

No. 176, December 2010/February 2011

NEXT



Selections from NDL Collection

Sanjuroku-ban tsuzuki yakusha juni-tsuki – Shogatsu Nichomachi nenrei no zu (New Year's Greetings in Nichomachi, from the Twelve Months of Kabuki actors series)



Artist: Utagawa Toyokuni I

Publisher: Ezakiya Kichibei

Published in 1809

Set of three large-size (39 × 26cm) color woodblock prints (nishiki-e)

Owned by the National Diet Library

This picture shows Kabuki actors making New Year's courtesy calls. Nichomachi was the common name for two theater quarters in Edo (Tokyo).

The actors portrayed are, from the right, Matsumoto Koshiro V, Bando Mitsugoro III, Iwai Hanshiro V, Sawamura Gennosuke I (later Sojuro IV), Nakamura Utaemon III and Segawa Kikunojo IV, all accompanied by their attendants. Behind them, young women in their best clothes and carrying hagoita (battledores for a New Year's game) are gathering to catch a glimpse of the actors. Framing the scene are giant kadomatsu (pine and bamboo New Year decorations).

Utagawa Toyokuni I (1769–1825) excelled at depicting actors and beautiful women.

“Sanjuroku-ban tsuzuki yakusha juni-tsuki” is made up of twelve triptychs (thirty-six pieces in all) representing each month from January to December.

[up](#)

NEXT



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 176, December 2010/February 2011



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



On December 1–2, 2010, the National Diet Library (NDL), in association with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Publishers Association (IPA), Japan Reprographic Rights Center (JRRC), Japan Academic Association for Copyright Clearance (JAACC), and Japan Book Publishers Association (JBPA), held the International Symposium “Enhancing the Culture of Reading and Books in the Digital Age – Copyright as a means to foster creativity and access – ” in the Tokyo Main Library.

The Symposium had an ambitious, two-pronged design: it was the culmination of a series of events commemorating the National Year of Reading in Japan as well as an international forum to discuss balancing access to information and promotion of reading with protection and fostering of creativity under the copyright system. A system increasingly challenged by the digital revolution today.

Despite sometimes having different views on how it should be achieved, four international organizations have one thing they readily agree upon: the importance of increasing accessibility and reading. Thus, the Symposium was a rare and valuable opportunity to celebrate the common ground and work together toward shared goals in

a nation at the forefront of digital challenges and opportunities.

The outline of the conference is available below in this article.

Proceedings and other information are posted on [the NDL website](#).

For related articles, please visit the [IFLA](#) and [CDNLAO Websites](#).

Wednesday 1st December

Keynote 1: National Year of Reading and Current State of Publishing and Libraries



Dr. Nagao

Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, introduced the targets, runup and various events of the 2010 National Year of Reading in Japan in the beginning of his keynote speech. He referred to the long-standing “morning reading” activities in schools and “children’s bunko” activities by voluntary individuals or groups.

Looking at the diffusion of e-books and digital reading devices in Japan in recent years and describing the possible change in

the future as the “E-book Revolution,” Dr. Nagao suggested the possibility of using the NDL as a distribution platform for digital publications.

The digital library project of the NDL, including the digitization of library materials, web archiving, development of a search system and the amendment of the related law, was explained.

He described the ideal digital library as the provider of a knowledge system not unlike memory organization in the human brain as equipped with the structurization and search (“disassembling and reassembling”) of books.

Lastly, Dr. Nagao pointed out that the present framework of copyright was not a perfect fit for and need to catch up with the current information society. He proposed the possible creation and utilization of a database of copyright holders, as well as promoting the idea of creative commons especially for academic works. He ended his speech saying that he expected WIPO to rise to the challenge and thoroughly debate the visions for the future.

[up](#)

Session 1: International Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Copyright and Related Rights

Ms. Geidy Lung from WIPO overviewed the basic notions and history of the international legal protection framework of copyright and related rights. She mentioned the right of reproduction and the right of making available on demand as new issues in the digital age. She also referred to the protection of audio-visual performances and broadcasting organizations, and various aspects of limitations

and exceptions as pending issues for WIPO.

Ms. Caroline Morgan, Chair IFRRO Legal Issues Forum, talked about why the legal framework is important to authors and publishers referring to the present situation of international legal framework in the Pacific region and the current challenges faced by copyright holders in the digital era.

Mr. Jonathan Band, Policy Bandwidth, introduced the international copyright law frameworks from the library-oriented perspective and emphasized the need for harmonization of exceptions for lawful library uses.

In the subsequent discussion chaired by Mr. Herman P. Spruijt from IPA, various issues related to copyright were debated, including the binding power of international copyright law frameworks, overcoming a negative view of copyright, building an adequate balance between each stakeholder, and others.



Ms. Lung



Ms. Morgan



Mr. Band

[up](#)

Session 2: The Importance of Copyright to Society

Ms. Geidy Lung reported the importance of the copyright sector to the economy. WIPO's guide of copyright and challenges were introduced as copyright is considered an important tool for the growth and productivity of industries, employment and investment based on creativity and information.

Mr. Bruce Funkhouser, Vice President of IFRRO, introduced the beginning of copyright through the history of "copying a work." Questions on the need of copyright law and the role of copyright law management organizations in fostering or hindering creativity were addressed. Further changes in the future in which copyright may have to adapt or be radically altered to meet the needs of creators and nations was also introduced.

Mr. Matter Schruers, Vice President for Law & Policy at the CCIA, presented the economic significance of fair use and related copyright limitations and expectations to a national economy, drawing upon recent economic studies commissioned to study the U.S. and European economies.

In the discussion chaired by Mr. Tsuyoshi Saito, President of the Japan Academic Association for Copyright Clearance, several questions on copyright were posed:

the economically optimal term of copyright; fair use in the publishing industry; publishers' position in the copyright law as there is no relevant provision in Japan; the economic effects of copyright infringement; the economic impact of open access to copyright, and so on.



From left, Ms. Lung, Mr. Funkhouser, Mr. Schruers and Mr. Saito

[up](#)

Session 3: Providing Access to Copyright Works

Mr. Winston Tabb, Chair of the IFLA Copyright and Other Legal Matters Committee, specifically introduced 12 principles regarding minimum limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, which had been proposed by IFLA to restore the imbalance between the intellectual property rights of authors and the needs of users.

Ms. Magdalena Vinent, IFRRRO President, emphasized the effectiveness of collective licensing to gain legal access to copyrighted works, and presented various licensing models of operations of the Reproduction Rights Organisations (RROs) in the world as well as the main types of licenses. Some IFRRRO initiatives were also mentioned.

Ms. Franziska Eberhard, IFRRRO Vice President, reported on current trends in reading, taking up some new devices in fashion such as E-readers, Tablet-PCs and Smartphones; she offered an overview of advantageous changes in the publishing business and libraries, which have been brought about by the dissemination of these digital facilities. Mr. Herman P. Spruijt talked about diverse publishing sector's challenges and issues in the digital age, and mentioned how to provide high-quality contents at low cost.

In the following discussion chaired by Ms. Lung, various issues were raised, such as a big role for copyright societies in secondary use, relations between the legal deposit system and copyright, and how to deal with orphan works and out-of-print books in digitization.

[up](#)



From left, Mr. Tabb, Ms. Vinent and Ms. Eberhard

Thursday 2nd December Keynote 2: The Internationalization of Literature



Prof. Levy

Prof. Hideo Levy gave a stimulating keynote speech on “the internationalization of literature.”

As a translator of Japanese literature into English in his youth, he contributed to the dimension: the global transmission through translation and dissemination of texts written in various national languages. However, a desire to write original works in Japanese, his non-native language,

gradually developed in his mind, which turned him into another dimension: creation across the boundaries of language and culture by individual authors themselves.

Such bilingualism is well known in the post-colonial studies of English literature, but Prof. Levy pointed out that this could be also found in ancient Japan and globally in modern times, introducing various examples such as Yamanoue no Okura, a great 7–8th century poet whose origin is said to have been the Korean Peninsula and who created poems in the Japanese language; Lee Yanji, a Korean–Japanese modern writer; Yoko Tawada, a Japanese writer who writes her works in German and Japanese; Kenzaburo Oe, the Japanese Nobel Prize-winning writer, who recounts that an encounter with the French language had been instrumental in the verse of his literature.

[up](#)

Session 4: Literacy, Publishing, Libraries and Reading

Mr. Herman P. Spruijt talked about publishing as an important element in civil society. He emphasized books and literary reading were important in developing



Mr. Spruijt and Ms. Matsuoka

national knowledge and economy, and governments needed to be the custodians of their national book culture. He also spoke of a culture of reading and the core elements of national book policy to promote a culture of reading.

Ms. Kyoko Matsuoka, Director, Tokyo Children's Library, talked about the change of the quality of children's reading in Japan based on her job. She told us that she was worried about what would happen to the quality of children's reading when the present-day changes in the means of communication were further accelerated. She stated that a good reader who can feel and think deeply was potentially a good global citizen, who would be in great demand in times of difficulty.



Ms. Tise and Ms. Morgan

Ms. Ellen Tise, President of IFLA, reported on the role of libraries in the reading process. She emphasized the functions of reading and engagement with fellow human beings in the creation of a society and stated that reading helps people. She stressed that reading was crucial for growth in every country and libraries must promote good reading.

In the subsequent discussion, the chair, Ms. Caroline Morgan, remarked that the speakers all agreed that there was a virtuous circle between literacy, reading, and good citizenship. Various issues related to reading and literacy were debated, including the language in which people read, several issues related to the recovery from cultural damage inflicted by the earthquake in Haiti, the future roles of publishers and libraries, and others.

Session 5: Digitisation

Mr. Hiroyuki Taya, Director General of the Administrative Department of the NDL, reported on the history and characteristics of the digital library and the digitization of materials in Japan, especially the approach of the NDL. The significance of digitization, MLA cooperation, international cooperation, and future planning were also introduced.

Ms. Ingrid Parent, President Elect of IFLA, introduced some of the partnerships of LAMs, libraries archives and museums, across Canada, North America and internationally. Examples of convergence in digitization projects, new kinds of research and examples of open access were also reported.

Mr. Aubery Escande from Europeana talked about “Reading Europe: European culture through the book” which highlights selected literary contents within Europeana. Outlines of the European Library, organizational ground for Europeana, and the mission of Europeana, which is to make European information resources easier to use in an online environment, were also reported.

The presentation of Mr. Olav Stokkmo, Chief Executive and Secretary General of IFRRO, considered the extent of the digital challenges and identified the main principles to be addressed in the collaborative efforts. It also presented best practice examples from digitization projects in Europe such as in Norway and Germany, and the ARROW project which is partnered by stakeholders.

In the discussion chaired by Mr. Taya, interesting questions such as authenticity of information, issues on English dominance on the web, the digitization of the in-print copyrighted materials and the policy of the European community to digitize such materials were posed.



From left, Ms. Parent, Mr. Escande, Mr. Stokkmo and Mr. Taya.

[up](#)

Session 6: Access for Users with Special Needs/Print Disabilities



Mr. Kawamura

Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, President of the DAISY Consortium, talked about reading rights promotion activities by libraries represented by the IFLA and the DAISY Consortium for persons with print disabilities. He explained that an integrated e-book standard of EPUB and DAISY to be developed by the collaboration of the International Digital Publishing Forum and the DAISY Consortium will enable

publishers to use one file to publish in diverse format including those to meet the needs of persons with print disabilities. He also noted that while copyright must be well respected and protected, measures to protect copyright should not impinge upon the reading rights of persons with disabilities.

Ms. Geidy Lung gave an explanation about the Stakeholders' Platform, WIPO-led process for facilitating access to copyrighted works by persons with print disabilities involving multiple public and private sector stakeholders. She also introduced a three-year pilot project of the Platform named Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resources (TIGAR) being assisted by the DAISY Consortium and rights holders.



Mr. Bammel

From the publishers' perspective, Mr. Jens Bammel, Secretary General of IPA, pointed out the challenges in adapting digital works to the needs of persons with print disabilities. In place of copyright exceptions and retro-digitization, he suggested getting publishers to integrate the data structure and additional information that visually-impaired persons need into the original production to substantially reduce costs and to expand access. The necessity of collaboration and trust between charities and publishers was emphasized.

Mr. Olav Stokkmo outlined the roles of the Reproduction Rights Organisations (RROs) in initiatives which aim at enhancing the access to content by people with reading impairment, and the IFRRO's assistance in the activities.

In the subsequent discussion chaired by Ms. Jennefer Nicholson, Secretary General of IFLA, speakers



Mr. Stokkmo and Ms. Nicholson

deepened the debate on the “trusted intermediaries” between creators or other rights holders and people with print disabilities, and the prospect for the TIGAR project.

[up](#)

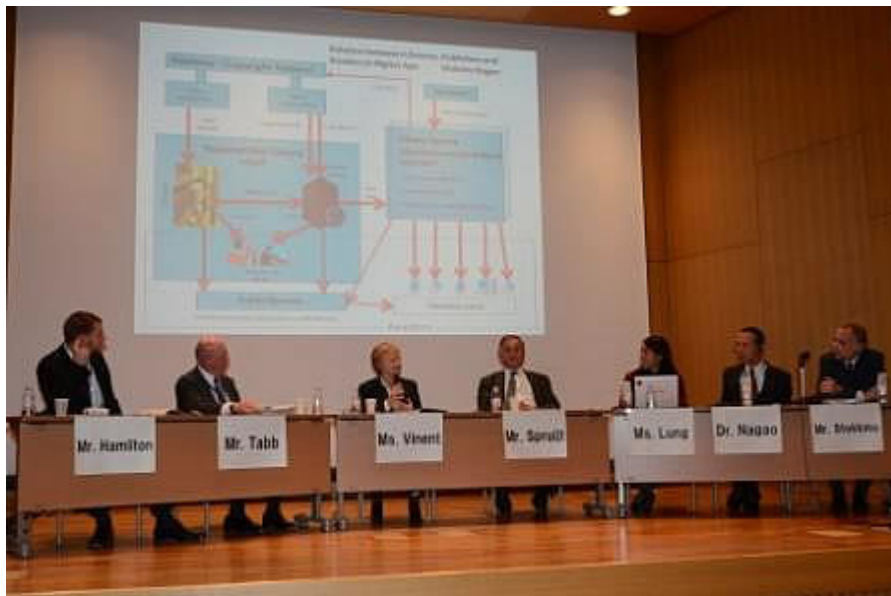
Session 7: Co-operation to Enhance Accessibility to Copyright Works

A panel discussion on the subject was held by Mr. Winston Tabb, Ms. Magdalena Vinent, Mr. Herman P. Spruijt, Ms. Geidy Lung and Dr. Makoto Nagao moderated by Mr. Stuart Hamilton (IFLA) and Mr. Olav Stokkmo. As Mr. Hamilton moved speakers to make short comments, speakers mostly agreed that rather than polarize the argument from different angles on access and copyright, they should start working together on the issue they can agree on; digitizing and thereby salvaging out-of-print, out-of-commerce orphan works from falling into a limbo; ensuring access to information for visually impaired people.

Dr. Nagao then presented the business model in which there is a digital library to provide full online access to the users, a non-profit library agency to handle the charging of small fees for use and give them back to publishers and right-holders, and an opting-out choice available for publishers and rightholders. The model was favourably commented on by other panelists with Mr. Spruijt pointing out that the presence of a micropayment system and the non-profit nature of a library agency may make it win-win for publishers and users, and Ms. Vinent stated that it is a good start and mentioned the possibility of reproduction rights organizations (RROs) acting as intermediaries for publishers and right-holders within the scheme. There were several questions about the model from the floor ranging from the possibilities of overseas access to the provision of automated translation of the contents.

Mr. Stokkmo then moved the discussion to WIPO-led initiative to discuss the issue of orphan works on a global level. Ms. Lung introduced the Global Meeting on Licensing in which the issue was one of the main topics and explained that it will be topic for the future work of WIPO in the context of development agenda as well as of the activities of the culture and creative industry sector. Mr. Band commented that by differentiating the solutions for each category of orphan works, such as easily identifiable and claimable media like books from easily orphaned media such as photographs, such a global approach would become more feasible.

In closing the discussion, Mr. Hamilton concluded that with such common ground to work on as orphan works and Dr. Nagao’s model, the signs for stakeholders to co-operate on enhancing accessibility to copyright works are encouraging.



From left, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Tabb, Ms. Vinent, Mr. Spruijt, Ms. Lung, Dr. Nagao and Mr. Stokkmo

[up](#)

Conference Summary

Mr. Olav Stokkmo was given the task of making a summary of the Symposium. He began by quoting a dystopian vision of 2080 described in Neil Postman's *Technology: The Surrender of Culture to Technology* in which people can no longer read and understand the news and need it to be dramatized on the screen: a future, Mr. Stokkmo warned, not far-fetched if we allow illiteracy to prevail.

That having been said, he pointed to the brighter side by mentioning several reading promotion initiatives discussed in the Symposium. He then went on to argue that copyright, admittedly complicated and on which speakers do have differing views, remains indispensable to intellectual activities on which reading stands. On the other hand, he remained open to a few instances of providing access through exceptions and limitations such as for preservation purposes in libraries. Mr. Stokkmo also touched upon the issue of publishing; he emphasized that there is a strong co-relation between literacy and publishing environment and was optimistic that publishers will adapt to the rapidly transforming digital environment by developing new business models. Such new technologies, he argued, especially benefit people with reading impairment and print disabilities.

Rounding up the argument, Mr. Stokkmo urged all participants to set aside feuds over copyright and collaborate. There is a far greater issue at stake. All of them face more than enough challenges to preserve the culture of reading and prevent Neil Postman's vision of an intellectually-inertial future from becoming reality. In conclusion, he quoted twin axioms that best summarize the Symposium: Dr. Nagao's "Through knowledge we prosper" and Mr. Spruijt's "Through good cooperation we will survive."

[up](#)



Note:

Summarizing has been done at the discretion of the editor.

(Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division, National Diet Library)

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 176, December 2010/February 2011



Exhibition on parliamentary government: commemorating the 120th anniversary of the establishment of the Diet



Nishiki-e of the Imperial Diet Building
May 1895 (Meiji 28)
Constitutional Government Documents
Collection, #1298
National Diet Library

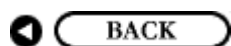
The opening ceremony of the Imperial Diet (Japanese parliament) was held on November 29, 1890, and the year 2010 saw the 120th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the Diet held a commemoration ceremony on the anniversary day, November 29, 2010, and an exhibition organized by the National Diet Library (NDL) was held from December 1 to 10 in the Parliamentary Museum.

The exhibition consisted of two parts: “Part 1: Path to parliamentary government” introduced the efforts of people who strove to establish the Imperial Diet, pursuing the ideal of the politics from the end of the Edo Era (1603–1868), a period of great transition, to the beginning of the Meiji Era (1868–1912); “Part 2: Party government in the Showa Era (1926–1989)” outlined the history from the latter half of the Taisho Era (1912–1926) to the establishment of the 1955 system. (On the same occasion, the Parliamentary Museum held another special exhibition which treated the period between the establishment of the Imperial Diet and the realization of universal male suffrage in 1924.) The exhibition contained about 80 documents from the NDL collection such as documents relating to political parties, letters, private journals, and memoranda of persons involved in parliamentary activities

including SAKAMOTO Ryoma, KIDO Takayoshi, IWAKURA Tomomi, SAIONJI Kinmochi, HAMAGUCHI Osachi, TAKAHASHI Korekiyo, YOSHIDA Shigeru, and HATOYAMA Ichiro.

Images of some of the exhibited documents are also available on the NDL website: Online gallery “[Modern Japan in archives: political history from the opening of the country to post-war](#).” This electronic exhibition was first launched in July 2006, and a new chapter, “[Chapter 6: Establishment of 1955 system](#)” was added in November 2010 on this special occasion.

[up](#)





The 13th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of Korea

A [National Library of Korea](#) (NLK) delegation visited Japan from October 12 to 19, 2010, on the 13th mutual visit program between the National Diet Library (NDL) and the NLK. Since it started in 1997, the program has alternately taken place in Japan and in Korea every year.



NLK delegation and NDL executive members (from left: Dr. Nagao (Librarian), Ms. Hwang, Ms. Cho, Mr. Park, Mr. Jang, Mr. Yoshinaga (Deputy Librarian) and Mr. Taya (Director General of the Administrative Department))

Headed by Ms. Hwang Myun, Director of the Digital Library Service Division, this year's delegation consisted of the following other three members: Ms. Cho Jae-hak, Librarian, Library Service Division, National Library for Children & Young Adults; Mr. Park Jin-ho, Senior Researcher, National Digital Library of Korea; and Mr. Jang Bo-seong, Librarian, National Library Support Center for the Disabled.

The Opening Session was held in the Tokyo Main Library of the NDL. Staff at the Kansai-kan of the NDL also participated using the TV conference system.

October 13, 2010: Tokyo Main Library

Opening Session	Theme: Current Status and Challenges of Two Libraries
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(Keynote speech)	<p>(1) “Current Status and Challenges of NLK”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Hwang Myun (Director of Digital Library Service Division, NLK) <p>(2) “Current status and Challenges of NDL”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Toshiyuki Muto (Deputy Director of Administrative Department, NDL)
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At the Opening Session, Ms. Hwang reviewed the first year of the National Digital Library. She also reported NLK’s current challenges such as expansion of digital contents and network-building with international and internal libraries. Mr. Muto reported recent developments of the NDL especially those to cope with the digital era.



Opening Session

In the Session I and II, experts from both libraries reported on their recent activities and progress on each theme.

October 14, 2010: Tokyo Main Library

Session I	<p>Theme: Library services for people with disabilities using digital resources</p> <p>(1) “Library Service for people with disabilities using digital resources at the National Library of Korea”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Jang Bo-seong (Librarian, National Library Support Center for the Disabled, NLK) <p>(2) “Background of amendment of the Copyright Act to provide information for people with disabilities and measures taken by libraries in Japan”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Ryoichi Minami (Assistant Director, Library Support Division, Kansai-kan)
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	of the NDL)
Session II	<p>Theme: Current status and challenges in automatic translation between Japanese and Korean</p> <p>(1) “Current status and challenges in automatic translation between Korean and Japanese —ensuring interoperability of MDR-based metadata—”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Park Jin-ho (Senior Researcher, National Digital Library of Korea) <p>(2) “Current status and challenges of NDL Search and automatic translation between Japanese and Korean”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Masaki Nakayama (Director, Information System Division, Administrative Department, NDL)

Concurrently, there was also a session between the representatives from the children’s service branches of the respective libraries.

October 14, 2010: International Library of Children’s Literature

Session of Children’s library	<p>Theme: Progress of the past year: focused on services providing information for children</p> <p>(1) “Progress of the National Library for Children & Young Adults in the past year” “Active service for children through enlivenment of website”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cho Jae-hak (Librarian, Library Service Division, National Library for Children & Young Adults) <p>(2) “Progress of the past year” “Providing information for children”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mariyo Igarashi (Librarian, Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children’s Literature)
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After these session meetings, all of the delegation visited the National Diet (Japanese Parliament) including the Detached Library in the Diet building, and the International Library of Children’s Literature. Three of the delegation also visited the Keio University Library and the Japan Braille Library. Ms. Cho, delegate from the National Library for Children & Young Adults visited Tokyo Children’s Library and Shinjuku Children’s library.

In the latter part of the program, the delegation visited the Kansai-kan of the NDL, and had a practical meeting titled “Information sharing on the acquisition, preservation and provision of e-books.” The whole program concluded with a Closing Session and the two libraries agreed to proceed with future cooperation.



The 29th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China



Opening Session

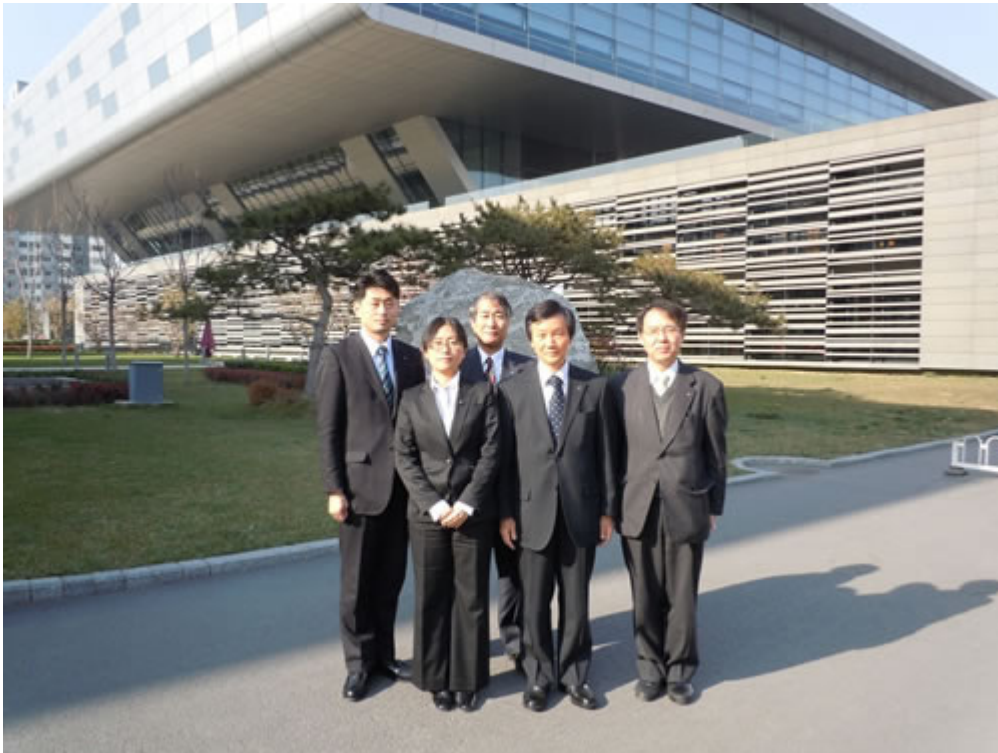
The 29th mutual visit program of the National Diet Library (NDL) and the [National Library of China](#) (NLC) was held in Beijing from November 23 to 30, 2010. Headed by Mr. Hirofumi Yamaguchi, Senior Specialist, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau of the NDL, the delegation consisted of the following other four members: Mr. Kazuto Yamaguchi, Specialist, Interdisciplinary Research Service, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, Mr. Kazuharu Honda, Director, Electronic Information Services Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, Mr. Yoshihiko Tanaka, Senior Researcher, Politics and Parliamentary Affairs Research Service, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau and Ms. Tomoko Kato, Domestic Materials Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department (interpreter).

The theme of this year's program was "Research and reference service of national libraries for legislative and administrative bodies."

- "Purpose of establishment of the National Diet Library and

<p>Opening Session (Keynote speech)</p> <p>November 24, 2010</p>	<p>development of the service for the Diet”</p> <p>Mr. Hirofumi Yamaguchi (Senior Specialist, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, NDL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Construction and management of the legislative reference service system at the National Library of China” <p>Ms. Lu Haiyan (Director, Legislative Reference Service Department, NLC)</p>
<p>Session meeting I</p> <p>November 24, 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Organization and staff for the service for the Diet and research and information service at the National Diet Library” <p>Mr. Kazuto Yamaguchi (Specialist, Interdisciplinary Research Service, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, NDL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Contents and characteristics of the legislative reference service conducted by the National Library of China for the national government” <p>Ms. Zhang Shuguang (Senior Reference Librarian, NPC and CPPCC Services Section, Legislative Reference Service Department, NLC)</p>
<p>Session meeting II</p> <p>November 25, 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Electronic information service for the Diet at the National Diet Library” <p>Mr. Kazuharu Honda (Director, Electronic Information Services Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, NDL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Innovation and development of the legislative reference service of the National Library of China in the digital environment” <p>Mr. Bai Yunfeng (Law Librarian, Legislative Reference Service Department, NLC)</p>

In each session, detailed presentations were made on the system, organization, operation and digital information services related to the legislative support service of both libraries, and questions and answers were actively exchanged.



NDL delegation in front of the NLC building

In the latter part of the program, the delegation received explanations about the services of the Library and the Information Center of the National People's Congress, and visited the NLC Branch at the Central Institute of Socialism, the National Science Library, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Science in terms of information services for the government body. They also visited the Shanghai Academy of Social Science to have a briefing on the support service for the Shanghai city government.

Links

[▶Outline of the programs](#)

[▶Reports of past programs in the NDL
Newsletter](#)

[up](#)

◀ **BACK**

NEXT ▶

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 176, December 2010/February 2011



The 2nd Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library and the National Assembly Research Service of Korea

The second mutual visit program with the [National Assembly Library](#) (NAL) and the [National Assembly Research Service](#) (NARS) of Korea was held from December 6 to 10, 2010, in Seoul. Two of the staff members of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau of the NDL, Mr. Ken'ichi Terakura (Director, Education, Culture, Science and Technology Division), and Mr. Natsuto Fujiwara (Researcher, Overseas Legislative Information Division) visited the NAL and the NARS for this year's program.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Paper Session with NAL: Foreign legal information services to the parliament

- NDL report by Mr. Natsuto Fujiwara
- NAL report by Ms. Namhee Kim, Deputy Director of the Law Information Division, Parliamentary Information Office

Mr. Fujiwara introduced the overseas legislative information service provided to the Diet by the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau. Ms. Kim gave an outline of the law information service and network construction with external institutions, including the establishment and opening of the Law Library Advisory Committee.

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Paper Session with NARS: Issues of policy and legislation on the costs of higher education

- NDL report by Mr. Ken'ichi Terakura
- NAL report by Dr. Hwankyung, Chung, Legislative Researcher, Education and Science Team

Mr. Terakura reported on the current situation of higher education in Japan, the burden of education costs on households, issues of the scholarship system and the relation between a family's financial situation and the education gap. Dr. Chung reported on the background of the increasing burden of the expense of higher education in Korea, a law amendment to hold down the increase in university tuition fees and the introduction of an income-based repayment scheme for student loans. The education gap in primary and secondary education, and involvement of the Korean Taxation Bureau in the student loan system to ascertain the income amount of borrowers so as to assure pay

back was also discussed in the question and answer session.



Mr. Terakura and Mr. Fujiwara at the National Assembly

The two NDL delegates paid a courtesy call on Dr. Jaeil Yoo, Chief Librarian of the NAL, and Mr. Ji Yeon Shim, Chief of the NARS, and exchanged information and opinions with several divisions of NAL and NARS. During their stay, they also visited KOCCA (Korea Creative Content Agency), National Museum of Korea, National Assembly, Blue House and the Seoul National University.

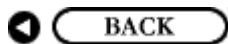
Regarding future programs, it was confirmed that the cooperation will be continued.

[▶Reports of past programs in the NDL Newsletter](#)

[up](#)

◀ **BACK**

NEXT ▶



To collect online publications

Report of the Legal Deposit System Council

“Concept of the acquisition system for online publications”

Acquisitions Administration and Bibliographic Control Division,
Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This article is based on the article in Japanese of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 592 (July 2010).

Contents

1. [Discussion and report by the Legal Deposit System Research Council](#)
2. [Discussion and report by the Legal Deposit System Council](#)
3. [Legislation for collecting Internet information](#)
4. [Latest consultation with the Council and their discussions](#)

<[Outline of the report of the Legal Deposit System Council “Concept of the Acquisition System for Online Publications”](#)>

The National Diet Library (NDL) collects publications issued in Japan based on the legal deposit system. For the sake of improvement and proper operation of the system, the Legal Deposit System Council consisting of external experts is set up as an advisory organization for the Librarian of the NDL.

On June 7, 2010, at its 19th meeting, the Council compiled a report that e-books and e-magazines and journals provided on the Internet by the private sector should be collected by the NDL. This article outlines the background and the contents of the report.

[up](#)

1. Discussion and report by the Legal Deposit System Research Council

The deposit of electronic publications to the NDL was first discussed by the Legal Deposit System Research Council, predecessor of the present Legal Deposit System Council. In February 1999, the Council submitted a report about the optimal legal deposit system for the 21st century. Based on this report, “offline electronic publications” including CD-ROMs started to be covered by the legal

deposit system from 2000. The report said, however, “networked electronic publications,” which have no physical form, should be excluded from the system and among that kind of publications, those as useful as the conventional publications should be collected through agreements or by other means. Later, since April 2002, the NDL launched a project to collect Internet resources selectively according to individual agreements.

2. Discussion and report by the Legal Deposit System Council

After that, the amount of information on the Internet saw a tremendous increase. The NDL determined that in order to collect and preserve this information efficiently it was necessary to reexamine the matter with a view to constructing a new system, and in March 2002 consulted the Council as to the “possibility to cover networked electronic publications issued in Japan by the legal deposit system.” Along with this, the library asked the Council to examine and discuss the scope of publications and the acquisition method, in case they are not to be covered by the legal deposit system.

On December 9, 2004, the report of the Council [“Concept of the acquisition system for networked electronic publications”](#) was submitted after examination and discussion in the two subcommittees of the Council. The report said that it was appropriate not to include networked electronic publications in the legal deposit system, because it was difficult to fit them to the basic requirements of the legal deposit system: obligation of publishers to make their publications reach the NDL; exhaustiveness of collection without any selection by contents; imposition of deposit on publishers.

On that basis, the Council presented the scope and method of acquisition, copyright, compensation for loss and other issues when networked electronic publications are collected through a system other than legal deposit. It was recommended for the NDL to draw up a plan according to the report but at its own discretion and to implement it in stages by securing necessary resources, paying attention at the same time to the issue of free speech on the networks, that is, a possible chilling effect on it.

[.Related article: Report of the Legal Deposit System Council -- Optimal Acquisition System for “Networked” Electronic Publications \(NDL Newsletter, No. 143, June 2005\)](#)

[.Explanation of the NDL website including the whole text of the report](#)

[up](#)

3. Legislation for collecting Internet information

The NDL started to design a system according to the report and conducted hearings with the general public, associations of right holders, and others. However,

it failed to gain the understanding about collection of Internet information of private sector and individuals. Therefore, it sought the understanding of related institutions about its policy to collect Internet information of public institutions such as departments of central and local governments, independent administrative agencies and others. In 2009 the National Diet Library Law was amended and the collection of the Internet information provided by public institutions started in April 2010.

4. Latest consultation with the Council and their discussions

While on the network there are many publications which are not issued and distributed by public institutions, there is no system for the NDL to collect them. Therefore, on October 13, 2009, the Librarian of the NDL, Makoto Nagao, consulted with the chairman of the Legal Deposit System Council at its 17th meeting as to the “optimal system for collecting information equivalent to the items mentioned in Paragraph 1, Article 24 of the National Diet Library Law such as books and serials, out of information made available on the Internet by private persons stipulated in Article 25 of the same law.”

While the collection of the Internet information of public institutions launched in FY2010 with the amendment of the National Diet Library Law targets all the information available on the Internet, this consultation aims to ask for an appropriate system for collecting information equivalent to conventional books and periodicals, defining them as “online publications” by making a clear distinction from other kinds of information such as websites.

For the purpose of examination and discussions for this consultation, a Subcommittee on the Acquisition of Online Publications was established under the Legal Deposit System Council. After having three meetings, the subcommittee presented its report “Interim report about acquisition of online publications” at the 18th Council meeting on March 22, 2010.

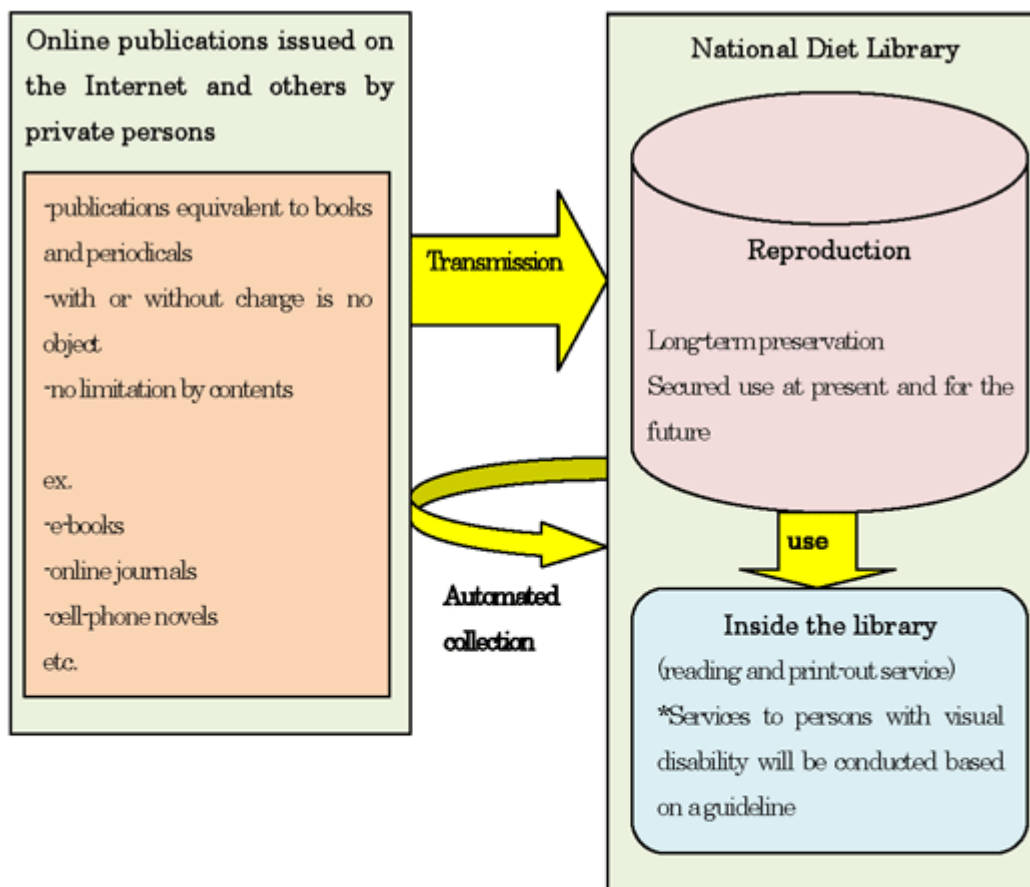
At the 19th meeting, based on the interim report of the subcommittee, the Council unanimously approved its report, which was submitted to the Librarian Dr. Nagao on the same day.

The report recommends that the NDL collect online publications such as e-books and e-magazines and journals, that is, items equivalent to conventional books and periodicals, among networked electronic publications provided by the private sector, through a system other than the legal deposit system. Please see [the outline of the report](#) in this article.

*The whole text (in Japanese) of the report is available on the NDL website [PDF, about 1MB]: http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/data/s_toushin_5.pdf

[up](#)

Image of systematic collection of online publications



Collection issues to be addressed

- compensation for transmission cost
- format of files to be collected
- unlocking measures for protecting copyright etc.

Purpose of collection	Accumulation and utility of cultural goods (same as the deposit of publications issued by the private sector)
Who will transmit	Private persons: not public institutions such as national and local government, national and public universities
What will be collected	Information available on the Internet etc. which is equivalent to books and periodicals, such as e-books and e-magazines (other information on the web, blogs and Twitter, broadcast programs, delivery of video and music not included)
How to collect	Mainly by transmission
Format	Long-term preservation is needed for the future use
Restriction on copyright	Restriction on the right of reproduction etc. is needed

Compensation for loss	Cost for process of transmission is considered as expenses usually required for the deposit of the publication
Ensuring fulfillment of obligation	It is appropriate not to set any penalty
Provision to users (envisioned)	Provision inside the library (reading and print-out)

[up](#)

< Outline of the report of the Legal Deposit System Council “Concept of the Acquisition System for Online Publications” >

1. Definition of Online Publications

The online publications herein are defined as “information available via the Internet etc. and equivalent to books and periodicals”; information equivalent to books and periodicals refers to a similar concept since this information is not tangible. In relation to the reasons for the consultation, the online publications examined hereafter are publications which are issued via the Internet etc. through the same editorial process as in conventional publications, that is, different types of publications from web information or broadcast programs.

2. Scope of the Online Publications to be Acquired

(1) Distinction between Online Publications and Other Materials

Online publications are distinguishable to a certain degree from other “networked electronic publications” such as web information or broadcast programs for the following reasons: they differ from tangible materials in the way that the National Diet Library (NDL) collects them by recording on recording media; not included in Internet resources offered by public institutions such as national government agencies, which the Library can collect under the amended National Diet Library Law since April 2010; limited to “information equivalent to books and periodicals.”

For acquisition, some actions should be taken such as drawing up a guideline showing typical examples of online publications.

(2) Online Publications and Printed Publications

Acquirable materials are not restricted to publications which are issued only online, considering the burden of confirming if the material has a paper version, and of investigating if the online material has different contents from its paper version.

(3) Significance of Price

Online publications should be collected whether with or without charge, pursuant to the Library’s acquisition purpose: “to contribute to the accumulation and utility of cultural goods” stipulated in Article 25 of the National Diet Library Law.

(4) Existence of the “Editorial Process”

Although there are online publications which go through quite different editorial processes from paper publications, it is reasonable to select online publications to collect by the criterion of whether they went “through the same editorial process as in conventional publications” or not.

(5) Databases and Variable Publications

Regarding databases, each content itself can be an object of acquisition, but database systems are not. Neither are variable publications, in which data are frequently updated or changed, since they are extremely simple compared with printed publications.

[up](#)

3. Acquisition Objects

(1) Publisher / Place of Publication

Online publications transmitted from a sender living or located in Japan can be collected. Those collected with the automatic collection software the NDL uses, or harvested by the web crawler, should have their server to be reproduced in Japan.

At the present time, online publications are mainly distributed via the Internet; however the technology in this area is developing so rapidly that it is not appropriate to restrict their circulation route to the Internet.

(2) External Definition

Generally, books and periodicals have their own bibliographic data such as title, authors, published date etc., which enable us to identify them as independent units. The existence of these data can be a criterion of selection.

(3) Restriction by Contents

The idea in the Legal Deposit System that the NDL should collect all materials without judging their value or making a selection based on the contents should be continued.

(4) Minimum Unit of the Materials to be Acquired

Online publications can be published as an independent unit, for example one chapter of a book or each article of periodicals. Each of those can be an object of acquisition. However, if the complete version is obviously collectable, partial information should be excluded from the scope of the acquisition.

(5) Best Edition in Online Publications

Online publications having the same externals such as date of creation or data volume would be the same version, and the first registered can be regarded as the best edition. If not, however, they generally must be viewed as different works which should be collected individually.

[up](#)

4. Acquisition of Online Publications

(1) Harvesting by Web Crawler and Sending

Online publications can be collected mainly by transmission from the information sender, and if technically possible, harvested automatically by the web crawler.

(2) Persons under Obligation

The person under obligation concerning acquisition of online publications should be a person who makes the online publications available to the public via the Internet etc.

(3) Formats of Online Publications

There are two possible cases when collecting by transmission from the sender: transmission in distributed format; transmission in some standard format after conversion. In order to preserve the integrity of a publication, it is important to transmit it in the same format as when published; from the perspective of use and long-term preservation of online publications, on the other hand, there is a possible way that the sender converts and transmits them in the standard format designated by the NDL. If harvesting by the web crawler, the NDL should, in principle, collect online publications by reproducing them exactly as they are on a server.

(4) Metadata Assignment

It is desirable to assign appropriate metadata to online publications for identification, use, search, preservation and management.

5. Envisaged Use

(1) Use inside the Library Facility

Inside the facility, the online publications are basically envisaged to be used in the same way as the tangible library materials. There ought to be restrictions on the number of people who can simultaneously access the identical content.

(2) Use of Text Data by Persons with Visual Disabilities

The NDL should make a comfortable environment where persons with visual disabilities can use the online publications pursuant to the “Guideline on reproduction of works based on Paragraph 3, Article 37 of the Copyright Law in the library services for persons with disabilities.”

(3) Issues relating to the Copyright Law and Others

When recording on recording media, restricting the right of reproduction under the law would be needed. In addition, it would be necessary to examine the relationship to other regulations of the Copyright Law and the Unfair Competition Prevention Law.

[up](#)

6. Compensation for Acquisition and Use

(1) “Compensation”

It is difficult to apply mutatis mutandis the idea of “compensation” for “expenses

for the issue” to online publications since they do not have the process of “printing and binding” nor the concept of “circulation figure.”

(2) Economic Losses Incurred Due to Use

In the manner of use of tangible library materials, such as reading, reproduction and inter-library loan, compensation for economic losses is not required, and likewise not for the online publications as long as they are used in the manner referred to in “5. Envisaged Use” since the degree of the economic losses would be extremely slight.

(3) Expenses for Procedure Pertaining to Deposit

In case of acquisition by transmission, the expenses needed for format conversion, cancellation of digital rights management (DRM) protection, creation of metadata and procedure for transmission appear to be equivalent to “the expenses usually required for the deposit” stipulated in Paragraph 3, Article 25 of the NDL Law.

7. Concluding Comments

The NDL, which preserves and accumulates cultural assets, needs to gradually and steadily work on collecting these online publications as part of its mission, even when the resources are limited.

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 176, December 2010/February 2011



NDL Statistics FY2009

– NDL in figures – excerpts from the Annual Report of the NDL

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 595 (October 2010).



The following figures show the main statistics of the NDL activities, services and organization, excerpted from the [Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY2009](#) (Japanese only).

These are some important figures on the NDL (as of March 31, 2010).

Contents

- [Personnel, Finances and Facilities](#)
- [Acquisition, cataloging and preservation](#)
- [Services available on the NDL website](#)
- [Services for the National Diet](#)
- [Services for the executive and judicial branches](#)
- [Services for the public](#)

Personnel, Finances and Facilities

- Cost of acquiring materials: about 2,590 million yen
- of which compensation for publications deposit: about 390 million yen

- Total budget and settlement of accounts
- Budget: about 37.028 billion yen
- Settlement of accounts: about 23.546 billion yen
- The money was used for payroll, running expenses, improvement of facilities such as stacks to accommodate increasing materials in addition to acquisition of library materials.

- Number of staff: **898** (male **50%**, female **50%**)
- Proportion of women in Senior Specialist and managerial posts is **33%**.

- Total area of reading rooms: **24,837m²**
- Tokyo Main Library: **18,983m²**
- Detached Library in the Diet: **562m²**
- Kansai-kan of the NDL: **4,265m²**
- ILCL (International Library of Children's Literature): **1,027m²**
- The Tokyo Main Library has [nine Special Materials Rooms and six Reading Rooms](#).

[up](#)

Acquisition, cataloging and preservation

- Number of materials newly acquired in FY2009: 1,015,457 items
- Books: **228,720** volumes
- Periodicals and newspapers: **628,886** items
- Non-book materials: **157,851** items

- Microfilms and microfiches: **63,718**
- Visual materials: **10,982**
- Recorded materials: **15,217**
- Machine-readable materials (CDs, DVDs, etc.): **10,088**
- Maps: **9,094**
- Doctoral dissertations: **17,982**
- Manuscripts: **19,712**
- Braille resources and large print editions: **1,019**
- etc..

- Websites ([WARP](#)): **2,228** titles
- In addition to books and periodicals, we collect materials of other kinds. Since FY2002, we have also been collecting Internet information including websites of public institutions and events.

- [International exchange](#)
- Acquisition
 - Books and non-book materials: **12,582** items
 - Periodicals: **2,286** titles
- Delivery
 - Books and non-book materials: **31,447** items
 - Periodicals: **10,362** titles
- In accordance with two conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), we exchange publications with 967 institutions in 158 nations and two regions, and 34 international organizations.
- Media conversion
 - Digitization: **156,955** volumes
 - Microfilming: **1,368** items
- We convert media by digitization and other methods and serve them to users in place of originals so that we can prevent original materials from deteriorating.
- Cataloging: 1,118,903 data
 - Books: **216,827**
 - Periodicals and newspapers: **3,762**
 - Non-book materials: **484,597**
 - Japanese Periodicals Index: **413,717**
 - We create bibliographic data such as titles, author names, etc. and location information, publish [Japanese National Bibliography Weekly List](#) (Japanese only) and make them available on our website.
- Data updating of periodicals and newspapers (title change etc.): **51,279**
- Collections: 36,617,299 items
 - Books: **9,496,680** volumes
 - Periodicals and newspapers: **13,701,333** items
 - Non-book materials: **13,419,286** items
 - Microforms: **8,805,034**
 - Visual materials: **259,604**
 - Recorded materials: **647,177**

- Machine-readable materials (CDs, DVDs, etc.): **96,061**
 - Maps: **534,486**
 - Doctoral dissertations: **524,794**
 - Manuscripts: **314,765**
 - Braille resources and large print editions: **30,323**
 - etc.....
 - We collect these materials by various methods such as [legal deposit](#), purchase, donation and exchange.
-
- The number of items by facility is as follows:
 - Tokyo Main Library: **24,437,308** items
 - Kansai-kan of the NDL: **10,990,497** items
 - ILCL: **470,855** items
-
- Websites (WARP): **22,002** titles

[up](#)

Services available on NDL website

- Bibliographic data searchable on the [NDL-OPAC](#) and [NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC](#): 10,691,597 records
 - Japanese Periodicals Index: 9,737,091 articles
 - NDL-OPAC is the National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog.
-
- Titles available on the [Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#): 108,224 titles (155,871 volumes)
 - Provides digitized images of books from the NDL collection which were published in the Meiji (1868–1912) and Taisho (1912–1926) eras.
-
- Number of accesses to our website: 29,442,241 (80,664 per day)
 - Online catalogs, various databases such as Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet, and search guides which help you find information are available via the NDL website.
-
- Bibliographic data searchable on the [Union Catalog of Children's Literature](#): 791,884 records
 - Number of newly added titles: **40,036**
 - Provides holding data and specialized information (synopsis, bibliographic notes and prize information) by participation of major related institutions in Japan.

- Bibliographic data searchable on the [National Union Catalog Network System](#): 41,959,255 records
- Number of member libraries: **1,110**
- Provides data of Japanese books held by NDL, prefectural libraries and major municipal libraries in Japan.

[up](#)

[Services for the National Diet](#)

- Research on request: 41,877 cases
- Based on requests for research by the Diet members and others, we conduct research on national issues and domestic and foreign affairs, analysis and evaluation of legislative bills.
- Related article: [Services for the National Diet – providing legislative support](#)

[up](#)

[Services for the executive and judicial branches](#)

- Loan services: 10,580 items
- Based on the Branch Libraries System, there are branch libraries of the NDL in the government ministries and agencies and the Supreme Court. We provide library services and exchange materials.
- Related article: [National Diet Library's network with libraries in the executive and judicial agencies: Branch Library System](#)

[up](#)

Services for the public

- On-site users: 663,504 people
- Tokyo Main Library: **473,927**
- Kansai-kan of the NDL: **62,207**
- ILCL: **127,370**
- The Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan both opened 279 days and the ILCL opened 285 days in FY2009.
- [Reference services](#): 530,604 cases
- Tokyo Main Library: **470,100**
- Kansai-kan of the NDL: **49,874**
- ILCL: **10,630**
- We provide services orally or by documents and telephone.

- Reading services: 2,595,663 items
 - Tokyo Main Library: **2,436,718**
 - Kansai-kan of the NDL: **118,365**
 - ILCL: **40,580**
 - Reading services requested on-site.
-
- Guided tours: 6,981 participants
 - Tokyo Main Library: **3,023**
 - Kansai-kan of the NDL: **1,745**
 - ILCL: **2,213**
 - To apply for guided tours, please see [tours of the Tokyo Main Library](#), [tours of the Kansai-kan](#) and [tours of the ILCL](#) (in Japanese).
-
- [Interlibrary loans](#): 28,181 items
 - Tokyo Main Library: **12,441**
 - Kansai-kan of the NDL: **5,540**
 - ILCL: **10,200**
 - Including interlibrary loans to other libraries, Book Sets Lending Service to School Libraries, loan services for exhibitions
-
- [Photoduplication requests from remote users](#): 258,403 cases
 - Tokyo Main Library: **142,825**
 - Kansai-kan of the NDL: **114,390**
 - ILCL: **1,188**
 - Photoduplication service available via the website and others without visiting the NDL.
-
- On-site photoduplication requests: 875,155 cases
 - Tokyo Main Library: **792,754**
 - Kansai-kan of the NDL: **74,396**
 - ILCL: **8,005**

*The statistics from FY2002 to FY2008 are available in [the past newsletter articles](#).

[up](#)



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 176, December 2010/February 2011



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. 598, January 2011 [[PDF Format, 3.43MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
 - Kintaro kurabirakie: Celebrating the New Year and praying for children’s success and health
- New Year’s talk with the Librarian of NDL
 - Mr. Kiichi Sumikawa, sculptor, Professor emeritus and advisor, Tokyo University of the Arts
 - Rediscover the Japanese power of culture
- Essay on languages (2) Representation and pronunciation
- World of early Japanese books
- <NDL NEWS>
 - 29th mutual visit program in the National Library of China [related article](#)
 - Annual meeting between the Librarian of NDL and the Directors of the Branch Libraries in the Executive and Judicial Branches of the Government FY2010
 - FY2010 meeting between the Librarian of NDL and directors of university libraries
 - Conference on bibliographic control FY2010
- <Announcements>
 - Children’s books also available on the Digital Library from the Meiji Era
 - Exhibition at the International Library of Children’s Literature “Japanese Children’s Literature: A History from the International Library of Children’s Literature Collections”
 - Results of the user questionnaire survey FY 2010 now available on the NDL website
 - Preservation and Conservation Training Program “How to handle and preserve microfilms and photographs in libraries and archives”
 - Book notice – publications from NDL

No. 597, December 2010 [[PDF Format, 3.97MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
 - L'Encyclopédie: A book that led to the French Revolution
- The Golden Age of the Picture Book: 1920s & 1930s – History's Message
- Go! Go! Web crawlers!: Web archiving system
- Open access to knowledge – promoting sustainable progress
- World Library and Information Congress: 76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
- Strolling in the forest of books (7) Snow – flowers blooming in winter
- <NDL NEWS>
 - 13th mutual visit program with the National Library of Korea [related article](#)
 - Support Plan for the Promotion of Children's Reading Activities 2010
- <Announcements>
 - JAPAN/MARC now available through OCLC
 - Lecture meeting on preservation and conservation in the British Library
 - Series: What's Happening with Children's Books in the World? (3)
 - What's Happening with Children's Books in Korea?
 - Cooperation forum for children's services FY2010
 - Reference training program FY2010
 - Book notice – publications from NDL

[up](#)

No. 596, November 2010 [[PDF Format, 4.05MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
 - Sekai tempuku kidan: A strange story that the world overturns
- Focus: 120th anniversary of the establishment of the Diet
 - Exhibition on parliamentary government commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diet [related article](#)
- Digital exhibition “Modern Japan in Archives”
 - Political History from the Opening of the Country to Post-war
- Current theories on the assassination of Sakamoto Ryoma
- <NDL NEWS>
 - Senators of the French Republic visited the NDL
 - International Policy Seminar “China's Global Strategy and Japan-China Relations”
- <Announcements>
 - Exhibition in the Kansai-kan “Toward the Meiji Constitutional System: Seen through the Handwritten Works of Prominent Figures”
 - Kaleidoscope of Books (5) “Welcome to the sky”

No. 595, October 2010 [[PDF Format, 3.07MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
 - Mitate banzuke: Ranking list of the Kyoko Yamanaka collection
- Strolling in the forest of books (Special version)
 - Nine books selected by Dr. Makoto Nagao, the Librarian of the NDL, for Book Week
- Meet the world by reading books: Book sets lending service to school libraries
- Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room
- The NDL in figures: From the Annual Report of the NDL, FY 2009 [related article](#)
- Libraries and reading in Germany and Europe [related article](#)
- <NDL NEWS>
 - 13th mutual visit program with the National Library of Korea [related article](#)
 - Support Plan for the Promotion of Children’s Reading Activities 2010
- <Announcements>
 - Library Fair & Forum 2010
 - Lecture “Picture Books of the 1920s: Their Message to Children”
 - Training program for librarians in charge of services for persons with disabilities 2010
 - Information for librarians now available on Twitter
 - Book notice – publications from NDL

[up](#)

