



The 23rd Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China

A National Diet Library (NDL) delegation visited China from November 24 to December 3, 2003 on the 23rd mutual visit program between the NDL and the National Library of China (NLC).

For reports on past programs, please see [here](#).

For outline of the programs and some reports presented at the programs, please see [here](#).



Headed by Ms. Kimiko Harada, Director General of the Bibliography Department, the delegation consisted of the following four other members: Mr. Keiya Utsumi, Department Director of the Projects Department, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, Mr. Yuji Miya, Director of the Book Service Division, Ms. Fumiko Kodama, Director of the Library Support Division, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, and Ms. Kaori Murakami, Chief of the Cooperation Section, Planning and Cooperation Division (interpreter).

NDL delegation in front of the NLC building

From left: Ms. Murakami, Ms. Harada, Ms. Kodama, Mr. Miya, Mr. Utsumi

The main theme of the program was "Enhancement of the Functions of National Libraries" and the sub-themes were "Online Information Resources: Acquisition, Organization and Use" and "New Development of Library Cooperation."

In the latter part of the program, they went to cities in southern China (Hangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai) to visit libraries there.

Opening Session (Theme: Enhancement of the Functions of National Libraries)

At the Opening Session, Ms. Zhang Yafang, Deputy Librarian of the NLC, delivered a keynote speech focusing on NLC's library services:

1. Specialized services for the government, the NPC and the CPPCC, academicians and other

specialists, academic institutions and companies.

The NLC provides 24-hour-a-day reference service for the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. NLC branch libraries located in the government agencies were established, modeled on the NDL branch library system.

2. Cooperative services for libraries nationwide

Since 1991, the NLC has been holding a meeting with directors of major public libraries in China. Through its union catalog project, joint purchase of foreign databases, and ILL system linking domestic libraries, the NLC plays a leading role in Chinese libraries.

3. Participation in national projects

The NLC is the Center for the Consortium of National Information Resource Sharing. This national project is operated by the Ministry of Culture to which the NLC is affiliated and the Ministry of Finance. For details of the project, please see [here](#). In addition, the NLC is in charge of operating two national projects, the China Rare Books Reproduction Project and the Send Books to Villages Project.

4. Cultural events (lectures and exhibitions)

The NLC puts emphasis on the library's function as a social educational facility. It holds cultural lectures for senior staff of the central government. It has held lectures for general public 400 times in the past two years and the audience reached 70,000. Exhibitions of NLC collections to introduce Chinese culture were held not only in China but also in foreign countries such as Hungary.

5. Change in NLC policy--from storing materials to providing materials for use

The NLC changed its policy and sharpened its focus on the use of its holdings. As a result of this reformation, the numbers of on-site users and used materials tripled compared with 1998.

Ms. Harada reported on recent developments in the NDL, focusing on the new services provided after the reorganization of the NDL in 2002.

- Opening of two more facilities, the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL), expanded on-site services.
- Opening of the ILCL that serves not only adults but also children, while the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan serves only adults, made the age limit relaxed.
- Digital library service made it possible to serve more users than ever beyond the limits of time and space.

As future challenges of the NDL, Ms. Harada stated the following:

- The NDL will find solutions to deal with online information resources
- The NDL will continue to improve users' access to information resources
- The NDL will promote both domestic and international library cooperation activities

Session on the Online Information Resources: Acquisition, Organization and Use

Mr. Wang Zhigeng, Deputy Director of Serials Department/ISSN China Center, introduced recent projects of the NLC in this field.

New library system:

The NLC adopted a new library management system, Aleph 500, in November 2002. As a result of this adoption, the NLC reorganized its divisions.

Web Information Collection and Preservation (WICP):

The WICP is a test project to collect government, academic and public resources on the web. Collected materials are cataloged utilizing the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set or the China MARC and their bibliographic data are included in the NLC-OPAC.

Online Database Navigation (ODBN):

The ODBN is also a test project to collect databases on the deep web.

The WICP and the ODBN are provided only on the NLC intranet so far.

International Dunhuang Project:

This is a joint project conducted by national libraries such as the NLC, the British Library (BL), Bibliotheque nationale de France, and Staatsbibliothek, Berlin. The NLC and the BL maintain its website. They will complete digitization of their Dunhuang materials by 2006 and provide them on the Internet free of charge.

From the NDJ, Mr. Keiya Utsumi reported on online information resources. He introduced two projects related to online information resources, the [Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)](#) and the [Database Navigation Service \(Dnavi\)](#). The issue whether online information resources should be included in the legal deposit system or not is now being discussed by the Legal Deposit System Council, one of advisory organizations of the Librarian of the NDJ. The final report will be submitted by March 2005. The Japanese Government is also promoting e-Japan strategy and the NDJ is expected to participate in its plan to establish cultural heritage archives and a portal site of the government's databases.

Session on the New Development of Library Cooperation

Mr. Yan Xiangdong, Director of the International Cooperation Division, NLC, reported mainly on international library cooperation.

- Cooperative establishment and use of Chinese resources over the world
- Enhancement of staff exchange and cooperation with other national libraries
- Utilization of international exchange program for senior staff training
- Export of Chinese traditional preservation techniques to other countries
- Promotion of Chinese culture through exhibitions of the NLC holdings
- Holding/participating in international conferences

Ms. Fumiko Kodama, Director of the Library Support Division, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, reported mainly on domestic cooperation activities. After the establishment of the Kansai-kan and the ILCL, the NDL changed its framework and library cooperation activities are operated in all three facilities. She introduced this new framework and new services such as the [Collaborative Reference Database System](#) and the [Current Awareness-E](#), an e-mail magazine that introduces the latest news on library and library science from inside and outside Japan.

Visits to other libraries

In addition to the sessions, the NDL delegation visited other libraries. In Beijing, they visited the Branch Library of the NLC at Wenjin Street, the Peking University Library, and the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In southern China, they visited the Zhejiang Library, the Jiaye Library, the Suzhou Library and the Shanghai Library. The Jiaye Library, a branch of the Zhejiang Library, is an old traditional library originally established by a Chinese book collector and publisher, Liu Chenggan (1882–1963), while the other libraries are examples of newly developed libraries in China.



Electronic resources room (Suzhou Library)



Jiaye Library

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Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Assembly Library of Korea



Dr. Chung (left) and Dr. Kim (second from the left) of the NAL, meeting with Mr. Kurosawa (right), the Librarian of the NDL

A mutual visit program with the National Assembly Library (NAL) of Korea was held from December 1 to 7, 2003 at the Tokyo Main Library of the National Diet Library. Two staff members of the NAL, Dr. Yoo-Hyang Kim, Legislative Research Officer, Legislative Research Division 1, and Dr. Hwan Kyu Chung, Legislative Research Officer, Legislative Research Division 2, visited Tokyo for the program.

The mutual visit program between the two libraries started as a training program for which each library sent to the other one staff member for one month. In 2000, the NDL dispatched its staffer to Korea and it invited a staffer of the NAL in 2001. (For details, please see [here](#).) After two years, the two libraries reviewed the results and agreed in August 2003 to restart the program in a new style, that is, two staff members visiting the partner library every two years by turns to report and discuss both libraries' major issues. This year's program is the first one held under the new framework.

As it is the first year, we set the following themes for the sessions aiming at enhancing the understanding of each other's parliamentary services.

December 3, Wednesday

Session I "What services for parliaments should be: focusing on research services"

- "Function change and the direction of development of legislative information service" by Dr. Hwan Kyu Chung, NAL
- "What services for parliaments should be: research services" by Mr. Kaoru Omagari, Assistant

Director, Legislative Reference and Information Resources Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, NDL

December 4, Thursday

Session II "What services for parliaments should be: focusing on digital information provision"

- *"Direction of development of legislative information service for the realization of a digital parliament"* by Dr. Yoo-Hyang Kim, NAL
- *"What services for parliaments should be: centering on the information provision"* by Mr. Takeshi Kiriwara, Assistant Director, Electronic Information Services Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, NDL

In Session I, Dr. Chung reported the history, current situation and issues of the NAL's legislative information services, and Mr. Omagari talked about the present state and challenges of the NDL's legislative research services. After their presentations, the participants had a lively discussion on the actual contents of each other's parliamentary services and their methods.

In Session II, Dr. Kim's report was about NAL's digital information services and the prospect of realizing a digital parliament. She also demonstrated NAL's Legislative Knowledge Database. Mr. Kiriwara made a report focusing on the Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet and the Total System for Research and Information Services.

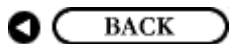
After the sessions, the NDL staff in charge of this program had a meeting with the NAL delegates to discuss and exchange opinions about the future programs such as the timing of a future program and its contents. No objection was made to continuing this mutual visit program in the same style next year in Korea.

On December 5, researchers of the Bureau who specialize in the same fields as Dr. Kim, a specialist of IT, science and technology, and Dr. Chung, an expert in education, exchanged opinions with them about the subjects of research, research methods and problems.

The delegates visited the International Library of Children's Literature on Tuesday, December 2 and Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly on Friday, December 5 during their stay.

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Training program for preservation staff in the NDL

The National Diet Library held a training program for preservation staff from December 3 to December 8, 2003. For this training program, Mr. Christopher Clarkson, ex-Conservation Officer at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, and Mr. Robert Minte, Superintendent of Book Conservation Workshop, Preservation and Collection Care of the same library, were invited as our lecturers.



Mr. Clarkson, Mr. Minte, and the participants in the program.

The objectives of this program were to improve the conservation skills of the NDL staff and to draw people's attention to issue of preservation of library materials both inside and outside of the library.

This program consisted of a two-day conservation workshop in the Tokyo Main Library, and lectures open to general public in Tokyo and the Kansai-kan. 183 people (including 56 staff) attended the lecture in Tokyo, and 103 (including 18 staff) that in the Kansai-kan.

Thanks to the extremely experienced and skilled conservators Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Minte, who most carefully instructed the staff during the program, the conservation workshops inspired the conservation staff to consider our future conservation work, besides improving the conservation skills of the staff. At the open lectures, library staff and other participants interested in the conservation of library materials learned the required planning and techniques. This lecture also gave us an excellent opportunity to meet people who are engaged in the area of conservation, which was helpful in furthering our cooperation activities.

Based on the NDL preservation plan FY2003-2005, the NDL will invite instructors from outside institutions and hold the same kind of training programs for next two years.

The schedule of this program was as follows:

Schedule

Date	Programs	Venue
Dec.3 13:00-15:00, 15:30-17:00	Workshop 1 <i>Book conservation -- techniques used in minimum intervention</i>	The Tokyo Main Library of the NDL (Conservation workshop)
Dec.4 13:00-15:00, 15:30-17:00	Workshop 2 <i>Materials & techniques used in limp, semi-limp paper & vellum binding structures</i>	
Dec.5 13:30-17:00	Lectures <i>"The Florence Flood of November 1966 & its aftermath"</i> by Mr. Christopher Clarkson	The Tokyo Main Library of the NDL (Auditorium)
Dec.8 13:30-16:30	<i>"Conservation at the Bodleian Library"</i> by Mr. Robert Minte	The Kansai-kan of the NDL (Seminar Room 1)

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Conservation workshop

Lead by Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Minte, 17 conservation staff, including staff from the Imperial Household Agency, the National Archives of Japan and the Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the NDL, experienced traditional European techniques of book conservation -- bindery technique using endbands, end-of-spine-bands and headbands, and repair of parchment -- after listening to short introductory lectures.





Workshop: Conservation staff sawing headbands under the instruction of Mr. Clarkson (above) and Mr. Minte (below).

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Lectures

[The Florence Flood of November 1966 & its aftermath](#) by Mr. Christopher Clarkson

Mr. Clarkson told us about his experience in the Florence Flood in 1966, to which he was sent as a member of the English book repair team: the disaster to the whole city of the Florence, his struggle to prevent further destruction and repair the mud- or oil- covered collection of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze (BNCF), and the conservation methodology developed in that experience.

[Conservation at the Bodleian Library](#) by Mr. Robert Minte

Mr. Minte talked about the history of the Bodleian Library, the main research library of the University of Oxford, one of the oldest libraries in Europe which dates back to the year 1602. Subsequently, he gave us various examples of conservation practices in the Bodleian Library that have been established by library staff in the long-term pursuit of effective methods for book conservation.

The texts of the lectures are available in PDF format:

- [The Florence Flood of November 1966 & its aftermath\(pdf\)](#)
- [Conservation at the Bodleian Library\(pdf\)](#)

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Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room opened!

*This is an abridged translation of an article in
the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 512 (November 2003).*

On December 1, 2003, the Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room was newly opened in the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library. The former Statutes and Parliamentary Documents Room and the Law, Politics and Official Publications Room have been integrated into this new room. The following materials are now provided in one place: statutes and parliamentary documents, official publications (of Japan and other major countries), documents of international organizations, and reference books on laws and politics.

1. New Open Access Materials

In the new room, commentaries on major Japanese statutes, court precedents and administrative matters have been added to the open access stacks to facilitate research by users.

Materials in Japanese giving an outline of foreign parliaments, statutes, and politics have also been added. In particular, materials on laws and administration, not only general introductory books but also commentaries on major categories, are included.

In future, introductory materials on the Japanese parliament, laws and politics in foreign languages will be added to the open access shelves. Provision of digital information resources in physical format such as CD-ROMs will be enhanced, as well as access to online resources, regardless of whether they are domestic or foreign, will be improved.

2. The website (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/horei/en/index.html>)

The websites of the former Statutes and Parliamentary Documents Room and the Law, Politics and Official Publications Room have been integrated into the new site for this room. Our main purpose in constructing the new site is to enable users to obtain as much information as possible by themselves without coming to the library. Therefore, we give priority to introducing original information resources on the web over introducing materials held by our room.

The English version of our website has put special emphasis on Japanese parliamentary and legal information.

3. Index of Japanese Laws and Regulations Database

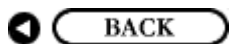
We are now preparing to release the index to the Japanese laws and regulations database

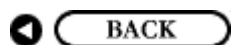
on the web in early FY2004. This database includes laws and regulations after the enactment of Kobunshiki (February, 1886) in principle. This database contains four kinds of index information:

- *Index to Japanese laws and regulations with amendments currently in force* (the alternative of the printed version of the same kind of index which ceased publication in FY2003)
- *Index to abolished laws and regulations with amendments*
- *List of enacted laws and regulations since the promulgation of Kobunshiki*
- *Index to bills* (covering bills tabled since the 1st session of the Diet (1947))

The Index to bills and the other three indexes are to be linked to each other. In the near future, an index to the laws and regulations in the early Meiji era before the Kobunshiki will be published in book form.

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Training program for information specialists for Japanese studies in FY 2003



Trainees and staff of the program

Since FY2002, the National Diet Library (NDL) has jointly hosted the Training program for information specialists for Japanese studies with the Japan Foundation (JF), in cooperation with the International House of Japan (IHJ) and the National Institute of Informatics (NII) ([related articles](#)).

This year, the program was held from December 1 to 19, 2003, mainly in the Tokyo Main Library of the NDL, the Kansai-kan of the NDL and the NII. Fourteen trainees joined from ten countries; Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, France, Russia, Korea (Republic of), Turkey, USA, and Vietnam.

The contents of the program were as follows:

Tokyo

Date	Subject
December 1	Orientation (at the JF) Introduction of curriculum Guided tour of the NDL
December 2	Trends and issues of distribution of Japanese publications Japanese newspapers

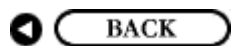
	Periodical indexes in Japan - focusing on the NDL Japanese Periodicals Index
December 3	Japanese reference books 1 Courtesy call on the Librarian of the NDL Japanese reference books 2
December 4	Statistics (optional) Observation tour (NHK Archives)
December 5	Trends of resources and media on Japanese language education Observation tour (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
December 8	Information services of the NII: introduction and practical training (at the NII)
December 9	Information services of the NII: introduction and practical training (at the NII) Observation tour (Keio University Mita Media Center)
December 10	Distribution of government information Japanese laws and regulations (optional) Japanese government publications (optional)
December 11	Independent research Pre-workshop (on demand, at the IHJ) Workshop: Reference Services in the Digital Age: focusing on Information about Japan (jointly hosted by the JF and the IHJ) (at the IHJ)
December 12	Preservation and conservation Cultural heritage and information: cooperation between libraries and archives Rare books and old materials (optional)

Kansai

Date	Subject
December 15	Observation tour (Kyoto University Library) Observation tour (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
December 16	Courtesy call on the Director General of the Kansai-kan Orientation Guided tour of the Kansai-kan Use of the NDL-OPAC
December 17	Observation tour (The Nara National Museum) Independent research
December 18	How to obtain academic documents (lecture and discussion) Digital library projects in Japan: focusing on the NDL projects
December 19	Independent research Information on Japanese studies on the web Trainees' evaluation meeting

Closing ceremony
Farewell party

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Copyright research of Japanese books printed in the Meiji era: Behind the scenes of digitization (part two of two)

By Digitization Section, Digital Library Division,
Projects Department, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

*This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title
in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 511 (Oct. 2003).*

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(Last issue no.134)

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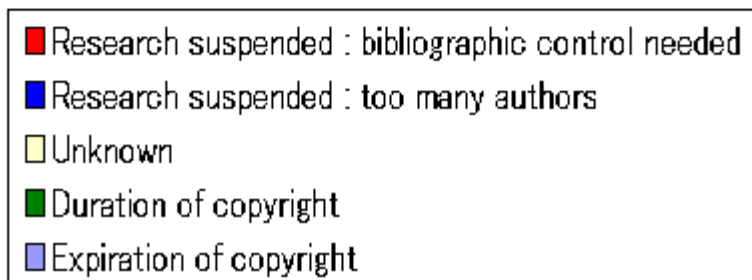
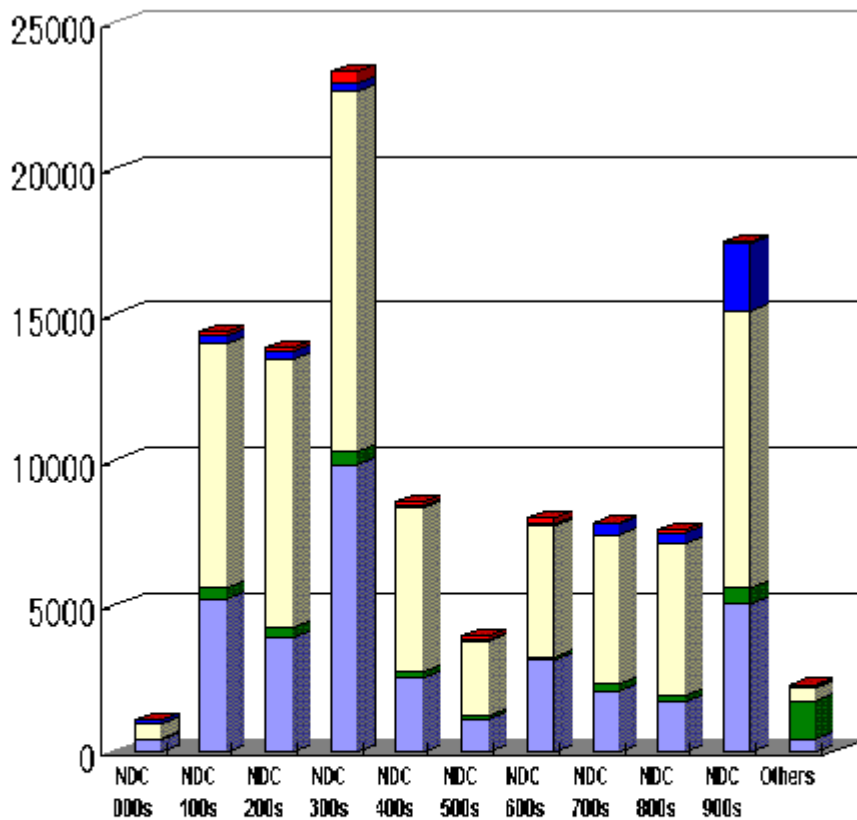
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4. Results of the copyright research

As a result of three-year research excluding the open research mentioned later, 34,997 (33%) out of 106,098 works printed in the Meiji era were confirmed as copyright-free. The results, assorted by NDC (Nippon Decimal Classification), are shown in Chart 2.

Chart 2: Results assorted by NDC



Categories of the NDC (Nippon Decimal Classification) are as follows:

000 General works

100 Philosophy

200 General History

300 Social sciences

400 Natural science

500 Technology, Engineering

600 Industry and commerce

700 The arts. Fine arts

800 Language

900 Literature

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Other findings

2,528 items (2.4%) are confirmed as copyrighted. 62,877 items (59.9%) are still unknown because the year of the author's death is uncertain. Research has been on hold for 5,696 items (5.4%) for two main reasons:

1. More than ten authors are involved in one work
 2. Errors of bibliographic data or data in authority file for author hampered further research
- Many of the books that fell under reason 1 were volumes of haiku and tanka poems. As the NDC 900s includes such volumes of poems, the number of research-suspended works in the 900s is extremely large. In case plural authors (fewer than 10) are involved, if there is at least one whose copyright is uncertain or one author has a factor for suspension, the copyright of the work is defined as "unknown" or "research suspended" respectively.

Remaining problem

Research has been suspended for works in which too many authors are involved. The rate is about 4% of the total research subjects. How we handle them in the future remains a problem.

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5. Open Research

Outline

Open research for author information (hereinafter called "open research") was carried out from March 17 to June 16, 2003. The research subjects were 54,000 authors of 67,000 titles whose copyrights were still unknown in the copyright research.

An open research site was set up in the NDL website. It had a page to search for author and a form for users to send information on the contact address of the copyright owner or the year of the author's death.

Background

According to Article 67 of the Copyright Law (Exploitation of works in the case where the copyright owner thereof is unknown), in case we cannot find the copyright owner or his/her contact address despite considerable effort, we can reproduce his/her work under a compulsory license from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs after depositing compensation fixed by the Commissioner.

Open research is counted in "considerable effort." Actually when the Planning Office of the International Library of Children's Literature digitized and released two titles of magazines for children on the web in FY2000, it did open research for copyright on the web before applying for a compulsory license from the Commissioner. In the end, it released 1,853 out of 2,203 authors' works.

Results

The open research page logged 60,890 accesses and received 738 remarks: 679 via the form and 59 via other tools. The results are shown in Chart 3. As well as useful information on author, we received comments on errors in our bibliographic data and we corrected them one by one.

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Chart 3: Results of the open research

Number of research subjects	54,097 (67,373 titles of works)
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Access count	60,890 (Daily average: 708 Number of searches performed: 29,180)
Number of remarks via the form	679 (From author: 46, From others: 633)
Number of remarks via other tools	59 (for 461 authors) (Details) By phone: 21, By letter: 6, By email: 32
Total remarks	738
Number of authors whose year of death identified	532 (Expiration of copyright: 480 Confirmation of copyright: 52)
Number of contact addresses identified	60
Number of works made available on the web by the research	976

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6. Future plans

Currently, works released on the "[Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#)" have been confirmed as copyright-free in the three-year copyright research from FY 2000. In future, we will clear issues of copyrighted works and works of which the year of the author's death is unknown, before we digitize and upload them. There are mainly two ways to clear copyright issues: one is obtaining a license from the copyright owner and the other is receiving a compulsory license from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs.

Obtaining license from copyright owner

We will look for contact addresses of the copyright successors of 824 authors who are confirmed as copyrighted by the copyright research or the open research. If we find their addresses, we will ask permission to release the work on the "Digital Library from the Meiji Era." Though some of the addresses were found in the open research, most of them are still unknown. In next research, we will refer to other information tools such as groups to which the author belonged, related academic societies, publishers who issued the author's works and local governments of the prefecture or city in which the author resided when his/her work was published.

We will apply for a compulsory license from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs for authors whose copyright successors' addresses are still unknown in the next research.

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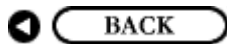
Application for a compulsory license from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs

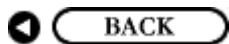
For authors whose copyrights are still unknown after open research, we are conducting the above-stated research for successor's contact address in FY 2003 and 2004, after which we will apply for a compulsory license from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs based on Article 67 of the Copyright Law. In FY 2003, we will apply for the release of 18,149 works in the NDC 000s-200s and will apply for other works in the NDC 300s-900s in FY 2004. We are consulting with the Agency for Cultural Affairs about the specific number of works for which we can apply at one time.

To prepare for application, we have to arrange documents on prima facie evidence as supporting data and estimate compensation in addition to searching for the copyright successor's contact address. Compensation corresponds to the ordinary rate of royalty and after we receive a compulsory license from the Commissioner, we need to deposit the compensation with the Ministry of Justice. We will try to provide the works properly as people's cultural heritage after careful consultation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Through these researches and procedures, we will digitize and provide most of the Meiji collection on the web by the first half of FY2005.

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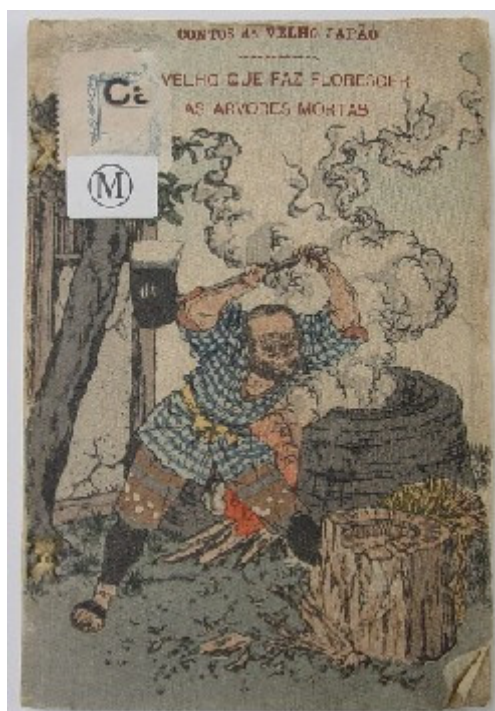
Selections from NDL Collection

Chirimen-bon: books made of Chirimen Paper (crepe paper)

This is an abridged translation of the article in the Reference Service and Bibliography, no.54 (March 2001) which outlines the NDL chirimen book collection.

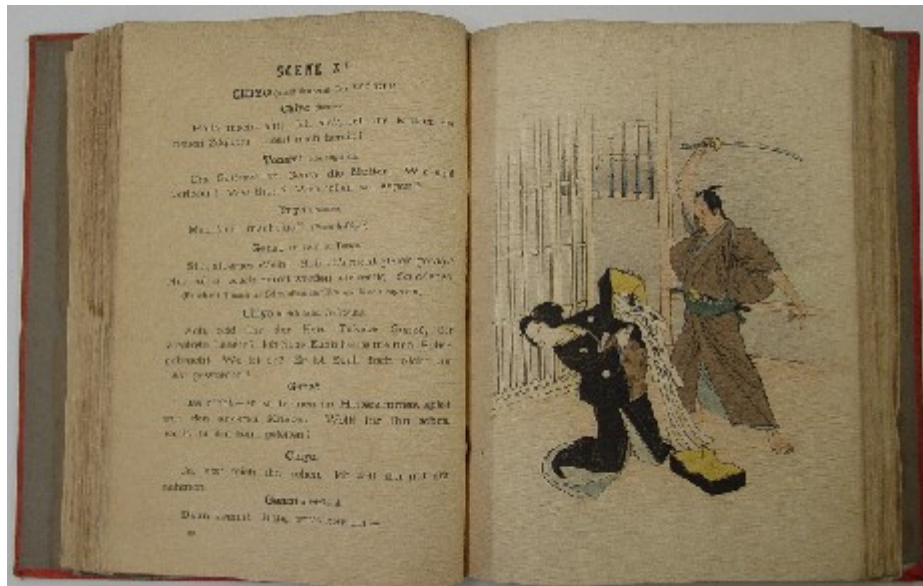
"Chirimen-bon" is a book made of *chirimen* paper (crepe paper), usually illustrated with multi-colored woodblocks print and bound in Japanese style. Many of them were produced from the Meiji to early Showa era (latter half of the 19th century to first half of the 20th century). *Chirimen* paper itself had been produced since the late Edo period, and was used for hair accessories for women and to print *nishiki-e*.

Chirimen books are thought to have been invented in August 1885, when a Japanese fairy tale series was published by Hasegawa Takejiro (1853–1936). Popular Japanese folktales such as "Momotaro (Momotaro, little peachling)" "Shitakiri suzume (The tongue cut sparrow)" and "Saru-kani Kassen (Battle of the Monkey and the Crab)" were translated in English, French and German, and published in picture book style with woodblock prints. In later years, they were also translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Dutch, and Danish (the NDL does not hold the Danish version). Thirty-one stories were published in English, over 20 stories in German, French and Spanish, and from one to five or six stories in other languages.



Front cover of "O velho que faz florescer as arvores mortas (The old man who made the dead trees blossom)," Portuguese translation of a Japanese fairy tale, *Hanasaka jiji*.

The mark "M" means that this book is available in microform. [Bibliographic data](#)



Chirimen paper is a kind of washi (Japanese paper) made through moistening and compressing to show many tiny folded lines on the surface when it dries. It is very soft. Please click the image to zoom on it and see the texture.

(The image is from "Japanische Dramen; *Terakoya* und *Asagao*," a German translation of Japanese classic dramas [Bibliographic data](#))

The Hasegawa fairy tale series was such a success that *chirimen* books on other themes, e.g. Japanese poems, traditional performing arts, regular annual events and lives of common people were also published, and other publishers entered into the market. Akiyama Aisaburo (1873–1947) was known as a publisher of large sized *chirimen* books, while Ogawa Kazumasa (1860–1929) was famous for his *chirimen* photo albums. Lafcadio Hearn (1850–1904), Karl Florenz (1865–1939), and Basil Hall Chamberlain (1850–1935) were involved in translation, and colorful ukiyoe-like illustrations of distinguished painters such as Kobayashi Eitaku (1843–1890), Kawabata Gyokusho (1842–1913), and Suzuki Kason (1860–1919) were feasts for the eyes. Catching the wave of Japonisme, *chirimen-bon* sold well as souvenirs for foreign visitors to Japan and were exported as Japanese artworks. They were also exhibited at the Paris Exposition in 1900 and other international exhibitions.

From "The goblin spider" translated by Lafcadio Hearn, an Irish American writer. He came to Japan in 1890 and studied Japanese ghost and hobgoblin stories. He was naturalized in Japan in his later years. Click on the image for a larger one.

[Bibliographic data](#)



Chirimen books passed a peak in the late Meiji period and the calendar took their place. Hasegawa looked back saying, "They didn't care what was printed. They bought them because they looked exotic. Now it's become common, crepe paper is no longer attractive. It loses its surface so easily." The woodblock print itself had also reached a low ebb by that time. Nevertheless, *chirimen* books persisted up to the 1970s as souvenirs.



From "Monthly changes of Japanese street-scenes," a calendar book for 1906. Seasonal attractions are illustrated for each month.

In this image, paper(or cloth) carp and streamers for the boys' festival in May are illustrated. Click the image for a larger one.

[Bibliographic data](#)

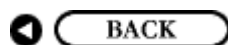
Features of the NDL *chirimen* books collection:

1. It includes a few volumes of Hasegawa fairy tale series in black and white print (cheap edition).
2. It lacks editions in some languages.
3. It does not cover all the works of Hasegawa fairy tale series. For some titles, we hold more than one volume, while for others, we do not have any.
4. It includes a few calendars.
5. Many of the volumes held were published in Tokyo.

The incompleteness of the collection may be attributed to the way in which the former Imperial Library (one of the predecessors of the NDL) categorized its acquisitions. *Chirimen* books in minor languages or cheap editions might have been categorized as materials not worth long-term preservation. There is also a possibility that part of collections was lost in the Great Kanto Earthquake.

The NDL recently compiled and published a catalog of its *chirimen* book collection, including an index of persons who were involved in creating and publishing *chirimen* books. (The catalog is contained in the Reference Service and Bibliography, no.54 (March 2001), a quarterly publication of the NDL.)

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National Diet Library Newsletter

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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No. 515, February 2004

- Report of the 23rd mutual visit program with the National Library of China – Enhancement of the functions of national libraries–
 - Visiting libraries in China pt.1
 - Visiting libraries in China pt.2 [related article](#)
- Training program for information specialists for Japanese studies in FY 2003 [related article](#)
 - Report of the 4th conference on bibliographic control: Name authority control
 - What's bibliographic control? (6) Living periodicals

No. 514, January 2004

- New Year Greeting by *Takao Kurosawa*
- Report of the 11th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) and the 12th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) [related article\(CDNLAO Newsletter\)](#)
 - FY2003 meeting between NDL Librarian and directors of university libraries
- Annual meeting between NDL Librarian and directors of branch libraries in the executive and judicial agencies in FY2003
 - Liaison meeting with staff of prefectural assembly libraries in FY 2003
- House of Commons Library: past, present and future – Invitation of Ms. Priscilla Baines, Librarian of the House of Commons
 - Overview of materials added after 1995 to the Modern Japanese Political History Collection (6 final)

<Announcement>

- [“Bibliography of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics”](#) is now available on the [NDL website](#)
- Special Exhibition: Southeast Asia, the people and their lives [related article](#)

<Invitation>

- 16th forum on preservation: Disasters and information networks – building networks in Japan to share information on disaster-affected materials –
 - Open lecture on Statutes, Parliamentary Documents and official publications
- Products which changed our lives: stories of their early days (Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibitions, 5) [related webpage \(Japanese only\)](#)

