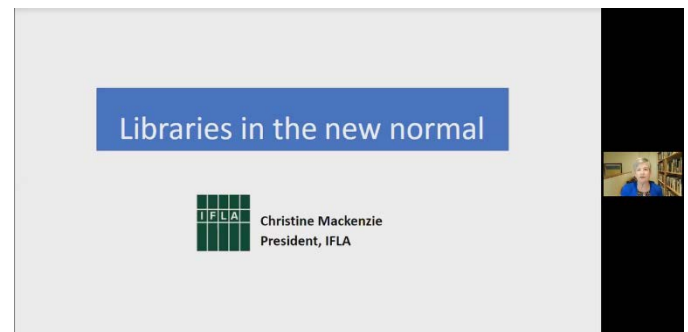
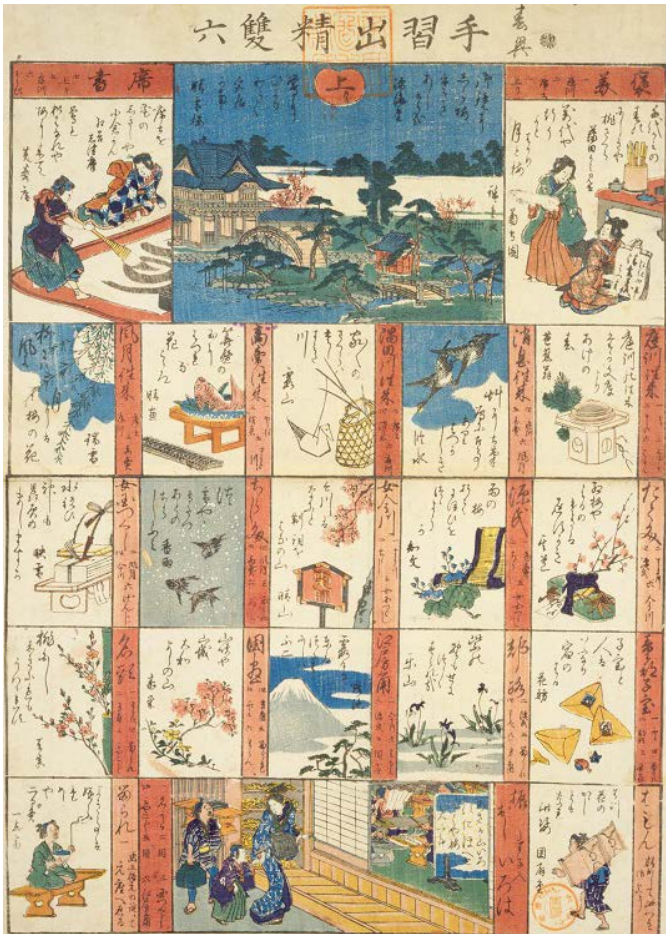


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 237, March 2021



## Contents

### Selections from NDL collections

- Famous Places, People, and Social Customs on Paper—*Sugoroku* Board Games from the Edo Period (Part 3. Social Customs)

### Events

- Report on the NDL Webinar *Libraries in the New Normal*

### Articles by NDL staff

- Ten years after the Great East Japan Earthquake: National Diet Library support for disaster-affected libraries

### News from NDL

- The National Diet Library in Figures  
From the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2019

### Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

- The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 719, March 2021



Selections from NDL collections

## Famous Places, People, and Social Customs on Paper—*Sugoroku* Board Games from the Edo Period (Part 3. Social Customs)

Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a part of translation of the article in Japanese in Small Digital Exhibitions "*Kaleidoscope of Books*".

### Introduction



*Koinyobo somewake tazuna*<sup>1</sup>

There are two types of Japanese board games that use dice: *e sugoroku* (picture dice games) and *ban sugoroku* (board dice games). *Ban sugoroku* is virtually identical to the game of backgammon, in which two players move their pieces around a board. Although *ban sugoroku* became popular among aristocrats during the 5th and 6th centuries, it fell out of fashion during the Edo period.

In contrast to *ban sugoroku*, *e sugoroku* is very similar to the board game Snakes and Ladders and became popular during the Edo period as an everyday pastime. Originally, there was a form called *mawari sugoroku*, in which players rolled the dice to see who could move their pieces around the board first. Gradually, this game evolved to include squares that had penalties, like "lose one turn," or introduce a new form called *tobi sugoroku* (jumping dice games), in which players move to specific spaces on the board based on dice rolls and the instructions written on each square.

Although *sugoroku* is basically a game for children, there are some versions that are rather difficult to play. It is likely that these more difficult versions were intended to be played by children together with adults or older siblings. Many of the brightly colored *e sugoroku* boards were painted by well-known illustrators, so they were meant not just to be a pastime but also to have some kind of aesthetic value.

This series features Edo-period *e sugoroku* from the holdings of the NDL with boards that depict famous places, people, and social customs.

After the Sengoku period came to an end, the Edo period became an age of social stability, during which townspeople gained economic power and played a significant role in promoting culture. Not surprisingly, the diverse culture of the townspeople was also depicted in *sugoroku*. In this chapter, we will take a look at *sugoroku* that feature the aspirations of townspeople to succeed in life, local specialties and other products, popular shops in Edo, and unusual hobbies.

### Advancement of social status

During the Edo period, a number of *sugoroku* depicting people's dreams of advancing their social status were created. Most of these targeted ordinary townspeople, who were the primary customers of *sugoroku*. Because of the strict social class system in place during the Edo period, advancement within one's own class was depicted, but not advancement beyond that. In many cases, the finish line features the attainment of great wealth, which is an indication that financial security was considered a measure of success by townspeople.

<sup>1</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Toyokuni III, published by Sumiyoshiya Masagoro in the mid-19th century. NDL Call No. ㊮-88 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)



### Kotobuki shusse sugoroku (Celebration for advancement)<sup>2</sup>



This *sugoroku* features success stories of ordinary townspeople. It depicts several routes to success according to specific occupations. For example, the servant of a merchant, who advances to become a large wholesaler and finally a wealthy person himself at the finish line. A successful student advances to become a medical doctor or a Confucian scholar. The lowest row

shows squares that are indicative of failure, such as disinheritance or ostracization, which gives us an idea of how ordinary townspeople viewed failure, as well.



Disownment on the lower right corner and seclusion on the lower middle

There is square labelled retirement, which seems to be another finish line and says "If you reach this square, you will be granted a pension from a wealthy person." There is also a square labelled *ganninbozu*, which is a street performer dressed as a Buddhist monk, who is paid to visit shrines and temples to pray on behalf of his clients. There are no further instructions here, probably because this was considered a dead end in one's social advancement.



Retirement

<sup>2</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Kuniteru I, published by Eikyudo. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)



Shinpan onna teikin huriwake sugoroku (the latest in women's upbringing)<sup>3</sup>

This board is about the social advancement of women. The starting line shows a young dancer, and the finish line is a millionaire living in retirement in paradise. Each square depicts occupations and social status open to women at that time.

The instructions in each square describe future aspirations to the next step. For example, brides are instructed 1. to become a mother-in-law someday; 3. to become a teacher, since artistic skill leads to income; 5. to become the wife of a wealthy man by using your wits. (Each number indicates a roll of a dice.) Thus, the game provides stories for a successful life.



Bride

<sup>3</sup> Illustrated by KATSUKAWA Shunsen, published by Iwasaya Yoichi. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)



***Oku hoko shusse sugoroku (Advancement at the inner palace)***<sup>4</sup>

This *sugoroku* depicts a woman's journey to the *Ooku*—the inner palace of the Edo Castle, where the Shogun's household lives. Various positions and roles are illustrated here: a servant who takes care of miscellaneous affairs, an older woman who is head of the ladies-in-waiting, and a concubine.

In reality, however, members of the Shogun's household were rarely chosen from the townspeople, so this *sugoroku* apparently is depicting what is a fantasy of townswomen at that time. There is also a sequel by the same illustrator, featuring the upbringing of a young girl, entitled *Oku hoko nihen musume ichidai seijin sugoroku* (A girl's growth and development)<sup>5</sup>.



Concubine

<sup>4</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Toyokuni III, published by Joshuya Juzo. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)

<sup>5</sup> Published by Joshuya Juzo. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)



### *Shunkyo tenarai shusei sugoroku* (Practice of Japanese calligraphy)<sup>6</sup>



This *sugoroku* features children practicing Japanese calligraphy. The starting line depicts a little boy, taken by his mother to enter a *terakoya*, an educational institution that taught writing and reading to children during the Edo period. The finish line is Kameido Tenjin Shrine, where the god of learning is enshrined, and which is located in the present-day Kameido neighborhood of Koto City in Tokyo.



Entering *terakoya*

Various aspects of life at a *terakoya* are illustrated, including excommunication, detention, and rewards. We

can also see the names of books with calligraphic examples, such as *Genji*, *Onna imagawa*, and *Shobai orai*.



Left: Detention  
Right: Excommunication

*Oraimono*, collections of sample letters and sentences, were used as textbooks at *terakoya*. The students studied different curriculums, depending on their social status, intended occupation, and gender, so a variety of examples were published: rural correspondence and agricultural correspondence for farmers; commercial correspondence and wholesale correspondence for merchants; and carpenters' correspondence for artisans.

<sup>6</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Hiroshige, [published in between 1843 and 1847]. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)



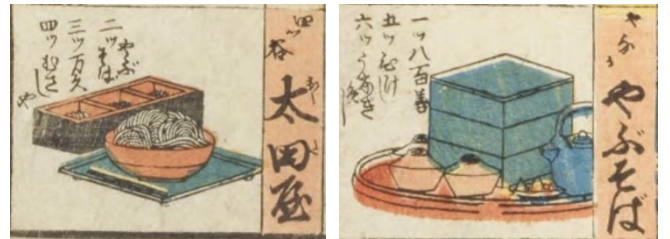
## Commerce

### Shinpan gofunai ryuko meibutsu annai sugoroku (introducing the specialties of Edo)<sup>7</sup>

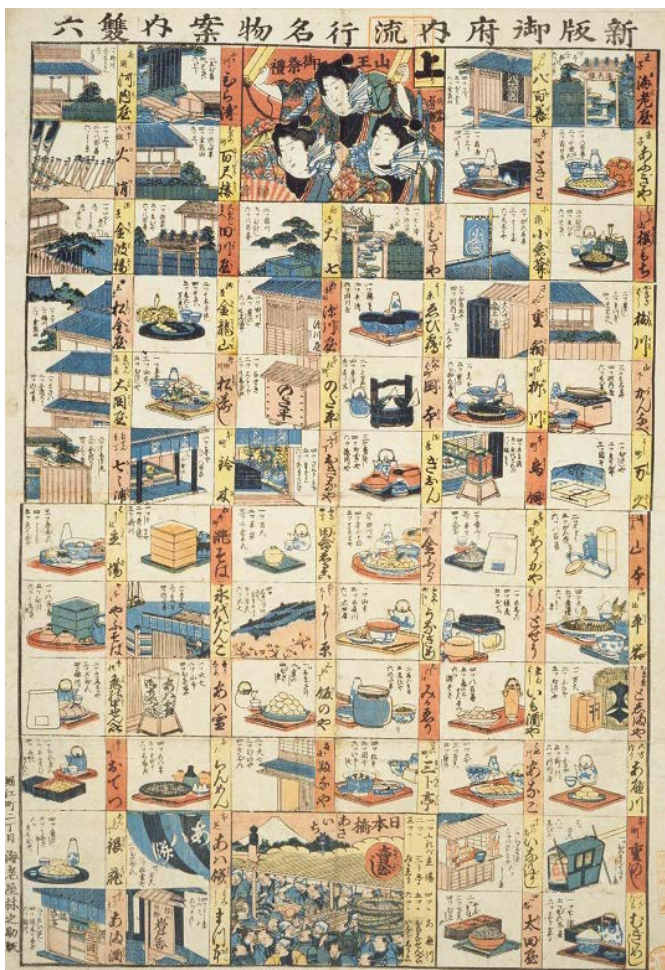
The Japanese word for starting line is ordinarily *furidashi*, but here it is labeled *uridashi*, which is a pun meaning "bargain sale." This *sugoroku* features popular restaurants that serve eel, buckwheat noodles, and others specialties, starting with the Nihonbashi morning market and ending at the Sanno Festival. This *sugoroku* is from the late Edo period, when culinary culture reached full maturity, resulting in a rapid increase in the number of restaurants as well as the publication of numerous cookbooks. Famous restaurants of the day like Yaozen in Sanya and Hirasei in Fukagawa appear in the squares.



Left: Starting line (Nihonbashi)  
Right: Finish line (Sanno Festival)



Soba restaurants



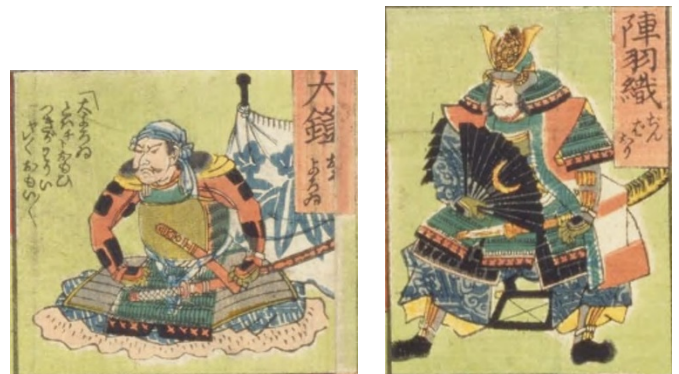
<sup>7</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Yoshitsuya, published by Ebiya Rinnosuke from 1847 to 1852. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)



## Other subjects

Kacchu chakuyo sonae sugoroku (Medieval armor)<sup>8</sup>

This *sugoroku* shows the rituals a samurai went through when putting on armor, going into the battle, and celebrating a victory. First, he puts on *fundoshi* (Japanese loincloth), *kobakama* (pleated trousers), straw sandals, and chest armor. Then he picks up a matchlock rifle, steel rake, long sword, and other weapons, after which he puts on *oyoroi* (heavy armor) and *jinbaori* (surcoat). The finish line features a picture of the samurai returning to camp to celebrate a victory.



Left: *Oyoroi*  
Right: *Jinbaori*



Left: *Fundoshi*  
Right: *Kobakama*



Finish line

<sup>8</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Yoshikazu, published by Maruya Jinpachi in 1858. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)



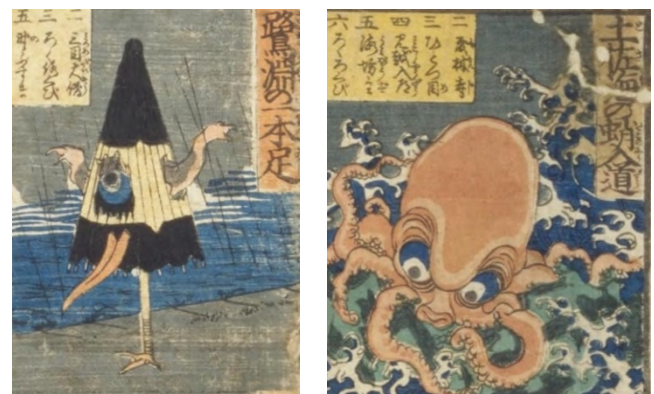
Utagawa Yoshikazu, a pupil of UTAGAW Kuniyoshi, used several pseudonyms like Issen, Ittosai and Ichijusai. After the Port of Yokohama opened to foreign vessels in 1859,

he drew many pictures that show the customs of Westerners, and some of these are held by the National Diet Library.<sup>9</sup>

### Mukashi banashi bakemono sugoroku (Old monsters and tales of horror sugoroku)<sup>10</sup>



This *sugoroku* features colorful pictures of *yokai*—monsters from Japanese folk tales. The starting line depicts children enjoying a game of *Hyakumonogatari*<sup>11</sup>—the telling of ghost stories—and the finish line shows monstrous cats in a haunted house. Utagawa Yoshikazu, who created the *Kacchu chakuyo sonae sugoroku* shown above, also created this *sugoroku*. Ghost stories were popular during the Edo period and many anthologies were published, including *Otogi boko* by ASAI Ryoji, *Ugetsu monogatari* by UEDA Akinari, *Shokoku hyaku monogatari* and *Taiheihyakumonogatari*.



Left: Umbrella monster  
Right: Octopus-like monster

<sup>9</sup> *Gaikokujin ifuku shitate no zu* (Westerner tailoring clothes), published by Maruya Jinpachi in 1860. NDL Call No. 亥二-92.

\*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)

*Yokohama kenbutsu ezu Ijin osanaasobi* (children of Westerners playing on a hill), published by Joshuya Kinzo in 1860. NDL Call No. 亥二-92. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)

<sup>10</sup> Illustrated by Utagawa Yoshikazu, published by Izumiya Ichibe in 1858. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)

<sup>11</sup> After dark, participants gather to tell ghost stories. They light a hundred candles and blow out them one by one after telling each story. People believed that when the last candle went out and darkness fell, monsters would appear.





Left: Snow woman  
Right: Teakettle raccoon



Finish line

(Translated by OGAWA Kanako and YABE Moyu)

#### Reference (in Japanese):

- *Edo no yugi : Kaiawase karuta sugoroku* by NAMIKI Seishi, edited by Karinsha, published by Seigensha in Jul. 2007. NDL Call No. GB374-H52.
- *Esugoroku : Oitachi to miryoku* by YAMAMOTO Masakatsu, published by Unsodo in Jan. 2014. NDL Call No. KD958-H34.
- *Bakumatsu meiji no esugoroku* written and edited by KATO Yasuko and MATSUMURA Noriko, published by Kokusho Kankokai in Feb. 2002. NDL Call No. KD958-G664.
- *Esugoroku ten* (Picture sugoroku) edited by Edo Tokyo Hakubutsukan (Tokyoto) in Feb. 1998. NDL Call No. KD958-G295.
- *Sugoroku 2* by MASUKAWA Koichi, published by Hoseidaigakushuppanyoku in Jul. 1995. NDL Call No. KD958-E403.
- *Sugoroku* by KONISHI Shiro, JUGAKU Akiko and MURAGISHI Yoshio, published by Tokumashoten in 1974. NDL Call No. KD958-12.
- *Zusetsu edo no manabi* by ICHIKAWA Hiroaki and ISHIYAMA Hidekazu, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha in Feb. 2006. NDL Call No. FB13-H29.
- *Edo no ryori to shokuseikatsu*: Nihon bijuaru seikatsushi by HARADA Nobuo, published by Shogakukan in Jun. 2004. NDL Call No. GD51-H55.

- *Kotoba asobi no bungakushi* by ONO Mitsuyasu, published by Shintensha in Apr. 1999. NDL Call No. KF145-G25.
- *Hyakumonogatari no kaidanshi* by HIGASHI Masao, published by Kadokawa Gakugei Shuppan in Jul. 2007. NDL Call No. KF145-G25.

#### Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Famous Places, People, and Social Customs on Paper—Sugoroku Board Games from the Edo Period \(Part 1. Famous Places\)](#) (No. 234, December 2020)
- [Famous Places, People, and Social Customs on Paper—Sugoroku Board Games from the Edo Period \(Part 2. People\)](#) (No. 236, February 2021)



## Events

Report on the NDL Webinar *Libraries in the New Normal*

**Webinar**

# **Libraries in the New Normal**

📅 **2021. 2/26 (Fri)**

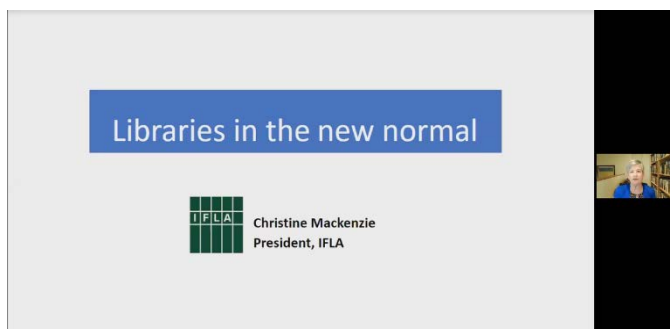
🕒 **14:00 - 15:10 (JST)**

**Ms. Christine Mackenzie**  
IFLA President



On February 26, 2021, the National Diet Library held a webinar on *Libraries in the New Normal*, during which Ms. Christine Mackenzie, president of [the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)](#), spoke to more than 300 online participants.

The webinar kicked off with opening remarks from YOSHINAGA Motonobu, Director General of the National Diet Library (NDL), followed immediately by Ms. Mackenzie's lecture.



Lecture by Ms. Mackenzie

After briefly providing an overview of the IFLA, Ms. Mackenzie touched upon five talking points referring to the [IFLA Global Vision](#)—community, content, technology, staff, and working together—in describing how libraries should adapt to the “new normal.”

She shared what the IFLA is doing to support libraries everywhere and explained some of the important functions of libraries in communities as well as the necessity for librarians to update their traditional roles.

She further emphasized the importance of the actions of all librarians in creating a truly global movement for improving libraries and people's lives in all parts of the world.

During a question-and-answer session, Ms. Mackenzie answered a variety of questions from the participants and addressed subjects such as how the working environment of librarians would change in the new normal; what libraries can do to provide onsite services while ensuring the safety of patrons and library staff; what kinds of information services are suitable for researchers during a pandemic; what libraries can do during a pandemic for those who do not necessarily have stable internet connectivity; how to achieve gender equality for those who work at libraries; and how to strike a balance between providing non-commercial space and cooperating with the business community.



Ms. Christine Mackenzie spoke to us from Melbourne, Australia.



The webinar was a most valuable opportunity to reflect on how the IFLA and libraries around the world have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and what the future might hold for libraries. Ms. Mackenzie called for thinking strategically about partnerships and working together at all levels.

The response of the participants was overwhelmingly positive, with 93% of them expressing overall satisfaction on a questionnaire about the webinar. Comments from the participants mentioned that "It was encouraging to learn that librarians around the world are working towards the same goal under the influence of COVID-19," "It was a great opportunity to learn about the IFLA as well as trends in and the future direction of libraries around the world," and "The topic was timely and informative, and it was easy to participate in the online lecture."

We at the NDL would like to express our deepest gratitude to Ms. Mackenzie for her contribution to this most enjoyable event as well as to everyone involved in the production of the webinar.

The presentation used in the webinar is available on the [NDL website](#). And videos (both in English and Japanese) of the lecture will be uploaded to [the National Diet Library's YouTube channel](#) in the near future.

(Written by HATTORI Mao and YABE Moyu)



Articles by NDL staff

## Ten years after the Great East Japan Earthquake: National Diet Library support for disaster-affected libraries

SATO Yoriko, Director, IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia

Ten years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. One of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in Japan, it caused widespread damage to the eastern coastal region, especially in the northeast. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami took a heavy toll of lives and caused massive damage to buildings and facilities, including libraries. Approximately 1.8 million books were knocked off their stacks and fell to the floor at the Tokyo Main Library of the National Diet Library (NDL). Naturally, this experience increased awareness at the NDL of the importance of disaster-preparedness. Another consequence of this disaster was a commitment made by the Preservation Division of the NDL to provide continuous support to libraries in the process of repairing or restoring library materials damaged by natural disasters. The following is a brief report on major support projects undertaken over the past 10 years and the challenges we faced.

### 1. Sending NDL staff to afflicted areas

In May 2011 the NDL sent employees from its Preservation Division to Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures, to evaluate damage at libraries in the most severely affected areas. The NDL also responded to a request from the Noda Village Library in Iwate Prefecture for guidance on cleaning and removing mold from books as well as making simple folding cases and housing water-damaged books. From July to December 2011, NDL staff provided training to employees at prefectural libraries in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima on emergency treatment and basic repair of damaged materials. (For details, see the article in NDL Newsletter [No. 184, August 2012](#)).

The lessons learned through onsite experience proved to be most valuable when the NDL later sent staff to libraries and museums affected by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis) to provide training in the recovery of items damaged by earthquake and guidance on emergency treatment of water-damaged materials. Although each of these disasters and the damage they caused were quite different, expertise acquired by the NDL through these support activities helped us understand what kinds of assistance the NDL can provide with our existing skills. At the same time, we also learned what our limitations are and that the NDL is unable to respond to each and every request from local libraries for help in disaster recovery. This is partly because we have limited resources and partly because of the time it takes to arrange to send NDL staff to the disaster area. Another factor is that in local

municipalities, very often the restoration of normalcy in people's lives is given priority over recovering library materials. It can take some time before local municipalities get around to dealing with the needs of libraries. In such a case, it is often desirable that prefectural libraries, where the staff is knowledgeable about the local community, conduct an initial survey of damage and provide early support. And if there is a need for more special expertise, local libraries can then request support from the NDL.



Training program at the Kumamoto Prefectural Library

### 2. Conservation of water-damaged materials

It was during recovery work after the Great East Japan Earthquake that the NDL engaged for the first time in conservation of damaged material requiring special skills and equipment available only on the premises at the NDL. In particular, conservation of a collection of 106 volumes of historical documents known as the *Yoshida-ke monjo* was a large-scale project that took about two years to finish. Designated an important cultural property by Iwate Prefecture and held by the Rikuzentakata City Library, the *Yoshida-ke monjo* was damaged extensively in the tsunami and required a wide range of techniques to effect repair, such as disassembly, washing, leafcasting, drying, and rebinding. This work provided the staff of the Preservation Division with invaluable experience. (For details, see the articles in the NDL Newsletters [No.187, February 2013](#) and [No. 198, February 2015](#).)





Conservation work on the Yoshida-ke monjo

Subsequently, support for conservation of water-damaged materials at the Joso City Library after torrential rainfall in 2015 as well as for materials at the Kumamoto Prefectural Library damaged by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake were provided on the premises at the NDL, even though the total number of repaired materials was small. The opportunities to provide this kind of support are not frequent, which is why we make an effort to share the knowledge and expertise gained through these activities with as many employees of the Preservation Division as possible.

### 3. Sharing information on disaster-preparedness

There have been numerous natural disasters in Japan since 2011, including earthquakes, typhoons, and torrential rainfall, which has only enhanced awareness of the importance of preventive measures and disaster-preparedness in protecting library materials. Preservation Forums held by the NDL in 2011 and 2012 reported on the experiences of NDL staff and librarians from three prefectures in northeastern Japan and shared information on the challenges of effective disaster prevention. The NDL once again held a Preservation Forum on disaster preparedness in 2019 (For details, see the article in the NDL Newsletter [No. 230, June 2020.](#)) and continues to provide information on disaster-preparedness as well as share manuals on how to rescue water-damaged material. All these activities are intended to increase awareness of disaster-preparedness for library materials. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more difficult to provide support from outside the prefecture to libraries in Kumamoto that were damaged by torrential rainfall in 2020. Librarians in Kumamoto, however, were able to undertake emergency treatment of damaged material after watching video lectures from the Tokyo Metropolitan Library about rescuing water-damaged material. The NDL is also continuing its effort to provide useful information on disaster prevention and mitigation through its website and other channels.

#### Drying wet materials

Drying partially wet or damp materials with absorbent paper and a fan.



Examples of water damage

- Glass water spills
- Plumbing breaks in stacks
- Sprinkler malfunction
- Roof leaks, immersion

...etc.

※Colored water is used to demonstrate the wet part.



#### Necessary items

- Towels (absorbent material preferable)
- Absorbent paper (non-colored paper towels, copying paper, etc.)
- Fan
- Boards (drawing boards, cutter mats, chopping blocks, etc.)

Manuals on [the NDL website](#)

### 4. Building network of cultural heritage institutions

In May 2011, a Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake was established at the request of the Agency for Cultural Affairs with the goal of rescuing cultural artifacts damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Thus, the Cultural Property Rescue Program was started. The Committee at first comprised museums. As time went on, however, archives and libraries were also included, at which time the NDL joined in. In fact, it was through the Cultural Property Rescue Program that the NDL became involved in the conservation of the *Yoshida-ke monjo* mentioned above. NDL staff undertook emergency treatment of the documents as part of the Program. For the first time, the NDL took part in nationwide activities to rescue cultural artifacts in collaboration with museums. The Committee continued its activities for two years, and in 2014 was reorganized as the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network in order to broaden its goals to include materials other than those damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network was supported by subsidies from the Japanese government. And in October 2020 the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center was established under the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage to establish a permanent organization for promoting disaster prevention and mitigation.

Elsewhere, the Japan Library Association established a Great East Japan Earthquake Committee to support libraries in the disaster areas, and in 2015 the Japan Library Association Disaster Preparedness Committee was established to support libraries nation-wide. The Japan Library Association Great East Japan Earthquake Committee is scheduled to end its activities at the end of March 2021, and negotiations are now underway to allow the Japan Library Association Disaster Preparedness Committee to take over its activities. The NDL cooperates with the Japan Library Association Disaster Preparedness



Committee in terms of collecting information on damage to libraries when a disaster occurs and recovery work for damaged library materials.

The Great East Japan Earthquake was seen as an opportunity to enhance awareness of the importance of disaster preparedness enough that institutions and organizations that deal with our cultural heritage have established support networks. Our next job is to make the most of these networks in promoting disaster preparedness and mitigation as well as rescuing cultural artifacts damaged by disasters.

The NDL serves as the host library of the IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia, which has had a strong interest in helping disaster-affected libraries throughout Asia. We have provided training, for example, to librarians at the Nepal National Library as well as specialists in Syrian cultural heritage.<sup>1</sup> We will continue to share our experience and expertise with colleagues worldwide through IFLA and other channels.

(Translated by OSHIMA Kaoru)

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<sup>1</sup> Chief Librarian of National Library and Government Official of Nepal Invited to the NDL  
[https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/preservation/cooperation/trainee\\_2016npl.html](https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/preservation/cooperation/trainee_2016npl.html)  
Workshop for experts from the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums, Syria  
[https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/preservation/cooperation/trainee\\_2018SYR.html](https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/preservation/cooperation/trainee_2018SYR.html)



News from NDL

## The National Diet Library in Figures

### From the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2019

Here are key statistics related to the business, services and organization of the National Diet Library based on the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2019. The annual report of the National Diet Library is available at the NDL official website. <https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/publication/annual/index.html>

\* Figures are as of March 31, 2020.

#### Services for the Diet

Research on request

**36,402 cases**

The NDL offers research on national policy issues and domestic and international circumstances as well as analysis and evaluation of bills at the request of Diet Members.

Research on national policy issues

**319 cases**



#### Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government

Loan services

**5,957 items**

Because of our Branch Libraries System, there are branch libraries of the NDL in government ministries and agencies and the Supreme Court, forming a library network through which we provide library services and exchange materials.

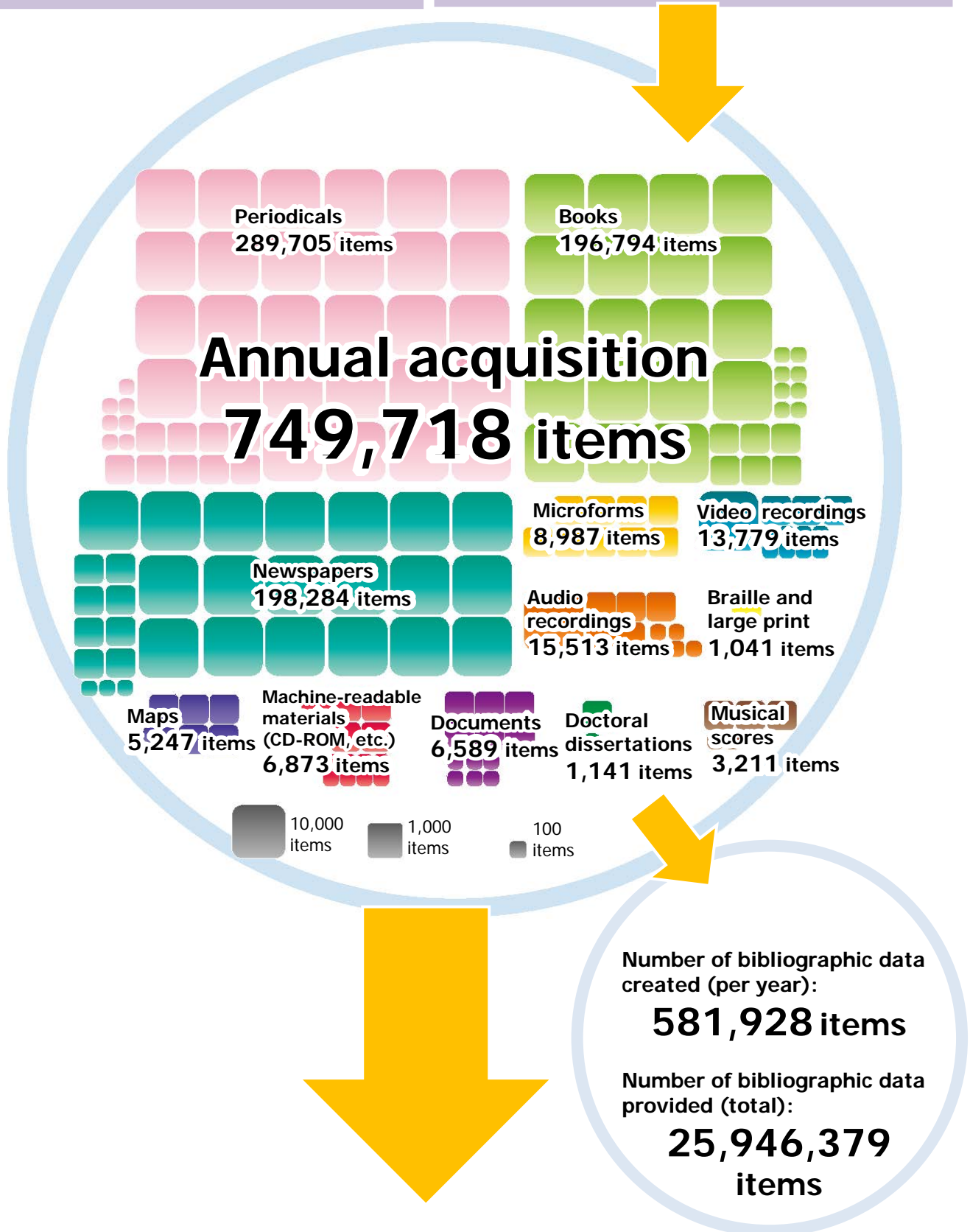


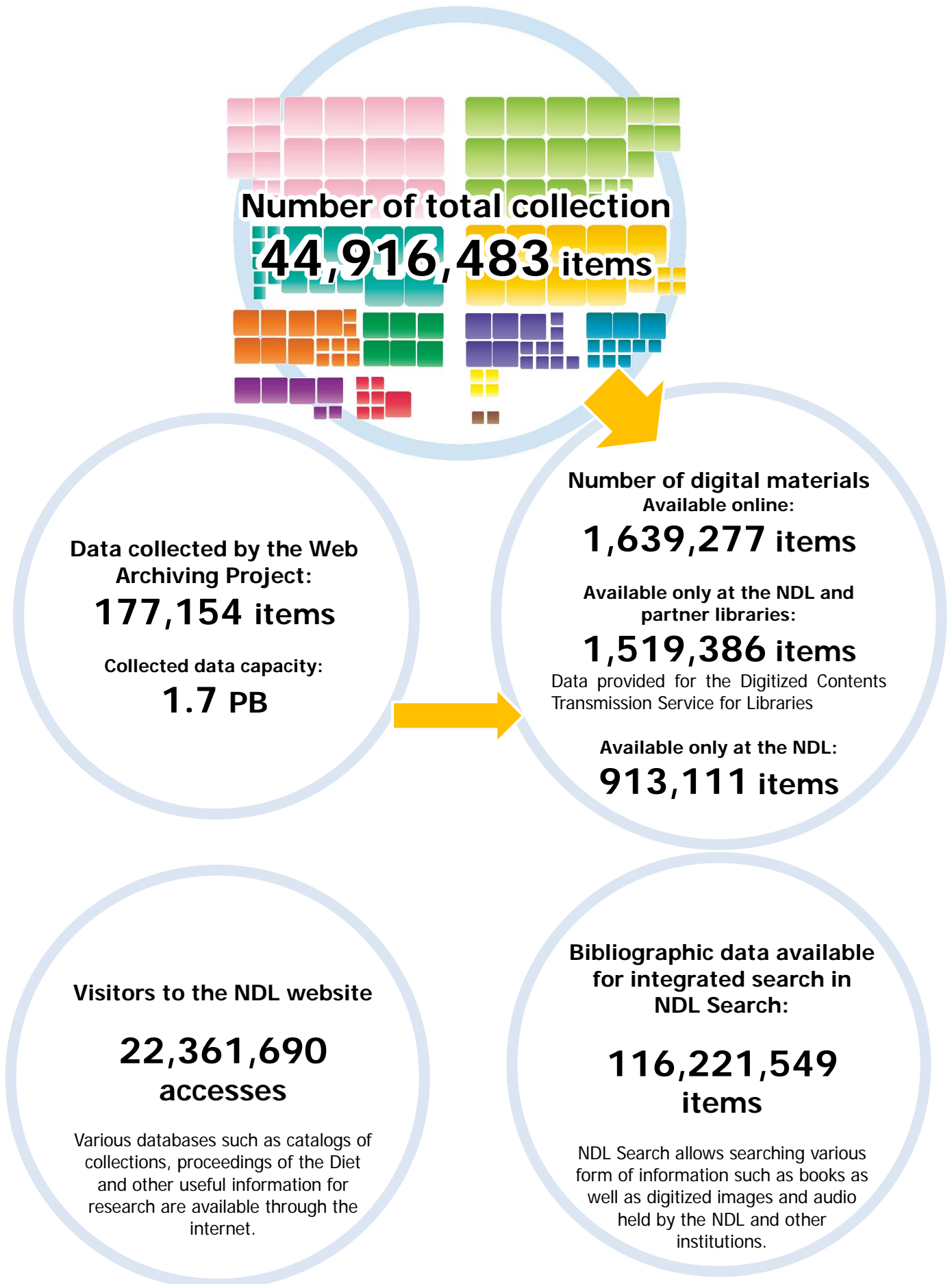
**Budget and accounts of all facilities**

Current expenditure budget:  
**Approx. 29,514,810,000 yen**  
 Settlement amount:  
**Approx. 27,754,810,000 yen**

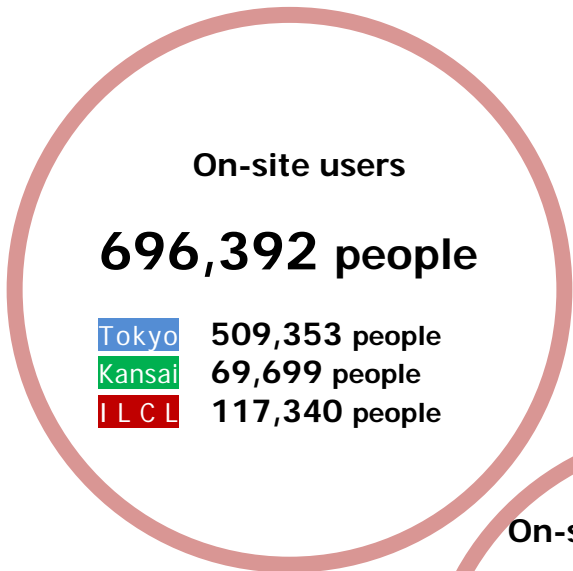
**Expenses for collecting materials**

**Approx. 2,361,960,000 yen**  
 Of which, compensation for deposited publications:  
**Approx. 393,860,000 yen**

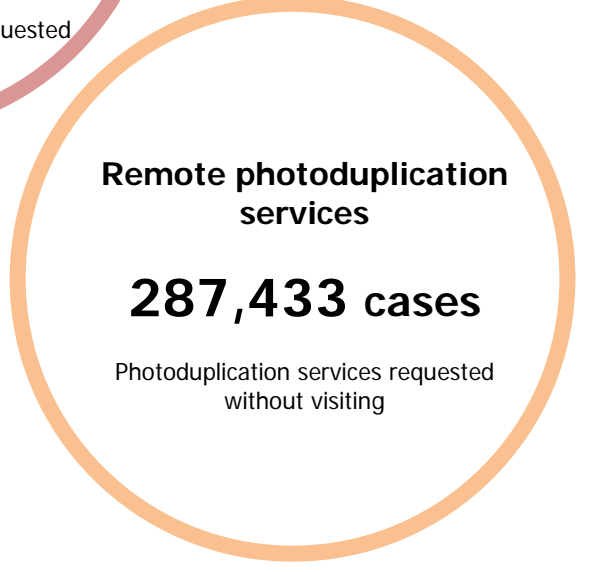
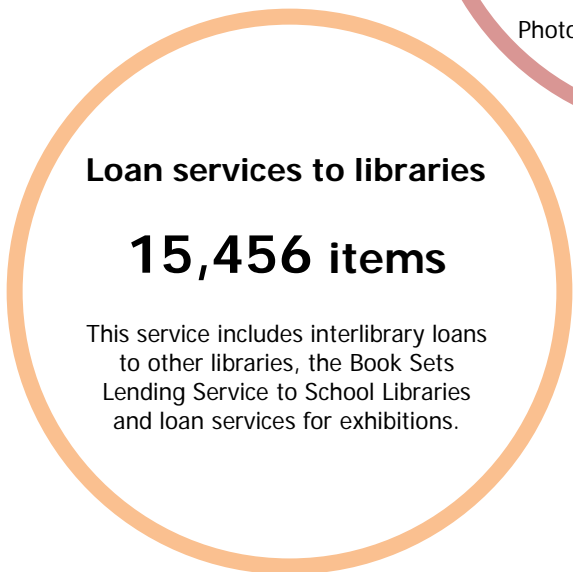
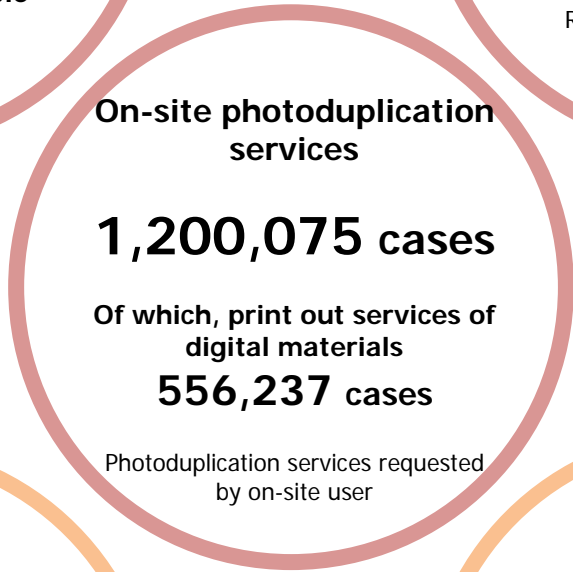
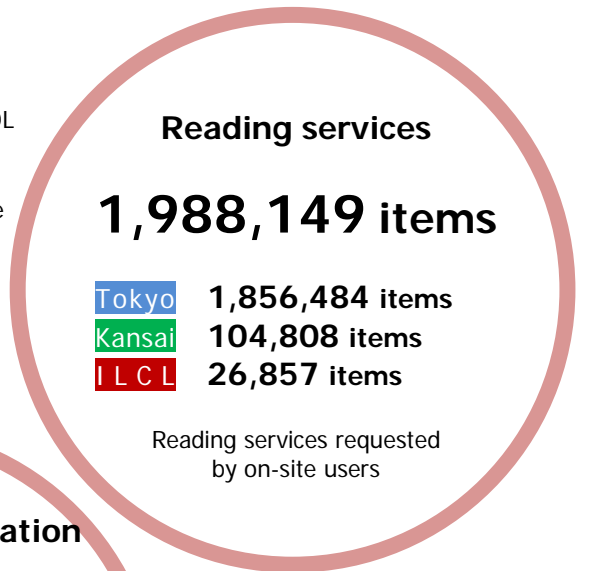








**Tokyo**  
Tokyo Main Library  
**Kansai**  
Kansai-kan of the NDL  
**ILCL**  
International Library  
of Children's Literature



<b>Number of staff members</b>
<b>891 members</b>
Male: 49.9%
Female: 50.1%
Proportion of women in Senior Specialist and managerial posts
Approx. 31.4%

	Total floor space	Total storage space	Total area of reading rooms
	<b>246,284 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>120,578 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>25,864 m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Tokyo</b>	147,853 m <sup>2</sup>	77,829 m <sup>2</sup>	18,983 m <sup>2</sup>
	Detached Library in the Diet		
	1,331 m <sup>2</sup>	609 m <sup>2</sup>	562 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Kansai</b>	84,339 m <sup>2</sup>	39,026 m <sup>2</sup>	4,265 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>ILCL</b>	12,761 m <sup>2</sup>	3,114 m <sup>2</sup>	2,054 m <sup>2</sup>

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

## The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 719, March 2021

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. 719, March 2021 (PDF: 5.54 MB)

- <Book of the month - from NDL collections>  
*Edo jiman meisan zue*—Battle of Edo specialty product all-stars
  - Exhibition on Parliamentary Government  
Commemorating the 130th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diet  
The Diet and its chambers where history is made—  
Looking back at that history with visual materials
- Books not found in the NDL  
Trade catalogs of specially priced books show the reading habits of ordinary people (Part one)
  - <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Guided tour of the Kansai-kan Storage Annex in the COVID-19 pandemic
  - <Books not commercially available>
    - *Heisei 30nen 7gatsu gou saigai (Hiroshimaken) taikendanshu*
  - <NDL Topics>