

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 179, August / October 2011

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Oyakoguma

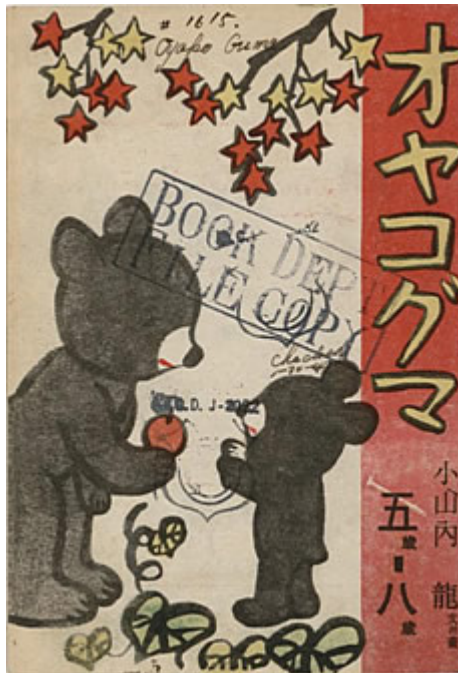
– a children’s book published at the end of the War:
from the Gordon W. Prange Children’s Book Collection

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This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 602 (May 2011).

Photo 1: Front cover of *Oyakoguma*



Have you ever seen a children’s book published around 1945, right after WWII? Unfortunately many of the children’s books of this period are not extant in Japan. Though the National Diet Library (NDL) broadly collects publications issued in Japan based on the Legal Deposit System which mandates publishers to deposit their publications with the NDL, the system had not been established at that time and many publications were not collected, including children’s literature. On the other hand, there is a major collection of publications of the period in the U.S., namely the Gordon W. Prange Collection.

Japan was occupied by the Allied forces from 1945 to 1949 and all publications issued in Japan (books, magazines, newspapers including wall newspapers) were censored by the Occupation force. Dr. Gordon W. Prange, a professor of history at the University of Maryland, who worked in the Occupation force, recognized the value of publications

submitted for censorship, and transferred them to the U.S. at his own expense. The collection was named the Gordon W. Prange Collection, and is held by the University of Maryland.

The Prange Collection contains many publications currently unavailable in Japan. It includes about 71,000 titles of books, and among them are about 8,000 children's books including picture books, reading materials, comics, coloring books, karuta (Japanese playing cards) and sugoroku (Japanese backgammon). Most of the children's books have censor's stamps and notes on their cover, and there are 84 titles containing deletions or banned on publication due to the censorship. The most ubiquitous picture book is Momotaro, 29 volumes, and the reading materials are Eventyr og Historier by H. C. Andersen and Aesop's Fables, 20 volumes each. The International Library of Children's Literature holds and provides microfilms of the collection.

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Even the Prange Collection does not have many publications issued in 1945, the year the War ended: There are only four picture books, and Oyakoguma (photo 1-3) is one of them. The author is Ryu OSANAI, a cartoonist and picture book artist, who was active during and after the War.

Photo 2: Oyakoguma (page 1-2) *Click on the figures for a larger image



Photo 3: Oyakoguma (page 13-14) *Click on the figures for a larger image

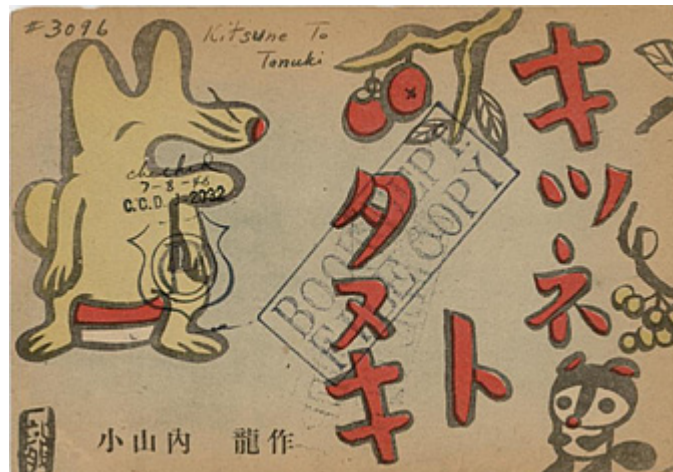


Osanai (real name: Tetsusaburo SAWADA) was born in Hakodate, Hokkaido, in 1904; moved to Tokyo after working in a geta (Japanese wooden sandal) factory and as a sailor; and started drawing on his own. He is a master of animal and insect comics and created several picture books featuring a bear, e.g. his first picture book, Genki na koguma (lively bear cub)

(Asahi Shimbun Company, 1941). He created in various styles, realistic and precise in the insect picture books, and humorous and warm with simplified animals drawn with thick lines.

In July 1945, Osanai evacuated to Hokkaido with his family and published *Oyakoguma* in December of the same year. He died of illness at the young age of 42 in November 1946. *Kitsune to tanuki* (fox and racoon) (photo 4), which is also in the Prange Collection, was completed half a year before his death.

Photo 4: Front cover of *Kitsune to tanuki*



Kitsune to tanuki, Manga sha, 1946, 13 x 19 cm

NDL call no.: VZ3-10076 (microfilm)

Osanai was described as a “genius” by Ryuichi YOKOYAMA, a famous cartoonist known for the work “Fuku-chan,” and is frequently mentioned as a representative picture book writer of Japan. His activities were placed under wartime control for ten years before he died and he is sorely missed as a result of his early death.

Ryu Osanai, *Oyakoguma*, Hounsha, 1945

Size: 19 cm

NDL call no.: VZ3-10074 (microfilm owned by the International Library of Children’s Literature)

Note: Children’s literature of the Prange Collection is available in color microfilms. To search materials, there are title lists in five categories: picture books, reading materials, comics, other materials (coloring books, etc.), and galleys and manuscripts. The link to the lists is as follows:

<http://www.kodomo.go.jp/search/collection/special01.html>

- For further understanding of Ryu Osanai (only in Japanese):
 - – Yukio Omi, *Osanai Ryu: Kita no ehon sakka*, Sapporodo shoten, 2009, NDL call no.: KC486-J90
 - – Yukio Omi, *Kita no ehon sakka Osanai Ryu noto: Zuiso, shosetu, manga, sotei, sashie*, 1999, NDL call no.: KC486-G493
 - – Teiji Seta, *Juni-nin no ehon sakka tachi*, Subaru shobo, 1976, NDL call no.: KC511-8
 - – Shin Torigoe, *Hajimete manabu nihon no ehonshi: 2. Jugo-nen sensoka no ehon*

- (Sirizu nihon no bungakushi (3)), Minerva shobo, 2002, NDL call no.: KC511-G98
- – Shin Torigoe, Ehon no rekishi o tsukutta niju-nin, Sogensha, 1993, NDL call no.: KC511-E74

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Debriefing Session “Supporting Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake: Needs for Libraries”



Debriefing Session “Supporting Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake: Needs for Libraries” on July 13, 2011, at the Tokyo Main Library

On July 13, 2011, a debriefing session “Supporting Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake: Needs for Libraries” was held by the National Diet Library (NDL). This session was relayed to the Kansai-kan of the NDL in Kyoto.

The purpose of the session was to contribute to the NDL and other organizations’ support activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster-afflicted area by sharing in detail information on the current situation of libraries in the stricken area and activities for supporting reconstruction by libraries and related organizations.

After the opening address by Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, the current situation of libraries in two disaster afflicted prefectures was reported.

Ms. Kumiko Sakai, Director of the Iwate Prefectural Library, outlined the damage suffered and support given to libraries in Rikuzentakata city and Noda village, the worst-hit areas. She also introduced support activities by the prefectural library, for example, restoration and salvaging of damaged materials, coordination of support by mobile libraries, providing workshops related to disasters, etc. Mr. Shuji Waga, Director of Planning and Management Department, Miyagi Prefectural Library, explained the post-disaster situation of libraries in Miyagi. He reported that besides coastal libraries afflicted by the tsunami, there are many inland libraries which cannot reopen because of damage from the earthquake. He also mentioned examples of support by local governments, and pointed out the importance of archiving records related to the earthquake disaster.

Following reports from two libraries in the disaster-afflicted area, reports from support organizations including the NDL were delivered.

Mr. Toshiyuki Muto, Director General of the Reference and Special Collections Department of the NDL, gave a summary of support activities by the NDL. Mr. Yasuhiro Hirakawa, Assistant Director, Social Education Division, Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, described damage to libraries and other social and educational facilities in the disaster-afflicted area and the supplementary budget allocated for reconstruction. He also showed some cases of social educational facilities' challenges for reconstruction. Mr. Kaname Matsuoka, Management Director and Secretary General of the Japan Library Association, introduced the activities and challenges of the JLA including "Help-Toshokan (help-libraries)," support activities for libraries and people's reading in the disaster-afflicted area. He also made requests to the government such as research of the post-disaster situation of libraries, creating a library reconstruction plan, and securing the workforce and budget for the support activities. Mr. Makoto Okamoto, Project Leader of "saveMLAK" and CEO of the Academic Resource Guide, introduced the "saveMLAK" activities. Mr. Tetsuya Ishikawa, Executive Director of the Library Advancement Foundation, introduced examples of donation of books and library equipment for afflicted libraries. Mr. Toshiya Takada, a publicity committee member of the publication task force for the Great East Japan Earthquake, introduced a project delivering publications to the disaster-afflicted area and noted the need for paying close attention to reconstruction of bookstores in this area.

Finally, Mr. Noriaki Matsunaga of the Kobe City Central Library spoke of the characteristics of the damage caused by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake on January 17, 1995. He pointed out the difficulty of rebuilding library services when other administrative services needed increased manpower.



Panel Discussion

A panel discussion followed the presentation. In the panel discussion, reporters from two libraries in the disaster-stricken area, Iwate and Miyagi, expressed their appreciation for this gathering together in one place that would be the first step to having a common

understanding for reconstruction. They also mentioned that restoration has a still long way to go and “don’t forget” is the most important thing for us.



Materials Exhibition

In the foyer of the auditorium, materials damaged by tsunami and books related to past earthquake disasters in the NDL collection were displayed. Photos of disaster-afflicted libraries were also exhibited.



Materials Exhibition

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Japanese books in NDL

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This article is an abridged version of the article in Japanese of the same title in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 600 (March 2011).

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Photo1: Stacks for Japanese books in Tokyo Main library (2004)
Many of these were moved to the Kansai-kan after being digitized.



1 Introduction

A critic, Yuzo Tsubouchi, wrote that books written by Tenmin Matsuzaki, a journalist in the Meiji era, which had not been found in the author card catalog of the National Diet Library (NDL) nearly 20 years ago, were found in the online catalog. ¹

Most of the Japanese books are now searchable on the [National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog \(NDL-OPAC\)](#), but in the past it was necessary to search various types of card catalogs and book-form catalogs separately, depending on books' origins or cataloged dates (not the year of publishing). Those groups of catalogs and collections are called Shima (blocks) and knowing the structure of the "blocks" was a must in an efficient and thorough search for materials.

The items most expected to be in the NDL are publications issued in Japan after the Meiji era. They are preserved for years in the stacks to be available for the future generations. In recent years, however, digitizing Japanese books published after the Meiji period has been promoted so as to balance preservation of originals and use, which makes them accessible from all over the world via the Internet. The history of these Japanese books has not been explained as much as the special collections like "Shirai Bunko" (on herbalism). In this article, the acquisition and the structure of general Japanese books published after the Meiji period are introduced.

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2 Origins of Japanese books in the NDL

The NDL collection consists of publications collected under the legal deposit system established in 1948, and materials once owned by the former Imperial Diet (the House of Peers and the House of Representatives) and the former Ueno Library².

2.1 Collection through the legal deposit system

With the birth of the NDL, a new legal deposit system was built on the National Diet Library Law and publications published in Japan started to be deposited to the Library. However, they were not collected smoothly because of the multiple depository obligations of the day to the CIE (Civil Information and Educational Section) of the GHQ/SCAP, the Newsprint Allocation Bureau³ and elsewhere, in addition to the complex procedures necessary. The NDL's holdings rate for

publications up to around 1950 is considered low despite introducing a recompense system for deposited publications and a package depository system as breakthroughs.

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2.2 Materials owned by the former Imperial Diet (the House of Peers and the House of Representatives)

In the Imperial Diet, the secretariats of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives had separately administered their books since 1890, when they had been transferred from the Chamber of Elders. Later the NDL took over the collections previously held in the Imperial Diet and assigned them new call numbers. Now the books owned by the Imperial Diet are mixed in with other general books; their origins cannot be identified unless the original ex-libris stamps are confirmed.

2.3 Materials owned by the former Ueno Library

Materials taken over from the former Ueno Library make up the core of the pre-war book collection of the NDL. The former Ueno Library accepted books which the Home Ministry had gathered to censor, but the Home Ministry's power was limited to mainland Japan. Therefore books published in Taiwan, Korean Peninsula, Kwantung Leased Territory etc., which Imperial Japan controlled until 1945, were acquired mostly by donation. The former Ueno Library's books collected in this way were classified into three grades according to their value. ⁴

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3 History of Japanese books seen through NDL call numbers

Most of Japanese books housed in the NDL are stored in the stacks and arranged in "call number" order. The call number is composed of a classification number, a book number (a number indicating reception order or a code representing a particular author), etc., and each book has a label printed with its call number on its spine and front cover.⁵ These call numbers show the "block" in which the books are contained.

3.1 Collections owned by the former Ueno Library

a. Books received from the 1875 to 1941

Kan-ka (函架) means shelves. This term has been used from the Meiji era in the library community. At the former Ueno Library, call numbers were assigned by the book size and reception order. This was a general measure in large-scale closed stack libraries. This measure was used until 1948 in the former Ueno Library, however re-cataloging was conducted using the Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC) as far back as 1941, as referred to later.⁶

Looking at the labels of the materials of this age, call numbers were mainly composed of two types of numbers: upper part called Kan (函), mainly numbers, and the lower part number Go (号), numbers assigned in reception order. The "Kan" does not usually show contents of subjects of the books, although there are some exceptions.⁷ In some cases of brochures, the first letter representing their subject are used as well as numbers. Kan represented by one katakana, Japanese character, means transcripts of lectures for correspondence courses of universities and professional schools in the Meiji era.

Materials classified into the second grade and not provided for reading (see note 4) were assigned Kan starting with a Japanese character "特" (toku) by the NDL after World War II, when they were released to the public.

<Example 1>

Edited by Nishimura Takema, Toshokan kanriho,
Kinkodo, 1892

Call number: YDM101515

→Search Digital Library from the Meiji era (Japanese only)
for the original call number.

The original call number is 33-405

It means that it was the 405th book received for Kan 33.



b. Books received from around 1941 to March 1949

At the former Ueno Library, NDC edition5 (NDC (5)) was used for classification from the mid 1948. After consolidation with the NDL, the classification system was coordinated and NDC (6) was applied from mid-1950. Books received after 1941 were re-classified.⁸ At this time, reference books received before 1941 were also selectively re-classified.

Call numbers of this time were constructed with numbers and alphabet letters and a Japanese character “ウ” was added at the end, which shows that they had been stored at the former Ueno Library. Classification numbers of novels, reference books and large-size books start with the letter F for fiction, R for reference book and E for extra large size.⁹

<Example 2>

Osatake Takeki, Meiji bunka no shinkenkyu, Ajia Shobo, 1944

Call number: YD5-H-210.6-O74ウ

The original call number: 210.6-O74ウ

210.6: Subject of History-Japan-Modern era (from NDC (6))

074: Author's code representing Osatake Takeki
(established by the NDL)

ウ: collection of the former Ueno Library



3.2 Books received after the foundation of the NDL

a. Books received from 1948 to 1950

When the NDL was established, the office at Miyakezaka and the former Akasaka Palace were used as temporary offices, and the former Ueno Library was a branch library. On June 24, 1948, an advisory panel of well-informed persons in the library society was held to discuss the classification to be used in cataloging books. In July of the same year, cataloging of Japanese books started and the NDC was used tentatively. In a report of Robert B. Downs, special advisor of GHQ/SCAP and Librarian of the University of Illinois, which had a major impact on the NDL's activities, also recommended the use of NDC.

Books accessioned in this period are called “Akasaka bon” and they have call numbers starting with “a.” Call numbers are composed of NDC (5) and reception order numbers.

<Example 3>

Furukawa Roppa, Kusho buro, Ondorisha, 1948

Call number: YD5-H-a091-14

The original call number: a091-14

a: Akasaka bon

091: Subject of General subjects-Essay and others-Japanese (from NDC(5))

14: 14th book received in this classification

b. Books received from 1950 to 1968

In July 1950, with the completion of NDC (6), it was decided to be applied in September of the same year. Call numbers are composed of a combination of a classification numbers of the NDC (6), and numbers and letters identifying author, title, edition and others. There are some differences from the collection of the former Ueno Library and the biggest one is that there is no “ウ” at the end.

<Example 4>

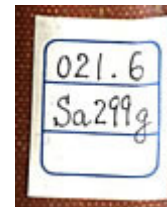
Edited by Saito Shozo, Gendai hikka bunken dainenpyo, Suiko-do Shoten, 1932

Call number: 021.6-Sa299g

021.6: Subject of Books and bibliography-Works-writing that invites a furor

Sa299: Author's code representing Saito Shozo
(established by the NDL)

g: The first character of the first word of the title, Gendai.



c. Books received in and after 1969

The NDL had been using the NDC as a classification means since its foundation, while a new classification system had been sought for better usability. In 1962, “Kokuritu Kokkai Toshokan bunruihyo: seiji, horitsu, gyosei: yobiban” was published and distributed outside the NDL for opinions. This was the beginning of the National Diet Library Classification (NDLC). From 1963, the classification system was established and gradually applied to each subject. It was applied in 1964 for brief cataloging materials¹⁰ and in 1969 for all Japanese books and it is still used today. Annuals have been treated as periodicals since January 1986, and as books until then.

Call numbers are composed of the NDLC and codes (number or combination of letter and number) which show accession order.

<Example 5>

Yoshida Kageo, Nihon yushu bunken mokuroku, Soryusha, 1979

Call number: D1-242

D1: Subject of Economics, Industry-Bibliography (from NDLC)

242: Classification number which shows the accession order in this subject.



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4 Conclusion

This is the outline of the Japanese books of the NDL. Nowadays, they are available to search on the NDL-OPAC without regard to the accession period.¹¹

I hope this article will be of some help for research and study of the NDL collection.

¹Yuzo Tsubouchi, “Tambokisha Matsuzaki Tenmin: dai 3-bu (4) Saionji Kinmochi no hiraita Useikai,” Chikuma (472), 2010.7, p.44 <NDL call no. Z21-235>

²xThe following is the history of the former Ueno Library. It was first established as the Shojakukan under the control of the Museum Department of the Ministry of Education in 1872. In

the following year, the Shojakukan merged with the Bureau of Expositions belonging to the Dajo-kan Seiin (the head of the Imperial governing structure), moved back under the control of the Ministry of Education in 1875 and renamed Tokyo Shojakukan (its materials remained in the Dajo-kan and most of them are now in the Cabinet Library collection of the National Archives of Japan). The Tokyo Shojakukan was abolished in 1877, taken over by the Tokyo-fu (former Japanese prefecture) and opened as Tokyo-fu Shojakukan. It moved back again under the control of the Ministry of Education in 1880 and became the Tokyo Library; united with the Tokyo Educational Museum and relocated into the Ueno Park in 1885; separated from the Museum in 1889; and became the Imperial Library in 1897. In 1947, the Imperial Library was renamed the National Library, closed in March 31, 1949, and combined with the National Diet Library, which had been established in the previous year.

³From September 1948 to July 1, 1949, some books deposited to the Newsprint Allocation Bureau were transferred to the NDL. In 1951, the NDL received a donation when the government decontrolled newsprint.

⁴**First grade (甲部):** Materials worth using and preserving. They made up the main part of the collection and were provided for reading after being cataloged.

Second grade (乙部): Materials considered to be of little value but preserved tentatively for future re-evaluation. They were not provided for reading in those days.

Third grade (丙部): Materials not worth using nor preserving. They were discarded after being kept for one year.

⁵In principal, the original is not provided for reading if a book has been converted into microfiches or digital images. Some converted copies have a different call number from their original. If a call number starts with 'YD5-H-', remove the 'YD5-H-' and the remaining part is the original one. If starting with 'YDM...', it is necessary to see the original material's label or information written in the book in the Digital Library from the Meiji Era (<http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/index.html>), or to search the "National Diet Library Catalog Meiji Period."

⁶However, "subject" are not assigned for bibliographic data of the collection of the former Ueno Library.

⁷Among exceptions, there were some Kan showing subjects such as education-related "Kan."

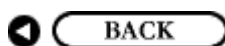
⁸This situation continued until May 1956 when unified cataloging with the NDL introduced. The collection of the former Ueno Library was transferred to the NDL in 1961.

⁹There was also A for annuals.

¹⁰ Materials such as study books, telephone books, brochures, miniature books and so on.

¹¹However, bibliographic data are not uniform due to the changes of Cataloging Rules. Also multiple copies of a book which have different histories may be catalogued separately and have several call numbers.

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Second Basic Plan for the International Library of Children's Literature

Facing the almost-full stacks and the change of social environment surrounding children's reading, the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) has long reviewed its policy on service improvement and necessary facility upgrade based on the Report of the Board of Inquiry on Facilities for Children's Books in the National Diet Library.

Photo 1: View of the International Library of Children's Literature



The review resulted in the release of the Second Basic Plan for the International Library of Children's Literature which set out the new services to be provided and the facilities to be expanded as the foundation for such services. It was also decided to construct a new building within the premises of the ILCL to be completed in FY2015.

For details, please refer to the full text of the basic plan available at the [ILCL website](#).





Agreement to secure the passing on of valuable cultural materials to the next generation

On May 18, the National Diet Library and the Agency for Cultural Affairs forged an agreement to locate, index, acquire, preserve and make use of works and materials which the NDL, museums and galleries had not systematically preserved hitherto despite their historical or cultural value, so as to expand collaboration and cooperation in securing passing on of valuable cultural materials to the next generation.

With regard to the practical approach to this cooperation/collaboration, the NDL currently has the following plans in place:

(1) For scenarios and scripts of TV and radio programs

Do research on preservation techniques and establish a digital archive to preserve them.

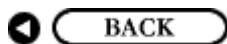
(2) Music-related materials (e.g. scores published in Japan)

Cooperate with the Agency for Cultural Affairs in setting up a location database of music-related materials and establish an integrated, nationwide system for locating such materials.

(3) Comics, animations, games etc.

Collaborate on the provision of bibliographic information and on a relevant information system.

Both bodies will review further possible fields of cooperation/collaboration.



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Small digital exhibition: Kaleidoscope of Books (7)

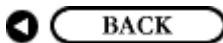
“Japanese learned and were amazed at German Culture and Technology in modern times” now released

The year 2011 is the 150th anniversary of Japan–Germany friendship, which started with the conclusion of a treaty of amity and commerce between Prussia and Japan in 1861. For Japan at the time, Germany (then Prussia) was a leading country as a model for its modernization.

On July 20, 2011, the 7th Kaleidoscope of Books “[Japanese learned and were amazed at German Culture and Technology in modern times](#)” (Japanese only) was released online. It introduces three interesting topics among various events in the 150 years of Japan–Germany exchange, using a variety of materials. The first chapter “Germany in the capital Tokyo” explains how German architects got involved in the city planning of the capital Tokyo. The second chapter “Technology and culture brought by German prisoners of war” exemplifies things brought to Japan by German prisoners of World War I, such as Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 and baumkuchen. The third chapter “Marveling at the German advanced technology and appearance of the airship LZ 127 in 1929” shows how Japanese people were amazed and excited at the advanced technology of the airship Luftschiff Zeppelin which cruised from Germany to Japan.

[Kaleidoscope of Books](#) (Japanese only)

This small digital exhibition introduces books on various themes, topical or of interest, from the NDL collections.



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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin. The text is provided in PDF format* (Japanese only).

*To see the full-text (PDF), you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download). Click [here](#) to download. ([Adobe Website](#))

No. 604/605, July/August 2011 [[PDF Format, 3.49MB](#)]

- [Book of the month – from NDL collections](#)
[Future war novels in the past: which war did the humankind choose?](#)
- Terakoya: Takejiro Hasegawa's publishing introduced Japanese culture to foreign countries
- [NDL Search: NDL's new integrated search service](#)
- National Library of China's services to the state organs of the People's Republic of China
- National Diet Library in FY 2010: Report of the NDL's Activity Performance Evaluation
- Essay on languages (7) Sonant and voiceles
- <Announcements>
 - Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Children's books link the World –Hans Christian Andersen Award 2010 & IBBY Honour List 2010
 - Web NDL Authorities (BETA) now released
 - [Kaleidoscope of Books \(7\) "Japanese learned and were amazed at German Culture and Technology in modern times"](#)
 - Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (9) "Japanese people and English language"
 - Digital information now available in the International Library of Children's Literature

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No. 603, June 2011 [[PDF Format, 2.93MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections
Sagaminokuni Zama Sochuji yuraiki
Record of a famous temple associated with Tokugawa Ieyasu
- Digital archives in a public library for discovering local history
- Essay on languages (6) Vowels/intonation/accent
- Disaster prevention for materials in libraries and archives
- Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room

- <NDL NEWS>

- [Agreement to secure the reliable handing down of national valuable materials to the next generation](#)

- <Announcements>

- [Historical Recordings Collection now available](#)
- New volumes have been added to the Digital Library from the Meiji Era
- NDL Database Forum in FY2011
- Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet now more user-friendly



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