

# National Diet Library Newsletter

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No. 161, June 2008

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## Services for the National Diet – providing legislative support

Research Planning Division,  
Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

This is based on an article of the same title in the series <“1998–2008”  
Topics during the last decade and future> in  
the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 565 (April 2008).

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## Introduction

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[The National Diet Library Law](#) declares the library’s purpose in the article 2 as follows:  
“The National Diet Library shall collect books and other library materials for the purpose of assisting the members of the National Diet in the performance of their duties” and the article 15 stipulates that a department to be known as the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau (RLRB) shall be established and its main function shall be services to the National Diet.

In short, provision of services to the National Diet is the primary role of the National Diet Library, which is mainly carried out by the RLRB. The Bureau fulfills a wide range of functions as follows:

(1) To analyze, appraise or evaluate pending legislation and proposals

(2) To gather, analyze and report about materials for or related to legislation, and to provide them

(3) To provide a bill-drafting service that assists both Houses of the Diet, their committees and Members in the preparation of legislation

(4) To provide materials and information to the executive and judicial branches of the government or to the general public

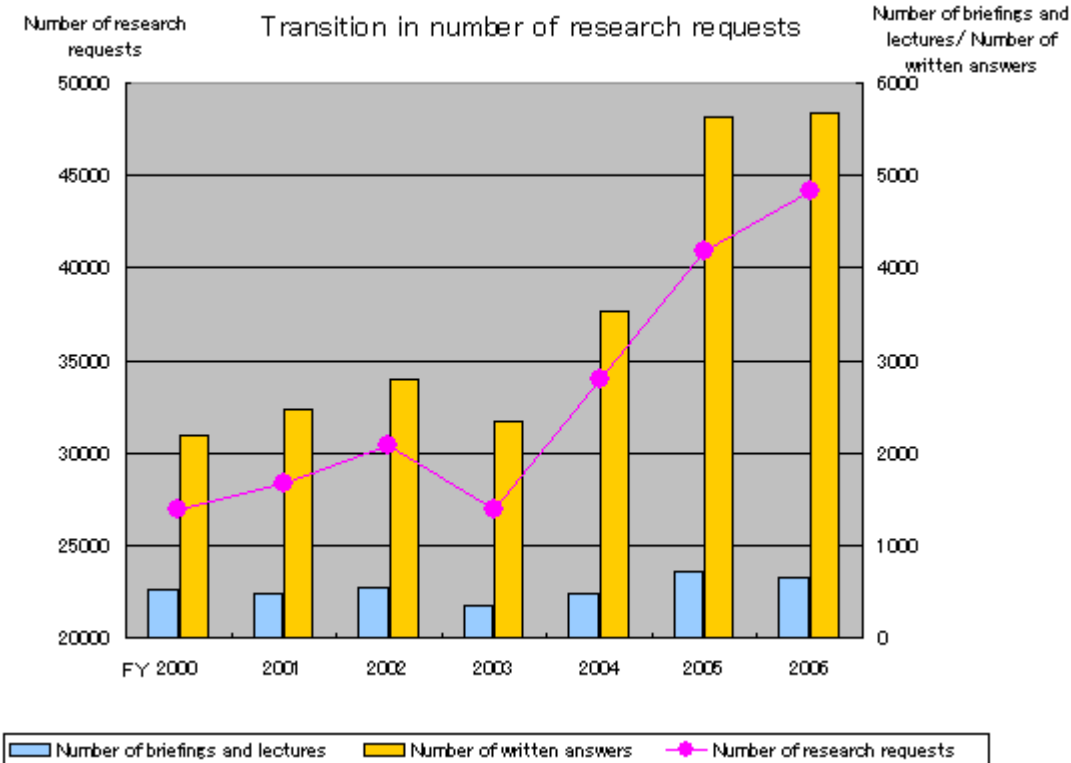
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## 1. Legislative Research and Information Services

Services for the National Diet provided by the NDL consist of the legislative research and information services (research and information provision on national political issues) and library services (reading, lending and copying services of library materials). The RLRB is mainly in charge of the former. The latter is performed by the library as a whole including the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature.

### (1) Research on request

The RLRB responds to research requests from Diet Members and their secretaries, using vast amounts of materials and information collected from inside and outside of Japan mainly through the legal deposit system and international exchange of publications. In recent years, the number of research requests has been continuously increasing because of active deliberations in the Diet and wider areas of interest of Diet Members. The number of responses, which was about 20,000 for FY1995, reached about 45,000 for FY2006. This means that the number has more than doubled in the past ten years.



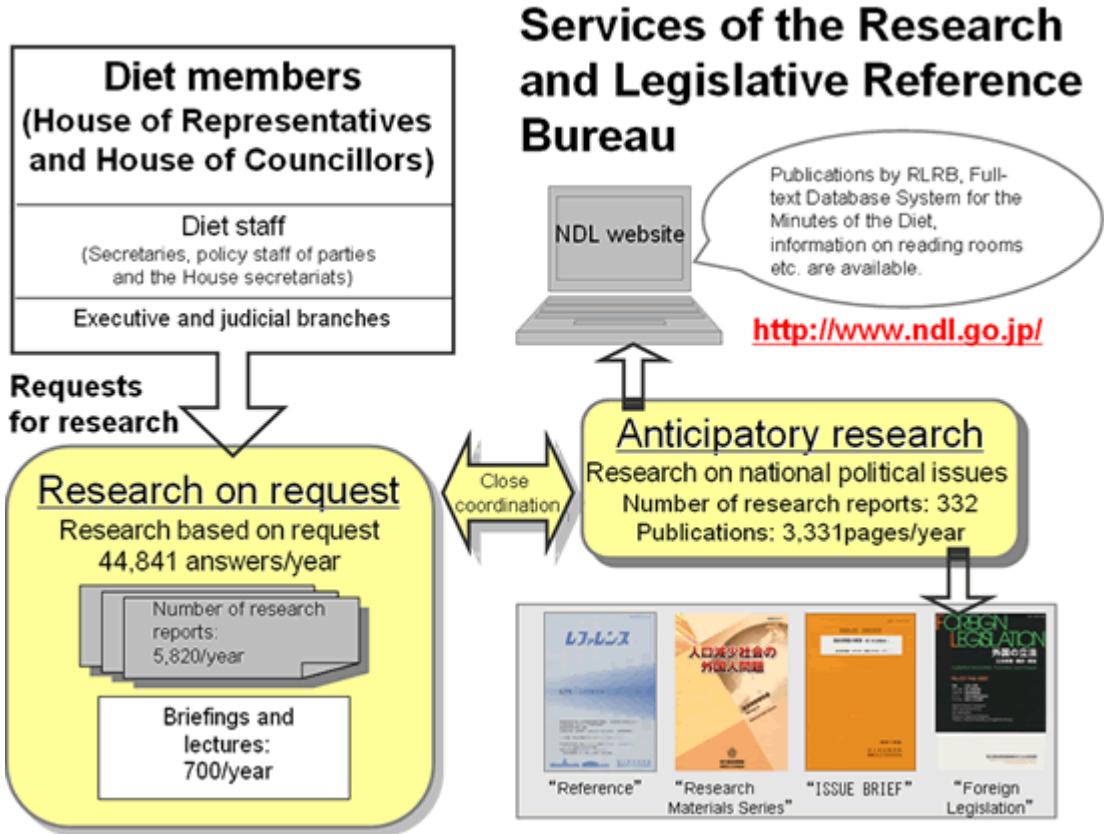
Transition in number of research requests

With the increase in the number of research requests, we have been working at a lot more preparation of research reports, and giving briefings at policy subcommittees of political parties, working group meetings and on other occasions. For example, while we produced only about 1,200 research reports in FY1995, the number of reports surpassed 5,500 in FY2006. Deadlines for report submission are getting shorter, with about 70% of the requests needing to be answered on the same day or within the next day. In order to respond to this situation, all the researchers are constantly striving to be capable of producing high quality results in a short period by improving their knowledge in their own area of expertise and by keeping up with printed information, several kinds of databases and the Internet resources.

**(2) Anticipatory research**

The research conducted in a planned manner by the RLRB in advance of short-term or mid- and long-term national political issues is called anticipatory research. The results of the research are provided chiefly to the Diet through our publications and websites. The researchers work on a routine basis researching issues for which it is anticipated that research requests will be made.

According to the latest statistics, 332 articles in one year were published in publications issued by the RLRB, with 3,331 pages in total.



Services of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

**2. Recent trends**

Next we would like to introduce some recent trends in our legislative research and information services.

**(1) Enhancement of interdisciplinary research**

Interdisciplinary research, launched in 2001, is research on basic national political issues requiring long-term and cross-subject studies. A project team consisting of staff members across the research divisions studies and analyzes situations and systems concerned with a specific subject both at home and abroad.

Interdisciplinary research includes exchange of opinions with experts and field studies both inside and outside Japan as well as literary research based on materials and digital resources such as Internet information. In recent years, “International Policy Seminars” in which foreign experts are invited to exchange opinions and discuss issues, have been held. In addition, some studies have been conducted in cooperation with outside experts invited to the project teams.

The results of such interdisciplinary research are published as the “Interdisciplinary Research Report.” Since 2001, we have chosen a specific topic each year and conducted interdisciplinary research (see the table below).



Interdisciplinary Research Reports

<p><b>FY2001</b>  <b>FY2002</b>  <b>FY2002–2003</b>  <b>FY2003–2004</b></p>	<p>Risk Management in Natural Disaster  Emergency Management in Major Countries  Reforms in the USA from the 1980s  Aging Society with Fewer Children</p>
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FY2004–2005	Regional Revitalization
FY2005–2006	Present Situation and Future Issues of the Enlarged EU
2006	Consolidation of Peace
2006–2007	Problems of Immigrant Policy and Foreign Workers Policy in a Depopulation Society
2007–2008	Juvenile Problems
2007	Roles of the Diet for Civilian Control
2008–2009	Policy Issues of Japan in International Comparison
2008	Policy of the New Administration in Australia
	Influences of Relaxation of Regulations Policy in Economic Areas
	Deliberation Trends on Japan in Foreign Parliaments

#### List of themes of the interdisciplinary research

At present, interdisciplinary research on “Juvenile problems,” “Policy issues of Japan in international comparison,” “Policy of the new administration in Australia,” “Influences of realization of regulations policy in economic areas” and “Deliberation trends on Japan in foreign parliaments” are being carried out by each project team.

For the Interdisciplinary Research Report “Problems of Immigrant Policy and Foreign Workers Policy in a Depopulation Society,” published at the end of January 2008, a presentation meeting to introduce the contents to the Diet Members and their secretaries was held on February 21.

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## (2) Launch of “Policy Seminar”

The fruits of the interdisciplinary and anticipatory research have been distributed as publications to the each Diet Member’s office located in the Diet Members’ Buildings as well as being posted on the “Chosa-no-Mado,” an exclusive website for the Diet Members. However, we had not provided the occasion to explain the research directly to them. Some Members say they do not know what kinds of research results are available. Therefore, last year, we started “Policy Seminars” where we explain national political issues to the Diet Members and their secretaries.

Two policy seminars took place in September and October 2007 during the 168th Diet session (extraordinary session).

The first one on September 26 was focused on the problem of the “Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law” extension which was a core issue in the extraordinary session. In total, 70 (13 Diet Members from both Houses and 57 secretaries) participated in the session. The second was on October 4 on the themed of “Reform of tax finance for local vitalization,” which attracted 3 Members of the House of Councillors and 24 secretaries.



2nd Policy Seminar on October 4

Responses to the seminars include requests for handouts of the seminar and research related to the subject. A request to have a meeting on the same content by a Diet Member who was not able to join the seminar was also received. We will continue to offer the “Policy Seminars” regularly.

### **(3) Providing materials in digital form**

We can say that the significant change in the RLRB over the past decade is the spread of online operation and performing research with PCs. A decade ago when the first PCs were introduced in the research divisions, they had limited use. Later the “Total System for Research and Information Services,” which deals with research and reference work done by computer, was fully introduced aiming at accelerated statistical processing, accumulation of institutional memory, and other advanced functions.

In October 1998, a website exclusive for the Diet Members, “Chosa-no-Mado” (window on research services), was established. In addition, we proceeded to make a database of full-text minutes of the Diet, which had previously been published only in paper form, construct the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet, and compile a database of the “Index Database to Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills” (including the early Meiji era edition). These databases are open to the public on the NDL website.

We have made various research publications available on our website, too. Anyone can read and print out publications issued by the RLRB, such as “Reference,” “Issue Brief,” “Foreign Legislation” and “Research Materials Series,” from anywhere using a PC (in Japanese). We have been continuing our efforts to make these systems more useful.

The screenshot shows the National Diet Library website. At the top, there is a logo and the name '国立国会図書館' (National Diet Library) in Japanese and English. Navigation links include 'Print', 'Font size', 'standard', 'large', and 'Japanese'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the header, there are several menu items: 'Information of Services for Diet', 'Online Catalogs', 'Search Guide', 'Electronic Library', 'Online Gallery', and 'Publications'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column lists various services such as 'Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet', 'Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet', 'Index Database to Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills', 'Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications', 'Bibliography of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics', and 'Materials for Legislative Research'. The right column features a 'Spotlight' section with news items like 'Picture Book Gallery "The American Picture Book: Prologue to the Golden Years" released', 'National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin's new look', and 'Open discussion on legal deposit'. There is also a '60th Anniversary' logo and text.

You can choose materials you want to read from “Materials for Legislative Research” in “Information of Services for Diet”

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### 3. Conclusion

In addition to these services, the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau conducts various other activities. For example, in FY2005, we started to ask the Diet Members’ needs directly in order to improve our services.

On the occasion of the NDL’s 60th anniversary, the NDL set [seven visions \(Nagao Vision\)](#) for which the NDL should aim in future. The premier vision is to “Enhance our legislative support function by improving services for the National Diet.”

We intend to strengthen our own anticipatory research on national political issues as well as improving our research services provided on request in order to function as “brains for the legislative body.” We are also aiming at functioning as “information center for the Diet Members” in tandem with other departments and facilities of the NDL.

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## Acquisitions and Bibliography Department launched

In April 2008, the Acquisitions and Bibliography Department was established by the integration of the Acquisitions Department and the Bibliography Department in the National Diet Library (NDL).

In April 2002, the NDL changed its focus in reorganization from its collection types to its functions. As a result, the Acquisitions Department, the Bibliography Department, and the Public Services Department were born by reorganizing departments such as the Book Department and the Serials Department.

Six years have passed since the 2002 reorganization and a new department was built uniting the NDL production line of acquisition, cataloging, and provision of bibliographic data.

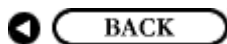
Thinking back over the NDL history, at one time it had an Acquisitions and Cataloging Department. But in the department, acquisition and cataloging were done in different divisions. In this reorganization we aim at rational work operation from acquisition to organization in a consistent manner by building three divisions which handle domestic materials, periodicals & non-book materials, and foreign materials. The Bibliographic Control Division of the Bibliography Department, which had been responsible for administration of cataloging and bibliographic control, was combined with the Acquisition Administration Division of the Acquisitions Department and became the Acquisitions Administration and Bibliographic Control Division.

[NDL organization chart \(as of April 2008\)](#)

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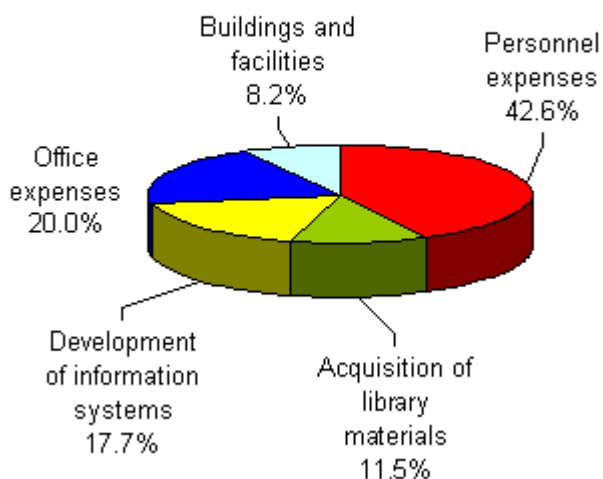


## NDL budget for fiscal 2008

This is an abridged translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 565 (Apr. 2008).

The fiscal 2008 budget bill passed the National Diet on March 28, 2008. The total amount of the initial budget appropriated for the NDL is 21,965,142,000 yen for FY2008 (April 2008 – March 2009), a decrease of some 993 million yen compared with the previous year's budget, caused by a decrease in the appropriation for personnel expenses and other reasons.

### Distribution of Budget by Category



The composition of the total budget is:

- Personnel expenses: 42.6% (43.9% in FY2007)
- Acquisition of library materials: 11.5% (11.0% in FY2007)
- Development of information systems: 17.7% (17.1% in FY2007)
- Office expenses: 20.0% (20.4% in FY2007)
- Buildings and facilities: 8.2% (7.6% in FY2007)

Major expenditures of the 2008 budget are as follows:

### 1. Construction of the Digital Archive

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In order to secure wide access to digital materials as well as to prevent online information resources from being scattered and lost, and to try to collect and preserve them, a digital archiving system that collects, preserves and offers digital information has been under construction since FY2005. For FY2008, as expenses for system design and development, and management of the e-stacks, about 908 million yen was approved. Of this, an act incurring liabilities on the national treasury for the five years from FY2008 (total of about 1.759 billion yen) was approved, for the management of the e-stacks.

### 2. Development of Digital Contents

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Since FY2000 the NDL has been gradually increasing the digital contents for the Digital Library Services. For FY2008, about 130 million yen was allocated for the digitization of Japanese books published in the Taisho era.

### 3. Commemorative events of the NDL's 60th anniversary

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FY2008 is the 60th anniversary of the NDL. To commemorate this, about 21 million yen was allocated, as expenses for holding the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), a commemorative symposium and a special exhibition.

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### 4. Buildings and Facilities

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#### (1) Preparation for Phase 2 construction of the Kansai-kan

As expenses for a survey of the site and research on the building for Phase 2 construction of the Kansai-kan, about 11 million yen was allocated and an act incurring liabilities on the national treasury for the two years from FY2008 (total of about 57 million yen) was approved.

In addition, for land acquisition for the Phase 2 construction of the Kansai-kan, which has been undertaken since FY2002, about 112 million yen was allocated. The land acquisition will be completed in FY2008.

#### (2) Renovation of the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library

About 962 million yen was approved for the renovation of the building, electric facilities and mechanical equipment (phase 1) which has been undertaken since FY 2006.

In addition, about 156 million yen was allocated for the renovation of the building, electronic facilities and mechanical equipment (phase 2), and an act incurring liabilities on the national treasury for the three years from FY2008 (total of about 1.676 million yen) was approved.

#### (3) Renovation of the other facilities

As expenses for other renovation work, the following were budgeted:

About 247 million yen for the construction of the entrance/exit checking system of the stacks of the Tokyo Main Library; about 162 million yen for the renovation of the fire protection shutters of the Main Building; about 47 million yen for the renovation of the light fixtures of the Main Building; about 104 million yen for maintenance of the Kansai-kan.

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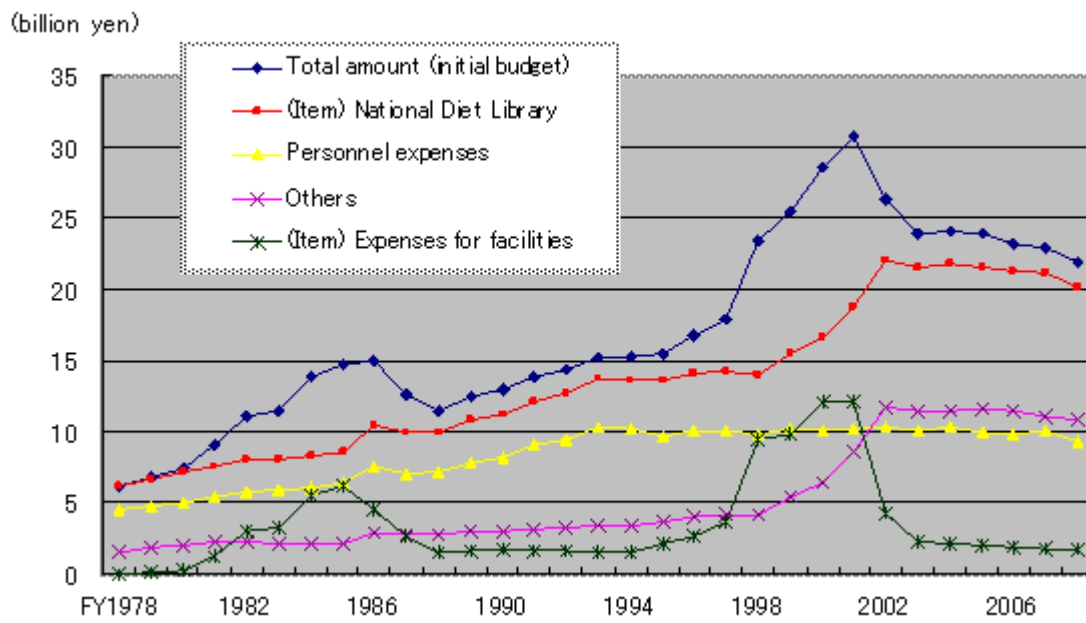
### Amounts of National Diet Library's FY2008 Expenditure Budget

(1,000 yen)

(Item) National Diet Library	20,163,527
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• Personnel costs	9,349,255
• Regular office expenses	260,446
• Legislative research	362,286
• Acquisition of materials	2,528,240
of which recompense for deposit of publication	390,249
• Development of information systems	3,895,881
• Tokyo Main Library operations	2,037,918
• International Library of Children's Literature operation	470,309
• Kansai-kan operation	1,259,192
(Item) Expenses for facilities	1,801,615
• Renovation of the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library (phase 1)	961,926
• Renovation of the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library (phase 2)	156,298
• Construction of the Entrance/Exit Checking System of the stacks of the Tokyo Main Library	246,618
• Renovation of the light fixtures of the Main Building	47,370
• Renovation of the fire protection shutters of the Main Building	161,664
• Survey on the site and research on the building of the Kansai-kan	11,498
• Land acquisition for the Kansai-kan	112,366
• Maintenance of the Kansai-kan	103,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,965,142</b>

National Diet Library's Budget



\*The Kansai-kan was completed in FY2002

[Related articles](#)

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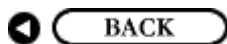
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## New Contents of NDL Website in English – PORTA and Asian Resources Room page

### PORTA

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National Diet Library Digital Archive Portal "[PORTA](#)" is a portal site provided by the NDL.

On March 31, 2008, PORTA released a user interface in English. You can search multiple digital archives in Japan using English via PORTA. At the same time, other functions including external interface and search plug-in for Google Toolbar and Search Engines of Firefox were also released.

In addition, five search targets were added to PORTA, in cooperation with Kyoto University, the Japan P.E.N. Club, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Information Center, and Hitotsubashi University. Therefore, PORTA has now 25 searchable archives, with 10 million data.

For more details, go to [PORTA](#) or [NDL Newsletter No.158](#).

### Asian Resources Room page

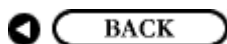
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The Asian Resources Room in the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library holds in open stacks reference books, periodicals, newspapers, etc. concerning Asia (including the Middle East and North Africa but excluding Japan) and offers services to remote users as well as onsite users.

The [Asian Resources Room page](#) was renewed on April 7, 2008. Many new contents such as "[Outline of the Collections](#)," "[Search the Collections](#)," and "[Remote User Services](#)" have been added. "[AsiaLinks – Link pages on Asia](#)" and "[NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC](#)" are also available in English. Additionally, site search on Asian Resources Room page has become available since July 1.

In addition to the above, "[Instructions for Use of the National Diet Library](#)" and "[Ensuring long-term preservation and usability of digital information](#)" have been made available in English since this spring. The NDL intends to continue adding more contents to the website in the future.

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## Selections from NDL Collections

### Materials recently designated as rare books

On November 21, 2007 the 41st Council on Designation of Rare Books was held to newly designate 4 materials as rare books and 1 material as a semi-rare book. As a result, the National Diet Library (NDL) holds 1,230 rare books and 783 semi-rare books in total. This article introduces the newly designated rare books and semi-rare book.

#### Recently designated rare books

### 1. 源氏物語 (Genji Monogatari: Tale of Genji)

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Estimated to have been  
published in the Keicho era  
(1596–1615)

Old movable-type edition

54 volumes

Size: 25.4 x 19.2cm

NDL call no.: WA7-263

\*Click [here](#) for detailed bibliographic  
information

(Japanese only)



1st vol. 「桐つぼ」 (Kiri-tsubo)

This is the first printed publication of Genji Monogatari (Tale of Genji) in Japan as well as one of the oldest type materials in hiragana in the history of printing. Only three sets exist including the NDL holding. Other two sets are held by [Jissen Women's University](#) and [the Ryumon Bunko](#).

### 2. 御上洛繪草紙 (Gojoraku Ezoshi: record of a royal visit in the Kan'ei era)

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\*1st scroll (1st vol.)

Estimated to be published around the 4th year of the Kan'ei era (1627)

Old movable-type edition (dai isshu bon [\*])

2 scrolls

Height: about 30cm

NDL call no.: WA7-264

\*Click [here](#) for detailed bibliographic information (Japanese only)

This picture scroll, commonly called “寛永行幸記” (Kan'ei Gyokoki: record of a royal visit in the Kan'ei era), shows the royal visit of the Emperor Gomizunoo to Iemitsu Tokugawa, the 3rd Shogun in the Edo period, and Hidetada Tokugawa, his father, in the Nijo Castle (Nijojo), Kyoto. As the pictures were typeset as well as the letters, the same picture appears repeatedly. This material is unique in the Japanese history of printing, so it is of importance in the study of printing techniques and methods for old movable type editions.

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### 3. [寛永行幸記] (Kan'ei Gyokoki: record of a royal visit in the Kan'ei era)



2nd volume

This has the same contents as the previous item. The difference is that this is dai nishu bon [\*], whereas the previous one is dai issu bon [\*].

Most of the “types of pictures” are the same as used in the previous material. Only a small part was added to make up for something lacking. On the other hand, the types of letters are different.

This material is precious because there are not many copies in existence, though it is not in a good state, and it has a paging disorder that apparently occurred in the process of rebinding, discoloration of paper and scribbles.

Estimated to be published around the 4th year of the Kan’ei era (1627)

Old movable-type edition (dai nishu bon [\*])

Folded books

2 volumes

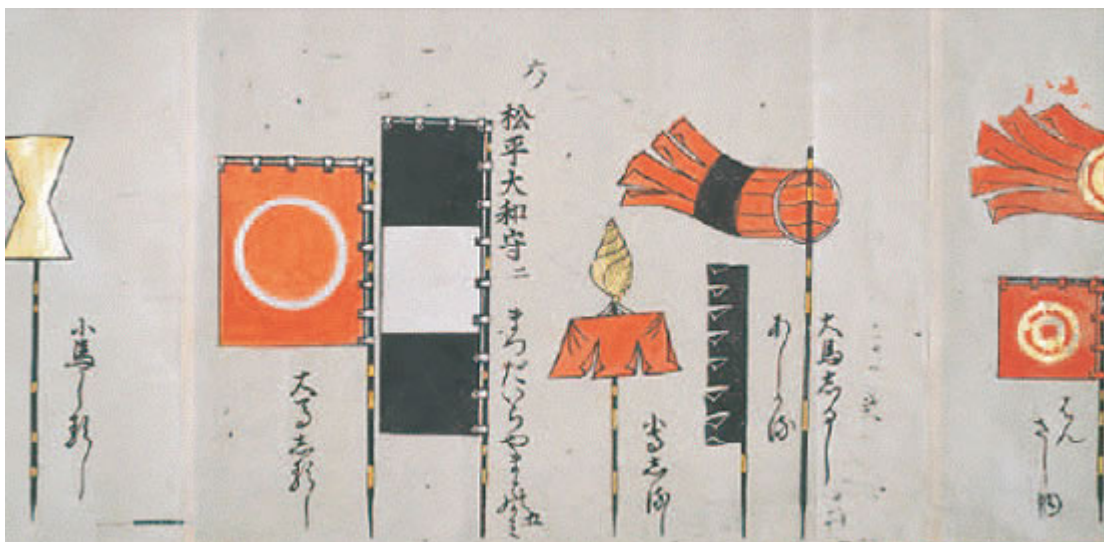
size: 28.4 x 21.4cm

NDL call no.: WA7-265

(This material has no title. The headline is from its popular name)

\*Click [here](#) for detailed bibliographic information (Japanese only)

#### 4. 御馬印 (Ouma-jirushi: battle standards)





## 6th scroll

Estimated to have been published  
in the Kan'ei era (1624-44)

6 scrolls

Height: 23.5cm

NDL call no.: WA8-7

\*Click [here](#) for detailed  
bibliographic information  
(Japanese only)

This material gives a graphic representation of feudal warlords' "Uma-jirushi (battle standards)," which were placed by their horses to show their whereabouts and encampments. This is very important in the history of printing, because it was printed in color in the early Edo period and can be regarded as the forerunner of nishiki-e (colored woodblock prints), which appeared in the Meiwa era (1764-72). The NDL holding, which has been designated as a rare book, is the only set in existence which has all volumes.

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## Recently designated semi-rare book

### [宣明曆] (Senmyo-reki)



Estimated to be published in  
the 21st year of the Kan'ei era  
(1644)

Size: 23.4 x 15.0cm

NDL call no.: WB1-19

\*Click [here](#) for detailed  
bibliographic information  
(Japanese only)

The material which has been designated as a semi-rare book this time is the 1st volume out of 7 volumes (1st ed.) and includes 4 illustrations. This is one of the rare and precious color-printed materials which were published in the early Edo period and are still in existence. The Senmyo-reki, which is one of the lunar calendars, was made in China in 822 and was used in Japan for 823 years from 862.

A detailed explanation of each material is available in the [NDL Monthly Bulletin No.565 \(April, 2008\)](#) PDF[6.43MB]. \*Japanese only

[\*] Classification method for existing old-movable type edition, which was proposed by Kazuma Kawase (1906-1999)

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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. 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. 567, June 2008 [[PDF Format, 7.13 MB](#)]

- Series commemorating the NDL's 60th anniversary
  - "1998-2008" Topics during the last decade and future prospects (3) New service points - Kansai-kan and International Library of Children's Literature
- Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature
  - How "Door to the Czech Republic: The world of children's books" was prepared
- People who use, people who maintain (6) Damage by use and countermeasures
- Preservation and use of newspapers in the digital era - efforts being made by the United States, New Zealand and Australia
- <Announcement>
  - Lectures related to the exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature
  - Summer event of the International Library of Children's Literature: Fun with science "Wonder of light - enjoying making kaleidoscopes together"
  - Commemorative events of the NDL's 60th anniversary [related article](#)
  - Book notice - publications from NDL

### No. 566, May 2008 [[PDF Format, 2.08 MB](#)]

- New series commemorating the NDL's 60th anniversary
  - "1998-2008" Topics during the last decade and future prospects (2) Tracking the acquisition of materials [related article](#)

- How many domestic publications does the NDL hold? – from the results of a survey on the percentage of national publications acquired by NDL through the legal deposit system [related article](#)
- Current status of Japanese studies in the U.S. – at the University of Pittsburgh
- People who use, people who maintain (5) Audio materials
- Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room
- <Announcement>
  - Training programs for librarians in FY2008
  - Search objects and functions newly added to PORTA
  - Picture Book Gallery “The American Picture Book: Prologue to the Golden Years” open to the public
  - Completion of microfiching of books formerly held in the Ueno Library, a valuable collection taken over from the former Imperial Library
  - Book notice – publications from NDL

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