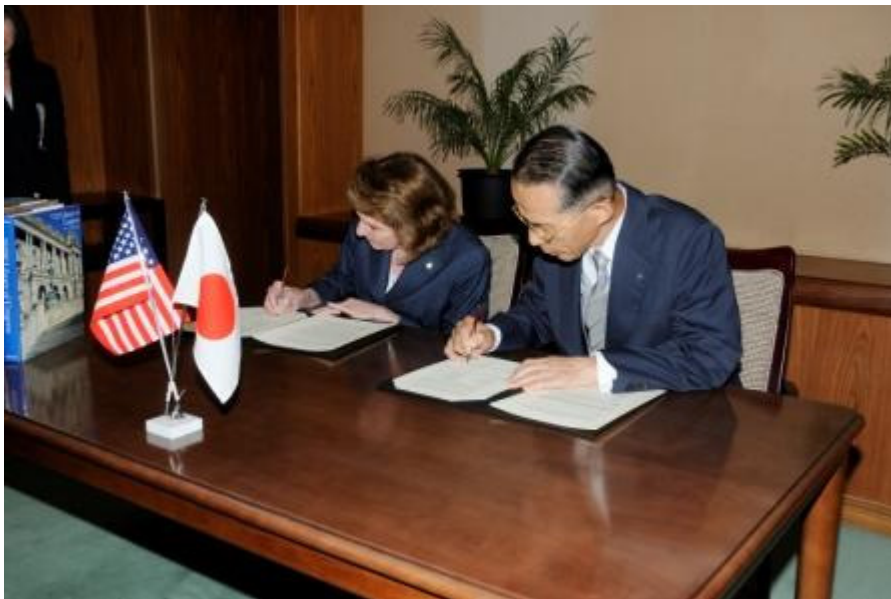
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## Cooperative agreement for digitization between the National Diet Library and the Library of Congress

The National Diet Library (NDL) decided to digitize Japanese pre-war materials owned by the Library of Congress (LC) as a joint program with the LC. On July 6, 2010, at the Tokyo Main Library, Dr. Deanna B. Marcum, Associate Librarian for Library Services of the LC, and Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, signed the cooperative agreement. Digitizing work is planned to start in FY 2010 and will take several years. Digitized images will be made available inside each library, and copyright cleared resources are considered to be provided to the public via the Internet.

\* ["Japanese Pre-war Documents in the Library of Congress"](#) gives an outline of the preparatory research for this digitization.



Dr. Deanna B. Marcum and Dr. Makoto Nagao

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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. 594, September 2010 [[PDF Format, 3.26MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections: Journal asiatique
- Let's expand digital archives: Cooperation with museums, libraries and archives
- National Diet Library in FY 2009: Report of the NDL's Activity Performance Evaluation
- Nunokawa Kakuzaemon : an essay
- Strolling in the forest of books (5) History of eating out
- <NDL NEWS>
  - China-Japan-Korea Digital Library Initiative Agreement concluded [related article](#)
- <Announcements>
  - Exhibition "The Golden Age of the Picture Book: 1920s & 1930s- History's Message to Children"
  - Symposium "What is Reading?"
  - Symposium "Enhancing the Culture of Reading and Books in the Digital Age – Copyright as a Means to Foster Creativity and Access – " [related article](#)
  - International Policy Seminar "China's Global Strategy and Japan-China Relations"
  - "Enjoy Japanese Folktales: Reading Event for Children and Parents"
  - Lecture meeting by Mr. James Michalko, Vice President of OCLC
  - Book notice □ publications from NDL

### No. 593, August 2010 [[PDF Format, 3.88MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections: Miyako kiko □ Diary from Kyoto, by a vassal of the shogun in the last days of the Tokugawa period



- The Imperial Rescript of the Termination of the War: Seeking two answers through historical sources
- Archiving websites for the future: Web Archiving Project under the revised National Diet Library Law
- Strolling in the forest of books (4)  
Travel writing on Meiji Japan by foreigners
- <NDL NEWS>
  - Cooperative agreement for digitization between the National Diet Library and the Library of Congress [related article](#)
  - World Digital Library Partners Meeting
- <Announcements>
  - PORTA started mutual cross searching with Resource Sharing System for the Humanities provided by the National Institutes for the Humanities
  - NDL Search (BETA) is now available
  - Discontinuance of acceptance of applications via libraries for reference services by fax and mail, and for remote copy service and interlibrary loan by fax
  - Lecture meeting commemorating the National Year of Reading "History and Future of Books and Reading"
  - Book notice 〓 publications from NDL

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