

Selections from NDL collections

Christmas in Deshima

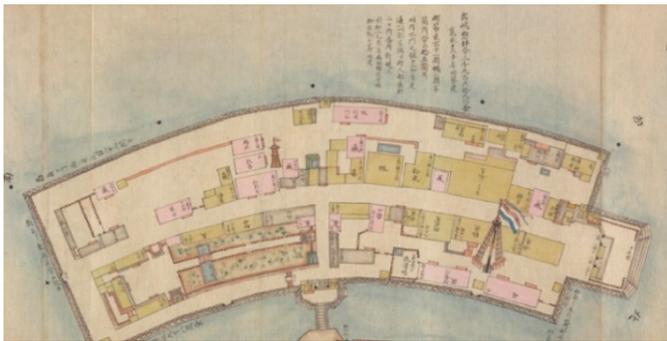
KAMESAWA Akihiko, Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a part of translation of the article in Japanese in *NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 704 (December 2019)*.

1. Introduction

Christmas is celebrated throughout Japan, like in many Western nations. When the season comes, the country is enveloped in a lively atmosphere. Towns are filled with festive decorative lights and ornaments in Christmas colors. The weather is getting colder but joyful Christmas songs heard everywhere make people excited. Children look forward to receiving gifts from Santa Claus, parents prepare to disguise themselves as him and lovers make plans to spend Christmas Eve together.

Unlike nowadays, there were no such customs in Japan in the Edo era. Not only that, Japan was closed to the world and Christianity was strictly banned at that time. However, Christmas was celebrated in secret in Deshima, a man-made island in Nagasaki which once existed for foreign residents. How did people hold festive events for Christmas under those circumstances?



Sho oyakuba ezu [Manuscript]
30cm×11cm

Owned by National Diet Library;
NDL Call No. 101-237

* [Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#)

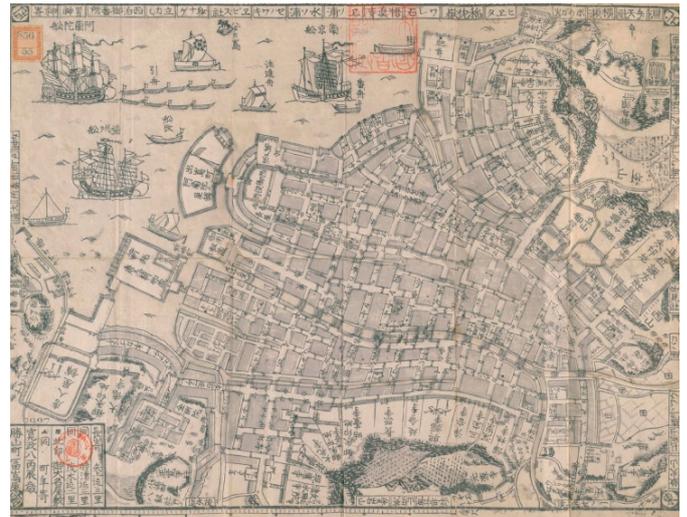
2. Deshima

The construction of Deshima was completed in 1636. There was nothing but a stone bridge that connected the fan-shaped island of 13,117 square meters with the city of Nagasaki in mainland Kyushu. Western residents lived there for trading with Japan. The Tokugawa shogunate forced them to live in this narrow space in order to put an absolute ban on Christianity. Initially, Portuguese traders lived in Deshima, but after they were exiled by the shogunate in 1639, Dutch people lived there. Deshima, with the trading house of the Dutch East India Company in its center, served as the sole gateway to the West while Japan adopted a policy of isolation.

The shogunate put strict controls on the Dutch people in

Deshima. According to *Nagasaki oranda shokan no nikki* (lit. a diary of the Dutch trading house in Nagasaki), they were not allowed to travel freely. Selling and exchanging Christian ornaments, publishing the Bible or hymn books and holding Christian rituals were also prohibited, and those who did not obey the rules were severely punished. Furthermore, sometimes the shogunate banned Dutch people from bringing foreign books from Dutch ships to Deshima as the shogunate officials could not read them.

Deshima contained two opposite aspects. The beautiful arc shaped island on the sea served as a gateway to other countries. At the same time, it also served as a jail and its Dutch residents at the time actually called it one. The isolated jail continued for about two centuries until the Treaty of Amity between the Netherlands and Japan allowed Dutch people to travel freely.



Nagasaki zu

Publisher: 富崙屋; NDL Call No. 856-55

Published in [1796]

35cm×45cm

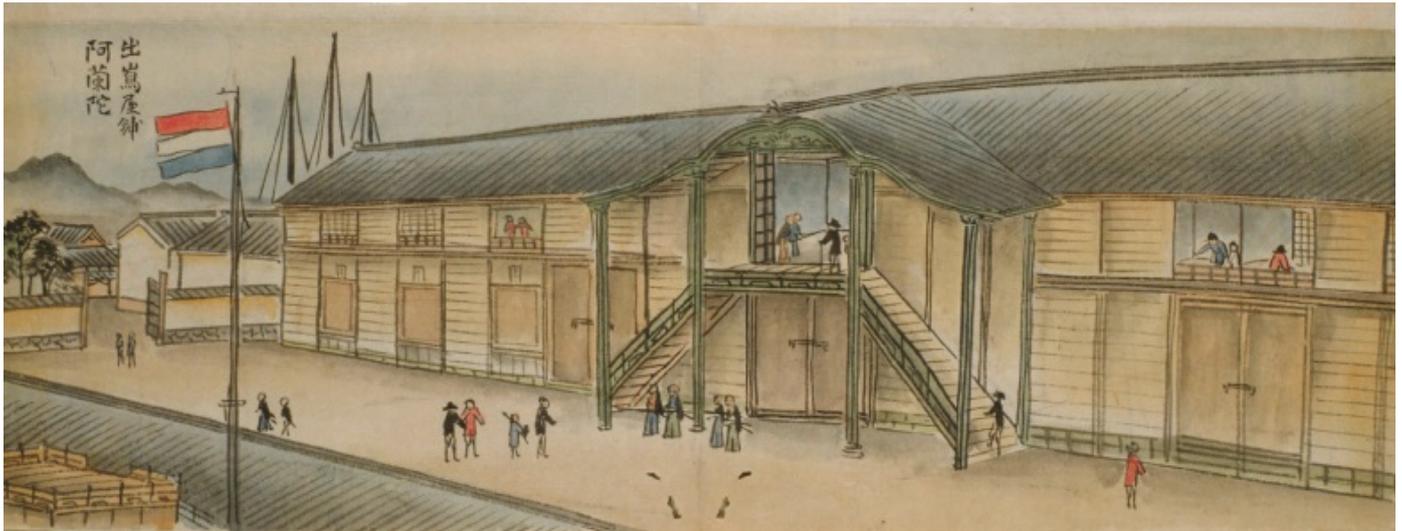
Owned by National Diet Library;

NDL Call No. 856-55

* [Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#)

3. The Dutch winter solstice

Of course, since Christmas events are Christian rituals, organizing them on Deshima was subject to severe penalties. Nevertheless, Dutch people in Deshima were able to dodge the sharp eyes of the shogunate to light Christmas candles in an ingenious manner.



The trading house of the Dutch East India Company in Deshima.

Saikoku shasei

Drawn by HASEGAWA Settan

Published in [19c]

2 vols; 15.1 cm×19.5 cm

NDL Call No. 本別 18-9

[*Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#)

The Dutch people in Deshima celebrated Christmas saying that they were celebrating winter solstice. There was a Chinese settlement (Tojin yashiki) near Deshima and a grand banquet was held at winter solstice. Winter solstice is regarded as an important day in the lunar calendar and falls around December 22 in the solar calendar every year. The Dutch people in Deshima found out that this Eastern festival was held close to Christmas day and used it to cover up their Christmas celebration.



Nagasaki hangashu; Zokuzoku (Nagasaki 8 kei)

Drawn by NAGAMI Tokutaro

Published by Kateido

Published in [1929]

8 sheets; 40cm

Owned by National Diet Library; NDL Call No. 422-116

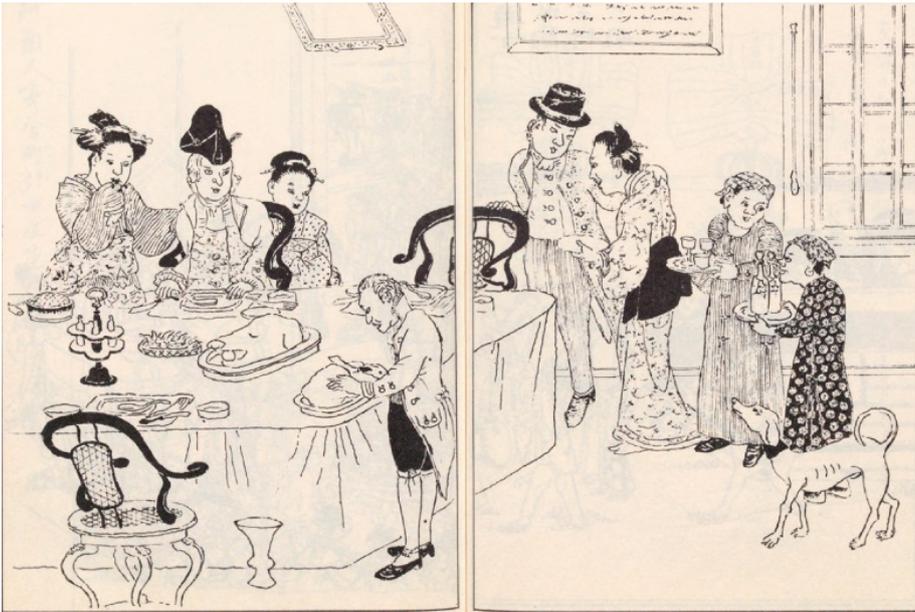
[* Available at member libraries of the NDL digitized contents transmission service](#)

This fake winter solstice celebration that came about due to Eastern and Western events being coincidentally held close to each other came to be known as the "Dutch winter solstice." OOTA Nanpo, a man of letters in the Edo era, emphasized in his work *Ichiva ichigen* that the Dutch winter solstice was the most important event for the Dutch trading house. His argument gives an odd impression that the Dutch people who worshiped Christianity put a high value on the Eastern celebration of winter solstice. According to some experts, this implies the existence of the Christmas celebration it was hiding.

The Dutch winter solstice is said to be ostensibly like a Chinese celebration of winter solstice. *Nanban nagasakigusa*, which was published years later, describes how it looked:

In the early morning, craftsmen and gardeners doing business in Deshima would carry a model of a Dutch ship while ringing a gong and walking in a line around the island. In the evening, Dutch people and interpreters would gather to hold an elegant party where dressed up courtesans danced gracefully to the music.

ISHIZAKI Yushi depicts a party at Dutch winter solstice in his *Ranjin kaishoku no zu* (lit. Dutch dinner party) which is included in *Nagasaki kokon shuran meisho zue*. Well-dressed Dutch people and courtesans in kimono stand by a large table covered by a table cloth and mingle with others. Probably they are about to enjoy the meal. Candles, silverware, and a cooked pig's head are seen on the table.



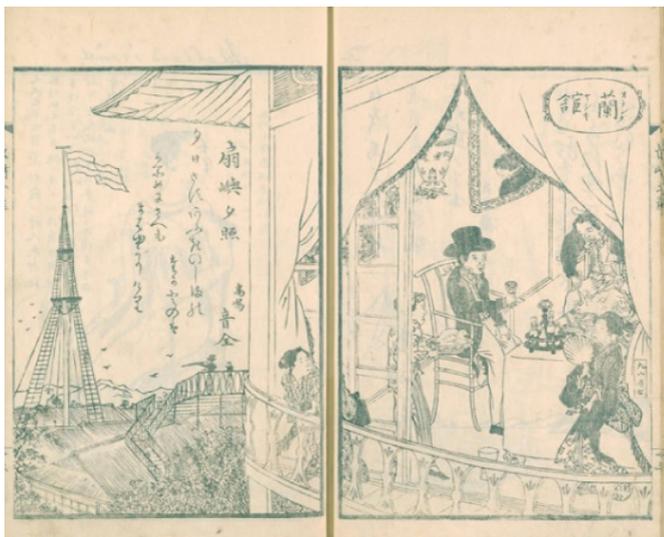
Ranjin kaishoku no zu and the cooked pig head
Nagasaki kokon shuran meisho zue; Nagasaki bunken sosho 2(1)
 Author: ISHIZAKI Yushi
 Published by Nagasakibunkensha
 Published in 1975

Owned by the National Diet Library; NDL Call No. GC274-18

* [Available at member libraries of the NDL digitized contents transmission service](#)

The pig head is what implies that the Dutch winter solstice was held as a substitute for a Christmas party. One Christmas custom which came from Norse myths is to put a cooked boar head with fruit in its mouth on the center of the table. As boars were going extinct in the 12th century, people sometimes used pigs instead. The

custom spread across Europe in the medieval period. Since the pig head depicted in the *Ranjin kaishoku no zu* also has what appears to be a round fruit in its mouth, it is highly likely that it was a Christmas dish.



A picture of the Dutch trading house. A dish on the table also appears to be a pig head (shown in the enlarged picture).

Nagasaki miyage
 Author: ISONO Nobuharu
 Published by 大和屋由平寿櫻
 Published in 1847

Owned by the National Diet Library; NDL Call No. 特 1-1828

* [Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#)

The Christmas celebration in Deshima was a unique hybrid event of Eastern and Western cultures. However, the mixture was born not from an open atmosphere but from the persecution of Christians and the risk of being severely punished if the truth was revealed. The Dutch winter solstice was developed through bricolage using not only the ingenious ideas of the Dutch people but also Deshima's ambivalent dual roles where different cultures meet.

4. The Dutch winter solstice in a story

HIRAYAMA Roko is a novelist who promoted Japanese popular literature before World War II. He included the Dutch winter solstice in his novel *Nagasaki dejima* and expressed the humanity in Nagasaki in this love story set in Deshima as its tranquility was being disturbed by the Phaeton Incident of 1808. Characters such as Hendrik Doeff, the actual curator (Kapitan) of the Dutch trading house from 1803 to 1817, Ohana, the daughter of a Dutch father and a Japanese courtesan, SUENAGA, a young man born and living in Nagasaki, and Oyo, a legal courtesan (*Maruyama yujo*), are some of the vividly described ensemble cast.



Nagasaki dejima

Author: HIRAYAMA Roko

Published by Fujin No Iesha

Published in 1943

Owned by the National Diet Library;

NDL Call No. F13-H69-6a ウ

* [Available in the National Diet Library Digital Collections](#)



Characters in *Nagasaki dejima* (from left: the Kapitan, Ohana, Oyo, SUENAGA)

In a scene of the Dutch winter solstice, the atmosphere of Deshima during the celebration is brilliantly expressed in casual conversations among the characters. For example:

"Ohana, Oyo, let's give words of congratulations to the Kapitan. This is the Holy Mother's celebration so keep this in mind," SUENAGA whispered.

"I know. It's called Christmas isn't it?" Oyo already knew about it and carelessly said it out loud.

"Hey, if you say it so loud, you'll be crucified." The ladies' faces paled and they looked tense.

Ohana and Oyo, who had been excited about Christmas, suddenly became speechless when becoming aware of

the fact that holding this joyful event was worthy of the death penalty.

Here is another scene of the Dutch winter solstice where mixed cultures are depicted with humor coming from Oyo's artlessness:

Feeling awkward, Oyo looked upward. There were fir branches on the window frame, with two tabi socks hanging from them.

"Why are tabi hanging in such a place," she said, standing on her tiptoes.

"They are ornaments for the Dutch winter solstice. The Kapitan decorates like that every year. He usually puts up Western socks, but he used tabi this year as we haven't

had socks since last year. There are two of them so let's take one each. There should be something in them."

Since the novel was written later on, it is unclear whether such interactions really took place or not. However, Roko was so excellent in reproducing the Dutch winter solstice in his *Nagasaki dejima* that it presents a reality full of humanity. Roko said, "Although it was not entirely clear, I felt I could understand." That may be because the traces of Deshima, which celebrated Christmas in the Edo period, are still visible in Nagasaki.

(Translated by NAKAZAWA Aya)

Reference (in Japanese):

- OOTA Nanpo, *Ichijwa ichigen hoi, Shokusanjin zenshu* vol.6, Yoshikawa Kobunkan 1908 (NDL Call No. 918.5-O846s). *[Available in the National Diet Library Digital Collections.](#)
- NAGAZUMI, Yoko, *Dejima*, Sekai daihyakka jiten, Heibonsha 2014
- Oranda Higashiindo Gaisha Nagasaki Shokan (ed.), Murakami, Naojiro (translation), *Nagasaki oranda shokan no nikki* vol.1, Iwanami Shoten 1956 (NDL Call No. 210.5-O764n-M). *[Available at member libraries of the NDL digital contents transmission service.](#)
- MATSUURA, Naoji, *Nagasaki no rekishi Kaiko 400nen*, Nagasaki bunkensha (seller) 1970 (NDL Call No.GC274-3). *[Available at member libraries of the NDL digital contents transmission service.](#)
- NAGAMI Tokutaro, *Nanban nagasakigusa*, Shun'yodo 1926 (NDL Call No. 049.1-N154n). *[Available in the National Diet Library Digital Collections.](#)

Note:

Most of the materials shown here are available at NDL Digital Collections. The National Diet Library has many *rangaku* (Dutch studies) materials, including Dutch materials owned by the Edo shogunate. A digital exhibition titled "[Japan-Netherlands exchange in the Edo period.](#)" was created to commemorate the 400th anniversary of friendly ties between the two countries and shows the history of our exchange through various materials.

Selections from NDL collections

Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (9)

Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 703 \(November 2019\)](#).

Introduction

[The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room](#) at the National Diet Library (NDL) holds approximately 410,000 documents comprising the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers dating back as far as the closing days of the Tokugawa Shogunate. This article is one of a series introducing materials that have become available in recent years at the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room in the Tokyo Main Library.

We hope you will enjoy this look at some of these historical documents that are essential to understanding political events and other aspects of Japanese history.

Sugi Magoshichiro Papers (added in 2019)

(44 items, available since September 2019)

Sugi Magoshichiro was born in Yamaguchi prefecture in 1835. During the late Tokugawa period, he was assigned an important position in Choshu-han and played an active part in the military. After the Meiji Restoration, he worked mainly as an official of the Ministry of the Imperial Household. In 1882 he attended the coronation ceremony of the Hawaiian king as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Since 1897 he served as a Privy Councillor. Died in 1920.

Since 1972 the family of Sugi Magoshichiro has entrusted his papers to the NDL. Papers newly entrusted include his diaries during the Meiji and Taisho periods.

Among them, the papers mourning the passing of Empress Dowager Eisho stand out. Empress Dowager Eisho's maiden name was Kujo Asako. She married Emperor Komei. Sugi served Empress Dowager Eisho closely as chief of the officials in the Empress Dowager's Palace. In his diary, which included tags, he wrote about what happened from the Empress Dowager's passing (January 11, 1897) to her funeral. On January 26, 1897, he wrote in the diary the following poem (Image 1): On attending Her Majesty's coffin by order, while wiping off endless tears, it is too sad to talk about the days past. We can see his deep mourning in this poem, which was inserted among his calm descriptions.

In addition, a draft of his speech addressed to court ladies praising the Empress Dowager's virtue (Image 2) was found. Newly added papers show Sugi's life as an officer serving the imperial court during the Meiji and Taisho periods.

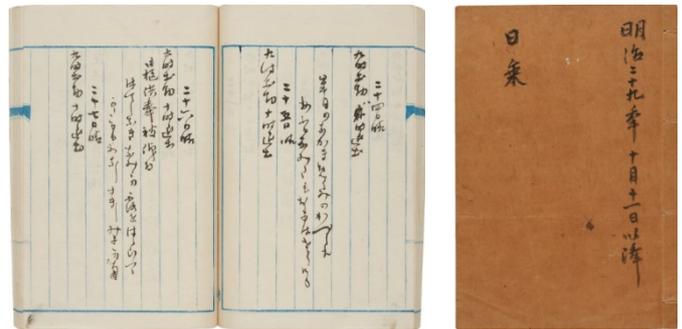


Image 1: Sugi Magoshichiro's diary entry for January 26, 1897. NDL Call No. Sugi Magoshichiro Papers 1010

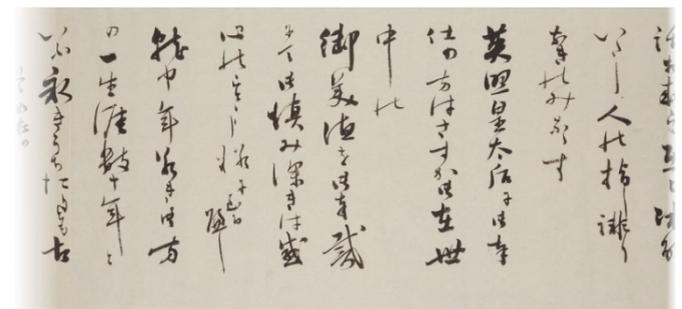


Image 2: Draft of speech addressed to court ladies in front of a shrine to Empress Dowager Eisho in Aoyama Palace. NDL Call No. Sugi Magoshichiro Papers 1040-1

Sassa Tomofusa Papers (Part 2)

(114 items, available since June 2019)



Sassa Tomofusa was born in Kumamoto prefecture, 1854. During the Satsuma Rebellion (1877) he sided with Saigo Takamori, leader of the rebels, and was injured and imprisoned. In 1881 he formed a political party, Shimeikai, which advocated a form of nationalism. In 1890 he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives. In political circles he strongly insisted on industrial promotion and expansionism. He was a leader of the Kokumin Kyokai, Teikokuto, and Daido Kurabu. Died in 1906.

The portrait comes from *Kokudo Sassa sensei iko*, 1936.

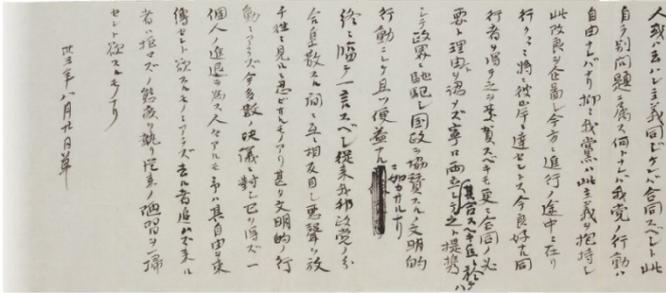


Image 3: Draft dated August 20, 1900.
NDL Call No. Sassa Tomofusa Papers
1038-2

This draft, dated August 20, 1900, says that "it is regrettable to see our country's political parties speaking ill of each other while uniting and splitting apart again and again." The draft was supposed to be written for a meeting of members of the Teikokuto scheduled on August 22 in the same year.

Around that time Ito Hirobumi was trying to establish a new political party, and he invited the Teikokuto to join his new party, which was to advocate the same political objectives as the Teikokuto. This draft has no signature but represents Sassa's intentions as the leader of the Teikokuto. Sassa claimed that the Teikokuto should keep their independence though they shared the same ideology with Ito. This draft shows Sassa's efforts to keep the Teikokuto unswayed. Ito's proposal was rejected at the meeting. (*Tokyo Asahi Shinbun*, August 23, 1900).

However, five out of 19 members of the Teikokuto separated to join Ito's Rikken Seiyukai (established in September 1900). Afterwards, the Teikokuto dissolved on December 23, 1905, and joined the newly-established Daido Kurabu.

Sassa Hiroo Papers

(1,929 items, available since June 2019)

Sassa Hiroo was born in Kumamoto prefecture in 1897 as the third son of Sassa Tomofusa. He took a post as a professor at Kyushu Imperial University (Kyudai) in 1924

but resigned in 1928 due to the Kyudai Incident¹. Afterwards, he played an active role as a political critic for *Tokyo Asahi Shinbun* and *Kumamoto Nichinichi Shinbun*.

The Sassa Papers comprise various materials including schedule books, diaries, political articles, letters from university professors such as Ouchi Hyoe, Kawamura Matasuke, and more. One of the characteristics of the Sassa Hiroo Papers is an interesting exchange of remarks related to books.

After Sassa graduated from the Tokyo Imperial University, he went overseas to study in Germany and France where the inflation after World War I had been going on. Sassa often sent books he had acquired there back to Japan.

While Sassa was overseas, Japan suffered the Great Kanto Earthquake. Sassa exchanged letters with Wada Mankichi (Sassa's father in law) and his family. Wada became an associate professor at the Tokyo Imperial University in 1896 and then Director of the University Library in the next year. He is known as a pioneer of library science in Japan.

Due to the Great Kanto Earthquake, the Tokyo Imperial University Library was burned down. Sassa's sister in law sent a letter (November 1923) to Sassa in Berlin about Mankichi on the day of the fire. The letter wrote: "In the east we saw the fire at the University campus ... Father rushed over there; I could not help but shed tears when I saw Father coming home late at night; How sad and regretful Father must have felt when he had to watch the fire burning down the library to which he had devoted his whole life for as many as 30 years!" (NDL Call No. Sassa Hiroo Papers 48-4).

Wada resigned from the university in order to take responsibility for the fire. On the other hand, in 1924, Wada was involved in a project to donate Japanese books to the University of Leuven in Belgium which had been burned down during World War I (Image 4).

Because Sassa was overseas away from Japan, the letters sent back and forth between Sassa and his family unexpectedly show the history of loss and donation of books in Japan and Europe.

¹ Influenced by the March 15 Incident (a mass arrest of members of the Japan Communist Party in 1928), the following 3 professors were expelled from the Kyushu Imperial University: Sakisaka Itsuro, Ishihama Tomoyuki, and Sassa Hiroo.

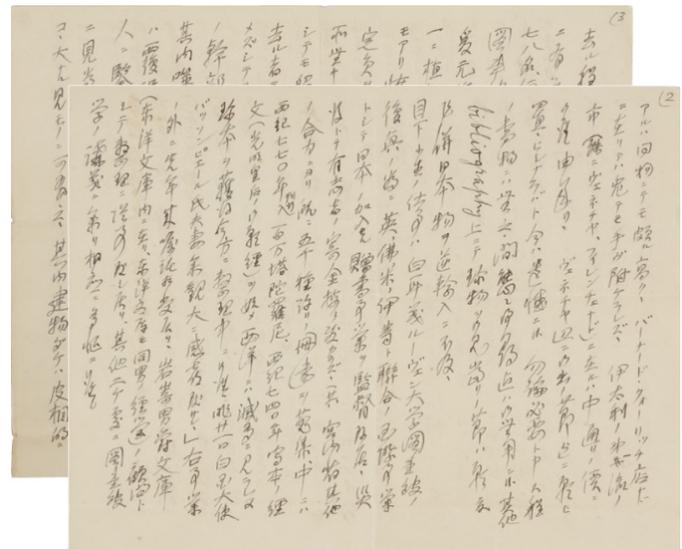
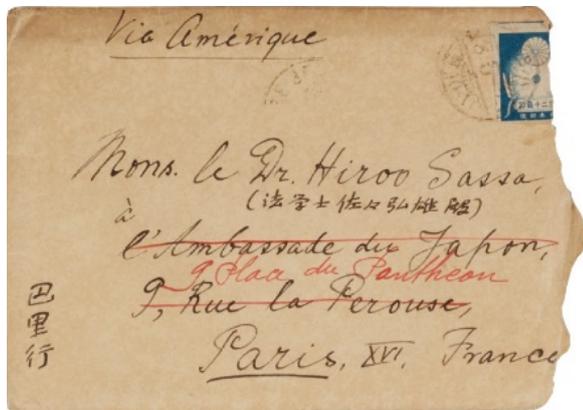


Image 4: Letter from Wada Mankichi to Sassa Hiroo, dated May 22, 1924. NDL Call No. Sassa Hiroo Papers 52-12

Wada wrote in the letter as follows: "At present, my job is to oversee the donation project which is proceeding in international cooperation with the U.K., France, the U.S., Italy, etc. for the restoration of the University of Leuven Library"; "We have collected about 5,000 materials from the Ministry of the Imperial Household and other donators, including Hyakumanto Darani published in 770 and a Buddhist sutra manuscript made in 740 (on the request of Empress Komyo)."

(Translated by OSHIMA Kaoru)

Articles by NDL staff

The NDL Preservation Forum—30 Years of Caring for Library Materials

Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This article is based on an article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 709 \(May 2020\)](#).



The National Diet Library Preservation Forum is a place where people involved in the care and preservation of library materials can learn about subjects of common interest and exchange practical ideas.

The first NDL Forum on Preservation was held in 1990, and on December 19, 2019, was held for the 30th time overall. Over the years, a total of 53 specialists, librarians, and other professionals from institutions involved in preservation have lectured or given reports on subjects selected by the NDL, and we appreciate their cooperation and contributions to our program.

In 1989, the NDL was designated the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Strategic Programme on Preservation and Conservation (IFLA PAC) Regional Centre for Asia. We established a Preservation Cooperation Program and sponsored events such as an NDL Annual Symposium on Preservation, a Round Table on Cooperation in Preserving Library

Collections, and an NDL Forum on Preservation. The NDL Annual Symposium on Preservation, which was held ten times from 1990 to 1999, was a large-scale program in which six or seven different speakers discussed a particular subject in front of an audience of sometimes more than 300 participants. In contrast to this, the NDL Forum on Preservation was intended to be an event where a relatively small number of participants could freely discuss a specific topic.

In this article, we look back over 30 years of efforts by the NDL and other Japanese libraries to preserve library materials as seen through the NDL Forum on Preservation.

Measures to Restore Deteriorated Books

The subject of deacidification was addressed during five of the first ten Forums. Professor OOE Reizaburo was not only the lecturer at the first Forum but also lectured on the deacidification and strengthening of paper at the first Symposium on Preservation. It seems that at the Forum he discussed this subject in more detail with participants. The 2nd, 3rd, and 6th Forums featured lecturers from companies and libraries in the U.S. and Canada, who reported on techniques for mass deacidification that had been developed overseas at that time.

The issue of acid paper causing deterioration of books became well-known in Japan during the early 1980s. In 1983, the NDL set up an Anti-Acid Paper Unit to survey the deterioration of library materials and in 1986 established a Preservation Planning Office as part of the Acquisitions Department to encourage the use of acid-free paper by publicizing the results of pH measurements of newly-published books. Mass deacidification began on a trial basis in 1998, so the NDL Forum on Preservation became an opportunity to learn about how mass deacidification was being conducted overseas.

A similar issue that also gained attention at that time was how to protect against the deterioration of microfilm, and this subject was addressed during the 4th Forum.

Although the issue of treating deteriorated materials was a significant subject during the first ten years of the NDL Forum on Preservation, the emphasis was already shifting from restoring deterioration to preventing it.

The Acid Paper Problem

The pages of books published after the middle of the 19th century tend to discolor and crumble. This happens because of chemicals added during the papermaking process that hydrolyze paper, making it acidic, which then breaks down the paper fibers and accelerates their deterioration. This problem of acid paper became widely known as a serious issue that could result in the large-scale collapse of library materials and called attention to the importance of preservation activities at libraries.

Deacidification is a technique for neutralizing acidic paper with alkaline substances in order to prevent deterioration, and mechanical means of mass deacidification were developed for use in libraries and archives holding extensive collections of paper materials.



Crumbling acid paper

Disaster Prevention for Library Materials

The subject of disaster prevention was first addressed during the 11th Forum on Preservation in 1998 and has been on the agenda a total of nine times through the 30th Forum in 2019.

This subject was particularly timely during the early 2000s. Awareness of the need for disaster prevention measures had grown in Japan after the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995, and many advances were made in the development of seismic countermeasures. The planning of disaster prevention measures specifically for library materials, however, was just beginning. The NDL, for example, did not begin to consider establishing a disaster prevention plan for library materials until around 2000.

For three years straight, the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd Forums all addressed the subject of disaster prevention. During the 23rd Forum in 2012, the NDL and other libraries affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 reported on the measures against earthquakes that were implemented as a result of their experiences dealing with this massive disaster.

In recent years, typhoons and floods have also caused extensive damage, but the number of libraries that have implemented disaster mitigation plans remains small in Japan. Clearly, disaster prevention is a subject that will remain on the agenda of the NDL Forum on Preservation for the foreseeable future.

Disaster Prevention for Library Materials

In addition to measures designed to protect human life and buildings, libraries must also implement measures to protect library materials. For example, preventing books from falling off their shelves, prioritizing which library materials are to be protected and rescued in the event of a disaster, documenting procedures for protecting and rescuing water-damaged materials, acquiring necessary equipment, conducting drills, and creating cooperative networks through which libraries can ask for help during a disaster are all important activities.



Damage to the stacks in the Tokyo Main Library caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake

Environment Management and Integrated Pest Management

Over the past thirty years, the concept of preservation of library materials has expanded from conservation, which deals with the repair and prevention of deterioration, to include the idea of preservation, which encompasses a variety of measures and activities related to the preservation of library collections and the information contained in them, such as maintenance of a suitable environment, conversion to other media, user education, and disaster planning. Two approaches that have repeatedly been the subject of conversation and are now considered to be particularly central to the preservation of library materials are environmental management and integrated pest management (IPM). Closely related to the subject of environmental management were the 26th Forum on Balancing Preservation and Exhibition and the 29th Forum on Library Architecture.

In addition to lectures by specialists, reports from libraries on actual practice have often been a part of recent program. Effective implementation of environmental management and IPM requires that not just conservators but all library employees understand and cooperate in these activities. We hope that the NDL Forum on Preservation will continue to spread the concept of preservation to a wide range of people involved in the operation of libraries, and that it will serve as a venue for sharing experience and gaining ideas about good practice.



An ATP test kit and equipment. Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) is a molecule found in living cells and as such can be used to inspect for the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria and mold.



An example of damage caused by mold.

Environment Management and Integrated Pest Management

External factors that contribute to the deterioration and damage of library materials include light—especially UV rays, pests that eat paper and glue, mold, and inappropriate control of temperature and humidity. Environmental management, which includes the proper control not just of temperature and humidity but also light as well as cleaning activities in stacks and exhibitions, is an effective means of preservation for library materials. IPM has gained acceptance as a means of fighting damage from insects and fungus, which is a major factor in environmental management. Originating in agriculture, it entails combining multiple measures to keep the occurrence of insects and mold within acceptable levels while using as few chemicals as possible to limit adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Some Examples of Preservation Activities at Libraries around the World

Since its inception, the NDL Forum on Preservation has invited preservation experts from around the world to give lectures. Although conditions vary from country to country and library to library, there are many issues that we all face in common. We hope that the latest information and these examples of preservation activities at libraries around the world will provide everyone with both stimulation and inspiration.

(Translated by HATTORI Mao)

Related contents on the National Diet Library Website:

- [The NDL as the IFLA PAC Regional Centre for Asia](#)
- [pH Annual Survey of Newly-acquired Materials](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Storage Environment](#)

Forum (year)	Subject	Speaker
1st (1990)	Deterioration of paper and the effects of deacidification	OOE Reizaburo
2nd (1991)	A new system for mass preservation: The FMC deacidification and paper-strengthening process	Robert S. Wedinger
3rd (1991)	New developments in mass deacidification technology: A report from the Library of Congress	Donald K. Sebera and Gerald Garvey
4th (1991)	Storage and the preservation of microfilm	IWANO Haruhiko
5th (1992)	Preservation of materials: Past and future issues	Nicolas Barker
6th (1993)	Mass deacidification: The Wei T'o process	Richard D. Smith
7th (1994)	Mass deacidification systems in libraries around the world	OOE Reizaburo
8th (1994)	Stack environment for rare books	KENJO Toshiko
9th (1996)	Preservation activities at national libraries in Indonesia and Sri Lanka	Gardjito and Nandaseeli Galagederage
10th (1997)	Using recycled paper and the preservation of library materials	OKAYAMA Takayuki
11th (1998)	What to use when extinguishing a fire in an emergency: Fire extinguishing equipment for libraries and archives	SAITO Naoshi and KINO Shuzo
12th (1998)	Preservation management in Australia – the challenges ahead	Colin Webb
13th (2000)	Disaster prevention planning: How a plan takes shape	OGAWA Yujiro
14th (2001)	Environmental management at libraries and archives: Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	KIGAWA Rika
15th (2003)	Preparing for disasters: disaster prevention and rescue plans for library materials	ORYU Kazunori
16th (2004)	Disaster and information network: Creating an information network on disaster-affected materials in Japan	KOMATSU Yoshiro

Forum (year)	Subject	Speaker
17th (2005)	Disaster prevention for library materials: Prevention and emergency response – Accepting the "Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel"	UCHIDA Toshihide
18th (2007)	The long-term preservation of microfilm: Mechanism of deterioration and their countermeasures	NARABAYASHI Koichi
19th (2008)	Preventing pests from invading or increasing: Integrated Pest Management for libraries	KIGAWA Rika
20th (2009)	Forum 1 Conservation research projects in the Netherlands Forum 2 The special collection paper history of the KB	Henk Porck
21st (2010)	Disaster prevention for materials at libraries and archives	OGAWA Yujiro and AOKI Mutsumi
22nd (2011)	Disaster preparedness in China, Korea, Australia, and Japan: Reports from National Libraries	Li Cuiwei, Lee Kwi-Bok, Jennifer Lloyd and SAKAI Kumiko
23th (2012)	Preparing for earthquakes: What worked and what we learned	YANASE Hiroo, KUMAGAI Shinichiro, YOSHIDA Kazunori and SATO Megumi
24th (2013)	Sustainable environmental management: Materials at libraries and archives	SANO Chie, NAKAMURA Aiko and SHINNO Setsuo
25th (2014)	Sustainable preservation of materials: Ingenious ideas for management	KOMORI Chihiro
26th (2015)	Is that display damaging the books? The balance between preservation and exhibition	KATO Masato, FUKUDA Natsuko, ISHIBASHI Keiichi and MATSUMOTO Kazuyo
27th (2016)	Preservation in Digital Age: Examples from the Bodleian Libraries and the Center for Historical Social Science Literature, Hitotsubashi University	Virginia Lladó-Buisán and TOKOI Keitaro
28th (2017)	Practical IPM for protecting library materials	SANO Chie, HARAGA Kanako and KANBARA Yoko
29th (2018)	Library architecture and the preservation of library materials	AOKI Mutsumi, KOJIMA Hiroyuki and SHINNO Setsuo
30th (2019)	Disaster Prevention for Archival Materials: daily preparedness, disaster response, and cooperation	ARAI Hirobumi, AMIHAMA Seiko, KATO Akie and OKADA Ken

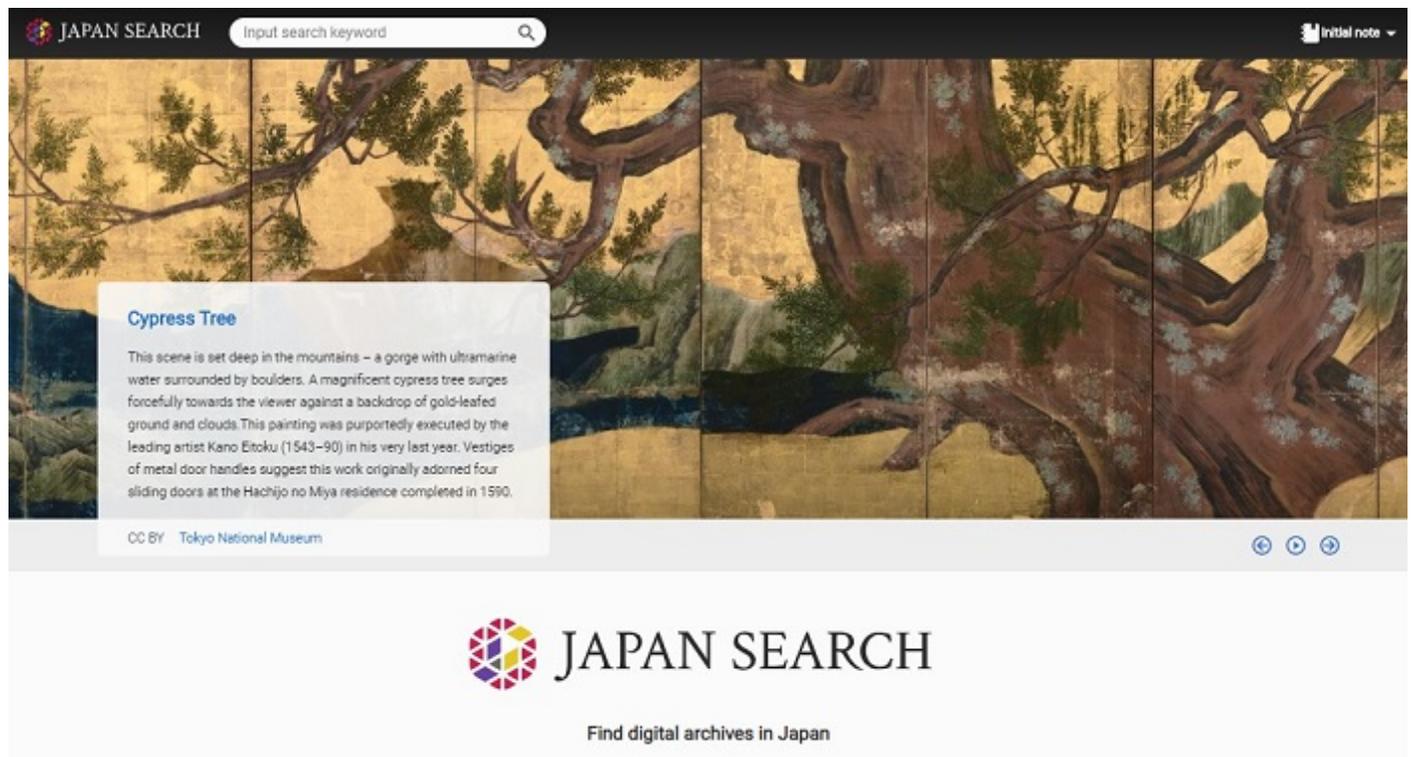
※For more detail (in Japanese only) on these lectures and reports, please see the document *30 Years of Forums on Preservation: A List of Subjects, Speakers, and Presentations*, distributed at the 30th Forum on Preservation (https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/event/events/forum30_list.pdf).

News from NDL

Official version of Japan Search has become available!

Digital Information Planning Division, Digital Information Department

This article is a part of translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 711/712 \(July/August 2020\)](#).



What is Japan Search?

Japan Search links digital archives in a variety of fields and organizes metadata¹ of various content preserved by Japanese institutions and organizations into a searchable national, integrated and cross-sectoral portal website. Aside from providing searchable aggregated metadata, Japan Search provides metadata in a user-friendly format and also plays a vital role as a foundation for promoting content utilization. After the beta version was released in February 2019, we continued to improve functions following feedback, and on August 25, 2020, the official version has become available.

Who operates Japan Search?

Japan Search is mainly administrated by the Digital Archive Japan Promotion Committee and Practitioner Review Committee whose executive office is the Cabinet Office Intellectual Property Promotion Strategy Bureau. This committee consists of ministries, researchers, and major national archives including the NDL. The Japan Search system is developed and operated by the NDL in cooperation with a variety of organizations in Japan under policies established by the committee.

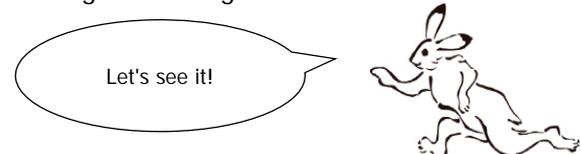
¹ Metadata is a set of data describing form, location, and other details of content. Bibliographic data of libraries, catalog data of museums and art galleries, etc.

What kind of digital archives does it link?

Japan Search continues to cooperate with a variety of digital archives through data aggregators who gather and standardize metadata in each field or regional community. It links 24 aggregators, 111 databases, and about 21 million metadata as of the end of September 2020. Major collaborative databases include ColBase of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (cultural heritage), the National Archives of Japan Digital Archive (official documents), and niuINT of the National Institutes for the Humanities (humanities). NDL Search of the National Diet Library connects 11 organizations and 13 databases to Japan Search as an aggregator for books.

How does it work?

In addition to the cross search system as an integrated portal, Japan Search has a variety of functions to encourage use of digital archives.



How to use Japan Search

Basic level

Type a key word "富士山" (Mt. Fuji) in the search box and try the cross search.



The screenshot shows the JAPAN SEARCH interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "富士山" entered. Below the search bar, there are filters for "Rights Type" (Educational, Non-commercial, Commercial, PDM) and "Contents Access" (Web). The search results are displayed in a grid format, showing various items related to Mt. Fuji, including a tea bowl, a book cover, and a map. Each result includes a title, a brief description, and the provider information.



You can filter your results by terms of use, presence or absence of digital content, and name of database.

When you select an item from the search results, the detailed page will open and show its metadata and terms of use. You can jump to links to databases of collaborative organizations. On the detailed page, related items such as items from the same author, period or location are automatically shown by using JPS-RDF data.

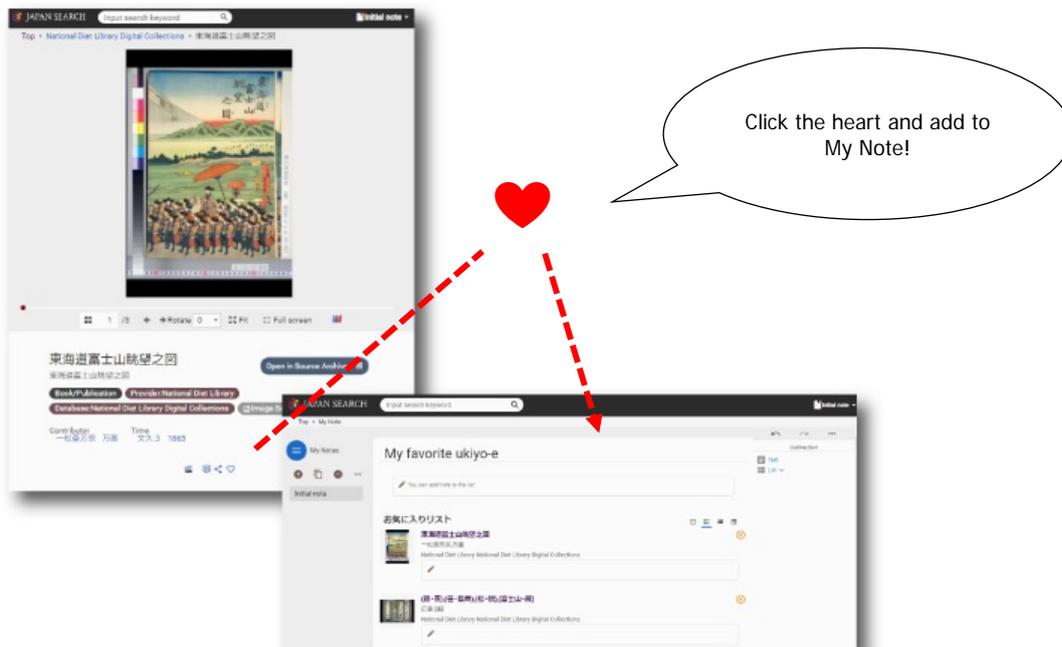
Gallery

There are pages that introduce specific topics with images and explanatory writing. By clicking them, you can feel how interesting and expansive the digital archives which collaborate with Japan Search are. The number of galleries is about 200 as of now. Images conform to IIF².



My Note

You can make your own list by clicking the ♥ icon of your favorite items or galleries. You can also add annotations to the items and export them in CSV or html form. View and edit My Note from the note icon at the top right of the screen.

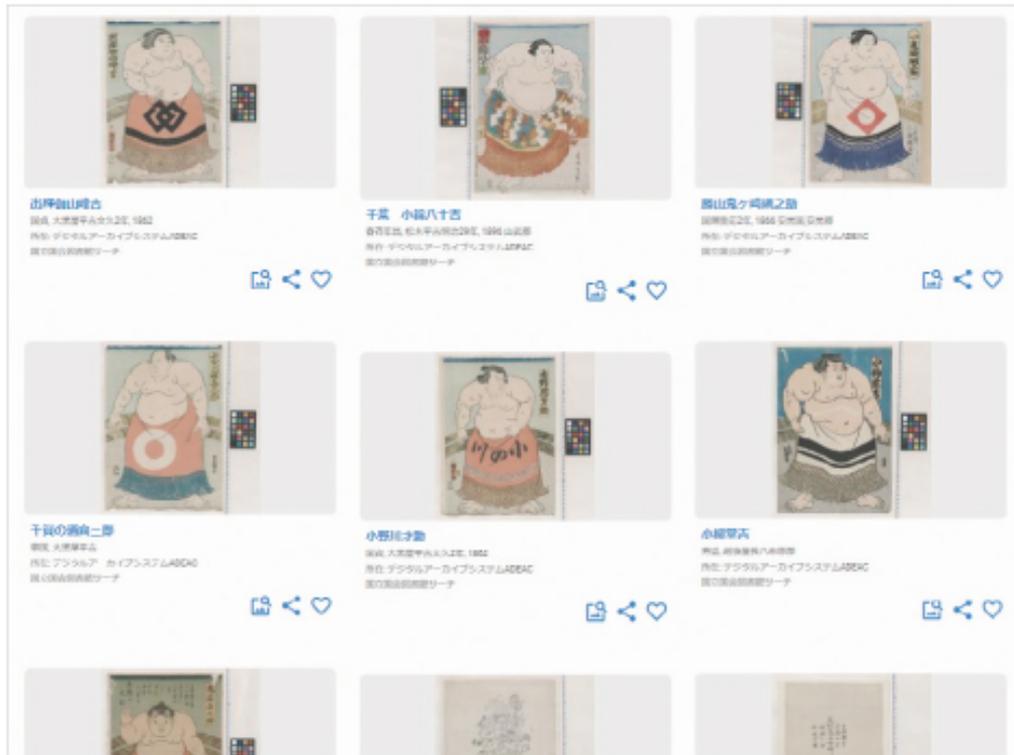


² International Image Interoperability Framework. An international standard for interoperability of images.

Advanced level

Image Search

Image search allows finding items with similar thumbnails to selected thumbnails or uploaded images.



Web Parts

My Notes and Galleries made on Japan Search can be exported in html form and embedded in your own website or blog.



JPS-RDF data

Metadata aggregated by Japan Search is provided from a SPARQL endpoint³. Data which is normalized (ex. changing Japanese calendar to Western calendar, historical place name to current place name, etc.) and converted in order to be easy to utilize, called JPS-RDF data, is obtainable. By using JPS-RDF data, you can cross-search with portals all over the world such as Europeana.



(Translated by HATTORI Mao and YABE Moyu)

³ API (Application Programming Interface) that provides data by using SPARQL, a RDF language.

⁴ Resource Description Framework. A standard for metadata description

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 715, November 2020

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* (in Japanese).

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

No. 715, November 2020 (PDF: 5.67 MB)

- <Book of the month - from NDL collections (special edition)>
 - Wishing to overcome infectious diseases
 - Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room
 - Kaleidoscope of Books (28)
 - History of the National Diet Building
- Exhibition on Parliamentary Government Commemorating the 130th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diet
 - Working at the NDL, Episode 9
 - Artists whose works have graced the cover of the NDL Monthly Bulletin
 - <Tidbits of information on NDL>
 - Shedding more light on fascinating materials
 - <Books not commercially available>
 - *Ato no hozon · shufuku*
 - <NDL Topics>