

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 165, Feb. 2009

NEXT



**Bibliographic data in the digital age
– ten years of catalogs–**

Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This is based on an article of the same title in the series
<“1998–2008” Topics during the last decade and future prospects>
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 572 (November 2008).

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Introduction

“Organization and provision of bibliographic data and catalogs” is one of the main pillars of the work of the National Diet Library (NDL); we work to create and widely disseminate the bibliography of Japanese publications Japanese National Bibliography Weekly List and also to manage and provide our collection systematically.

Here, we introduce the changes in bibliographic data and catalogs over the last decade and their future directions.

In this article, “bibliographic data” means the individual record of a material’s

characteristics and “catalog” means a mechanism to make bibliographic data and location information searchable.

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1. Catalog search and bibliographic data

1.1 The former catalog hall

Do you remember the catalog hall in the main building of the NDL before the mid-1990s (Photo 1)? Substantial wooden card cases stood in the hall and thick book catalogs were placed by the walls. Wandering between card boxes arranged by author name, title and subject headings, turning the catalog cards in Roman or Japanese alphabetical order, users found the catalog card for the material they wanted. That was the first step toward getting a library material.

The scene began to change gradually from 1989 when PC terminals for J-BISC (our CD-ROM catalog of Japanese books) became available to users. In 1992, an OPAC of our Western book holdings was also provided. New additions to the card boxes for Japanese books (Column 1) ceased at the end of March 1997 and they were replaced by an OPAC for Japanese books.

After that, public catalogs in the library changed through the Web-OPAC which covered Japanese & Western books and periodicals introduced in July 1999 to the NDL-OPAC (the current National Diet Library online public access catalog) in March 2003 in the Tokyo Main Library. In the Kansai-kan, the NDL-OPAC has been available since its opening in October 2002. More and more OPAC terminals have been added and more than 200 terminals have been provided just in the Tokyo Main Library in and after 2006 (Photo 2). In step with this, card catalogs have been gradually removed except that of the Imperial Library (one of the predecessors of the NDL) and some others.

1.2 Maintenance of bibliographic data – database building and retrospective cataloging

We started off this story from the changes in the catalog hall. To accomplish these changes we also needed to construct bibliographic databases in addition to developing search systems suited to the time. In the NDL, we introduced computers in the early 1970s and have been working on automating the processing and creating bibliographic databases. In 1981, we started to distribute new bibliographic data of books published in Japan as JAPAN/MARC in a machine readable format. We also started to output data from the database system for Japanese books in order to issue the [Japanese National Bibliography Weekly List](#) (Japanese only) and printed catalog cards used in domestic and overseas libraries.

As well as ordinary cataloging work, it became imperative to promote retrospective cataloging in order to expand the range of searchable materials. Retrospective cataloging data based on the book or card catalogs are also provided in JAPAN/MARC and other

forms. We had already launched retrospective cataloging of Japanese books in 1979 and finished it in 1999 for books published in and after the Meiji era. Toward the opening of the Kansai-kan in 2002, the scope of retrospective cataloging was expanded to Western books in order to make a collection searchable regardless of its location (in Tokyo or in Kansai). In and after 2002, we have systematically been promoting retrospective cataloging of Japanese old books, Chinese books, audio and visual materials. These operations also helped to replace card catalogs with the OPAC in the catalog hall (Column 1).

*For detailed information on retrospective cataloging, please see "Progress of the retrospective cataloging of bibliographic data" (National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin No. 564 March 2008 pp.13-16).

Column: Old term and new term

1. Card catalog

The NDL started the Printed Catalog Cards Project in 1950 to share catalogs by distributing printed catalog cards. Though more than four million cards were distributed each year in the early 1980s, this half-century project was discontinued in March 1998 with the spread of online catalogs. At the time when we maintained card catalogs for on-site users, staff members in charge of catalog card arrangement in a department for processing filed catalog cards every day. When a card box was filled up, they expanded* the card catalog. It was a big issue to decide whether to continue expanding it or not, or when to freeze* it and make a new one. It could severely affect the reader services and plans for facilities.

When we corrected bibliographic data on a catalog card, we used to scrape off the surface of the card with a razor. It was quite a skilled job. When two or more cards were used for one title, they were tied with lace yarns (or with twisted paper strings before that). Those things glide into the distant past.

*expand = Even if a card box is filled up, to continue using the same card catalog by adding another card box. To extend catalog.

*freeze = To stop filing new cards and discontinue the card catalog.

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2. Internet and services of bibliographic data and catalogs

2.1 From Web-OPAC to NDL-OPAC

So far, we have talked about "prehistory." The decade from 1998 was a kind of Internet age for bibliographic data.

In 1996 when the NDL website became public on the Internet, only a year's worth of bibliographic data of Japanese books could be searched. In March 2000 when the NDL website was refurbished, we made available the Web-OPAC which enabled users to search 2.2 million Japanese books and 200,000 foreign books. That was the first full-blown window on the Internet to access materials in the NDL.

In September 2002, prior to the opening of the Kansai-kan of the NDL in the following month, we made the NDL-OPAC public on the Internet, expanding the coverage of bibliographic data to all of the Japanese books published in and after the Meiji era, periodicals and others. In November 2002, some 5.4 million records of the Japanese Periodicals Index were added. The Japanese Periodicals Index made it possible to search articles in some 10,000 journals in Japan by title and author name, and to make requests for remote copying services from search results. It was appreciated by both domestic and foreign researchers on Japan.

The NDL-OPAC has continuously and gradually expanded its coverage: as of March 2008, it has about 17.59 million bibliographic data and makes them searchable from all over the world. It literally functions as a foundation of our library services.

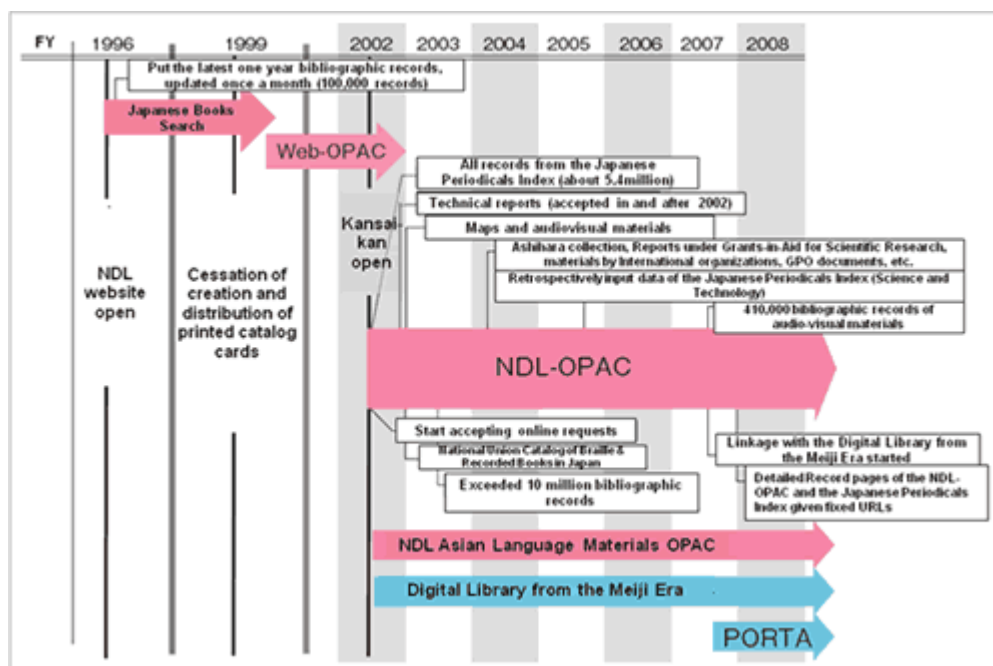


Figure 1. History of provision of bibliographic data on the Internet

[*Click on the figure for clearer image](#)

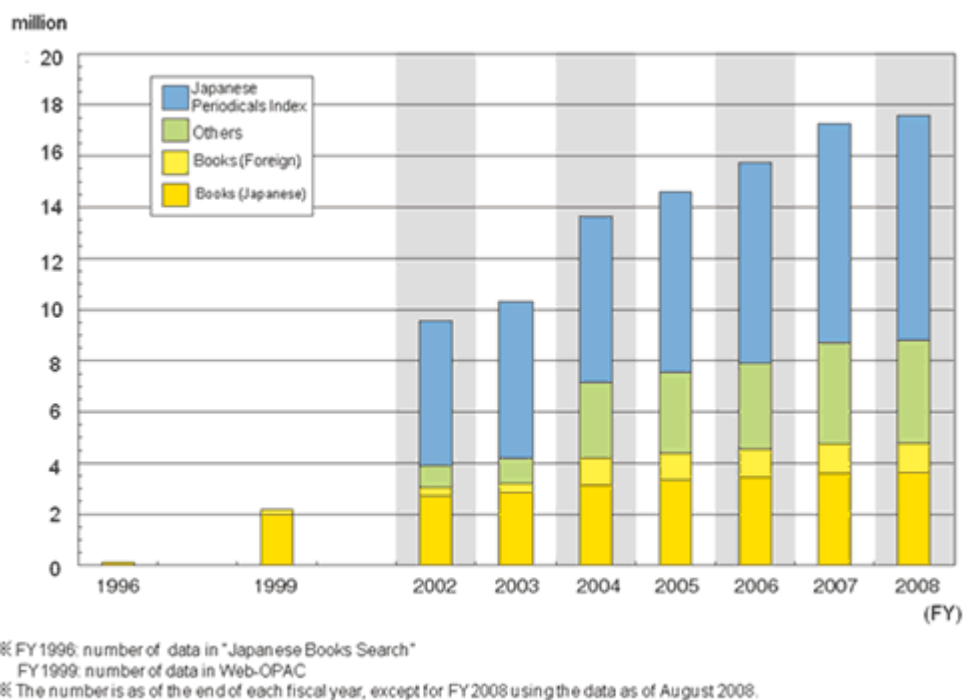


Figure 2. Changes in the number of data in the NDL-OPAC

[*Click on the figure for clearer image](#)

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2.2 Various services

Not only the NDL-OPAC, but the organization, utilization and provision of bibliographic data have been carried on in a variety of ways.

(1) ["Nihon Zenkoku Shoshi" \(Japanese National Bibliography Weekly List\)](#)

The [National Diet Library Law](#), Article 7, stipulates that the Librarian shall provide, at periodic intervals not longer than one year, a catalog or index of the publications issued within Japan during the preceding year or period. In accordance with this article, we compile bibliographic data 50 times a year on publications issued in Japan and newly accepted by the NDL. Publication in a print version was discontinued at the end of June 2007, to be provided only online ([related article](#)).

We continue to offer bibliographic data to external institutions by distributing JAPAN/MARCs (50 times per year, in CD-Rs) and J-BISCs (six times per year, in CD-ROMs).

(2) [NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC](#)

This OPAC became public in 2002 for searching materials in various Asian languages which are not recorded on the NDL-OPAC. Books in ten Asian languages including Chinese, Korean, Mongolian, and Indonesian, and periodicals in Chinese and Korean, mainly handled by Asian Resources Division of the Kansai-kan of the NDL, are searchable.

(3) Union Catalogs

Unlike catalogs of only NDL holdings such as the NDL-OPAC and the NDL Asian Language

Materials OPAC, union catalogs are compiled in cooperation with many libraries to integrate their catalogs and to provide holdings and location information. They can be used for interlibrary loan services. Construction of union catalogs is also prescribed in the Article 21 of the National Diet Library Law as the NDL's mission.

["National Union Catalog Network System"](#) (Japanese only) run by the Library Cooperation Division, Kansai-kan of the NDL, is a project to receive bibliographic data of Japanese books from prefectural and major city libraries in Japan to organize a database. Started as a full-fledged service in 1998, it has grown to a database containing over 37 million bibliographic and location data from 61 libraries in 2008. Search function became available on the Internet from 2004. In addition, the NDL operates the [National Union Catalog of Newspapers in Japan](#), the [National Union Catalog of Braille & Recorded Books in Japan](#) and the [Union Catalog of Children's Literature](#) (Japanese only).

(4) Digital library and bibliographic data

The NDL digital library services started around the opening of the Kansai-kan of the NDL. They had a powerful influence on bibliographic data.

The [Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#) (Japanese only), which provides digitized images of books published in the Meiji and Taisho eras, takes advantage of bibliographic data retrospectively input. It also adds table of contents data to link to texts in image format. Through digitization and copyright clearance work, bibliographic data to be amended are found, which helps to maintain them.

In addition, metadata, bibliographic data on digital information, were engendered. They have the characteristics that not only are they data about digital information, but also they have easier descriptive elements (data of titles, creators, etc.) and formats to share on the Internet than traditional bibliographic data. From the latter half of the 1990s, new standards for metadata including the Dublin Core have been established.

The NDL formulated the "National Diet Library Metadata Element Set" in 2001 based on the Dublin Core, and launched services handling Internet information such as the [NDL Web Archiving Project \(WARP\)](#) and the [Database Navigation Service \(Dnavi\)](#) (Japanese only) in 2002.

In 2007, "[National Diet Library Dublin Core Metadata Element Set \(DC-NDL\)](#)," the revision of the above-mentioned Set, was released. The [NDL Digital Archive Portal \(PORTA\)](#), released in 2007 as a portal site which allows users to make integrated search of digital archives throughout Japan, adopts the metadata elements of DC-NDL to record various data to encourage integrated information retrieval. PORTA makes it possible to search across external databases as well as internal data and has a variety of functions for search and provision, which indicates a broader possibility of making use of bibliographic data, not exclusive to the traditional use in OPACs.

Bibliography of specialized and subject fields, such as "[Books on Japan](#)" (lists of books on Japan written in Western languages) and "[Bibliography of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics](#)" (catalog with which you can search documents related to a certain political

personages, in Japanese) are created by relating divisions. These are available on the NDL website by clicking “Online Catalogs” and “Search Guide.”

While the Acquisitions and Bibliography Department is in charge of the administrative work of creation and provision of bibliographic data and bibliographic control including standardization, many other divisions are also responsible for the creation and maintenance of bibliographic data.

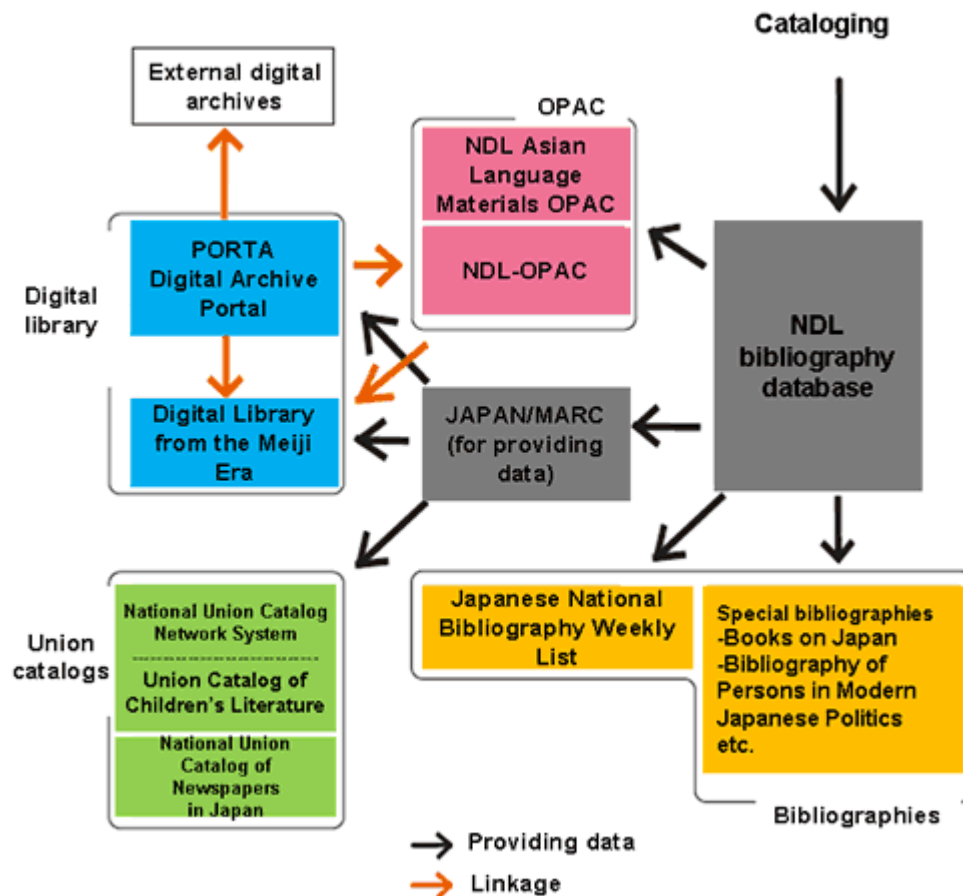


Figure 3. Relationship of bibliography services

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3. Future of bibliographic data

3.1 Function of catalogs

Until now, we have talked about mainly: how many bibliographic data have been maintained and provided; and what services and systems we have. In addition, we would like to draw your attention to the retrieval support mechanism which enhances the reliability of catalogs and identifies required materials more effectively.

Needless to say, the mechanism includes bibliographic data created based on stable standards by applying cataloging rules, etc., as well as the creation and maintenance of

authority files which record names of persons, corporate bodies and others. We can collocate an author's works and distinguish him/her from another person with the same name by recording his/her name in the bibliographic data based on authority files.

In addition, we have maintained subject headings with the authority file of subject headings. Subject headings are controlled vocabularies to show subjects of works and are recorded in bibliographic data as keys for searching. We revised the National Diet Library List of Subject Headings (NDLSH) from 2003 to 2006 so that it can be utilized more effectively for searching databases. We enriched references and added information on the relationship between related subject headings such as broader terms, related terms and narrower terms. This enhanced availability of the subject headings, for example, related subject headings can be seen with the search results of the NDL-OPAC to be keys for further search.

Column: Old term and new term

2. FRBR

Since the late 1990s, the IFLA has been considering reviewing the functions of catalogs thoroughly, and the FRBR was formulated as a new model of bibliographic records. It is sometimes called "FRBRization" to create cataloging systems based on the concept of the FRBR. Its concept forms the basis of the "International Cataloging Principles," which is intended to be the basis of cataloging rules all over the world, and "Resource Description & Access (RDA)," which is the revised edition of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd ed. (AACR2); both of them moved into the final stage to the completion in 2009.

Now, libraries all over the world are trying to find a way to make use of the functions of catalogs in the world of the Internet, which have been accumulated in libraries. Aiming at further enhancement of the functions of catalogs, the formulation of new cataloging rules is promoted based on the "Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)" created by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in 1998 (Column 2). One of its aims is to make a variety of sets about a work and navigate users to the information they want.

Ahead of this consideration, new library search systems, which started to replace existing OPACs, do not shut themselves in the world of traditional catalogs. They have links to and utilize search engines like Google; online bookstores like Amazon.com; services like Wikipedia, an encyclopedia on the Internet; and other useful digital information on the Internet. Furthermore, these new systems have common characteristics in that they employ the FRBR model and offer functions with which people and other systems can utilize data derived from bibliographic information freely; and that they take in data made and added by users (Column 3).

Column: Old term and new term

3. Social tagging and folksonomy

The utilization of "collective intelligence" is enhancing its availability to the world of

catalogs, e.g. "social tagging" (users mutually add information to contents on the Internet) and "folksonomy" (many people work together to create subject keywords and classification), in addition to subject headings which are subject vocabularies in bibliographic data assigned by librarians.

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3.2 New policies

Time has been changing from the age when many OPACs became available on the Internet to the age when users access and make full use of a variety of digital information inside and outside libraries. Now, we offer the above-mentioned bibliographic services separately. For example, the NDL-OPAC and the NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC are different services, and are like the union catalogs and Japanese National Bibliography Weekly List. It is our task to implement functions for integrated retrieval and mutual coordination in these services. We started with easier issues, such as linkage from the search results of the NDL-OPAC to digitized materials provided with the Digital Library from the Meiji Era.

In 2008, we drew up the "Policy for Creation and Provision of Bibliographic Data in the National Diet Library (2008)," and have been improving our bibliographic services based on the following six policies:

1. To enhance the openness of bibliographic data on the premise of provision on the Internet, so that users can easily obtain and make use of bibliographic data in various ways;
2. To facilitate information retrieval systems;
3. To make a variety of resources including digital resources seamlessly accessible;
4. To enhance the effectiveness of bibliographic data;
5. To promote efficient and speedy creation of bibliographic data;
6. To utilize outside resources, knowledge and technology.

Putting these policies into effect targeting the five years from 2008, we aim to create and provide bibliographic data as the foundation of our future information services.

[Related information]

The above-mentioned services are available via the NDL website (please note that some are in Japanese only). You can access the following documents as well:

- Metadata standards (Japanese only)
<http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/standards/index.html>
- National Diet Library List of Subject Headings (NDLSH) (Japanese only)
http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/library/data/ndl_ndlsh.html
- NDL Bibliographic Data Newsletter (Japanese only)
Newsletter to introduce a variety of information relating to bibliographic information (published quarterly)
http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/library/data/bib_newsletter/index.html

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Online Gallery of the National Diet Library

Kosaku Oshima
Reference Service Planning Division
Reference and Special Collections Department
National Diet Library, Japan

This is based on the handout for Mr. Oshima's presentation
at the 19th Annual Conference
of [the European Association of Japan Resource Specialists \(EAJRS\)](#) in September 2008. [His presentation slides shown at the conference \[PDF Format, 173.61KB\]](#) are available .

Information services on the NDL website

Four kinds of services are available on the [NDL website](#): 1. User guide; 2. Online catalogs; 3. Search guide; 4. Digital library / online gallery (provision of primary information).

1. "[User guide](#)" includes information necessary for use of the library such as the opening hours, access to the library and photocopy fees.
2. "[Online catalogs](#)" are for searching materials held by the library.
3. "[Search guide*](#)" provides users with information on how to make a good use of what kind of resources to do a document search.
4. Provision of primary information is divided into two categories: [Digital library](#) / [online gallery](#)). The former service provides particular kinds of materials comprehensively; the latter provides selected materials with comments and descriptions.

*This service will be provided in RESEARCH NAVI, which will be launched in the first half of FY2009.

While we also provide primary information in the services including "[Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#)" and "[Rare Books Image Database](#)" (Japanese only), this presentation introduces the service of providing selected materials with comments and descriptions: the online gallery.

Advantages of an online gallery

1. No distance limitation

Being available on the Internet, it is accessible instantly and from anywhere with an

Internet connection.

2. No space limitation

With no physical limitation of space, free construction and development of contents is possible. Extra exhibits can be added continuously. It is easy to add a large amount of materials after the original release of the contents, or to revise and enlarge the contents.

3. No deterioration of materials on exhibit

When rare and precious materials are on exhibit, the exhibition term has to be limited to prevent them from deterioration. With an online exhibition, there is no such concern.

4. Broader possibility of display than real exhibition

When a book is shown in a case, only specific pages are displayed, so visitors cannot read other pages; but online exhibition permits users to see all the pages.

Of course it does not mean that an online exhibition is free from all problems. It has budgetary restrictions and also needs copyright clearance procedures. Daily maintenance is also required.

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Concept of the NDL online gallery

Under the general title "Memories of Japan," the [NDL online gallery](#) is basically constructed of materials from our collection, selected according to themes related to Japanese history and culture. As the online gallery is intended to introduce our collection, use of other institutions' materials is restricted to the minimum necessary. It also has a purpose of letting people know about other NDL services, so we attach importance to establishing links to the Digital Library from the Meiji Era and the Rare Books Image Database, etc. Each fiscal year, 2 contents are added.

Targeted users range in general from junior high school students to adults. Our aim is to create an exhibition which can be understandable by viewing the entire content without any deep knowledge of the theme. It can also help researchers and specialists by, for example, providing all the images of one particular material.

Selection of materials to be on exhibit and writing comments and descriptions are done mainly by the division which is responsible for the materials relating to each theme. We outsource creation of the web pages to a contractor.

Accesses to the online gallery

In FY2007, the number of accesses to the top page of each content of the online gallery was about 533,000 and that to the images, about 17,120,000. This number comes near the number of searches on the NDL-OPAC, our online catalog, through the Internet, which was 17,680,000. Compared with 440,000 accesses for FY2002, the number increased by almost 40 times. The number of accesses per image also shows a 3-fold increase, from 411 in 2004 to 1,258 in 2008.

Analyzing keywords used to access the online gallery for these 17,120,000 accesses, it was found out that accesses by the keyword "Tatewaki Komatsu*" increased considerably after January 2008. Although there were only very few accesses by this keyword until then, the number took third place after "Kokkai Toshokan (Diet Library)" and "Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan (National Diet Library)" between February and May 2008. Searching for "Tatewaki Komatsu" on Google, we have the NDL online gallery at the top on the results list. It can be assumed that a popular drama broadcast on TV in Japan with this person as one of the characters had driven up the number of accesses.

*[Information and photo of this person](#) is available in online gallery "[Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures](#)"

As this example shows, in many cases, people casually search by a keyword to find some information about a particular person and be led to his/her photo on the NDL online gallery. Although some people may not have even known the National Diet Library existed, the online gallery offers a chance to inform them of the library and makes them aware of a part of its usefulness. It is obvious that the online gallery serves as a public relations medium to people who are not the regular type of library users.

Exhibition in 2008 and future plans

In commemoration of its 60th anniversary, the NDL presented a special exhibition "Rare books of the National Diet Library – the 60th anniversary" in October 2008. About 80 rare and precious books were on exhibit and gathered a number of visitors.

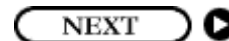
*Online version of the exhibition is available from the following page.

[Rare books of the National Diet Library – the 60th anniversary](#)

An online exhibition on Japan–Holland interchange in the Edo Era is in preparation to be released in 2009. This is a joint project with the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands), so the two libraries are now discussing the contents of the exhibition and other matters.

We are also preparing an exhibition on the Japanese migration to Brazil, featuring materials on Japanese migration in our collection.

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Events commemorating the NDL's 60th anniversary

In 2008, the National Diet Library (NDL) celebrated its 60th anniversary. Commemorative events were held to introduce widely the NDL's roles and activities, and its development since its establishment.

Symposium commemorating 60th anniversary "Through knowledge we prosper – New role of the National Diet Library –"

On November 19, 2008, a symposium titled "Through knowledge we prosper – New role of the National Diet Library –" was held at the Tokyo Main Library of the NDL (live broadcast at the Kansai-kan of the NDL) to discuss what the NDL needs to be in the changing society.



Dr. Nagao



Prof. Tadano

The symposium consisted of two parts. In the first part, Dr. Makoto NAGAO, the Librarian of the NDL, introduced [seven goals](#) for actualizing the NDL's vision: "Through knowledge we prosper." Then, Prof. Masahito TADANO, from Hitotsubashi University, gave a lecture about the NDL's legislative assistance to the Diet.

In the second part, a panel discussion was conducted in regard to libraries as public intellectual bases, and the NDL's roles in the information society.



Moderator

- Prof. Atsushi AIBA, International Research Center for Japanese Studies

Panelists

- Prof. Yoshihiro KATAYAMA, Keio University
- Mr. Tadaaki MATSUOKA, Nikkei Inc.
- Prof. Yasuki HAMANO, University of Tokyo
- Dr. Mari KOBAYASHI, University of Tokyo

On this occasion, an exhibition was held at the Tokyo Main Library. Materials related to people who had contributed to the foundation of the NDL such as Goro HANI, Tokujiro KANAMORI, Masakazu NAKAI and Verner W. CLAPP were displayed. Miniature books and other books with remarkable binding selected from the NDL's collections were also exhibited.

More details of this symposium will be published in the NDL Monthly Bulletin no. 575, February 2009 (in Japanese).

Exhibition "Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary"

An exhibition of rare books titled "Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary –" was held from October 16 to 29 at the Tokyo Main Library, and from November 13 to 26 at the Kansai-kan.

At the NDL, materials that are regarded as particularly old and valuable are designated as rare books or semi-rare books based on certain criteria. Seventy-seven items, mainly selected from such rare books or semi-rare books, were displayed in the exhibition. It included two nationally-designated important cultural properties owned by the NDL: "Moromori-ki" and "Soke-monjo (Tsushima-soke Wakan Kankei-shiryō)."



The exhibition was also shown in the [online gallery](#) on our website. In addition, two commemorative lecture meetings were held: one by Mr. Takashi ATODA (writer, president of Japan P.E.N. Club) at the Tokyo Main Library on October 25 and the other by Mr. Koichi FUJIMOTO (visiting professor of Ryukoku University) at the Kansai-kan on November 22.

CDNLAO Open Seminar

The NDL hosted the 16th meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) on October 20. Twenty-seven representatives from 23 countries participated in the 2008 meeting held under the theme of "Cooperation in Knowledge-based Society."

On October 21, the NDL held the CDNLAO Open Seminar "Asia and Oceania NOW! – Libraries in the Changing Information Environment." Five representatives from the CDNLAO 2008 participants (Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines and Japan) gave a report on their current situation and challenges.

Presenters

- Prof. Hatagin Gotovyn Akim, Director, National Library of Mongolia
- Ms. Penny Carnaby, Chief Executive/National Librarian, National Library of New Zealand
- Mr. Syed Gyouer Hussain, Research Officer, National Library of Pakistan
- Ms. Prudenciana C. Cruz, Director, National Library of the Philippines
- Mr. Motonobu Yoshinaga, Deputy Librarian, National Diet Library

For details of the seminar, please see [CDNLAO Newsletter No.63](#)

60th anniversary of the Legal Deposit System

As the year 2008 also marks the 60th anniversary of the [legal deposit system](#), we set May 25 as the Day of the Legal Deposit System. The date is based on the fact that the NDL began to accept deposited materials on May 25, 1948.

An open discussion commemorating the 60th anniversary of the legal deposit system was held under the theme of “Publishing culture and the Legal Deposit System” on May 24, 2008.



Moderator

- Mr. Seiho IMAIZUMI, freelance announcer

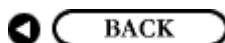
Panelists

- Mr. Shin'ichi SANO, nonfiction writer
- Mr. Akio KIKUCHI, President, Chikuma Shobo Publishing Co.,Ltd.
- Mr. Hiroyuki TAYA, Director General, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

Panelists discussed the role of the legal deposit system in publishing culture. They also talked about a wide range of topics such as recent publishing trends, the collection of digital materials in the NDL, and the relation between the current depression in the publishing industry and libraries.

For more details of the discussion, please see the [NDL Monthly Bulletin no. 569/570, August/September 2008](#) [PDF Format, 9.49MB] (in Japanese).

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The 6th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Assembly Library of Korea

The mutual visit program between the [National Assembly Library \(NAL\)](#) and the National Diet Library, the 6th since 2003, was held from December 15 to 20, 2008, in Seoul. Two of the staff members of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau of the NDL, Mr. Kaoru Omagari (Director, Politics and Parliamentary Affairs Division), and Ms. Yoko Iwata (Assistant Director, Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Division) visited the NAL for this year's program.



Mr. Jong Pil Yoo, Librarian of the NAL (right) and Mr. Omagari (middle)

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Paper Session I: Expertise of public institutions' information and expanded use

NDL report by Mr. Kaoru Omagari

NAL report by Ms. Eulsoon Ma, Assistant Director of the Internet Resources Division

Mr. Omagari explained in his report the NDL's role in collecting public information and making it available. He mentioned as future tasks improvement of the web archiving project and digitization of government publications. Ms. Ma first introduced the actual states of collection and digitization of government information in Korea, and then pointed out the necessity of cooperation among government information institutions.

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Paper Session II: Expertise of legal information service and public sharing

NDL report by Ms. Yoko Iwata

NAL report by Ms. Eunhee Hyun, Assistant Director of the Law Information Division

The report of Ms. Iwata was about outline of the NDL information service relating to laws and regulations as well as influence of its digitization. Ms. Hyun introduced the information service on law and regulations in the NAL and provided an explanation on issues including the "National Law Library" concept and producing librarians specialized in law.



NDL delegates in front of the National Assembly Library building

The two NDL delegates paid a courtesy call on Mr. Jong Pil Yoo, Librarian of the NAL, and exchanged information and opinions with staff members of divisions of the Legislative Information Office. During their stay, they also visited the National Assembly and its memorial hall, the National Assembly Research Service and the National Library of Korea.

As for the future programs, it was decided that the two libraries would continue discussions based on the review of the past programs and the reorganization of the Korean legislative research service.

[▶Reports of past programs in the NDL Newsletter](#)

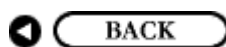
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Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals (Text in Japanese)

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).

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- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (5) Prof. Chizuko Ueno, the University of Tokyo
Future of books, future of libraries
- Symposium commemorating 60th anniversary
Through knowledge we prosper – New role of the National Diet Library –
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- Looking back on the “Symposium commemorating 60th anniversary: Through knowledge we prosper”
- Lecture meeting on the commemorative exhibition “Rare books of the National Diet Library – The 60th anniversary”
Japanese culture and Japanese language
- Issues of the Legal Deposit System – from the results of a questionnaire survey commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Legal Deposit System
- Service improvements utilizing user surveys
- <Announcement>
 - Special events for children during the spring vacation

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- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (4) Dr. Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist, Library and Archives Canada
Roles and missions of national libraries in the digital information age
- Internet archiving in Canada
- The 16th meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)
- Series commemorating the NDL’s 60th anniversary

- “1998–2008” Topics during the last decade and future prospects (8) Development of library cooperation projects [related article](#)
- Introduction to the National Diet Library Digital Archive Portal (PORTA)
- People who use, people who maintain (last of the series) At the conclusion of the series
- Information about Japanese doctoral dissertations
- International Policy Seminar “First year of the Rudd Government of Australia” – from a keynote speech by Mr. Allan Gyngell, the Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy
- <Announcement>
 - RSS feeds of the Japanese Periodicals Index now available
 - Exhibition at the International Library of Children’s Literature “Palette of Dream Colours IV: Winning Works of the 16th Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America”

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