

Events

Report: The 29th NDL Forum on Preservation

The 29th National Diet Library (NDL) Forum on Preservation was held on December 21, 2018, at the Tokyo Main Library, where professional conservators discussed library architecture and the preservation of library materials as well as exchanged ideas about the most effective ways of preserving library materials.

In order to maintain library materials in good condition over the long term, it is necessary to build facilities that are capable of maintaining a suitable environment for preservation. During this forum, we focused on deepening our understanding of building design that is suitable for material storage as well as how to take full advantage of the characteristics of a completed building. We listened to lectures and reports that included examples of how to incorporate preservation techniques into the design concept of a library and how to implement countermeasures in buildings designed specifically for the preservation of library materials.

We heard lectures from four professionals.

Lecture: Buildings and facilities for storing library materials**Mutsumi Aoki****Associate Professor, [National Institute of Japanese Literature](#)**

Ms. Aoki provided an overview of the functionality required in buildings and facilities used for the long-term preservation of library materials by explaining the concepts of storage planning and management. She began by explaining the need to survey existing conditions and develop a storage plan from the perspective of integrated pest management (IPM) and then gave examples of which international standards and environmental guidelines are useful. She also described some basic causes of deterioration, preferred ambient conditions for preserving materials, countermeasures implemented at storage facilities in Japan and overseas, and improvements, such as covering all building openings except entrances and exits with screens, that were made at the National Institute of Japanese Literature when their collections were transferred. Also, differences in the material characteristics and frequency of use between

archival materials and general library materials require that they be stored and organized on shelves differently, which highlights the need to develop individual measures not just according to theory but with regard for actual storage conditions.

Report 1:
Architectural design concepts at the [Library of Economics, University of Tokyo](#)
Hiroyuki Kojima
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo

Mr. Kojima introduced the points necessary for designing a library which is suitable for the material preservation, based on his experience of participating in the design and construction of the building with the Library of Economics, University of Tokyo. He told that the most important point of the design is to provide the insulation and moistureproofing environment and it is essential to manage the preservation environment properly. In the library, traffic lines of the library staff and library materials are clearly divided. Depending on the feature of the zone, they use a sticky mat for wiping the bottoms of one's feet. The building was designed and constructed so that the dust will not accumulated by uplifting the floor a little so that they can clean it easily. With these countermeasures they can avoid the pests and molds coming into the stacks. He also emphasized that when designing architectures, it is important to first understand the characteristics of each organization, learn the basic idea of material preservation, and consider how to apply it to their own library.

Report 2:
[Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Library](#)
— Preventive material preservation measure from the viewpoint of the facilities
Setsuo Shinno
Book Conservation Specialist, Tokyo Metropolitan Library

Mr. Shinno reported on his involvement in designing the new Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Library, which opened in January 2017, and in helping with preventive care of materials. Although located in an area that is only rarely subjected to flooding, the bookshelves are well above ground due to recent incidents of unusually severe weather, including sudden cloudbursts. The walls of the closed stacks have a double-wall construction similar to that of a thermos bottle so that the temperature and humidity can be readily controlled even in above-ground stacks. Sticky mats are used at entrances to the stacks in order to protect against mold, and posters remind library staff to be aware of preservation issues.

Report 3:
Overview of three National Diet Library facilities from the viewpoint of preservation
Emiko Ozawa
Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department, National Diet Library

Ms. Ozawa explained some features of the structure and equipment from the perspective of protecting library materials from disasters and maintaining an appropriate preservation environment, using five closed-stack facilities at the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan, and the International Library of Children's Literature as examples. In addition, ideas for protecting stacks from dust, vermin, and mold; the creation of disaster preparedness guidelines; and monitoring of temperature and humidity were explained. She reported that in order to promote such activities, understanding and full cooperation of facility managers and employees at each department is important.

After the forum, the participants received a tour of the closed stacks at the Tokyo Main Library including the air conditioning and gas fire-extinguishing systems.

(Translated by Tomoaki Hyuga and Moyu Yabe)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Toward Sustainable Environmental Control: Temperature and Humidity Control at the National Diet Library of Japan \(Paper presented at IFLA/WLIC 2014, Session 188 — Keeping collections alive: Preventive conservation policy and practice — Preservation and Conservation Section\)](#) (No. 197, December 2014)