

The English version of the Digital Library from the Meiji Era and the NDL Digitized Contents are released

On May 30, 2013, NDL released the English version of the [Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#) and the [NDL Digitized Contents](#). With buttons and help in English, beginners of Japanese will find it easier to use NDL digitized materials. The English version databases have the same function and contents with the Japanese version.

About the Digital Library from the Meiji Era

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Digital Library from the Meiji Era. At the top, there is a header with the title '近代デジタルライブラリー' (Digital Library from the Meiji Era) and the NDL logo. A language dropdown menu is set to 'English', with links for 'FAQ' and 'Help'. Below the header, a search bar prompts users to 'Enter title, author or keywords (in Japanese)'. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'Theme Search' and 'Advanced Search'. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Featured Items' with a note that items are introduced with commentaries and a link to 'Featured Items (Japanese Only)'; 'News' with two entries: one dated 2013-06-24 regarding a server recovery and another dated 2013-05-30 announcing the English interface; and 'Other Digitized Contents' which lists various collections such as 'Rare Books and Old Materials', 'Historical Recordings Collection', 'Handwritten Newspaper Ishinomaki Hibi Shimibun', 'Official Gazettes', 'Doctoral Dissertations', 'Modern Japanese Political History Materials', and 'Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan'. A note at the bottom of this section advises users to use the NDL Search for digital items available only within the facilities of the NDL.

<<English interface of the Digital Library from the Meiji Era>>

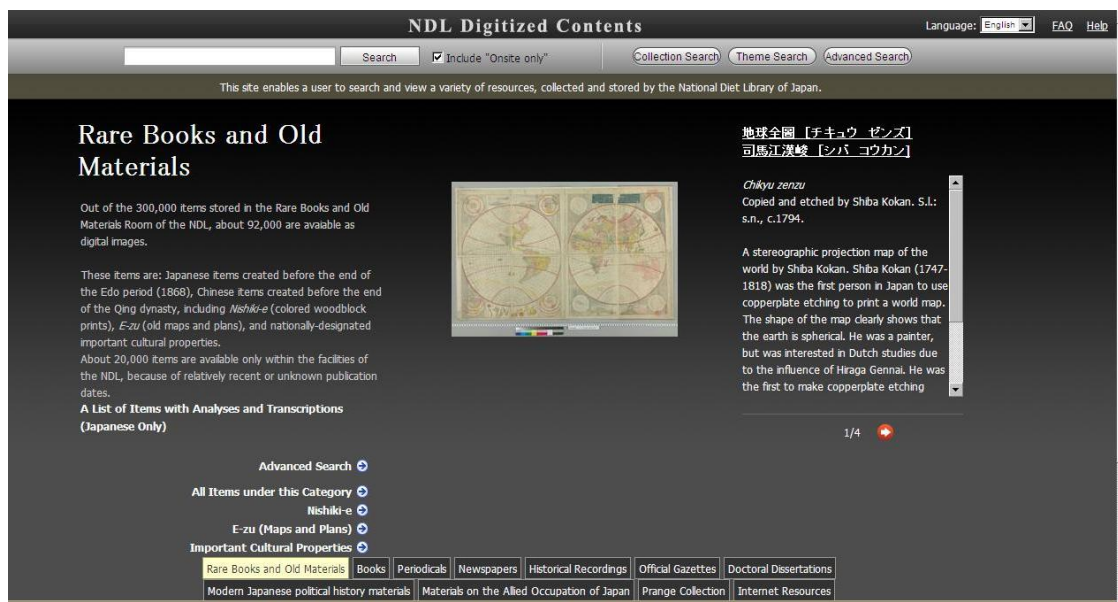
The database was released in 2002 to make available digital images of Japanese books published in 1868 or later during the Meiji Era (1868-1912). It is widely accessed by users in Japan and around the world.

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All the materials included in the database are available on the Internet. Those materials have been confirmed to be copyright-expired, to be used with permission of the copyright holder, or in cases where the copyright holder could not be contacted, to have been issued a compulsory license by the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

In May 2012, the database was integrated with the NDL Digitized Contents. It continues to offer services for searches and views to books and magazines which are available on the Internet, while the new integrated database covers all the digital contents including those available only on the NDL premises.

About the NDL Digitized Contents



<<English interface of the NDL Digitized Contents>>

The integrated database, NDL Digitized Contents, allows crossover searching and viewing of a wide variety of digitized materials.

Earlier NDL databases such as the Rare Books Image Database (2000-2011), the Digital Library of Children's Literature (2003-2011), and the Digital Library from the Meiji Era (2002-) have been integrated into this system. In addition, digital contents created under the NDL's Mass Digitization Project from FY2009 to FY2011 are included.

The following materials are available as of July 2013.

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Digital images of NDL collection

- [Rare Books and Old Materials](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Periodicals](#)
- [Official Gazettes](#)
- [Doctoral Dissertations](#)

Digitization of materials is an ongoing process at the NDL. Those materials that have yet to be digitized are not included in the database.

Digital images and digital recordings of materials held by other institutions

- [Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan](#): Original materials are owned by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
- [Prange Collection](#): Original materials are owned by the University of Maryland, U.S.
- [Historical Recordings Collection](#): Sound recordings digitized from 78-rpm records and other sources held by Japanese record companies
- [Newspapers](#): Extra editions of *Ishinomaki Hibi Shimbun* posted on walls of evacuation centers after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Made available with the cooperation of the Ishinomaki Newspaper Publishing Company

In total, 2,250,000 digital materials are available, of which, images of about 470,000 materials for which copyright clearance has been completed are available on the Internet.

Availability of digital contents in round numbers (as of the end of June, 2013) (volumes)

Kinds of materials	Available on the Internet	Available only on the NDL premises	Total
Rare Books and Old Materials	70,000	20,000	90,000
Books	340,000	550,000	890,000
Periodicals	5,000	1,045,000	1,050,000
Newspapers	6	-	6
Historical Recordings	765	40,000	40,000
Official Gazettes	20,000	-	20,000
Doctoral Dissertations	15,000	125,000	140,000
Modern Japanese political history materials	140	-	140

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Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan	17,000	700	18,000
Prange Collection	-	3,000	3,000
Total	470,000	1,780,000	2,250,000

Materials for which copyright clearance has not been completed can be viewed only on the NDL premises. Although not available for viewing outside the NDL, photocopies can be obtained by postal mail via the NDL copying service.*

* Japanese copyright law generally limits copying to one half of a copyright work.

* Photocopies of Historical Recordings are not available.

Please refer to the following page for information on how to apply for the international photoduplication service:

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/help/copy.html>

With both the increase of digital materials through the Mass Digitization Project and the launch of the NDL Digitized Contents, even those living in distant places have increased access to materials such as historical documents not easily found in libraries overseas as well as Official Gazettes and prewar sound recordings which only a few institutions hold in large numbers even inside the country. We wish to promote the use of our digital contents from inside and outside the country by developing the contents as well as public relations campaign.

Useful links

[Help pages]

The Digital Library from the Meiji Era http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/en/help_kd.html

The NDL Digitized Contents <http://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/help.html>

[Reproduction of contents]

The Digital Library from the Meiji Era http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/en/FAQ_kd.html

The NDL Digitized Contents <http://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/FAQ.html>

[Inquiry about the use of database (the Digital Library from the Meiji Era and the NDL Digitized Contents)] <http://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/contact.html>