

No. 177, April 2011



Selections from NDL Collection

Aesthetics of Kabuki-za viewed through architectural designs – Okada Shinichiro, Shogoro kenchiku sekkei genzu shusei

Miho Hiyama

Book Service Division, Public Services Department

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 588 (March 2010).

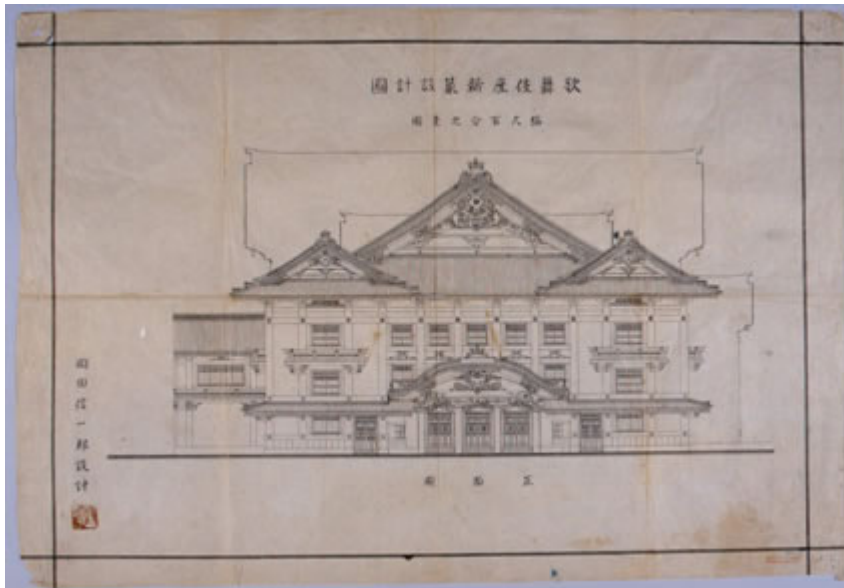


Fig.1: Elevation view

In April 2010, the rebuilding of the old Kabuki-za (theater for Kabuki) started. The National Diet Library (NDL) holds the original draft of the initial architecture (Fig.1). The present Kabuki-za which had originally been designed by architect Shinichiro Okada and completed in 1925, was renovated and rebuilt after the war in 1950. The original draft of the architecture owned by the NDL is that of 1925 and titled “Dai sanki Kabuki-za: Kyu Kabuki-za” (Third-stage Kabuki-za: Former Kabuki-za).



Fig.2: Aperture card

This corpus of original drafts of the architecture with 313 drawings of the Kabuki-za, excluding construction plans, is a collection of 9,859 original drafts of the architecture in 349 items drawn by the Okada brothers, Shinichiro and Shogoro, active architects from the Taisho to Showa periods. It was donated in 1980 by the NDL from Shogoro's family after his death. It is said that in 1953, Shogoro sat on a jury of the architectural draft competition of the new Nagatacho building (present Tokyo Main Building) of the NDL, which led to this donation. As it is rare to hold original drafts in a library and it was also the first time for the NDL, making catalogs and preservative operations were done under the direction of architecture experts. They were converted to microfilms in 2002, and are now provided to users in microfilms (aperture card, Fig.2). Shinichiro undertook much western style architecture, and was also known as a past master of Japanese concrete structure; so the collection includes drawings of Holy Resurrection Cathedral (usually called "Nicholai-do"), renovated in 1930, and the Meiji life insurance building, completed in 1935.



Fig.3: Details of the front door (partial)

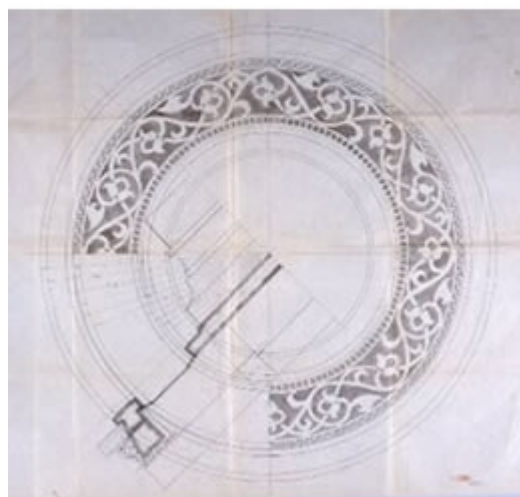


Fig 4: Full scale drawing of plinth

The original drafts were drawn on Mino-washi, Japanese paper, with black ink or pencil. Curves were drawn freehand. The magnificent Chinese cusped gable over the front door (Fig.3) and patterns on poles (Fig.4) were depicted elaborately, which shows Shinichiro's sense of beauty and meticulous attention to detail. Besides plinths, some full scale drawings of chairs, roof tiles and electric lamps are included in the collection. He also made a full scale drawing of the Chinese cusped gable over the front door and directed the construction.

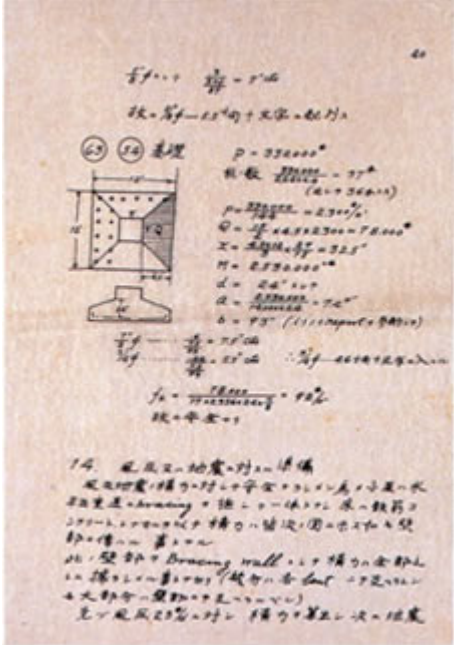


Fig. 5

Aside from the original drafts, calculation documents of the load bearing ability of the structure such as poles and foundations was left as “Kabuki-za tekkotsu tekkin kozo keikakusho” (Fig. 5), which shows that allowance were made for wind pressure and earthquakes. During construction, the Kabuki-za was hit by the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, and materials caught fire, the roof burned away and building operations were suspended. However, as the shell built with concrete was not significantly damaged, they were able to carry on with the construction.

The Kabuki-za was mostly destroyed except part of the front entrance and exterior wall of the ground floor in the Great Tokyo Air Raids in 1945. The rebuilding was commissioned to Isoya Yoshida, professor of the Tokyo Fine Arts School, in accordance with a desire to use the part which had remained after the fire and keep the surface as before. For this reason, the design by Shinichiro which adapted the opulent style of the Momoyama period (late 16th century) can be partially seen on the current exterior. As still-used buildings designed by Shinichiro are decreasing, it would be worth visiting the Kabuki-za before rebuilding to sear its image into your eyes..

Note: This article was written before the rebuilding started. Now, the new Kabuki-za is under construction.

As of April 2011, this article's author is in the Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children's Literature.

“Kabuki-za zumen”, by Okada Shinichiro, about 1921
(Okada Shinichiro, Shogoro kenchiku sekkei genzu shusei)
NDL Call number: VC12-23

ref.:

Kabuki-za hyakunenshi. Hombunhen, supervised by Takeomi Nagayama, Shochiku, 1993

Kabuki-za, ed. Kabuki-za Shuppambu, 1951

Mitsuo Okawa, Kindai nihon no ishoku kenchikuka (14) yoshikibi ni susunde junjita kisai

Okada Shinichiro, Kagaku Asahi, vol 43 (2), 1983.2, pp. 123-126

[up](#)

NEXT 



Japan Specialist Workshop: Access to the culture and the society of contemporary Japan 2011



Trainees with Dr. Nagao, the Librarian (center),
and Mr. Yoshinaga, the Deputy Librarian (center left)

The National Diet Library (NDL) jointly hosted the Japan Specialist Workshop: Access to the culture and the society of contemporary Japan 2011 with the International House of Japan (IHJ) in Tokyo February 14–21. Nine trainees joined from eight countries: Australia, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States. The program consisted of classroom lectures (Feb. 14–16, 21), research visits to libraries, archives, museums and other academic institutions, and a debriefing session on the research visits.

It is a revised version of the training program for Japanese specialist librarians which had been run jointly with Japan Foundation between 2002 and 2007. Unlike the older one, the new program is intended for researchers of Japanese studies along with librarians and is meant to be a 3-year span project; one-week training program to improve information search in the field of social science was provided in the first year,

to be followed by a similar one in humanities next year. In the third year, there is to be a symposium to report on the post-training activities of the participants.

The contents of the program were as follows:

Date	Subject
February 14	Orientation Recent trend of Japanese studies Courtesy call on the Librarian of the NDL Reception
February 15	Introductory guide to social science research: primary tools and methodology Legal research tools and methodology
February 16	Economic research tools and methodology Social science research tools and methodology Political / Administrative research tools and methodology
February 17	Research visit to libraries, archives, museums and other academic institutions
February 18	Research visits to libraries, archives, museums and other academic institutions
February 19	Debriefing session on the research visits
February 20	A day off
February 21	Social science and the internet in Japan Opinion exchange on the 2011–12 training program Awarding certificates

[up](#)





Lecture on preservation and conservation by Ms. Deborah Novotny



Ms. Deborah Novotny

On February 15 and 17, 2011, a two-day open lecture on preservation and conservation by Ms. Deborah Novotny, Head of Collection Care at the British Library (BL), was held in the Tokyo Main Library. She delivered stimulating talks in front of an audience of over one hundred on both days, introducing an overview of the activities at the BL's Collection Care department.

Before joining the BL, Ms. Novotny worked in the private sector as a bookbinder and launched her own business where she initially managed the Print Books Conservation studio. With her broad and professional experiences of over thirty years, she has lectured both nationally and internationally on preservation related topics.

In summarizing her career, Ms. Novotny has said 'The role of Collection Care is fundamental to the changing needs of the BL and is currently undergoing a major internal transformation mainly as a consequence of the expanding digital agenda. I see my role as creating and steering the new policies needed to maintain and safeguard our ever-growing collections as well as making sure that we develop new expertise and have the right mix of skills in place to be able to address these emerging issues whilst also ensuring that more traditional skills are not overlooked.'

For the content of lectures at the NDL, please refer to the transcripts and slides below:

Lecture 1 (February 15)

“Preservation and Conservation Activities at the British Library: from original to digital”

- [Transcript of the lecture](#) [PDF Format, 170KB]
- [Slides \(Part1\)](#) [PDF Format, 1.93MB]
- [Slides \(Part2\)](#) [PDF Format, 988KB]

Lecture 2 (February 17)

“Stack Management and storage environment at the British Library”

- [Transcript of the lecture](#) [PDF Format, 196KB]
- [Slides \(Part1\)](#) [PDF Format, 983KB]
- [Slides \(Part2\)](#) [PDF Format, 982KB]
- [Slides \(Part3\)](#) [PDF Format, 972KB]

Note: Red numbers in transcripts correspond to slide numbers.

[up](#)





Recent developments in services for the Diet (Parliament): Comparison with 2001 by SWOT analysis

Michiyo TAKEDA

Senior Specialist

Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

This is the paper presented at the International Symposium, "Fundamental to Democracy: Parliamentary research and library services" in Canberra, Australia, in March 2011. Presentation file of this article: [PDF2.1MB](#)

Introduction

The National Diet Library (NDL), provides Members of Parliament with legislative support services, together with the Secretariats and the Legislative Bureaus of both Houses. The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau which I will call the Bureau from now on, is a department of the NDL which is in charge of research services for the Diet. It has already achieved good results in applying new technology to its services and products.

I made a presentation titled "Challenges and opportunities to deliver research services to parliamentarians in the Japanese Diet" in the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliament, at the IFLA Conference in Boston 2001. Ten years have passed and I would now like to review how the situation has changed or not. I explained the topic using SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat) analysis in 2001, so I will make this presentation using the same method.

Strength

I mentioned four points as Strengths in 2001. They were Collection, Timely and Appropriate Response, NDL Databases, and Status. With regard to the collection and database, the situations have continued to strengthen. The collection increased and the archiving of websites of governmental organizations began. They serve as the major resource for the research activities.

The researchers of the Bureau are successfully answering inquiries from the Committees and Diet Members in the same manner as in 2001.

Only the status (salary) of the Librarian became low as a result of the streamlining of the Secretariats of both Houses in 2005. This was a part of the Diet Reform discussion, and the number of the staff and their salaries became the target of criticism.

Weakness

I mentioned three points as Weaknesses in 2001. They are Resource Constraint, Staff Recruitment and Turnover, and Physical Location. Concerning the staff members, the situation is almost the same. While the number of personnel in the Bureau increased from 160 to 190, the number of inquiries is increasing much more from 30,000 to over 40,000. Frequent personnel changes are still going on, but the Bureau has formulated a career path model and is now trying to develop capable researchers.

Concerning the Physical Location, the situation is the same, but the Detached Library in the Diet building became part of the Bureau as a result of reorganizations of the NDL since 2007. The Detached Library has been strengthening its function as the Diet Members' information center and as the forefront of the Bureau. The facility is used as the site of various events for Diet Members and their staff, including policy seminars.

Opportunity

I mentioned three points in 2001. They are Change and Reform, Commitment to Policy-making process, and Technology. Concerning Change and Reform, the discussion of the Diet reform still continues, but is not so active as before. Among the issues of the Diet reform, the downsizing of the staff and organizations has become a matter of priority because of the financial crisis in the 2000s.

With regard to commitment to the Policy-making Process, the number of Member-sponsored bills has maintained a certain percentage during 2000s, but deliberations in the Committees are inactive. Only Technology has made remarkable progress since 2001. The number of NDL Databases of Diet information has been increasing and more are open to the public. The other legislative support organizations are also developing their databases and websites. The problem is that each legislative support organization provides its information independently, not integrated with the others.

Threat

I mentioned two threats in 2001, that is, Beyond the Internet, and Downsizing and Competition. Both threats are increasing more than before. There has been a deluge of information through the Internet since the 2000s. Researchers should not only catch up with its progress but need also to examine the quality and accuracy of information more seriously.

Downsizing pressure is still continuing and the number of the staff of the NDL has decreased from 940 to 890 in the five years since FY 2006. Legislative support organizations of both Houses are developing their services independently in order to differentiate themselves.

The Challenge for the Future

In 2001, I concluded that the challenge for the Japanese Research Services is to maintain recognition of the value of their independent services and improve cooperation with other support services of the Diet to attain the necessary efficiency. The challenge is still going on, but because of the downsizing threat, each legislative support organization seems to keep its advantages from the others, instead of them all walking in cooperation.

The Bureau adopted a new strategic plan for services in 2010. Primary aims are as follows:

- 1)–To play the role of the brains for Diet Members as well as the information center for them,
- 2)–To connect the Diet to the public in cooperation with the Secretariats of both Houses and other research organizations,
- 3)–To acquire and develop researchers, and to prepare infrastructure that will enable 1) and 2) to be realized.

Among these aims, No.2 is a new strategy for us. A Parliament is fundamental to democracy. Through the enormous progress of technology in these past ten years, we can connect the parliament with the public more easily and directly. In this situation, it is important for us to strengthen research services for Diet Members, and in addition to this, it is also important to let the public understand the Diet and its functions. Connecting the Diet with the public might be one of the next themes of our research services.

[up](#)



World of early Japanese books

[Yumiko Mashima](#)

This article is based on the article in Japanese of the same title in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 598 (January 2011).



寛永行幸記

Kan'ei gyoko ki (record of a royal visit in the Kan'ei era)

NDL call number: WA7-257

Printed in the Kan'ei era (1624–1644)

Picture scroll of the old movable-type edition (kokatsuji-ban). The same court nobles and palanquins reappear several times, indicating the illustrations are also printed as the characters are.

You can view this material in the Online Gallery:

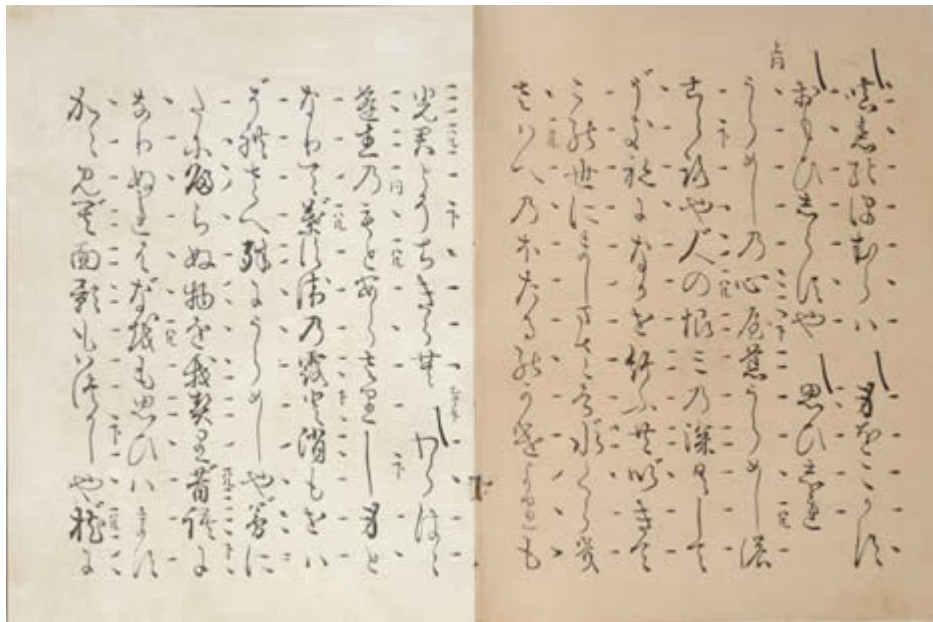
▶ [Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –](#)

1. Early Japanese books as cultural heritage

In this article, “early Japanese books (kotenseki)” is a generic term used to refer to books and documents issued and produced in and before the Edo era (1603–1868). There is a distinction between “manuscripts (shahon)” and “printed books (kanpon).” Manuscripts are handwritten with a brush, and an important point is by whom and in which period it was written. Among them, “autographs (jihitsu-bon)” and “old manuscripts (koshahon)” are especially valued. Autographs are written

directly by a master of a certain field, for which the personality of the writer adds extra glamour to the document itself. “Old manuscripts” means transcriptions made in and before the Muromachi era (1336–1573) which are of academic value. As Japan has a long cultural tradition and our ancestors valued books, many old manuscripts produced hundreds years ago have been handed down. Although this does not seem well known, it is said that Japan has no equal in keeping a wealth of old manuscripts, which makes us feel proud.

[up](#)



観世流謡曲嵯峨本『謡本』

Utai bon (book of Noh songs)

<Kanze-ryu yokyoku sagabon>

NDL call number: WA7-256

Printed in the Keicho era (1596–1615)

Above is the volume of “Aoi no ue” from the 101 volumes of this title. It is said that this is one of the most beautiful books in the world.

You can view this material in the Online Gallery:

▶ [Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –](#)

Classics of Japanese literature such as “Nihon shoki,” “Man’yoshu,” “Genji Monogatari” and “Ise Monogatari” have come down for a long period since their birth, copied out by hand again and again. As a result, various versions of old

manuscripts of 700 to 800 years ago remain today, designated as national treasures and important cultural properties. It was in the early Edo era, at the beginning of the 17th century, that these classics were printed and published for the first time. That was a period of transition from manuscripts to printed books. At the time book pages were set up in wooden movable type to be printed. This kind of printing is called “old movable-type printed books (kokatsuji-ban),” making a distinction from the Western style printing introduced in and after the Meiji era (1868–1912). While manuscripts took time to make even one copy, with the birth of printed books, which can be reproduced in multiple copies, many people came to be able to read the same book at the same time. Classical poems (waka) and phrases of old tales became almost standardized around this time. Old movable-type printed books comprise extremely important groups of books from the viewpoint of cultural history, but their age ended only about fifty years later. It is said that one of the reasons for their decline was that reprinting, which needed setting up the types again, took too much time to catch up with the increasing number of readers.



論語

Rongo (analects of Confucius)

NDL call number: WA6-90

Printed around 1533–1550 (estimated) with blocks engraved in 1533,

There is a note written by Kiyohara Nobukata (1475–1550), court noble and scholar, at the end of the book (photo on the left).

You can view this material in the Online Gallery:

► [Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –](#)

[up](#)

Since then, for about 200 years of the Edo era, numerous books in a variety of fields including literature, art, history, medicine, science, were published by engraving characters and pictures on a “printing block,” a wooden board. In the 18th century, highly developed skills of experienced engravers and printers and an exquisite and sophisticated aesthetic sense unique to Japan, blessed as it was with

four beautiful seasons merged together to produce brilliant and elaborate multi-colored printing: “nishiki-e (colored woodblock prints)” with bright colors that looked like nishiki (colorful silk brocade) and “ehon (picture books)” with graceful and fascinating illustrations drawn by artists such as Katsushika Hokusai and Kitagawa Utamaro. Worthy of being called a flower in Japanese history of printing culture, with elaborately-wrought illustrations, characters and bindings, ehon is a work of art, attracting attention and highly esteemed both inside and outside the country.

Early Japanese books, from old manuscripts to ehon, which bear witness to more than a millennium of culture, are valuable cultural heritage that belongs to the world.



伊勢物語

Ise Monogatari (tales of Ise)

NDL call number: WA7-238

Printed in 1608

Old movable-type edition (kokatsuji-ban). This is the first book among works of literature published with illustrations.

You can view this material in the Online Gallery:

► [Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –](#)

[up](#)

2. Early Japanese books passed from hand to hand

While paper books convey a material presence, they need care and protection to so remain. Early Japanese books have been read, loved and protected for hundreds of

years, surviving wars, fires and natural disasters to be handed down to this day.

Having been handed from person to person over time, early Japanese books are held in many places with which they have had a connection. For example, a collection previously owned by the Edo Shogunate is held by the National Archives as the Cabinet Library (Naikaku Bunko), and books of the Imperial court are held by the Archives and Mausolea Department of the Imperial Household Agency. The collection of the Konoe family, head of regents to the emperor, is preserved at the Yomei Bunko, and the Reizei family also has a long tradition of preserving documents. Many books which used to be treasured by feudal lords are now held by prefectural and university libraries. The collection previously owned by Tokugawa Ieyasu and handed over to the Owari Tokugawa family was taken over by Hosa Library, City of Nagoya. Temples and shrines also hold old documents. Toyo Bunko, Dai Tokyu Kinen Bunko, and Tenri Central Library focus on collecting especially rare early Japanese books and provide them to researchers. Materials moved out of the country between the Meiji era and the post-war period found a place where they could be protected in peace in European and American libraries and museums such as the British Library and the New York Public Library. This shows how early Japanese books are treasured in various places.



御馬印

Ouma jirushi (battle standards)

NDL call number: WA8-7

Printed in the Kan'ei era (1624-44)

This material represents battle standards (uma-jirushi) of a total of 170 warlords including Tokugawa Ieyasu. It is worthy of remark being the origin of multi-colored printing in Japan. It is probable that the part in red, white and light blue are printed. The gold part is hand-painted.

You can view this material in the Online Gallery:

▶ [Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –](#)

[up](#)

3. Early Japanese books held by the National Diet Library

Early Japanese books handed down from the past are not in circulation like the current publications National Diet Library (NDL) collects through the legal deposit system. All of the early Japanese books held by the NDL were donated to or

purchased by the Library according to its policy for acquisition of materials.

NDL's collection of early Japanese books started with 43,630 volumes previously owned by schools of the feudal domains and acquired at the beginning of the Meiji era, which was a mere 5% of all books held by schools of the feudal domains. After that, the following collections were added to the collection of the Imperial Library, the predecessor of the NDL:

- Documents of the Tokugawa Shogunate: called “kyu-baku hikitsugi sho”
- Soke monjo: documents relating to trade with Korea handed down in the Tsushima Soke family ▶[related article](#)
- Books previously owned by Sakakibara Yoshino (1832–1881), Meiji era scholar of Japanese classics
- Daisobon: kibyoshi (illustrated storybooks in yellow covers of the Edo era) previously owned by a book-lending shop owner Onoya Sohachi, whose shop located in Nagashima-cho, Nagoya, was visited by Takizawa Bakin and Tsubouchi Shoyo
- Enkojihon: books about Buddhism, Chinese books, Korean books and others previously owned by Kanshitsu Genkitsu (1548–1612), president of Ashikaga Gakko and Zen monk
- Books relating to the art of tea ceremony previously owned by Imaizumi Yusaku (1850–1931), art historian
- Kabutoyama Bunko: old documents, topographies, sugoroku (Japanese backgammon) previously owned by Negishi Takeka (1839–1902), scholar of the Japanese classics from the end of the Edo era to Meiji era
- Materials on herbalism previously owned by Shirai Mitsutaro (1863–1932), author of “Nihon hakubutsugaku nenpyo (time-line of natural history in Japan)”
- Materials on astronomy and the calendar previously owned by Shinjo Shinzo (1873–1938), President of the Kyoto Imperial University and astrophysicist
- Materials on herbalism previously owned by Ito Keisuke (1803–1901), first Doctor of Science in Japan

[up](#)

Established after the war and having taken over the collection of the Imperial Diet, the NDL purchased, for example, an anthology of Chinese poetry and writings by Japanese authors previously owned by the dermatologist Dohi Keizo (1866–1931), and books previously owned by a scholar of Japanese language, Kameda Jiro (1876–1944).

In recent years, the NDL acquired materials of importance in publishing culture and bibliography such as [Rongo](#), Nihon shoki (edition published under an order from the Emperor Goyozei, NDL call number: WA7-251), [Utai bon](#), [Ise Monogatari](#), [Ouma jirushi](#), [Kan'ei gyoko ki](#).

4. Early Japanese books to be enjoyed through the digital library

As most of the early Japanese books are damaged and discolored with age, libraries keep them safe from ultraviolet rays, under optimally maintained temperature and humidity. When used, it is necessary to treat them with utmost caution so as not to cause the slightest damage. Today, we are coming closer to striking a long sought-after balance between preservation and use of library materials. The NDL has been vigorously digitizing early Japanese books, considering them as a national cultural heritage. Many of the books above introduced can be viewed via the NDL website, so you can enjoy the old documents and beautiful books you encounter in an exhibition, relaxing at home. Here are some of the databases and digital exhibitions where early Japanese books are available, among more than 17 [online exhibitions of the NDL](#).

[up](#)

◆ [Digitized Contents \(Rare Books, etc.\)](#) (Japanese only): contains about 51,000 color images of 957 titles of rare books from the NDL collection, including six materials designated as important cultural properties

◆ [Rare Books of the National Diet Library](#) (Japanese only): introduces about 100 rare and semi-rare books held by the NDL, which were on exhibit at the special exhibition commemorating NDL's 50th anniversary in 1998.

◆ [Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –](#): electronic exhibition based on the special exhibitions held at the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan of the NDL in 2008, which introduced 77 materials on three themes: 1. Carrying on the Classics; 2. Intellectual Exchange; 3. Variety of "ehon" books



◆ [Fauna and Flora in Illustrations –Natural History of the Edo era–](#) (Japanese only): presents about 180 materials related to the natural history of the Edo era, based on the special exhibition held in FY2005 with additional materials provided in digital form under the title "Eyes to Nature."

About the author

Ms. Yumiko Mashima is a visiting professor of the School of Letters of Chukyo University, formerly a staff member at the National Diet Library (NDL). Received the incentive award of the 29th Ueno Satsuki Prize for studies of the Japanese culture for the bibliographic studies of the picture scroll “Kan’ei gyoko ki” as well as her achievement in collection, cataloging and research activities at the NDL.

[up](#)





Supporting afflicted people and libraries of the Tohoku–Pacific Ocean Earthquake

This article is an abstract of the article in Japanese of the same title in Current Awareness–E No. 1155 and 1161 (March/April 2011).

Overview of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami

On March 11, 2011, the Tohoku (north-east) region of Japan was hit by an earthquake of 9.0 magnitude and subsequent tsunami. The disaster affected library communities in north-eastern Japan. Tokyo and the western parts of Japan, however, have not sustained significant damage from the jolts.

The Tokyo Main Library of the National Diet Library, apart from books scattered in the stacks, has been operating more or less normally from March 15 on.

The following is the general outline of the aftermath reported as of April 7:

Libraries affected

The prefectural libraries of Miyagi and Fukushima reported damage suffered by public libraries in these prefectures, such as broken windows, cracked buildings or hit by a tsunami. The prefectural libraries of Iwate was closed till March 31, while the one in Miyagi will be closed by the middle of May, and those in Fukushima and Ibaraki have been forced to shut down regular service for some time in the future.

University libraries such as those of Tohoku University and Tohoku Gakuin University have announced closure until late April. Some, like those in Miyagi University of Education and the University of Aizu, have no prospect of reopening in sight.

In addition, the planned electricities outage effected in the Kanto region forced the National Institute of Informatics to suspend its online services and many libraries to cut opening hours or to close altogether.

Online communications by librarians

savelibrary@wiki (now transferred to saveMlak@wiki) was created on March 12 so that librarians around Japan can share information on damaged libraries and see what sort of support they need.

Earthquake-related information offered by public libraries

Libraries such as prefectural ones in Shizuoka and Tottori have uploaded web pages with earthquake-related information. Those in Saga and Fukuoka mounted exhibitions of earthquake-related materials.

Approach for providing earthquake disaster-related documents and preserving materials

The followings are the approaches of library-related institutions in Japan.

- Japan Library Association (JLA): Related documents of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake are provided on the website.
- Nippon Association for Librarianship (NAL): Documents on disaster recovery and crisis management for libraries are provided on the website.
- Network for Historical Materials: Calling for preservation of historical materials which might be lost in the chaos of the disaster.
- Film Preservation Society: Consultation services are open in cooperation with a professional companies on treatment of original audio-visual recording media.
- Agency for Cultural Affairs: “Project for rescuing cultural heritage damaged by Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake” is going to be set up to urgently preserve affected movable cultural assets and to prevent disposition and dissipation of precious cultural assets.

The National Diet Library provides a website on information and links on the restoration of materials held by libraries and archives.

Academic information service for students and scholars in the affected region

University libraries of Kyushu University, Kagoshima University and Hokkaido University and the University of Tokyo Library System offer services more or less on a par with those for their own students and staff to those who hail from the vicinities of said universities and are belonging to the universities in affected the region.

Academic information service for healthcare professionals and researchers at/of disaster area

Databases and e-books on medical literature are provided for healthcare professionals working in the afflicted area. The following are the actions of library community.

- Japan Medical Library Association: Starting to provide medical literature free, with the cooperation of publishers, to universities, hospitals, staff of medical related institutions and healthcare professionals conducting rescue and reconstruction activities.
- Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST): Providing database on science

and technological documents for free to institutions and organizations related to disaster response (until June 30, 2011).

- University of Tokyo Library and Kyoto University Library Network: Academic databases and electronic journals are provided without charge to researchers and healthcare professionals in the afflicted areas with the cooperation of publishers (until April 30, 2011).

Supporting document supply of libraries

The JLA announced “Request for cooperation on library activities to support afflicted people: time-limited restriction on the right of public transmission to afflicted area” on March 25, 2011. This is a request for right holders to cooperate on giving permission to transmit photocopies which libraries produces by e-mail and fax, and to transmit photocopied documents necessary for reading picture books to children and the elderly in the afflicted areas. Several institutions acted upon the announcement.

- Japan Book Publishers Association: Announcement was made on April 5, 2011 asking for understanding and cooperation of the JLA’s announcement to each member publisher.
- Public libraries such as the Fukui Prefectural Library and the Niigata Prefectural Library: Introducing books and documents on recovery and reconstruction, transmitting photocopies by e-mail and fax are planned to start. Note: The NDL also started the service on April 11.

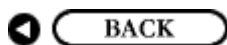
The Japan Committee for UNICEF: “Children’s Mini Library Project,” a project to deliver picture books and children’s books to afflicted areas. Similar approach by Japan Book Publishers Associations, Japan Magazine Publishers Association and Japan Publishers Club. 30,000 books have already been delivered through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The Japan School Library Association is also planning to accept donations of new books to deliver to afflicted areas.

Messages from abroad

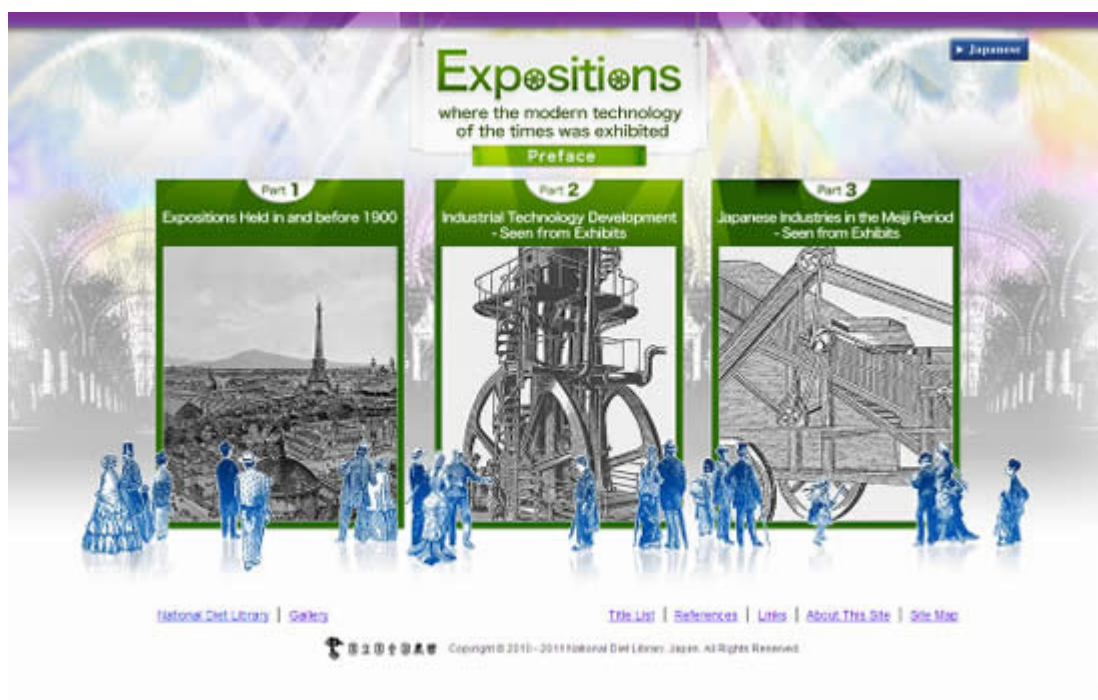
Organizations such as UNESCO, Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS), expressed sympathy and readiness to support in their websites. The NDL also received numerous supporting messages from IFLA and libraries the world over.

[up](#)





Digital exhibition “Expositions, where the modern technology of the times was exhibited” now available in English



Front page of the digital exhibition
(URL: <http://www.ndl.go.jp/exposition/e/index.html>)

On March 25, 2011, the digital exhibition “[Expositions, where the modern technology of the times was exhibited](http://www.ndl.go.jp/exposition/e/index.html)” became available in English on the NDL website. The Japanese version had been released earlier, on June 16, 2010.

This digital exhibition gives an overview of the Japanese and international technology and industrial developments in the late 19th century. About 740 images are provided on the Internet with historical commentaries, which were taken from contemporary exposition reports, newspapers and magazines, and reprinted materials owned by the NDL.

It is made up of three parts: the first part outlines eleven international expositions and five Japanese national industrial exhibitions held in the late 19th century, showing the event characteristics and visual images of the venue; and in the following two parts, in developments industrial technology are explained with visual images of the machinery displayed at those expositions.

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 177, April 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. 600, March 2011 [[PDF Format, 4.43MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
 - Shimpan Heianjo annai no zu: Old Kyoto shown in maps of the Tokugawa era
- Books tracing the history of books: Heilbrun collection of old catalogues and bibliographies
- Essay on languages (3) Grammatical person
- Layers of memory and history: Review of the National Year of Reading
- [Japanese books in NDL](#)
- <NDL NEWS>
 - Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan visit the NDL
- <Announcements>
 - Series: What's Happening with Children's Books in the World? (4) What's Happening with Children's Books in Germany?
 - NDL accepts applications for internship on library and information science FY2011
 - Kaleidoscope of Books (6) "Japanese pictorial calligraphy"
- Commemorating the 600th issue of the National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

No. 599, February 2011 [[PDF Format, 3.76MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
 - [Yume no tamakura: Kibyoshi \(Japanese yellow-backed-cover picture book\) retouched by](#)

[Dr. Mitsutaro Shirai](#)

- Discussion on periodicals: "Search, find and search again" with Yuichiro Kurihara, Kyoko Shibano and Ayashige Nandaro
- [Periodicals in NDL](#)
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL
ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)
- Essay on languages (2) Verbs
- <NDL NEWS>
 - [52nd meeting of the Council on Organization of Materials on Science and Technology](#)
- <Announcements>
 - Lecture at the International Library of Children's Literature "Japanese children's literature – yesterday, today and tomorrow"
 - NDL dispatches lecturers to reference service training programs
 - Book notice – publications from NDL

[up](#)

