National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 250, April 2023

Contents

国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan
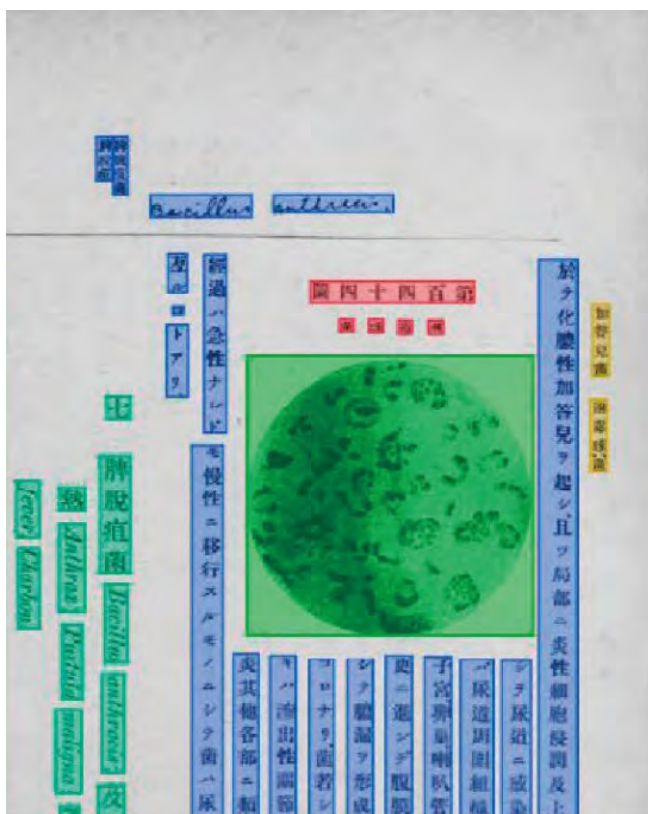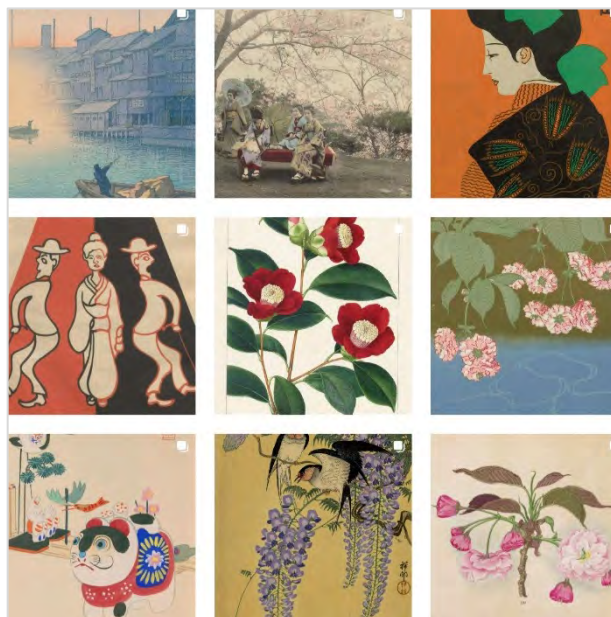
Selections from NDL collections

Kain'okajo—Cherry blossoms by HIROSE Kain, a painter of the Mikuma school

ISHIDA Akiko, Serials and Non-book Materials Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department
This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 732 (April 2022).

Yamazakura from *Kain'okajo*
HIROSE Kain, *Kain'okajo,* 1 vol., 21 x 31 cm, https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/2539130/1/1

During the mid- to late-Edo period, there was a group of artists in Kyoto who specialized in paintings of cherry blossoms.

The founder of this group was MIKUMA Shiko (1730–1794), who was also well known as the author of *Kinsei kijinden* and *Zoku kinsei kijinden* (collections of biographies of odd fellows of the early modern period). Unlike many artists, who depicted cherry blossoms in combination with other elements such as birds or other animals, human figures, or landscapes, Mikuma's paintings characteristically depicted only cherry blossoms. He also attempted to depict the differences between different varieties of cherry trees and famous trees, while also imbuing his pictures with an emotional element that distinguished them from the objective depiction of cherry blossoms found in books on horticulture. This technique was also followed by his sister, MIKUMA Roko (?–1801) and her disciple, ODA Shitsushitsu (1779–1832) as well as by Mikuma's own disciple, HIROSE Kain (ca. 1772–ca. 1849), and was popularly known as *sakura-ga* (cherry blossom paintings). Art historian IMAHASHI Riko has named this group the Mikuma school.

Hirose Kain's real name was Jisho and he was also known as Suisokuen. After studying with the Kano school, he became a disciple of Mikuma. His book *Kain'okajo* comprises twelve paintings of cherry blossoms on silk, pasted onto an orihon-style (concertina or zig-zag) mount.

Each painting depicts either a branch or a branch protruding from an unseen tree from the outside the plane of the picture. The Mikuma school often depicts cherry blossoms that look like snow, white and floating above lightly painted trunks and branches. The cherry blossoms in this book are also faintly white and seem to float in the twilight on a decayed leaf-colored silk canvas.
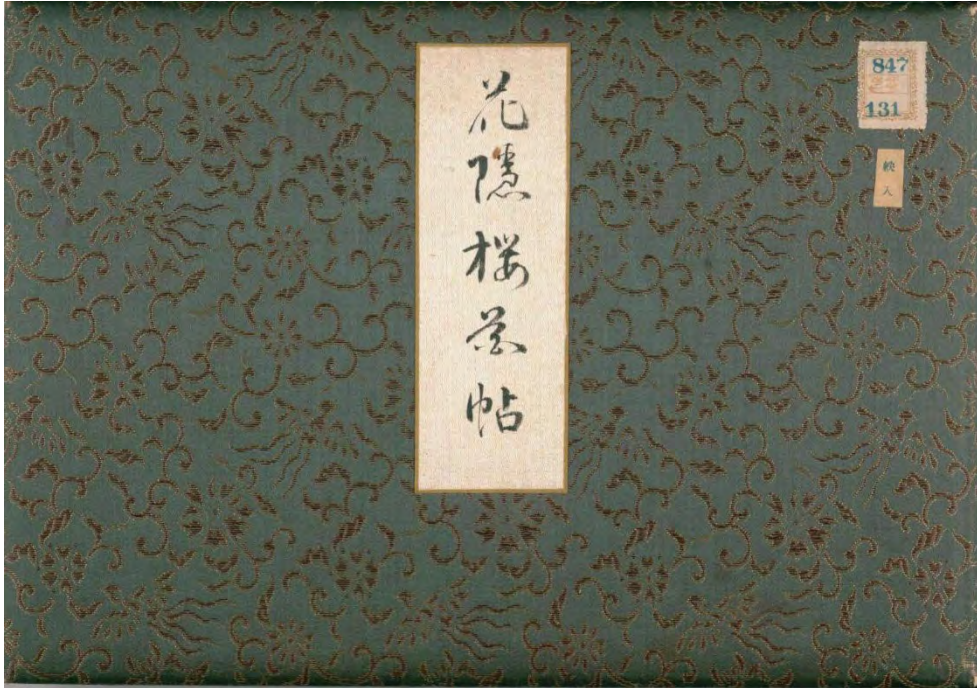
Front cover

Shidarezakura

The large margins in the picture allow the viewer to appreciate not only the beauty of the cherry blossoms, but also the richness of the space around them. However, this blank space may have originally had another meaning. FUJIWARA no Shigenori (1135–1187) was a Heian-period court noble, who was also called *Sakuramachi chunagon* for his love of cherry blossoms. Kain was a great admirer of Shigenori and for many years wished to rebuild the Sakura Palace, which once existed in the eastern part of Kyoto and was dedicated to Shigenori. Kain visited nobles and lords to ask them to submit waka poems for a series of 36 paintings of cherry blossoms[1] that he intended to decorate the palace.

MATSURA Seizan (1760–1841), lord of the Hizen Hirado domain, wrote an essay called *Kasshi yawa*, in which he described being asked by Kain through an intermediary[2] to write a waka poem for his painting. In addition, in *Zoku kasshi yawa*, Seizan transcribed 36 waka poems[3] from various celebrities and wrote down the details of Kain's Sakura Palace solicitation. (This story is well-known for a long time, and is described in detail in *Oshi* (History of Cherry Blossoms) by YAMADA Yoshio and *Okyo no fu: Edo no sakuraga sekai* (World of Cherry Blossom Paintings in Edo) by IMAHASHI Riko, both of which are listed as Reference.) It is said that Kain was able to collect *gasan* (poems and inscriptions to accompany his paintings) from at least "more than 30 court nobles and more than 100 daimyos", and it is possible that the marginalia of the works in *Kain'okajo* were also waiting for inscriptions of the famous celebrities[4].

From left to right: *Akatsukizakura*, *Akebonozakura*, and *Ariakezakura*

Here are blossoms from three species of cherry tree with names related to dawn.

Akatsuki is the Japanese word for dawn. The *Akatsukizakura* was named by Emperor Go-Mizunoo (1596–1680) and is also known as *Myojozakura* (bright star cherry blossom). It is said to be the largest of the large-flowered cherry trees found in the palace.

Akebono is the Japanese word for daybreak. The *Akebonozakura* was also named by Emperor Go-Mizunoo, and the Kanga-an Temple in Kyoto, where this flower can be found, is also known as Akebono Temple.

Ariake is a Japanese word that refers to sunrise taking place while the moon is still in the sky. The *Ariakezakura* blooms later than most other species and is also known as *Uzukizakura*, which literally means "April cherry tree."

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[1] Emulating one of Mikuma's works, Kain selected 36 varieties of cherry blossoms, which he depicted repeatedly in his paintings.
[2] The name Kitamura-shi appears in the text and is thought to be a reference to KITAMURA Kibun (1778–1850), a preeminent scholar of waka poetry in the Edo Shogunate.
[3] In Kain's art work *Rokuroku ohin*, owned by Hakushika Memorial Museum of Sake (*Okyo no fu: Edo no sakuraga sekai* written by IMAHASHI Riko, contains the pictures of this art work), those 36 waka poems are inscribed by Kain's own hand.
[4] In the Database of Siebold Family Collection provided by the National Museum of Japanese History, a search on "桜花帖" or "Cherry blossoms, picture album" will return a series of seven color drawings by Kain with calligraphy of several celebrities. This document is owned by the Museum Fünf Kontinente in Munich. https://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/up-cgi/login.pl?p=param/pfvs/db_param (last accessed on March 22, 2023)

The *Yaehitoezakura* is also known as *Kirigaya* or *Kurumagaeshi* and has a mixture of single- and double-petaled flowers on a single branch. The origin of the name *Kurumagaeshi* is described by author MATSUOKA Jo'an (1669–1747) in his work *Igansai ohin.* Two people argue over whether a certain cherry tree had single or double flowers, so they turn around (*kaeshi*) and drive their car (*kuruma*) back to where they saw the tree. *Kokon yoranko* is an encyclopedia compiled by Kokugaku scholar YASHIRO Hirokata (1758–1841) during the Edo period that describes *Yaehitoezakura* by saying "Before all the flowers on the tree are in full bloom, single flowers begin to fall. The scene is incomparably beautiful."

Kirigaya in *Kokon yoranko*
https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/2552372/1/17

Kirigayatsu (same as *Kirigaya*) in *Igansai ohin*
https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/2536945/1/49

There are twelve species of cherry trees included in *Kain'okajo*. Some are commonly found, some are not so

commonly found, but probably the rarest of all is called *Rotozakura*. In his commentary on different varieties of cherry blossoms, entitled *Miyako no haru,* Kain states that the *Rotozakura* is a single-petal variety of *Isezakura*, and found in Umenomiya on Kyoto's west side.[5] Apparently, however, very few writers other than Kain count this as a distinct variety of cherry blossom.

A few such examples can be found in documents about the *Hakuo-tei* (White cherry pavilion). The *Hakuo-tei* was the residence of KUBO Katsuaki (1787–1861), a shogunate official in Aoyama Chojagamaru in Edo. He collected rare varieties of cherry trees from all over Japan and planted them around his residence. The books *Kosetsu ohu* and *Gun'o kafu* by SAKAMOTO Konen (1801–1853) both include a drawing of *Rotozakura*.[6] *Ofu*, a manuscript by ITO Tokutaro (1865–1941), mentions the name of *Rotozakura*.[7] As far as we have been able to determine, however, there are no other sources with any details of *Rotozakura*.

After the death of Kubo Katsuaki, the cherry trees in Aoyama Chojagamaru were transplanted to Komaba Oyakuen,[8] a botanical garden which seems to have been abolished after the Meiji Restoration. According to Kain's pictorial notes and commentary, *Rotozakura* are beautiful, large-flowered cherry trees with reddish-edged petals. It would be wonderful to see one if any still remain at Umenomiya Shrine.
We hope you have enjoyed learning about the cherry blossoms from *Kain'okajo* that are featured in this article, which bloomed in Kyoto more than 200 years ago.

Rotozakura

Rotozakura from SAKAMOTO Konen. *Gun'o kafu.* NDL Call No. W392-1

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[5] Umenomiya Shrine, which was described as being "located in Umezu, to the west of Shijo" in *Miyako meisho zue,* vol. 4, by AKISATO Rito (date of birth and death unknown). https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/2555346/1/34

[6] MIYOSHI, Manabu. *Sakura ni kansuru tosho kaidai ryaku.* 1920. https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/1911170/1/1

[7] https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/2558154/1/8

[8] *Tokyo shishi ko: Yuen (3)*. Tokyo, 1929. https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/1915739/1/1
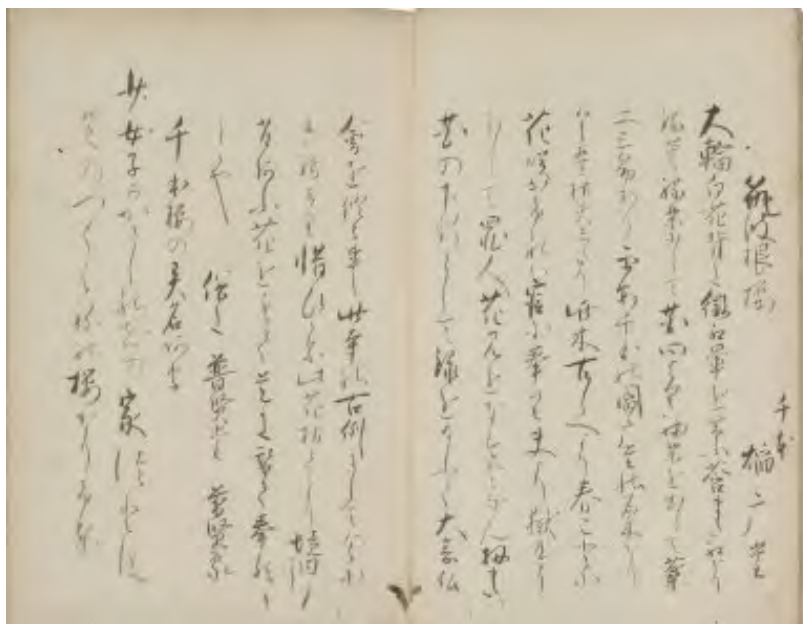
Miyako no haru

HIROSE Kain. *Miyako no haru*. NDL Call No. 212-326
Clockwise, starting from the upper left: front cover, postscript with signature, and body of the text
The NDL holds a copy of *Miyako no haru,* a commentary on cherry blossoms, believed to be in Kain's own hand, featuring 14 locations in Kyoto that are famous for their cherry blossoms.

(Translated by OGAWA Kanako)

Reference (in Japanese)：
MIYOSHI Manabu. *Sakura.* Fuzanbo, 1938. https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/1239318/1/1
YAMADA Yoshio. *Oshi.* Sakura Shobo, 1941. https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/1871222/1/1
IMAHASHI Riko. *Okyo no fu: Edo no sakuraga sekai.* Seigensha, 2019. NDL Call No. KC195-M3
IMAHASHI Riko. *Edo kaiga to bungaku: Byosha to kotoba no edo bunkashi.* Tokyo Daigaku Shuppankai, 1999. NDL Call No. KC126-G11
ARIOKA Toshiyuki. *Sakura 1.* Hosei Daigaku Shuppankyoku, 2007. NDL Call No. RB197-H51

Article by NDL staff
Digitizing Library Materials at the NDL (part 2)

Research and Development for Next-Generation Systems Office, Digital Information Planning Division, Digital Information Department
This article is based on a Japanese article in NDL Monthly Bulletin No.733 (May 2022).
The information in this article is current as of April 2023.

Part one of this article is available at Digitizing Library Materials at the NDL (part 1) (No. 249, February 2023).

Text conversion

Digitizing materials can be handled easier as image data, but the text in the picture is not searchable as is.

We have to extract the information of the content from image data. In other words, we convert it to text. Based on a supplementary budget for FY2020, we conducted text conversion as well as digitization, by using OCR (optical character recognition) technology, in which computers read text data.[1]

The target of this text conversion project launched in FY2021 was 2.47 million items, which were almost all digitized materials made by FY 2020, as much as 223 million image frames. We converted various materials to text, from books in the Meiji and Taisho eras to periodicals from around 2010.

Q: When will it be available?
A: You can already use it!
As of December 2022, the NDL Digital Collections features full-text search of OCR-generated data, including the text of books still protected by copyright.

Q: What will it enable us to do?
A: First, you can search the content in the digitized materials, and do not have to search the text in the image yourself. Also, text-to-speech is available for people with visual impairments. In addition, it can be used for information analysis, such as "When did the word XX become common?" It is expected to help researchers in various fields.

Catalogue of the Nanki Music Library part 1 (Musicology)
Books
Nanki Music Library, 1929
∧ matched parts
→ 11: he public **library** of the city of Boston. 4 vols. Boston Public L
20: ue of the **library** of the Sacred Harmonic Society. Society, Londo
51: orchestra **library**. William ,, and John James. orchestral Murry,
10: 1c in the **library** of Christ Church, Oxford. 2 vols. I: Works of
13: s musical **library** of the late W. H. Cummings. (sold by auction,
22: Library. **library** Catalogue of of the the late valuable T. W. an
52: practical **library**. guide to " the Macmillan, modern London, orch
64: ic. music **library**. " John Murray, London, 1911. 22 19 22 6 Kreu
73: rd. " The **library**. The pianoforte ,, John and Murray, its music.
77: er-Norton **library** of books on mus1c. J. M. Dent, London & Toront
Available without login

The NDL Digital Collections will display your search results with bolded keywords.

[1] For more information about the OCR processing in the NDL, see the following article in this issue.
"Creating a new way to search collections: Text conversion at the NDL using OCR"
NDL Newsletter, No.250 (April 2023)

Click the frame number in the search results to display the relevant text in the material. Both the body text and the image captions are searchable.

Process of the text conversion project

There are many different OCR services available commercially, such as those for reading the text in receipts or business cards. But none of them were well-suited to the wide range of materials held by the NDL. So, we outsourced the configuration of a specialized OCR system that suited our needs. For example, one of our specialized needs for converting to text data was to recognize antiquated forms of *kanji* (Chinese characters) found in books published during the Meiji era.
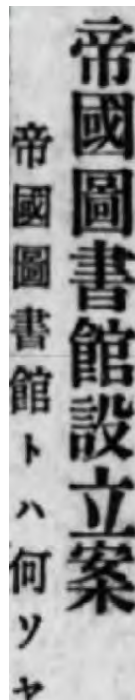


←**What is this *kanji*...?**

This text is from the bill for the Imperial Library construction, published in the Meiji era. The *kanji* "帝" in the above picture is used even today (It means "emperor."). Also, "國" is still common as the old form of "国" (country). " However, "圖" is no longer common today (This is the old form of "図" for "図書館 (library). ").

国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan

Developing learning & processing method

We fully used AI (artificial intelligence) technology, which is being rapidly developed these days. It analyses the digital materials held in the NDL and the OCR learns them. The training dataset (sets of an image and correct texts) for the learning are made by humans, and the processing method adapted for our materials was also developed for this project.
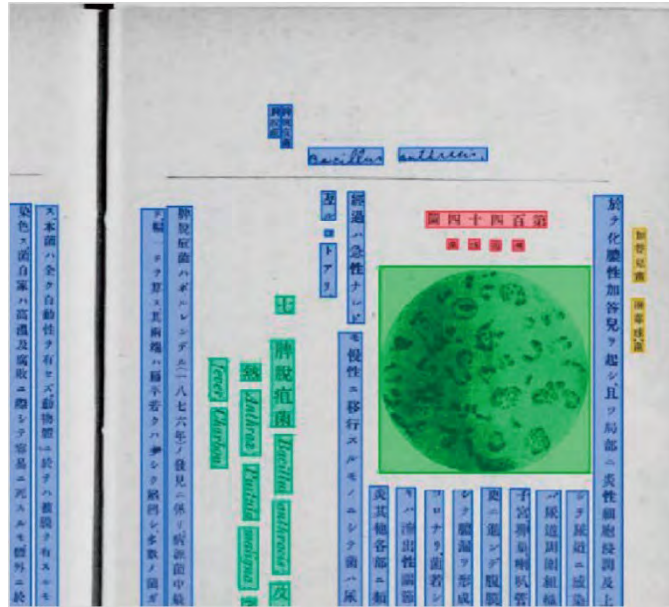

OCR analyzes the layout of a page, and distinguishes its elements such as the main body and figures, and identifies the elements to target for recognition. The text is highlighted with different colors depending on the type of element.

Exporting

The accuracy of text recognition has been greatly improved for almost all publishing eras and material types compared with existing OCR services.

Inspection

In this text conversion project, we inspected two types of content: One is samples made by humans for learning, which must be made accurately following the format. The other is texts generated by OCR, which is used for full-text searching and so on, and they need to fulfill the quality level required by the NDL. The inspection involves both a mechanical automated check and visual confirmation.
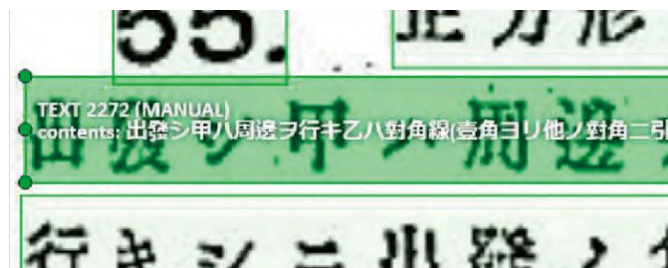
In the inspection display, text data appears on the image.
Since some page-layouts have multiple possible interpretations, or it is difficult to identify the end of sentences, especially in old materials, judging the "correct result" is sometimes challenging even for humans.

(Translated by MACHIDA Sumika)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:
Digitizing Library Materials at the NDL (part 1)
(No.249, February 2023)
• Creating a new way to search collections: Text conversion at the NDL using OCR
(No.250, April 2023)

Article by NDL staff
Creating a new way to search collections: Text conversion at the NDL using OCR

Research and Development for Next-Generation Systems Office, Digital Information Planning Division, Digital Information Department
This article is based on a Japanese article in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No.739 (November 2022)](.).
The information in this article is current as of April 2023.

In FY2021, the National Diet Library (NDL) moved forward with two large projects related to OCR (optical character recognition).
One was a text conversion project for digitized materials. The NDL made full-text data from 2.47 million digitized materials (223 million images), almost all of the digitized materials in the NDL Digital Collections as of the end of 2020, using an OCR system based on an existing one but optimized for the materials in the NDL.[1]

The other project was development of an OCR processing program for text data generation for materials digitized after FY2021. The NDL researched methods to improve the accuracy of Japanese OCR and developed an OCR processing program itself, which can be provided as open source. As a result, the NDL released NDLOCR, an OCR software optimized for the digitized materials in the NDL.

This article first introduces NDLOCR. Next, we present the NDL Ngram Viewer, an experimental service that creates a new way to search for books as one way to utilize the full-text data created by the OCR text conversion project mentioned above. We hope you will enjoy the real thrill of being able to call up the knowledge buried in a vast number of books.

Development of NDLOCR

NDLOCR was released on April 25, 2022. This is a technology to read the characters in an image and convert them into text data. First, an OCR program analyzes the layout of the page in a digitized image. Then it recognizes the characters in that layout except illustrations, and converts them into text data.
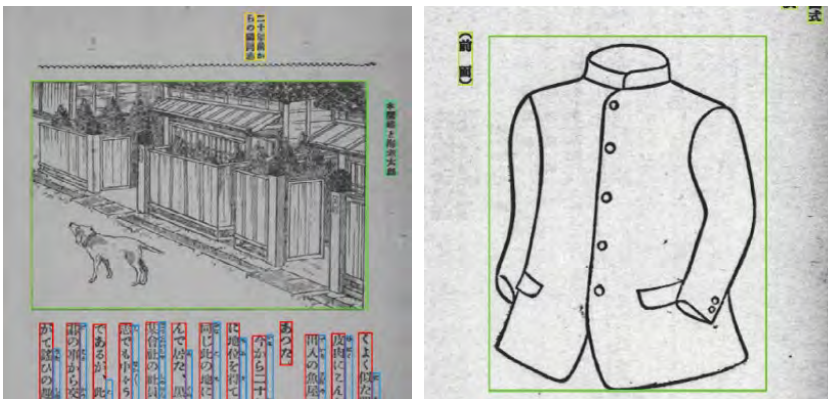
The results of layout analysis
The OCR system recognizes the elements in the layout, such as annotations, illustrations, chemical formulas and numerical formulas.

Left : *Takao to ebitaro: Kyoiku shosetsu*. YAMAZAKI Fumoto, Kagai Kyoiku Sosho Kankokai, 1917.
*Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

Right: *Tokyo bunrika daigaku, tokyo koto shihan gakko, daiichi rinji kyoin youseijo ichiran: Showa yonendo*. Tokyo Bunrika Daigaku, 1930.
*Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

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[1] The details of the text conversion project in the NDL are introduced in the following article in this issue.
"Digitizing Library Materials at the NDL (part 2)" *NDL Newsletter*, No. 250 (April 2023)
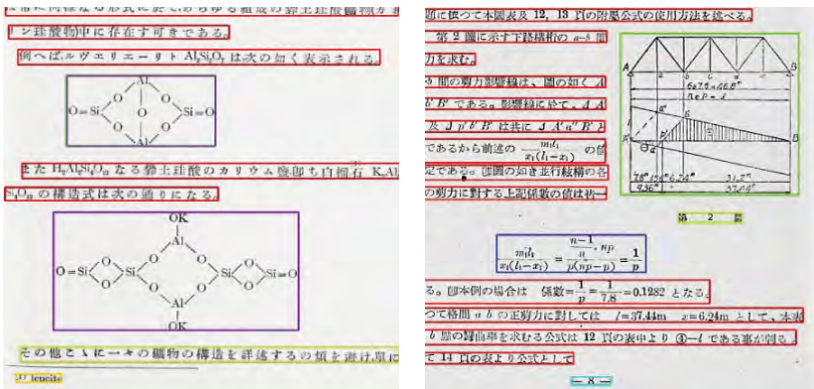
Left: *Chikyu kagaku*. Vernadskiĭ, Vladimir Ivanovich, translated and edited by TAKAHASHI Junichi, Uchida Rokakuho, 1933.
*Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

Right: *Kokyo sekkei shohyo no kaisetsu narabini sekkeirei: Showa juhachinen kugatsu*. Edited by Kyoryo Kenkyukai, Suisansha, 1943.
*Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

How is text conversion carried out?

As an example of a small and relatively complicated layout, see below how the OCR recognizes the elements in a page from *Heike Monogatari* (The Tale of Heike).

Remarks

Chapter

Ruby

(*Kana* characters to show the pronunciation of Chinese characters)

Main Body

Page Number
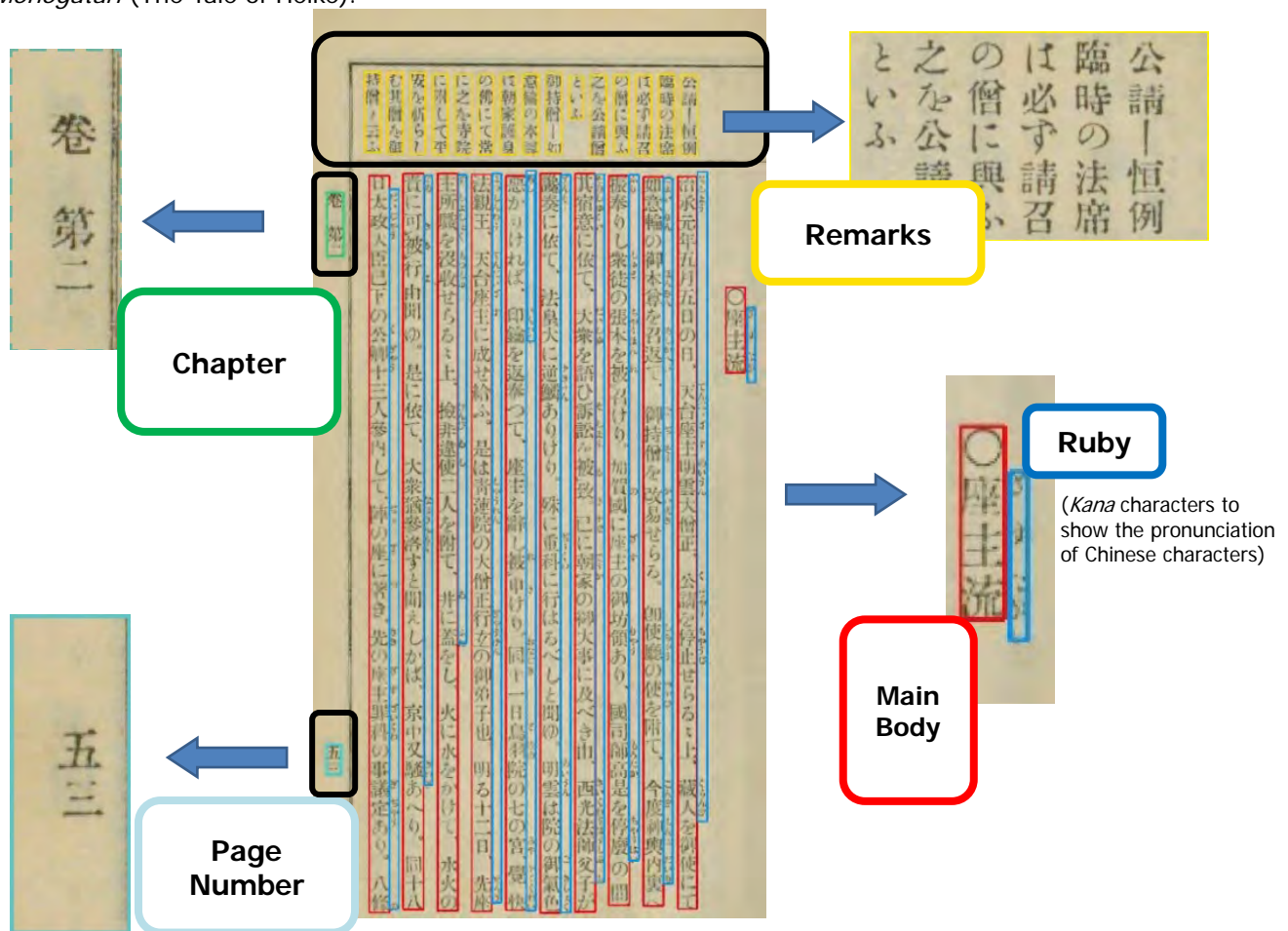
Heike Monogatari (The Tale of Heike). Edited by NAGAI Hidenori, Yuhodo Shoten, 1937.
*Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

Tidbits of OCR

NAGAO Makoto, who was a director general of the NDL and a president of Kyoto University, researched the processing of handwritten characters during his tenure in Kyoto University from 1964 to 1967. This research was applied to the letter sorting machine in the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications at that time.

NDLOCR is open source and available on GitHub!

Do you want to make text data from your own images? Everyone can use NDLOCR for free, and it is adapted for alphabets and old-form Japanese characters such as text from Meiji era publications as well.

Also, you can select what to convert from the elements in the layout. (For example, you can select to include page numbers and remove the chapter number and ruby.)

If you are interested in using NDLOCR, follow this link[2]: https://github.com/ndl-lab/ndlocr_cli.

Development of NDL Ngram Viewer

NDL Ngram Viewer, released on May 31, 2022, is a service to visualize the frequency of appearance of certain words by publishing year.[3] The search target includes 2.3 million items as of January 2023.

For example, it helps you with these needs:
- When does a buzzword begin to appear frequently in books?
- What kind of words are effective to search for this topic?
- I would like to use a fuzzy string search, such as "words including XX."

How to use NDL Ngram Viewer

For example, the Japanese word "一生懸命 (isshō keimei)" used to be written as "一所懸命 (issho kenmei)." Searching these two words in NDL Ngram Viewer, you can find that "一生懸命" became more common since around 1883, but "一所懸命" is still used.
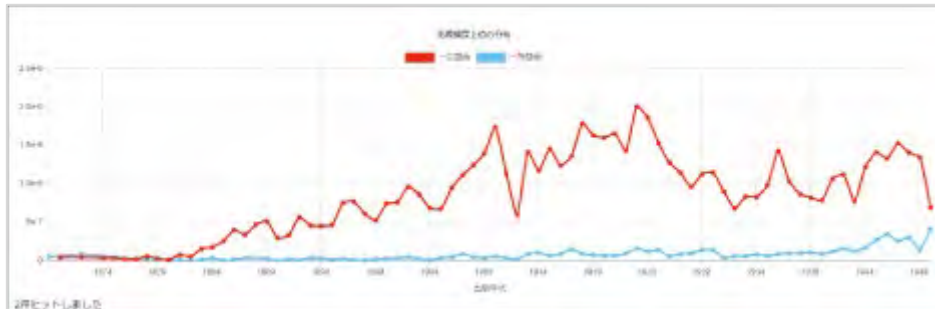
The search result of the frequency of appearance of "一生懸命 (red line)" and "一所懸命 (blue line)" by publication year
https://lab.ndl.go.jp/ngramviewer/?keyword=%E4%B8%80%E7%94%9F%E6%87%B8%E5%91%BD%2F%E4%B8%80%E6%89%80%E6%87%B8%E5%91%BD&size=100&from=0&materialtype=full

Other usages

For example, you can compare the frequency of appearance of the words "きのこ (mushrooms)" and "たけのこ (bamboo shoots)" by searching "きのこ/たけのこ."

In addition, regular expressions, a way to specify the sequence of characters according to certain rules, are also supported as an advanced search method. For example, they can be used as follows:

-Looking up people in the Heike clan whose surname is "平 (Taira)" and whose first name ends with "盛 (Mori)", such as "TAIRA no Kiyomori (平清盛)."
→Search for "平.盛" (a regular expression that searches for words containing any one character (.) between "平" and "盛").

-Finding words which end in "温泉 (*onsen*, hot springs)", such as "箱根温泉 (Hakone Onsen)" and "登別温泉

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[2] It has only a Japanese tutorial as of March 2023, and requires some technological skill for setup.
[3] The results are based on OCR processing and can include some errors.

(Noboribetsu Onsen)."
→Search for "`.*温泉`" (A regular expression that searches for words containing any character (.) before "温泉" any number of times (*)).
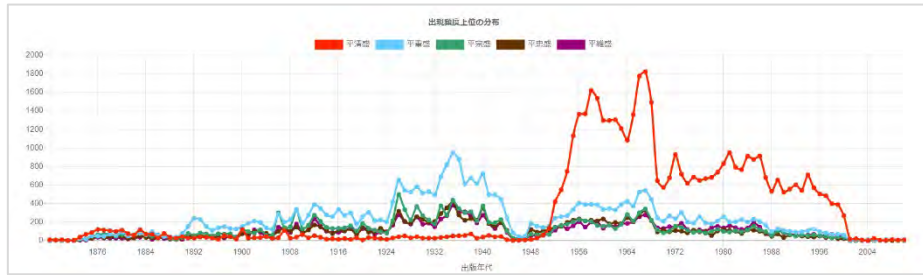
The search result of the frequency of appearance of "平.盛"
https://lab.ndl.go.jp/ngramviewer/?keyword=_平.盛

Future prospects: Use of full-text data

We began offering a significantly renewed full-text search service using 2.47 million full-text data items in the NDL Digital Collections in December 2022.

Also, the NDL started providing full-text data to patrons with print disabilities and libraries via the Data Transmission Service for Persons with Print Disabilities from March 2023, except in cases where accessible e-books, etc. are distributed in the market.

In addition, the NDL converted text data from approximately 80,000 digitized pre-modern materials whose copyright protection terms have expired in FY2022, in which characters written in cursive styles often appear. This text conversion was undertaken using NDL 古典籍 (*kotenseki*, pre-modern materials) OCR which was developed by the NDL with the knowledge gained through the development of NDLOCR. These text data were sequentially included in one of the NDL's experimental systems, Next Digital Library, from November 2022, and all 80,000 items have been searchable since January 2023.

Other usages of OCR data

There are other ideas from users such as the following:

-It would be nice to be able to easily add up the frequency of related keywords in the search results in NDL Ngram Viewer.
-It would be possible to conduct a historical analysis that extracts text data for each publication period and analyzes the relationship between certain words for each period.

—These ideas are from the Japan Open Science Summit 2022 "90-minute ideathon [4] : How to Use the NDL's Digitized Data (image and text)" held on June 10, 2022[5].

(Translated by MACHIDA Sumika)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- Digitizing Library Materials at the NDL (part 2)
  (No.250, April 2023)

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[4] An ideathon is an event where participants work in teams and concentrate on generating ideas for a challenge in a short time.
[5] The details of this event are reported in the following page (in Japanese):
https://lab.ndl.go.jp/event/joss2022/

Establishing a training program for NDL branch libraries

Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division, Administrative Department
This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 739 (November, 2022).

Introduction

While it is probably obvious to anyone that the National Diet Library (NDL) is the parliamentary library of the National Diet of Japan, did you know that there are also NDL branch libraries in government ministries, agencies, and the Supreme Court, as well? While these libraries mainly provide library services for the employees of these organizations, they are also responsible for cooperating with the NDL as part of the NDL's branch library system. For example, under the legal deposit system, government agencies are required to submit copies of government publications to the NDL and can do so by bringing the copies to a branch library.

Training programs then and now

The NDL conducts training programs for branch library employees about five times a year as one of its support activities. These programs address basic library services such as how to catalogue books or how to handle library materials. Recently, we have also started to address the subject of digitization.

Training programs for the branch libraries first began in 1948 under the name "practical workshops" and were conducted at NDL facilities in the former Akasaka Detached Palace. It has been almost 75 years since then, which means there have been a number of changes in things like venue and subject matter. Several decades ago, these programs even included touring different kinds of libraries throughout Japan, and today we are able to offer training on a diverse range of subjects. Two years ago, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we started to hold some of these training programs online.

Establishing a training program

I personally am in charge of training programs for new employees about library services available at our branch libraries. These new employees generally have been seconded from the agency where the branch library is located, so most of them know that there is a branch library inside the agency, but many do not know that it is an NDL branch library. It's impossible to provide all the information new employees need to know in one program, so we have to plan the content carefully. When planning, we often rely on ideas we find in reference queries from the branch libraries. For example, an inquiry about how to search the NDL collections leads to many ideas on preparing practice exercises for the training program. We always keep ourselves open to creating an even better training program.

To the future

We have started to offer online training and providing courses on digitization of materials, so the shift to digital at work is well under way. Naturally, we never stop thinking about ways to improve how we train new employees at our branch libraries.

(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- National Diet Library's network with libraries in the executive and judicial agencies: Branch Library System (part 1) (part 2)
  (No. 153, February 2007 and No. 154, April 2007)

News from NDL

NDL Image Bank Instagram account (@ndlimagebank) is newly open

NDL Image Bank opened an Instagram account (@ndlimagebank[1]) dedicated to sharing out-of-copyright Japanese artworks and images from our library's extensive collection! Follow us for all the beautiful, surprising, and quirky hidden gems from our library's bookshelves.
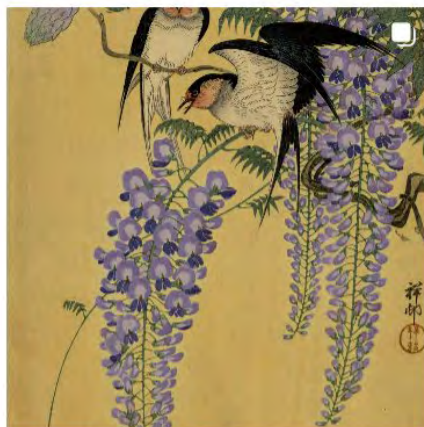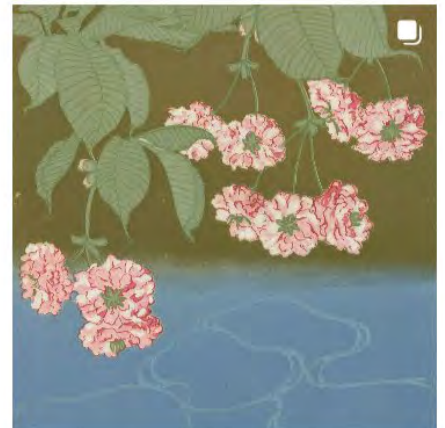
Images from NDL Image Bank Instagram

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[1] You must be logged into Instagram to view this account.

国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan

News from NDL

The National Diet Library in Figures
From the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2021

Here are key statistics related to the business, services and organization of the National Diet Library based on the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2021. The annual report of the National Diet Library is available at the NDL official website. https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/publication/annual/index.html
* Figures are as of March 31, 2022 (results for FY 2021).

Services for the Diet

Research on request
30,320 cases

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

Research on national policy issues
329 cases

Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government

Loan services
4,705 items

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

国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan

Budget and accounts of all facilities
Current expenditure budget:
Approx. 32,245 million yen
Settlement amount:
Approx. 26,550 million yen
Amount brought forward from the preceding FY: Approx. 7,360 million yen
Amount carried forward to the succeeding FY: Approx. 4,797 million yen

Expenses for collecting materials
Approx. 2,382 million yen
Of which, compensation for deposited publications:
Approx. 397 million yen

Periodicals
276,625 items

Books
192,755 items

Annual acquisition
727,803 items

Newspapers
193,385 items

Microforms
8,311 items

Video recordings
21,394 items

Audio recordings
13,576 items

Braille and large print
2,798 items

Maps
4,265 items

Machine-readable materials (CD-ROM, etc.)
6,273 items

Documents
4,175 items

Doctoral dissertations
1,972 items

Musical scores
2,086 items

10,000 items
1,000 items
100 items

Number of bibliographic data created (per year):
555,192 items

Number of bibliographic data provided (total):
27,038,569 items

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国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan

Number of total collection

46,217,530 items

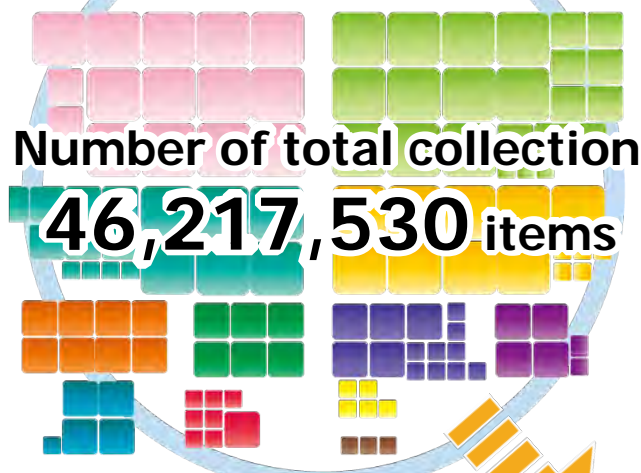**Number of digital materials**

Available online:

1,767,474 items

Available only at the NDL and partner libraries:

1,538,914 items

Data provided for the Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries

Available only at the NDL:

1,023,478 items

Data collected by the Web Archiving Project:

217,707 items

Collected data capacity:

2.4 PB

Visitors to the NDL website

29,491,325 accesses

Various databases such as catalogs of collections, proceedings of the Diet and other useful information for research are available through the Internet

Bibliographic data available for integrated search in NDL Search:

124,637,994 items

NDL Search allows searching various forms of information such as books, digitized images and audio held by the NDL and other institutions

国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan

Tokyo
Tokyo Main Library

Kansai
Kansai-kan

I L C L
International Library
of Children's Literature

On-site users

383,820 people

Tokyo	246,213 people
Kansai	70,403 people
I L C L	67,204 people

Reading services

1,330,526 items

Tokyo	1,212,152 items
Kansai	98,678 items
I L C L	19,696 items

Number of items requested
for reading by on-site users

On-site photoduplication services

854,856 cases

**Of which, printout services
for digital materials**
416,606 cases

Number of cases of photoduplication
services requested by on-site users

Loan services to libraries

17,231 items

This service includes interlibrary loans
to other libraries, the Book Sets
Lending Service to School Libraries
and loan services for exhibitions

Remote photoduplication services

309,904 cases

Number of cases of photoduplication
services requested without visiting

Number of staff members

893 members

Male: 47.7%
Female: 52.3%
Proportion of women in
Senior Specialist and
managerial posts
Approx. 35.5%

	Total floor space	Total storage space	Total area of reading rooms
	246,284 m²	120,578 m²	25,864 m²
Tokyo	147,853 m²	77,829 m²	18,983 m²
Detached Library in the Diet	1,331 m²	609 m²	562 m²
Kansai	84,339 m²	39,026 m²	4,265 m²
I L C L	12,761 m²	3,114 m²	2,054 m²

Events

The 12th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service

Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

The twelfth visit program with the National Assembly Library (NAL) and the National Assembly Research Service (NARS) of Korea was held online in light of preventing the spread of COVID-19, on Dec. 7, 2022 and Dec. 22, 2022, respectively.

Session 1:
Joint seminar with the NAL

- NAL presentation titled *National Strategic Information Service Focusing on National Strategic Information Portal* by CHOI Jungin (Librarian, the Public Policy Information Division, the Parliamentary Information Office)
- NDL presentation titled *As an Information Center for Diet Members: The History and Role of the Detached Library in the Diet* by ISHIUJI Masayuki (Assistant director, the Detached Library in the Diet)

Ms. CHOI Jungin introduced the National Strategic Information Center which has been open to the public since August 2022 and the National Strategic Information Portal that opened in January 2023.

Mr. ISHIUJI Masayuki talked about the history, role, collections, and services offered at the Detached Library located in the National Diet Building.

After the presentations, a Q&A session was held on features of legislative assistant services and future information strategy at the NAL and the NDL.

Session 2:
Joint seminar with the NARS

- NARS presentation titled *Preparation for the Self-Driving Era in Korea* by PARK Junhwan (Researcher, Land-Transport and Maritime Affairs Team, the Economy and Industry Research Office)

- NDL presentation titled *Legislative Tasks and Trends in Preparation for the Self-Driving Era in Japan* by OZAWA Haruki (Researcher, Public Administration and Judicial Affairs Division); MIURA Natsuno (Researcher, the Economy, Trade and Industry Division)

Dr. PARK Junhwan explained trends in policy making and legislation for commercialization of self-driving vehicles.

Mr. OZAWA Haruki reported on an amendment to the Road Traffic Act in April 2022, while Ms. MIURA Natsuno talked about trends in policy making in government ministries and how car manufacturers are responding to the challenges.

After the presentations, participants discussed the details of policies, the legal systems, and future prospects for self-driving vehicles in both countries.

Reference:

- Chronology of Mutual Visit Programs between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- Reports of past programs in the NDL Newsletter

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

The NDL Monthly Bulletin
No. 743, March 2023/ No.744, April 2023

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin. The text is provided in PDF format (in Japanese).

No. 743, March 2023 (PDF: 5.94 MB)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
  Tsuzoku isoppu monogatari: The fables of Aesop in the Meiji era
- Reviewing the exhibition
  "Seek Knowledge throughout the World"
- Lecture related to the exhibition
  "Reading the Discourses of Literary Translators of the Meiji Era from the Perspective of Translation Studies: Why and how they translate"　SAITO Mino
- Children's Reading Day in 2022
  Creativity Starts from Reading: Summary of the lecture by ANDO Tadao
- Renewal of the National Diet Library Digital Collections: Exploring its functions
- Travel writing on world libraries
  The National Library of Luxembourg
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
  We want to tell adults about children's literature
- <Books not commercially available>
  Soboku-e: Japanese innocent paintings through the ages
- <NDL Topics>

No.744, April 2023 (PDF: 5.76MB)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
  Chemical abstracts of Japan: Journal of abstracts of scientific literature, which contributed to the development of science in Japan
- Lecture related to exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature
  "Children's Books in Spanish from Spain and Latin America"
  Children's books in Spain and Latin America during the last 100 years　UNO Kazumi
- Past and present of statutes, parliamentary documents and official publications: Changes in research methods
- Strolling in the forest of books (29)
  Heavy drinkers and big eaters in the Edo period
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
  Welcoming future colleagues
- <Books not commercially available>
  Ashimoto kara himotoku seikatsushi: Dai34kai kikakuten
- <NDL Topics>

国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan