

The NDL completed the development of the Historical Recordings Collection

The Historical Recordings Collection consists of about 48,700 sound recordings of music, speeches, and other audio recordings preserved on 78 rpm records and metal discs released commercially from around 1900 to 1950. To prevent loss of sound quality due to scatter and deterioration, the Historical Records Archive Promotion Conference (HiRAC) has digitized numerous early Japanese recordings. The NDL makes available all sound recordings digitized by the HiRAC within its facilities as well as at [125 participating libraries](#). There are also 1,090 items available as part of an Internet collection of recordings with expired copyright.

The collection contains a wide range of genre, including [traditional Japanese music](#), [folk music](#), [rakugo](#), [kabuki](#), [classical music](#), [opera](#), [popular music](#), and [speeches](#).

Data delivery via a trial service began in January 2012 and entered full-fledged operation in July. Contents were added periodically until September 27, 2013, when the final batch of 10,000 sound recordings was added.