

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 146, December 2005



NDL Statistics FY2004

This is an abridged translation of the series articles "Excerpts from the Annual Report of the NDL, FY2004: statistics" in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 534 and 535 (September – October 2005).

The NDL compiles and publishes an Annual Report each year with the major achievements and statistics of the previous fiscal year. This Annual Report is submitted to the Diet and also distributed to major libraries and related institutions in Japan. It has been available also on the NDL website since FY2002 ([Japanese only](#)). The following are statistics abstracted from the Annual Report FY2004 (April 2004 – March 2005).

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I. Collection development and provision of bibliographic information

1. Collections

The NDL collects various materials published inside and outside Japan.

<Table 1> Materials held by the NDL

a. Books (volumes)

Japanese and Chinese books	6,020,277
Books in Western languages	2,348,956
Total	8,369,233

b. Serials (titles) *numbers in parentheses are non-book-form materials.

Japanese serials	Periodicals	120,730 (2,163)
	Newspapers	8,754 (2,033)
	Subtotal	129,484 (4,196)
Western serials	Periodicals	56,261 (389)
	Newspapers	1,597 (174)
	Subtotal	57,858 (563)
Total		187,342 (4,759)

c. Non-book materials

Microfilms (reels)	455,510
Microfiches (sheets)	7,518,307
Microprints (sheets)	300,108
Video discs (items)	41,129
Video cassettes (items)	10,304
Slides (sheets)	128,574
Phonographic records (sheets)	518,372
Cassette tapes (items)	24,513
Open tapes (reels)	23,215
Magnetic tapes (reels)	81
Magnetic discs (items)	1,689
Optical discs (items)	49,859

IC cards (items)	398
Maps (sheets)	446,562
Maps (volumes)	43,571
Musical scores (sheets)	9,742
Musical scores (volumes)	2,214
Card-form materials (items)	24,291
Still images (items)	98,090
Doctoral dissertations (titles)*	436,740
Manuscripts (items)	264,129
Newspaper clippings (articles)	2,009,226
Braille resources and large print editions (volumes)	24,826
Others (items)	2,827

*Foreign doctoral dissertations are not included in the number.

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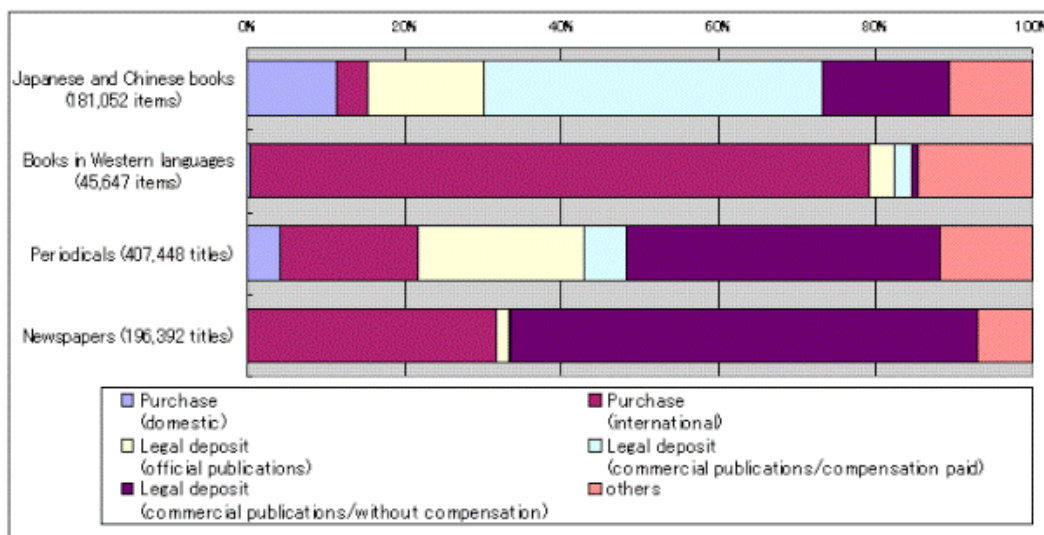
2. Acquisition

The National Diet Library collects materials by purchase, legal deposit (from the national or local government and private publishers), donation (from individuals and groups inside and outside the country) and exchange (with foreign governments and international organizations).

<Table 2> Number of materials newly accessioned in FY2004

Japanese and Chinese books (volumes)	181,052
Books in Western languages (volumes)	45,647
Periodicals (titles)	407,448
Newspaper (titles)	196,392
Microfilms (reels)	44,872
Microfiches (sheets)	259,508
Video discs (DVD-V, LD, etc.) (items)	6,765
Video cassettes (items)	3,329
Phonographic records (sheets)	15,925
Optical discs (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, etc.) (items)	6,219

<Chart1> Ratio of each acquisition method



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3. Collection of the digital library

The NDL has been developing the digital library where digital materials are available directly from the NDL website.

[Rare Books Image Database](#) / as of the end of FY2004

Japanese and Chinese books	243 items
Colored woodblock prints	526 items
Total number of images	33,359

[Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#) / as of the end of FY2004

Number of materials available	35,000 titles
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[WARP](#) / as of the end of FY2004

Online journals	1,496 titles
Websites of government agencies and collaborating institutions	1,342 websites

[Digital Library of Children's Literature](#)

Children's books published in Japan	322 titles
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4. Provision of bibliographic information

The NDL compiles the [Japanese National Bibliography](#) and provides it on the website (Japanese only). NDL-OPAC, the online catalog system, is also available on the Internet, and to the NDL-OPAC on the Internet [English version](#) was added in September 2004.

<Table3> Number of Bibliographic data added in FY2004

Japanese books	152,700
Books in Western languages	27,044

Japanese serials	3,321
Serials in Western Languages	899
Articles from Japanese periodicals	391,740

<Table 4> NDL-OPAC coverage (records)

Japanese books	3,139,829
Books in Western languages	1,049,206
Japanese serials	124,261
Serials in Western languages	55,282
Electronic resources	18,387
Japanese & Chinese old materials	59,248
Doctoral dissertations	334,763
Maps	58,242
Audiovisual materials	38,440
Ashihara collection	67,718
Japanese periodicals index	6,477,302
Standards / technical reports	1,916,189
National union catalog of braille & recorded books in Japan	310,580
Materials on the Allied Occupations of Japan *	259,252
Prange Collection *	32,227

*The data available only inside the library. (Not available on the Internet.)

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II. Services for the National Diet

The NDL provides legislative research services and library services for the National Diet members and others connected with the Diet.

1. Legislative research service

The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau of the NDL conducts research on politics, economy, and social affairs inside and outside Japan using the NDL collections and databases. The total number of researches conducted by the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau in FY2004 was 34,014. Among them, researches conducted for the Diet members and Diet-related people are shown in <Table 5>.

<Table 5> Legislative research conducted for the Diet members and other Diet-related people

Client	Members of the House of Representatives	Members of the House of Councillors	Ex-Diet Members	Secretariats	Political parties	Total
Number of cases	18,816	12,151	874	461	1,266	33,568

National Police Agency Library	–	–	627	1,352	443	605	
Defense Agency Library	26,862	53,384	5,678	8,973	836	8,030	
Financial Services Agency Library	–	–	2,714	5,722	–	164	
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Library	6,333	–	2,929	6,068	–	784	
Statistical Library of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	7,706	32,694	1,700	5,129	534	6,910	
Library of Science Council of Japan	1,498	2,334	334	554	–	110	
Ministry of Justice Library	–	–	4,359	10,391	0	461	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Library	31,899	–	3,651	6,509	935	2,908	
Ministry of Finance Library	–	–	4,913	18,378	–	7	
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Library	–	–	4,213	8,309	1,734	661	
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Library	11,505	–	2,694	6,300	–	6,192	
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Library	31,358	70,661	4,684	10,763	7,065	12,232	including 2 subbranches
Forestry Agency Library	4,829	–	1,316	2,324	526	1,194	
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Library	8,241	29,511	2,894	7,621	1,858	5,519	
Patent Office Library	8,011	11,443	902	1,473	6,759	1,719	
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and	18,568	36,386	7,137	15,139	34,479	3,814	including 3 subbranches

Transport Library							
Meteorological Agency Library	2,636	6,404	741	1,211	2,231	14,900	
Japan Coast Guard Library	1,249	1,950	583	984	205	119	including a subbranch
Ministry of the Environment Library	2,706	-	452	1,141	-	1,358	
Supreme Court Library	-	-	10,564	20,982	9,771	9,924	
Total	183,326	271,702	77,093	178,257	72,131	84,331	

** - :data not collected

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IV. Services for the general public

Services for the general public are offered in the Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan, International Library of Children's Literature and Toyo Bunko. These facilities offer services for both remote and on-site users.

In October 2005, the Tokyo Main Library started to increase library opening days from five days to six days a week, and extended its service time by two hours on weekdays (43% increase in service hour per year). At the same time we increased the number of books a visitor can request at one time and the upper limit of the time user can request copying was abolished. These has greatly changed the condition of user services, and as the Tokyo Main Library closed for a while in preparation for it, the number of visitors cannot be directly compared with the number of previous years.

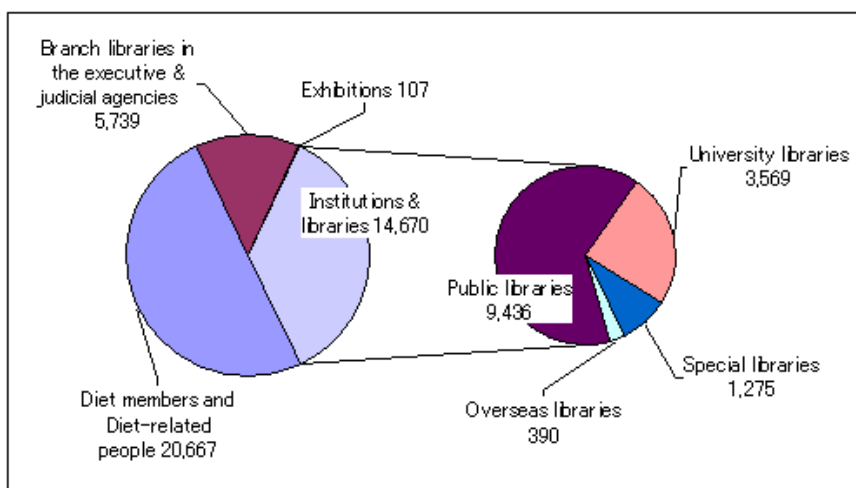
1. Services for remote users

a. Interlibrary loan

The NDL lent out 14,670 materials to 3,289 institutions and libraries including 122 new member institutions and libraries in FY2004.

They can make a request via NDL-OPAC in addition to postal mail, fax and through the NDL-ILL system. The number of requests via NDL-OPAC was 8,564 (56 % of all the requests) in FY2004 while 7,611 (51 %) in FY2003.

<Chart 2> Number of materials lent out in FY2004



b. Reference services

Remote reference services are available by phone, letter, fax, or e-mail. In FY2004, there were 9,095 written (letter, fax, or e-mail) requests, 1,116 more than the previous year. 78.4% (7,133) of written requests were from libraries. The number of reference requests received by phone was 49,741, 95.6% (47,560) of which were from individual users.

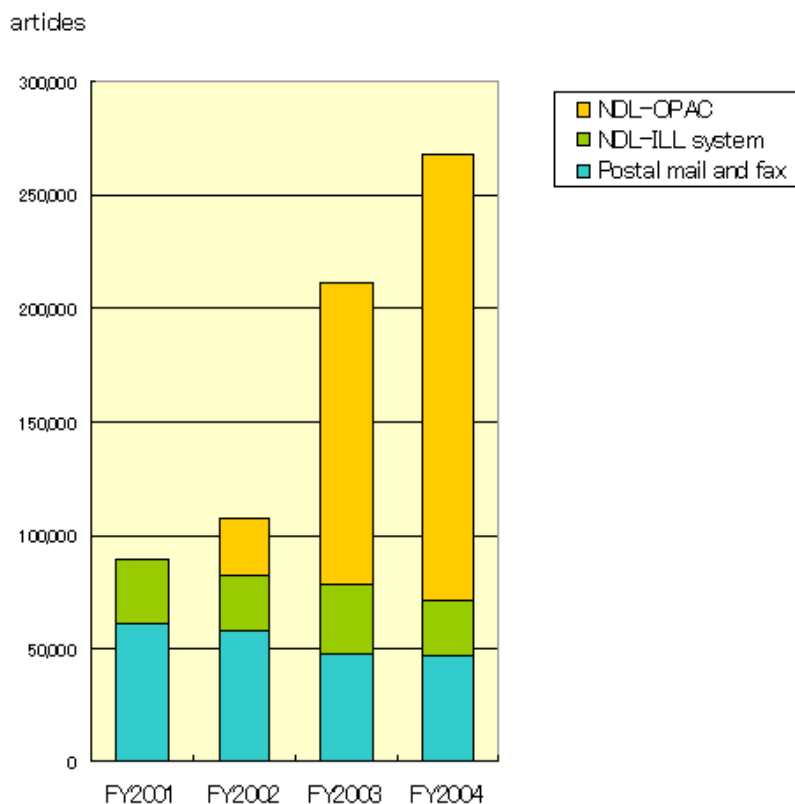
Reference service by e-mail has been available to registered libraries in Japan and overseas users since October 2002. In FY2004, 44% of the requests from registered libraries in Japan and 81% from overseas users were made by e-mail.

In addition to the reference service to answer the questions posed by users, the NDL is enriching the website content that provides information on specific themes and collections and guides for search.

c. Copying service for remote users

We received 180,486 requests (268,214 articles) for copying service from remote users in FY2004 (110,199 requests, 211,211 articles in the previous year). We receive requests via NDL-OPAC as well as postal mail, fax, and the NDL-ILL. The number of requests via NDL-OPAC comprised 73% of all the requests in FY2004 (63% in the previous year). Notably increased are the requests from individual users.

<Chart 3> Requests for copying service from libraries and remote users (number of articles requested)



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2. On-site services

On-site services include reader service, copying service, and in-person reference service.

<Basic Data (FY2004)>

	Tokyo Main Library	Kansai-kan
Opening days/ year	245	277
Visitors	347,124 (1,417/day)	70,855 (256/day)
Circulation	1,309,890	90,487
Inter-site circulation (materials sent from Kansai-kan)	5,644	-
Inter-site circulation (materials sent from Tokyo Main Library)	-	2,205

We started a user registration system in October 2002 and the registrants have increased steadily to 4,574 libraries and 64,085 individuals. Especially at the Tokyo Main Library, as the registrant can enter the library with simplified procedure, applications submitted by visitors was 2.6 times larger in number than FY2003.

Services in Special Materials Rooms

In parallel with the service renovation in October 2004, OPAC terminals for search and request have been installed in Special Materials Rooms of the Tokyo Main Building. Through the OPAC terminals, users can request some of the collection held by the Special Materials Room as well as general books and periodicals. Statistics of services at the Special Materials Rooms are shown in <Table 9>.

<Table 9> Special Materials Room statistics

	Opening	Users	Users/day	Circulation	Circulation/day

	days				
Humanities Room	245	79,591	325	177	1
Newspaper Reading room	245	107,353	438	181,675	742
Business, Science and Technology Room	245	132,276	540	58	0
Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room	245	61,096	249	19,301	79
Map Room	245	45,887	187	65,627	268
Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room	245	3,818	16	60,965	249
Rare Books and Old Materials Room	245	4,394	18	33,869	138
Audiovisual Materials Room	238	11,614	49	11,051	46
Electronic Resources Room	245	15,058	61	7,002	29
Asian Resources Room	277	-	-	2,583	9

Copying service

Total requests for copying from on-site users

Tokyo Main Library	477,177 (302,760 in FY2003)
Kansai-kan	57,807 (47,922 in FY2003)

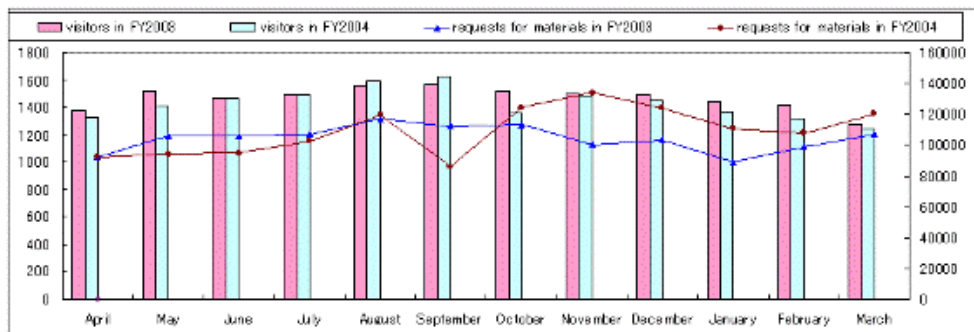
Reference service

In-person reference service for visitors

Tokyo Main Library	195,678 (166,093 in FY2003)
Kansai-kan	35,292 (17,286 in FY2003)

<Chart 4> shows the monthly transition of the average number of visitors per day and requests for retrieval in FY2003 and FY2004.

<Chart 4>



[Click for a larger image.](#)

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3. Services of the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL)

Five years have passed since the ILCL was opened, and the total number of its visitors since then has

exceeded 500 thousand. <Table 10> shows FY2004 statistics of the services at the ILCL.

<Table 10> ILCL Statistics

	FY2004	FY2003
Opening days	286	294
Visitors	115,119 (403/day)	143,530 (488/day)
Circulation	32,407	35,806
In-person reference service	5,248	5,721
Reference service by letter	246	237
Reference service by phone	755	860
Requests for copying service by mail	535	415
Requests for copying service from on-site users	2,894	2,977
Book Sets Lending Service to School Libraries (volumes)	9,288	7,635

*"Canada and USA set" was added in FY2004 to the Book Sets Lending Service for school libraries.

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Bibliographic Services and Bibliographic Control of the National Diet Library

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*This is a paper presented at the [60th Anniversary Symposium of the National Library of Korea \(NLK\)](#),
entitled "21st Century Cataloging and National Bibliography Policy"
held by the NLK in October 2005.*

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Introduction

At the beginning of 2004 the NDL released "[NDL Vision 2004](#)," which confirms its mission and roles, and clarifies four Priority Areas as follows:

Mission and Roles:

- Collects products of the intellectual activities of Japanese people on a broad scale, from printed materials to digital information, and constructs information resources as

the common property of the people of Japan.

- Assists the legislative activities of the Diet by providing research and analysis services, and information on national political issues.
- Provides library services and guarantees access to information resources from now into the future to the executive and judicial branch of the national government and to the people of Japan.

Priority Areas: i. Enhancement of legislative support function

ii. Creation of digital archives

iii. Improvement of access to information resources

iv. Promotion of cooperation The first Priority Area defines the role as the parliamentary library, and I will omit further explanation here. Today I would mainly like to talk about the third Priority Area, referring to the second and fourth areas when necessary.

1. Bibliographic services of the National Diet Library (NDL)

Within the framework of NDL Vision 2004, the NDL's policy on national bibliography can be seen in its description of bibliographic services. NDL Vision 2004 sets out mid-and-long-term basic policies for 5 to 10 years as an ultimate direction for the library as a whole. In order to achieve the goals specified in the Priority Areas in the NDL Vision 2004, the NDL sets short-term goals as Priority Objectives for each Priority Area to be fulfilled within 1-3 years. For example, for the third Priority Area, six Priority Objectives were defined for FY2004, such as extending opening days and hours and providing more legislative information on the Internet. With regard to the bibliographic services, Priority Objectives for FY2004 included a goal, "to provide increased number of bibliographic data covering extended collection areas," and Priority Objectives for FY2005 include a goal, "to provide increased number of bibliographic data and location data."

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1.1 NDL-OPAC

These Priority Objectives for the bibliographic services have been or will be achieved by increasing the number of data provided through [NDL-OPAC \(National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog\)](#). NDL-OPAC provides functions of searching and requesting materials held by the NDL. On-site users of the NDL can search NDL-OPAC terminals at the catalog hall and request materials for reading and copying. If you become a registered user, you can search and request copies of materials from your office and home PCs.

NDL-OPAC enables search for not only Japanese and other language monographs and serials but also electronic resources, Japanese and Chinese old materials, doctoral dissertations, maps, audiovisual materials, and others in various formats. In addition, the Japanese Periodicals Index is searchable through NDL-OPAC.

In FY2004 NDL-OPAC added a significant volume of bibliographic data, with the total increased from 10,300,000 to 13,940,000 entries by retrospective conversion and data migration from old databases. More than half of the added data are migrated data of western-language materials, technical reports, etc. However, it also included a considerable amount of newly created data of materials such as "Materials on the Allied

Occupation of Japan" (about 260,000 entries) and the "Prange Collection" (about 30,000 entries). Retrospective conversion included collections of maps, Chinese classics, study-aid books, Chinese materials, etc.

In FY2005 we are working very hard at cataloging daily intakes and retrospective conversion while at the same time trying to further advance increasing location data. Here I would like to explain why location data are so important. The NDL now consists of three facilities, namely, Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan, and International Library of Children's Literature. If you like to read, say, a book titled "Record of workshop on authority control among Chinese, Korean and Japanese languages," without location data, you will not know at which facility you can find it, and neither will you know from which counter of the Tokyo Main Library you can receive the material. If the location data of each item can be confirmed on NDL-OPAC, it will save users' Etime and efforts. Providing location data with bibliographic data at the same time will ensure the access to the requested materials.

I would also like to talk about the Japanese Periodicals Index, which I believe is one of the most significant achievements of the NDL. NDL-OPAC provides the Japanese Periodicals Index which has indexed articles carried by about 10,000 titles of Japanese periodicals and contained about 6,480,000 data as of March 2005. Every year 400,000 data are added to the Index. Retrospective conversion of the Index has been under way, and we expect that 200,000 index data from "Japanese Periodicals Index: Science and Technology" (in printed-version) will be available within FY2005.

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1.2 Japanese National Bibliography and JAPAN/MARC

I would like to start with the historical background of the Japanese National Bibliography and JAPAN/MARC.

1.2.1 The birth of the Japanese National Bibliography

The NDL has been publishing a national bibliography under the title, "Nihon Zenkoku shoshi" (Japanese National Bibliography). The history of the Japanese National Bibliography goes back to "Nohon Geppo" (monthly list of deposited materials) which started in 1948, the year of the NDL's foundation. At the beginning, the number of listed materials in "Nohon Geppo" did not even reach the half of the published materials in the country, and thus I am afraid that it is not appropriate to call it a "national bibliography."

"Nohon Geppo" changed its title to "Kokunai Shuppanbutsu Mokuroku" (catalog of domestic publications) in 1950, showing the NDL's renewed commitment to include all the publications published in Japan. "Kokunai Shuppanbutsu Mokuroku" was monthly, but there was a plan to publish annual cumulative editions, which meant that the NDL had intended to make it clear that it would produce a national bibliography. "Kokunai Shuppanbutsu Mokuroku" changed its title to "Nohon Shuho" (weekly list of deposited materials), and again in 1981 to the present title, "Nihon Zenkoku Shoshi" (Japanese National Bibliography Weekly List).

1.2.2 JAPAN/MARC

JAPAN/MARC, a machine-readable form of the Japanese National Bibliography, has

provided bibliographic data of Japanese monographs since April 1981. Also JAPAN/MARC (S) has provided bibliographic information on domestic serials since August 1988, and JAPAN/MARC(A) has provided authority name files (Japanese authors) since October 1996.

1.2.3 Promptness of Japanese National Bibliography

There are four basic requirements for national bibliographies: promptness, minuteness, completeness, and reliability. The first requirement, promptness, has been a problem; in the past the interval between the receipt of deposited materials and their appearance in the Japanese National Bibliography once took more than half a year. However, according to the sample survey conducted in November 2004, 99.6% of Japanese monographs and serials were included in the Japanese National Bibliography within 60 days from accession. We can see here that one of the objectives in the third Priority Area was turned into reality.

1.2.4 Minuteness of the Japanese National Bibliography

The policy on minuteness of the Japanese National Bibliography changed in April 2002. Before that, the printed version of the Japanese National Bibliography carried the whole bibliographic data including description, headings, call numbers, etc. However, the web version of the [Japanese National Bibliography](#), which became available from April 2002, has given priority to an easy and simple view of bibliographic data, and therefore does not provide such minute data as shown in the printed version. For example, the web version does not give most of the information in the general notes, contents notes, author headings, and call numbers.

On the other hand, we put more efforts into creating more detailed bibliographic data which are provided through JAPAN/MARC and NDL-OPAC. In providing bibliographic data on the Internet, the Japanese National Bibliography only does not seem to be adequate in achieving the required minuteness, but together with NDL-OPAC we believe that the NDL has achieved more minuteness than before.

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1.2.5 Completeness of Japanese National Bibliography

Coverage of materials to be included in the Japanese National Bibliography used to center on printed materials such as monographs and serials. In recent years, however, the coverage has been extended to include materials in various media as shown below:

- since March 1999 microforms, "packaged" electronic resources, graphic materials, sound recordings, etc
- since January 2003 music scores (sheet material)
- since February 2003 music sound recording, audiovisual materials
- since March 2003 maps (sheet material), residential maps

According to the 2004 edition of "Shuppan Nenkan" (Publishing Year-book) the number of monographs newly published in Japan and available at bookstores was 75,530 in 2003. The number of monographs included in the Japanese National Bibliography in 2003 was about

130,000. From this fact, you can see the completeness of the Japanese National Bibliography in covering official publications and self-published materials that are usually not available in the commercial market.

1.2.6 Reliability of Japanese National Bibliography

It can be naturally assumed that bibliographic data in the Japanese National Bibliography and JAPAN/MARC should be reliable as they are produced by a national library and based on standards such as cataloging rules and classification schemes. However, when only the printed version of the Japanese National Bibliography was available, it was mostly purchased by libraries and was not easily available elsewhere. The lengthy time lag between the time of publication and its appearance in the bibliography was also an obstacle to prevent further use of the bibliography. JAPAN/MARC also was only used by institutions which owned large-scale computers.

Even after the advent of J-BISC, the CD-ROM version of JAPAN/MARC, which can be handled by personal computers, JAPAN/MARC has failed to become familiar to the general public. Furthermore, many public and academic libraries have started to use the MARC records produced by private publication wholesalers, which further lowered the utilization ratio of JAPAN/MARC. Under these circumstances with this low usage, we were not yet in a position to proclaim the reliability of the Japanese National Bibliography.

Since the web version of the Japanese National Bibliography became available on the Internet, however, things have started to change. The easier it becomes to use, the more clearly people see its reliability, and the more people start to use it. We expect that the more people in Japan do information search on the Internet, the more they will recognize the reliability of the Japanese National Bibliography, which provides high-quality bibliographic information.

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1.3 Other bibliographic services

The NDL provides other bibliographic services as follows:

1.3.1 NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC

The Asian Resources Division of the Kansai-kan is in charge of acquisition, cataloging and provision of Asian language materials. Searching Asian language materials can be done on the [NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC](#). The NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC provides bibliographic information on monographs and serials in Chinese and Korean; monographs in Vietnamese, Mongolian, Indonesian, Malay, etc.

1.3.2 Union Catalogs

The NDL has been engaged in several projects related to union catalogs.

“[National Union Catalog](#)” is a database system which makes it possible to search bibliographic data of Japanese monographs owned by major public libraries and also makes interlibrary loan services among these libraries easy. With the consent of all the libraries that contribute data to the union catalog, the NDL has made the catalog open to the public since December 2004.

Besides this, the NDL has created the “[Union Catalog of Newspapers in Japan Database](#),”

["National Union Catalog of Braille & Recorded Books,"](#) and ["International Library of Children's Literature Union Catalog of Children's Books,"](#) For these union catalogs, bibliographic data created by the NDL and provided through JAPAN/MARC and NDL-OPAC are used.

1.3.3 Collections of the Electronic Library

The NDL's website currently offers three main services on the menu of the NDL's "Collections of the Electronic Library," namely, ["Rare Books Image Database,"](#) ["Digital Library from the Meiji Era,"](#) and ["Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)."](#) In addition to these electronic collections, in July 2005, the NDL released the prototype of the [NDL Digital Archive Portal](#). It is expected that more functionality and services will be added to realize the objectives in the second Priority Area.

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2. Bibliographic control of the National Diet Library

2.1 Internal bibliographic control

In a major reorganization of the NDL in April 2002, the Bibliography Department was established, integrating the cataloging sections which had previously been in four separate departments. Within the Bibliography Department, the Bibliographic Control Division was newly set up to be responsible for the following: to coordinate bibliographic data production work carried out within the library; to provide the bibliographic data and services as product; and to give overall bibliographic control to the whole library's operations.

Before the reorganization, bibliographic data production works were carried out in different sections based on the various systems and standards according to the characteristics of the collections to be cataloged. In tandem with the reorganization, the cataloging system was renewed so that bibliographic data were entered into one common database called the "integrated bibliographic database" according to a unified standard. Also the output method of data has been unified so that searching across different types of collections can be done in one session on NDL-OPAC.

Main tasks assigned to the Bibliographic Control Division include: maintenance of databases, creation and update of data entry standards, setting up a policy on provision of databases, and standardization of the bibliographic data production work of the library. The Division is also responsible for drawing up a plan of retrospective conversion and other planning work.

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2.2 Domestic bibliographic control

Japanese bibliographic standards such as "Nihon Mokuroku Kisoku" (Nippon Cataloging Rules: NCR) and "Nihon Jisshin Bunruiho" (Nippon Decimal Classification: NDC) have been developed and maintained respectively by the Committee of Cataloging and the Committee of Classification of the Japan Library Association. Several staff members of the NDL have been appointed as members of the two committees. The NDL also has sent its staff members to other related organizations such as the Academic Content Committee of the National Institute of Informatics (NII), and the Research and Study Committee on

Standardization of Information and Documentation (ISO/TC46 National Committee) of the Japanese Standards Association.

In addition to participating in the cooperative activities with individual institutions, the NDL has set up the "Conference on Bibliographic Control." This conference is held to discuss matters related to bibliographic data production and provision with related institutions, and to promote national bibliographic control and standardization of bibliographic services.

Themes discussed in the past years are as follows:

- 2000 National Bibliographic Services in the Electronic Information Age
- 2001 Issues on Bibliographic Control
- 2002 Bibliographic Control of Online Publications: Current State of Metadata
- 2003 Name Authority Control
- 2004 Subject Headings Now and in Future: Subject Access in Network Environment

The results of discussion at the conferences have been reflected in the NDL's policy and work on bibliographic data production and provision, and bibliographic control. For example, the conclusion of the 2004 conference resulted in the revision of the National Diet Library Subject Heading List (NDLSH), which was made public on the NDL website as the 2004 edition of NDLSH.

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2.3 International bibliographic control

At present a staff member of the Bibliography Department participates in the Bibliography Section as a Standing Committee member, and other members participate in the Cataloging Section and Permanent UNIMARC Committee as corresponding members. The Bibliography Department staff also participates in international conferences on the Dublin Core and other international cooperative programs. The staff also gives a lecture on bibliographic services of the NDL in the Japan Studies Information Specialists Training Program (co-sponsored by the NDL and the Japan Foundation).

The NDL also serves as the Japanese National Centre for ISSN. The NDL registers newly acquired domestic serials and assigns ISSN numbers to them. The NDL then sends bibliographic data of the registered serials to the ISSN International Centre in Paris. The number of serials registered in FY2004 was 959. The total number of registered serials amounts to 33,089.

The NDL also contributes data to Index Translationum, Unesco's project to produce a database of translated literature of the world. In FY2004 the NDL sent 6,667 entries to the database.

In recent years, especially in order to foster the staff's competence to deal with electronic resources, the NDL invites experts from overseas countries to hold symposiums and exchange information with the staff.

One of the most important programs is a mutual visit program with other national libraries. The NDL has conducted mutual visit programs with the National Library of Korea (9 times,

1997–), the National Assembly Library of Korea (2 times, 2003–) and the National Library of China (24 times, 1981–). The theme of the program differs each year, but themes related to cataloging and bibliographic control have been often adopted; i.e., “Cataloging by JAPAN/MARC and KORMARC” in the 1997 program with the National Library of Korea and “Acquisition, cataloging, and provision of networked information resources” in the 2003 program with the National Library of China.

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3. Future directions of the bibliographic services and bibliographic control

3.1 Institutional and legal issues

The NDL collects domestic publications based on the legal deposit system, which does not include Internet information resources at present. The NDL had a two-week period in April to hear comments on the matter of collecting and providing Internet information resources from the public including various stakeholders. The result of this public hearing was made public on the NDL website. Based on the opinions of the public and other related institutions, the NDL is now working on basic principles for legislation for acquisition and provision of Internet information resources. The issues related to Internet information resources, such as to whether the Japanese National Bibliography should incorporate Internet information resources, or how to develop standards for metadata creation, are very important and need urgent action and decision.

3.2 Technical issues

There are always technical problems as long as information provision depends on information systems. The real problem is, in fact, not technology itself, but rather the matters connected with it. For example, the NDL provides the NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC in addition to NDL-OPAC. The reason why the OPAC for Asian language materials is separate from NDL-OPAC is the character code set. Technically it would be possible to deal with all the languages and characters in one system. However, when we changed the old system to a new system, we decided to use a separate system for Asian language materials for the time being, considering data migration from old database, implementation and application. Thinking that we need to accelerate the exchange of bibliographic information among China, Korea and Japan and to further advance international bibliographic control in the future, I must say that the NDL still has a long way to go.

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3.3 Needs for international cooperation

As I explained just now, I must say that there are many problems in the NDL's current bibliographic services from the viewpoint of technology and legislation, which might be regarded as obstacles for our cooperation. However, I believe that the more problems we have, the more cooperation we would rather seek from the related parties and institutions. Especially in the age of digital information, libraries must deal with not only physical artifacts but also Internet information resources and thus must further advance cooperation with other libraries at home and overseas, regardless of distance and national borders. I believe that this symposium is very important and timely in this respect.

Conclusion

The NDL has continued to work on the matters of long-term concern such as subject access, authority control, and retrospective conversion. These matters should be looked upon in a new light and should be adapted to the digital information environment. I believe that this job is very important and worthwhile. We will continue to work hard on cataloging and national bibliography policy of the 21st century into the future.

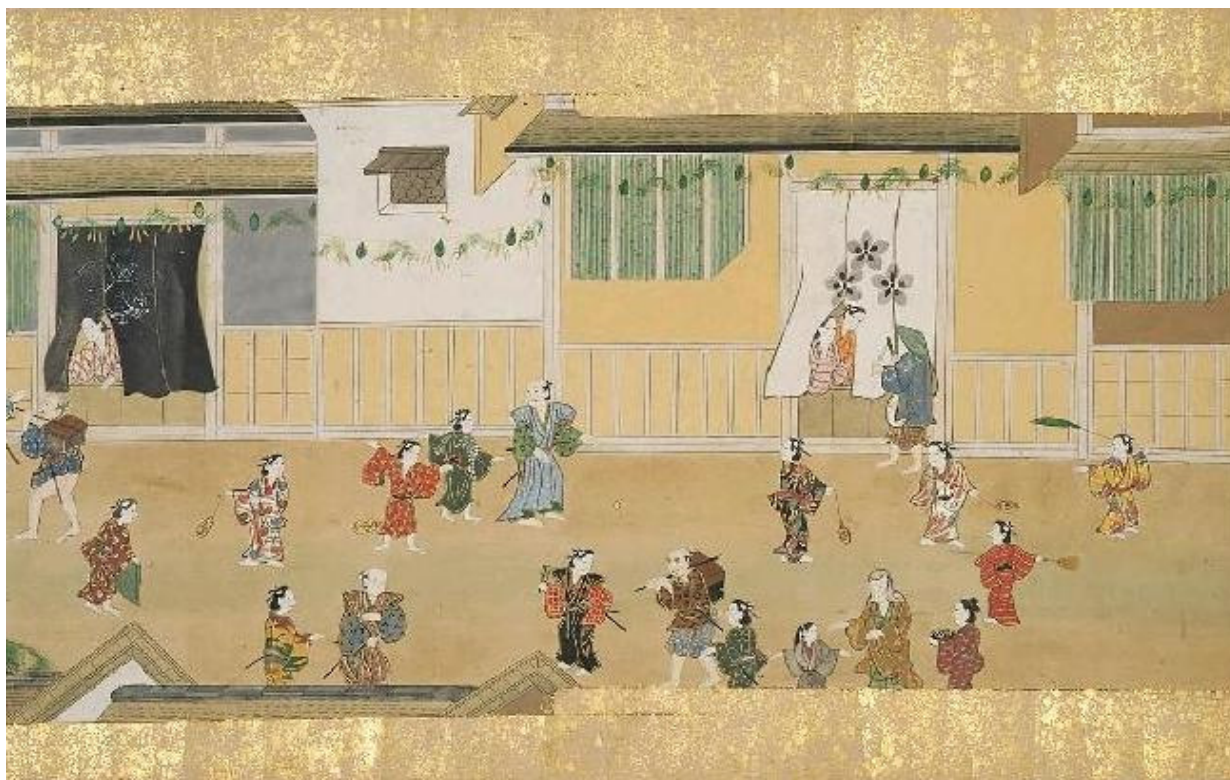
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Selections from NDL Collection

Junigatsu asobi



Junigatsu asobi

Copy dating from the latter half of the 17th century

2 volumes

32.7 cm in height

NDL call number: WA31-19

This is part of a picture scroll, *Junigatsu asobi* (Entertainments for twelve months), which describes month by month annual events and seasonal amusements held among aristocrats and high-class people in Kyoto in the latter half of the 17th century.

It is New Year, and large shops are decorated with sacred straw festoons with urajiro (a variety of hosta), and yuzuriha (a variety of daphne), auspicious plants regarded as symbols of prosperity. At one of the entrances, a strolling musician accompanies himself by scraping a bamboo whisk along a serrated stick as he sings a festive song originally meant to drive away harmful birds. On the street we can see people dressed in their best kimono exchanging greetings, and children playing giccho, a game with a wish for sound health during the year, trying to hit a ball with brooms or swinging bats called buri-buri. A lively scene of the New Year being welcomed in Kyoto.

It is said that at that time a number of beautiful picture scrolls like this were produced to meet orders from provincial lords who admired the elegant style of Kyoto. The Chester Beatty Library in Ireland holds two scrolls identical to this one.

*You can see the whole text (Japanese only) and images of this book in the [Rare Books Image Database](#) in the NDL website. ([How to use Rare Books Image Database](#))

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National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 146, December 2005



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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin

(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin (no.517-). The text is provided in PDF format* (Japanese only).

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

[No. 537, December 2005](#) [PDF Format, 2.75MB]

- Libraries – A Voyage of Discovery: World Library and Information Congress – Participating in [the 71st IFLA General Conference](#)
 - Meeting of CDNL, Bibliotheca Universalis meeting and National Libraries Section: Challenges of national libraries in the digital environment
 - Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section: Reaffirmed importance of exact awareness of Diet Members' needs
 - Meeting of PAC Directors and meetings related to the Preservation and Conservation Section: "Prevention" rather than "Repair" □ Epreventive conservation in practice
 - Meetings related to the Bibliography and Cataloging Sections: Toward further internationalization and standardization
 - Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section: 50th anniversary □ Elearning from history and opening the way to the future
 - Sketch of Oslo
- Agreement signed between the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and the NDL [related article](#)
 - Liaison meeting with staff of prefectural assembly libraries in FY 2005
 - FY2005 meeting between NDL Librarian and directors of university libraries
 - The Collaborative Reference Database Project:
 - Guidelines on data producing and publishing
 - 1st workshop on the Collaborative Reference Database System
 - <Invitation>
- Symposium open to the public: Library reformation in digital era – challenges and

prospects

- <Announcement>

- [Collaborative Reference Database](#) open to the public *Japanese only
- Full version of the Electronic Exhibition "[Fauna and Flora in Illustrations – Natural History of the Edo era](#)" available *Japanese only
 - "National Diet Library Digitization Handbook" available
- Book Sets Lending Service to School Libraries of the International Library of Children's Literature: lending out of Asia set (China, Southeast Asia) starts
- Lectures related to the exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Struwwelpeter and other German children's books
 - Retrospective data of the Japanese Periodicals Index added to the [NDL-OPAC](#)
 - A new series "Collections of the Kansai-kan" will start soon!

[No. 536, November 2005](#) [PDF Format, 2.24MB]

- The first three years of the Kansai-kan
- Books for all children: report of the exhibitions and symposium on books for children with disabilities at the International Library of Children's Literature
- International Policy Seminar: Present situation and future issues of the EU, with a focus on the economic matters – Lecture titled "Main issues of the EU economy" by Prof. Corrado Molteni from the University of Milan
- Materials recently designated as rare and semi-rare books – Report of the 37th committee on the designation of rare books

Japanese Books / Newspapers and Magazines / Western Books

- <announcement>

- Event related to the exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Palette of Dream Colours II – Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations from Asia, Africa and Latin America
- Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature: Struwwelpeter and other German children's books
- Bibliographic information of newspapers in the Prange Collection available on the [Union Catalog of Newspapers in Japan Database](#) *Japanese only
- Spirit of the Meiji era □ Ecartoons and caricatures (Enchanting world of books □ EGuide to regular exhibition, 16) [related webpage \(Japanese only\)](#)

