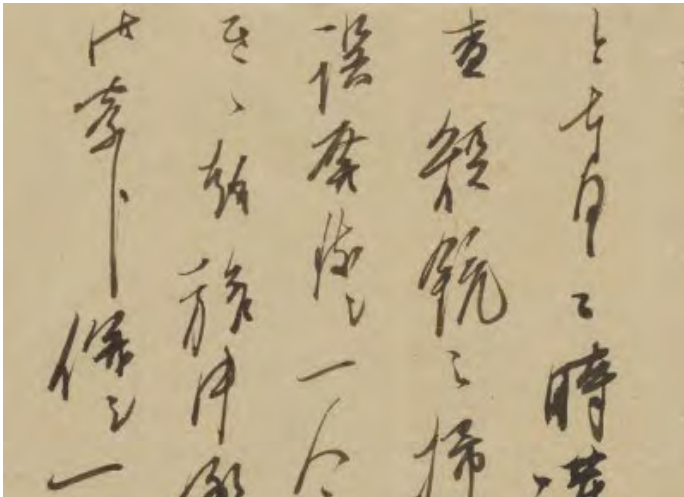


National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 251, June 2023



Harping about the harp: the Japanese koto and koto music



The Dawn of Modern Japanese Architecture



National Diet Library Webinar 2023 

포용적 정보사회 실현을 위한 도서관의 역할
- 대한민국 국립장애인도서관을 중심으로 -

〔The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society〕
- Centered on the National Library for the Disabled -



March 23 Thu **2023**
14:00-15:15 (JST/UTC+0900)

Speaker
장보성 (대한민국 국립장애인도서관)
Mr. Jang BoSeong (National Library for the Disabled)



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Selections from NDL collections

Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The YAMAGATA Aritomo Papers

Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

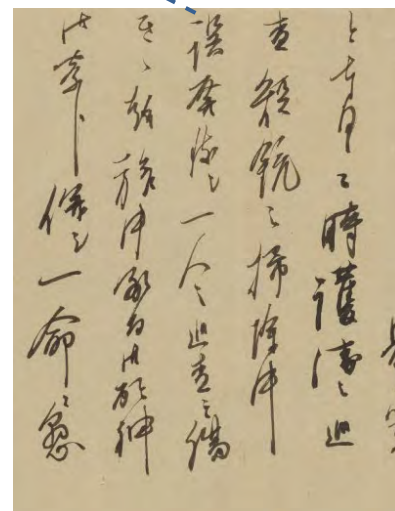
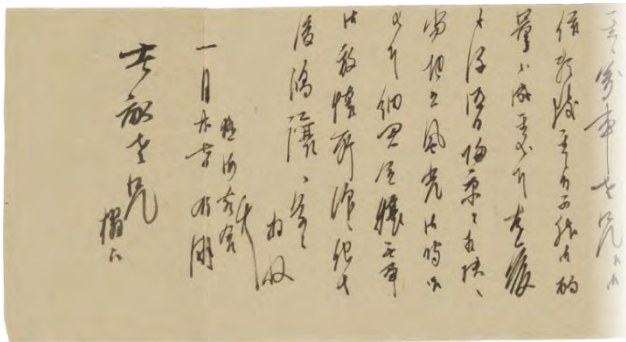
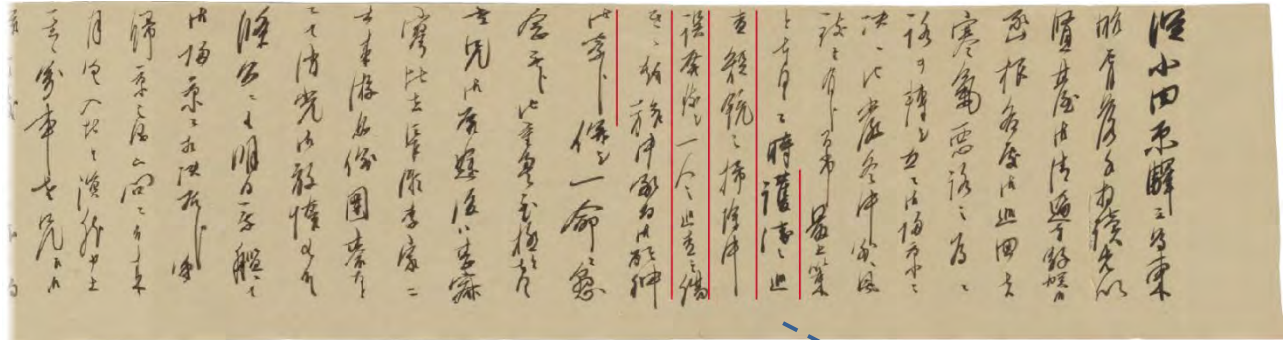
This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 728 (December 2021).

Image 1: YAMAGATA Aritomo, letter to ITO Hirobumi, NDL Call No. YAMAGATA Aritomo Papers 179.

*The red lines indicate the parts that are quoted in the text.

Introduction

The National Diet Library holds approximately 420,000 documents on modern Japanese political history, including the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers, dating from the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate to the present day. This article is one of a series introducing materials available at [the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room](#) in the Tokyo Main Library.

These materials on modern Japanese political history primarily comprise documents that were donated by the families of prominent figures, and are made available to the public after they have been organized and catalogued by the NDL. We hope that this article will provide readers with a glimpse into the appeal of this invaluable collection, which supports scholarly research in political history and related fields.

The YAMAGATA Aritomo Papers

(2 items, available since February 2021)

The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room holds a collection of YAMAGATA Aritomo Papers that was loaned to the NDL by the Yamagata family and made available to the public. The letter to ITO Hirobumi shown below is one of the items from this collection. This letter has been tentatively dated 1880 due to the following paragraph:

"I heard that a police officer from your escort mistakenly fired a pistol while cleaning it and hurt another police officer. I can appreciate your apprehension, especially during the trip."

Although there is no known direct documentation of such an incident, the Yomiuri Shimbun for January 31, 1880, contains an article mentioning that on January 26 a police

officer who accompanied Ito to the Hakone mountains was hurt when struck by “a stray bullet from a hunting rifle shot by an unknown person.” So perhaps Yamagata was referring to this incident.

It is interesting to note that what Yamagata described as a misfire during cleaning was reported in the article as if the shot might have been aimed at Ito. 1880, of course, was a time when the embers of the Satsuma Rebellion (in 1877) still smoldered. On the other hand, it was also a time of significant growth in the democratic rights movement, as evidenced by the third conference of the Aikokusha (Society of Patriots), held in November 1879, deciding to collect signatures from over the country for a petition to establish a national assembly. Japanese society continued to be rife with discontent until the political changes of 1881, and although the report of the shooting was factually incorrect, it does seem to reflect the state of society at the time.



Image 2: YAMAGATA Aritomo

YAMAGATA Aritomo (1838–1922)

YAMAGATA Aritomo was born in 1838 to a low-ranking family of samurai in the Choshu-han. He studied at Shoka Sonjuku and served as a commander in the Kiheitai volunteer militia during the Boshin War. His influence on public affairs during the Meiji Era cannot be overstated, since he held a number of important posts in the Government. As War Minister, he organized the Imperial Japanese Army General Staff and served as its initial Chief

of Staff. Later, he served as Minister of Home Affairs and then Prime Minister. His personal powerbase, sometimes referred to as the Yamagata clique, was noted for its vigorous opposition to political parties. He did, however, strive to achieve prudent management of national affairs when in a position of power and served as both field marshal and *genro* or elder statesman.

The portrait is from *Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures*.

(<https://www.ndl.go.jp/portrait/datas/208.html>)

(Translated by HATTORI Mao)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(1\)](#) (No. 200, June 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(2\)](#) (No. 201, August 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(3\)](#) (No. 202, October 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(4\)](#) (No. 203, December 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(5\)](#) (No. 220, October 2018)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(6\)](#) (No. 221, December 2018)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(7\)](#) (No. 225, August 2019)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(8\)](#) (No. 226, October 2019)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(9\)](#) (No. 233, November 2020)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(10\)](#) (No. 235, January 2021)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(11\)](#) (No. 241, October 2021)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(12\)](#) (No. 242, December 2021)

Related content from the National Diet Library Website

- [Research Navj](#) : Holdings of The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (Japanese)

Events

NDL Webinar: *The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society—Centered on the National Library for the Disabled*

Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division, Administrative Department

National Diet Library Webinar 2023

포용적 정보사회 실현을 위한 도서관의 역할
- 대한민국 국립장애인도서관을 중심으로 -
(The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society
- Centered on the National Library for the Disabled -)

March 23 **Thu.** 2023
14:00-15:15 (JST/UTC+0900)

Speaker
장보성 (대한민국 국립장애인도서관)
Mr. Jang BoSeong (National Library for the Disabled)

On March 23, 2023, the NDL sponsored a webinar entitled *The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society—Centered on the National Library for the Disabled*. The lecturer was Mr. Jang BoSeong from the National Library for the Disabled (NLD) of the Republic of Korea.

The webinar consisted of a lecture followed by a Q&A session. The lecture was pre-recorded on video, but the Q&A session was live, with Mr. Jang participating from the Republic of Korea.

Lecture

Following an overview of the NLD, Mr. Jang talked about copyrights and the legal basis and copyrights exceptions for producing and providing alternative materials as well as how alternative materials for persons with disabilities are produced at the NLD.

He then explained initiatives for the National Alternative Materials Union Catalog and the Direct Rapid Easy Accessible Material (DREAM) project, which provides integrated search functionality for and the use of alternative materials as well as free home delivery of materials.

02 대체자료 등 도서관자료 서비스의 이용 편의성 제고
2) 국가대체자료공유시스템(DREAM)

국가대체자료공유시스템(DREAM 서비스)

- 1) 장애인 접근성 향상을 위한 서비스 제공
- 2) 대안자료의 신속한 공유 및 접근성 향상
- 3) 국가대체자료공유시스템(DREAM 서비스)을 통한 서비스 제공

Next, he discussed support for reading programs at public libraries, support for reading equipment at libraries,

training programs for library employees, and exchange and cooperation activities with other libraries in Korea and around the world.

Finally, he described efforts to promote universal information services for people with disabilities, such as tools for efficient accessibility verification services and construction of an e-book platform for people with disabilities in cooperation with private-sector publishers.

01 Born digital = Born Accessible 추진
1) 전자출판물에 대한 장애인 접근성 검/인증 체계 구현

'콘텐츠의 접근성'과 '콘텐츠 뷰어의 접근성', '콘텐츠 서비스 플랫폼의 접근성'

장애인과 비장애인이 함께 이용하는 전자책

Check Accessibility

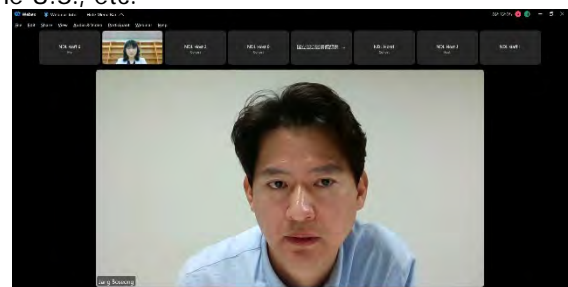
- Microsoft built-in Accessibility Checker (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook)
- Create accessible documents, spreadsheets, or presentations with Pages, Numbers, or Keynote
- Adobe Acrobat Pro Accessibility Checker
- Ace by DAISY for ePub

EPUB Check (전자책 표준 준수 여부 검사)

ACE (원문상 표준 접근성 분석)

Q&A session

During the Q&A session that followed the lecture, questions were asked about the size of the annual budget, the reasons for the different number of cases of each type of alternative materials, support for the use of Bookshare in the U.S., etc.



Reference:

The lecture materials and video have been made available on our website, as shown below.

- Lecture materials
[NDL Webinar: *The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society—Centered on the National Library for the Disabled*](#)
- Lecture video

The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society (YouTube in [Japanese](#), [Korean](#))

Articles by NDL staff

Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku (A history of Japanese immigration to Brazil) – Digitization of photographic plates

FUJIWARA Natsuto, Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a translation of an article in Japanese from [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 732 \(April 2022\)](#).

Introduction

There was a time when many Japanese people emigrated overseas in search of a more fruitful life. One of the countries that attracted many Japanese was Brazil in South America. The gateway to Brazil for immigrants was Santos Harbor in the State of São Paulo, and before long entire families of Japanese immigrants spread out along the railroad lines and began to form communities throughout the state.

What did these immigrants in Brazil have to do to build new lives and what was their daily routine like? Hints about the answers to these questions can be found in *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku* (A history of Japanese immigration to Brazil, NDL Call No. VE511-1), which records the results of a survey conducted between 1938 and 1940 by the Instituto Kurihara da Ciência Natural Brasileira (Kurihara shizen kagaku kenkyujyo). This survey of Japanese immigrants in Brazil was performed by visiting their communities throughout São Paulo to conduct interviews and to take photographs of the families.

The survey reports and photographs were organized according to the community surveyed and compiled into 26 volumes. In FY1984, the National Diet Library (NDL) purchased the original materials used in *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku* from a Japanese book seller and made them available to the public for browsing in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room.

Japanese emigration to Brazil

At the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of Japanese emigration was to Hawaii or North America. As anti-Japanese sentiment in these destinations grew stronger and restrictions on Japanese emigration were enacted, Brazil became a new destination for emigration. Emigration to Brazil began in earnest in 1908, with 781 people sailing aboard the *Kasato-maru*. It quickly grew after the Japanese Government adopted policies that encouraged emigration by subsidizing transportation costs. From the mid-1920s to the mid-1930s, as many as 20,000 Japanese people emigrated to Brazil annually. Although interrupted by World War II, emigration resumed during the postwar period but gradually declined as the Japanese economy began to grow again. The last instance of mass emigration was in February 1973 with the departure of the *Nippon-maru*. Approximately 190,000 Japanese people emigrated to Brazil before the war, and by the time emigration ended in 1973, the total had reached about 240,000. It is said that the size of the

Nikkei community, comprised of Japanese immigrants and their descendants in Brazil, number approximately two million today, making it the world's largest population of Nikkei Japanese.

The NDL continues to collect documents, books, magazines, photos etc. on Japanese emigration, and in 2008 commemorated a century of emigration with a digital exhibition entitled "[100 years of Japanese Emigration to Brazil](#)."



The historical value of *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku*

There are descriptions of approximately 1,200 Japanese immigrant families recorded in *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku*, comprising the names, ages, and birthdays of all family members as well as their permanent address, religious affiliation, date of emigration, name of emigrant ship, jobs in Japan and Brazil, crops cultivated, first allocation of arable land, history of migration within Brazil, and land and livestock ownership. These survey records inform us of family composition, standard of living, and history of relocation after arriving at Brazil as well as the characteristics of each immigrant community, such as which crops they cultivate. There is no other large-scale, detailed survey record of pre-war Japanese immigration to Brazil. The more than 1,500 photographs that accompany these records only enhance their historical value.



Cover of the *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku*

Among the photographs in the collection, the most common type are family portraits. Not only do they commemorate a family's immigration, they are also a valuable record of clothing and belongings. Even the surrounding landscape provides valuable information about the immigrants' lives.

Not only does a comparison of the survey records with the corresponding family photos provide us with a vivid image of the lives of the people, these materials are also an excellent resource for tracing the roots of descendants. These photographs also give us a glimpse into the lives of the immigrants: the building of their houses, the harvesting and transporting of crops or the slaughtering of pigs, and the shops and drug stores they owned and operated. We also see their children in the classrooms of elementary schools, at kendo matches, and on field trips. These photos allow us to take a realistic look at the experience of Japanese immigrants to Brazil and provide information that cannot be fully captured by textual data alone.

Instituto Kurihara da Ciência Natural Brasileira

In September 1931, Japanese-immigrant-to-Brazil KAMIYA Shinichi established an institute for the study of natural science at Aliança, São Paulo. Kamiya immigrated to Brazil and began a farm there in 1926. He dreamed of starting an institute where children and young adults could study the things that interested them. While working his farm, he also participated with OKUBO Fumihide, KATSUURA Shigeo, HASHIMOTO Goro, SAKAI Kiju, and others in making astronomical and meteorological observations as well as studying the flora and fauna, archaeology, anthropology, and other aspects of their new community. Kamiya had spent time in China before emigrating to Brazil, and he named his institute after KURIHARA Tadashi, a Japanese diplomat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who had helped him while in China.



Left: KAMIYA Shinichi

Right: The institute that Kamiya established at Aliança. The tower houses an observatory.

KAMIYA Shinichi. *Hyakusho no kaita burajiru dobutsuki*. Bungei Shunju Shinsha, 1957, NDL Call No. 480.49-Ka295h. *Available from the [NDL Digital Collection](#). (Available only at the NDL and its partner libraries or to official registered users in Japan)

Digitalization of photographic plates

The photographs in this collection were taken using photographic plates. Photographic plates are thin, glass plates coated with a photosensitive emulsion and were commonly used before photographic film became widespread. The *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku* comprises not only survey records and photographs but also more than 1,500 plates used in the photography.

Photographic plates allow the photographer to take high-resolution images of excellent quality. They were, however, heavy, bulky, and fragile, which is why their use was eventually displaced by photographic film. In recent years, there has been a growing movement to digitize photographic plates with historical images.

The photographic plates included in *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku* remained uncatalogued and inaccessible for a very long time, but the opportunity to digitize them and make them available for use appeared during 2020. At the end of FY2021, the digitized images were made available via the NDL Digital Collection, enabling patrons to browse these materials either in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room or at any user terminal in the Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan, or International Library of Children's Literature.

This was, in fact, the first time that the NDL had digitized photographic plates. As we started exploring methods for doing so, we learned about case studies at other institutions, such as the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo. We also sought advice from specialists and eventually were able to finalize specifications for digitizing images from and preserving

photographic plates. There were a number of unique issues related to digitizing images from glass plates. For example, we had to use a higher resolution than when digitizing images printed on paper and also had to prepare storage boxes in which the plates could be stored vertically, since photographic plates cannot be stacked horizontally the way paper materials can.



Left: Individual photographic plates are placed vertically in a storage box, which is in turn stored in the stacks. Right: The photographic plates for *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku* are kept in 34 storage boxes.

Also, some of the photographic plates were cracked or had areas where the emulsion had peeled off, partially ruining the original image. For these, we took protective measures prior to digitalization, laminating the photographic plate with another sheet of clear glass of the same size.



Upper-left: Cracked photographic plates
Lower-left: The glass fragments are restored and protected by sandwiching them between two sheets of clear glass.
Upper and lower right: Photographic plates from which the emulsion has peeled off. This is caused by humidity or other factors and unfortunately cannot be restored.

We used color rather than gray-scale images to digitize images from photographic plates. Gray-scale images have smaller file sizes and would be fine for most images taken with monochrome photographic plates, but color images have the advantage of being able to replicate sepia tone image as well as recording more information, such as deterioration of the glass plate. Thus, we digitized these images in color.

Photographic plates

Photographic plates have a clear glass base to which a photosensitive emulsion is applied. Invented in the late 19th century, they were widely used for more than a half century until the use of photograph film became common. The principle is the same for both, the only difference is whether the base is glass or film.



Photographic plates

Conclusion

Digitized images from photographic plates can be enlarged to check text and other details that are difficult to see on the smaller, paper-printed photographs found in photo albums. And this could lead to the discovery of details that had not been noticed before.

The NDJ is also preparing to digitize and make available to the public survey sheets and photo albums from materials other than photographic plates. We hope that the digitization will make this *Zaihaku nihon imin rekishi chosa kiroku* more accessible to a wider audience in the future.

(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

References (in Japanese):

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- KURUSHIMA, Noriko, TAKAHASHI, Norihide, YANBE, Koki, ed. *Bunkazai to shite no garasu kanpan: Shashin ga tsumuginaosu rekishizo*. Benseishuppan, 2017. NDL Call No. UL577-L14.

Articles by NDL staff

Protecting Our Books—Tools for preservation and restoration (1) Cutting and folding

Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

This article is a translation of an article in Japanese from [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 723/724 \(July/August, 2021\)](#).

The National Diet Library undertakes a wide variety of preservation activities to ensure the permanent availability of the materials in our collections, including digitization or other media conversion, disaster preparedness, maintenance of storage environment, and restoration.

The Preservation Division of the Acquisitions and Bibliography Department plays a major role in these activities, and staff members who specialize in material conservation use their expert judgment to carry out repair and restorations as required according to the characteristics and condition of the materials. We also manage the environment of the stacks and implement countermeasures against insect and mold.

This series focuses on the tools used for conservation and restoration in the Preservation Division. Although this is only a small part of what we do, we hope it will give you a glimpse of the activities we undertake to preserve cultural assets.

Marubocho—Round knives



Round knives are used to cut *washi* (Japanese paper) or lined fabric¹ in straight lines without fraying. Traditional Japanese mounting craftsmen and other craftsmen often use this kind of tool. It is called a round knife because the blade is round.

Next to the knife is a scabbard, handmade by NDL staff.

Lining and repairing scrolls

The scroll is lined with *washi* slightly larger than the scroll, and the margins are trimmed after the lining is affixed.



Trimming the margins.



Round knife as seen from the side.

¹ Lined fabric has *washi* affixed to the back of paper or fabric with starch paste to add strength.

Saws



We use saws for making cuts in the spines of books or for cutting wooden rollers for scrolls and hanging scrolls and paper tubes.

These are ordinary saws sold at a home improvement center. There are many different types, but staff members choose whichever one best fits his or her own hand. Different people find it easier to use different tools even for similar tasks.

Repairing the spine of a book

Adhesive alone is usually not strong enough for photo books or other books without binding margins. So we make saw cuts in the spine to embed linen cord, which increases the adhesive strength.



Remove the cover and make saw cuts in the spine.



To prevent the linen cord from falling out, alternate the direction of each cut.



After applying adhesive, the linen cord is embedded in the groove, and then additional adhesive is applied to the spine to harden it.

Hera—Folders/Spatulas



Folders and spatulas can be made of bamboo, animal bones, or other materials. Those made of animal bones are sometimes called horen.

Folders are used for any number of tasks, including making folds or creases in paper, smoothing places where adhesive is applied, or peeling off paper.

Other uses



Using a bamboo folder to fold the cover of a book.



Folders can also be used to fold a large number of sheets of paper or thick paper.



Applying a groove with a folder.

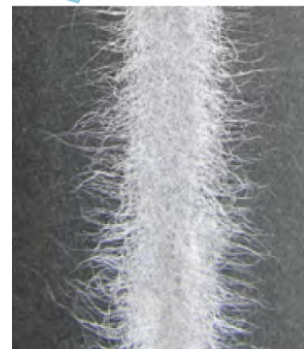
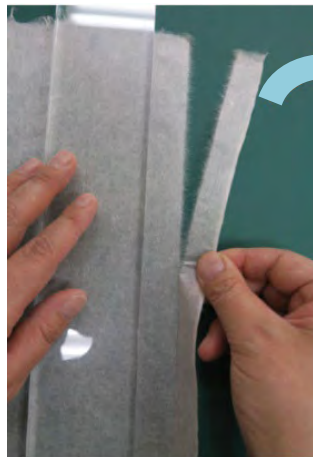
①



②



③



Folders are also used to make strips of *washi* paper for repairs. (See [Related articles from the NDL Newsletter](#).)

First you mark a line on the *washi* with a brush dipped in water (①), then crease it with a folder (②), and finally tear it off by hand (③).

Into—Seal-carving knives



Usually, seal-carving knives are used for engraving seals. But we use seal-carving knives to repair worm holes with *washi* paper. We tear the *washi* into the shape of the worm hole by pressing down from above, or press down on the *washi* after applying starch paste. These acrylic knives are handmade by our staff members. We use them mainly because it is easy to see what is beneath a transparent knife.

We inherited acrylic knives made by our veteran colleagues. They come in many lengths and shapes that are comfortable in our hand, and we can't do our job without them!



Pasting *washi* over the hole and tearing it off while pressing down with a seal-carving knife to match the size of the hole.



Torn *washi* is held down with a seal-carving knife and pasted.

Repairing worm holes in Japanese bindings



Applying paste around a worm hole with a brush.

Leather paring knives



Leather paring knives were originally used for paring leather but are now often used for other purposes, too. For example, we sometimes use them to cut thin *washi* paper or for scraping off adhesive, as shown below.

Old and new uses of paring knives



When rebinding a book that uses adhesive on the spine, a paring knife is used to scrape the adhesive off the spine.



Many Western books are bound in leather, and when repairing them, new leather is pared to the required thickness to make it appropriately flexible and strong.

Today, this process is not done as often, because the original material of the book should be preserved as much as possible.

Creasing machine



Acid-free storage boxes are made of acid-free paper, which protects materials from deterioration and damage. To make these boxes, we use a creasing machine to attach fold lines in thick paper. This is very useful machine, and visitors from other institutions sometimes say that they envy us.

Hole punching machine



This hole punching machine is used to make holes when rebinding books. The punch comes down vertically and can punch up to six holes at the same time. Depending on the size of the book, usually three or four holes are punched, and the book is bound with thread. Depending on the form and condition of the material, holes may also be made by hand using an eyeleteer.

Paper cutting machine



The paper cutting machine is used to cut fabric for covers, cardboard for acid-free storage boxes, *washi*, and other various types of paper. Large bundles of paper can be cut at once. A safety device is provided so that the blade will not operate unless both hands press the cutting switch at the same time.

This article presents just a few examples of these tools and their uses.

(Translated by OGAWA Kanako)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Japanese paper in action!! : Conservation treatments using "Washi" \(1\)](#) (No. 203, December 2015)
- [Japanese paper in action!! : Conservation treatments using "Washi" \(2\)](#) (No. 204, February 2016)

News from NDL

The NDL added five new episodes to Kaleidoscope of Books

Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department



The NDL's [Kaleidoscope of Books](#) is a series of small digital exhibitions. Through them we introduce a wide range of the library's collections including our beloved *ukiyo-e* (woodblock printings), guidebooks and personal papers.

Earlier in this year, we added English versions of these five exhibitions below. We sincerely hope you will enjoy them.

List of exhibitions

[Harping about the harp: the Japanese *koto* and *koto* music](#)



The *koto*, a 13-stringed instrument that is similar to a harp or zither, has long been one of Japan's best-loved traditional musical instruments. It was brought to Japan from China during the Nara period, around the eighth century, and gradually became a major element of Japanese court music. Eventually, it came to be used to accompany vocal performances, and later a unique genre of instrumental music called *soukyoku* was established, comprising melodies written especially for the instrument. This article describes some of the materials at the NDL related to the *koto* and its music.

[The Dawn of Modern Japanese Architecture](#)



After the Meiji Restoration of 1868, Western-style buildings designed by Japanese architects began to appear. This small digital exhibition introduces materials related to those architects, as well as architectural competitions - their battlefields. Additionally, guidebooks and photo books with images of modern architecture are also included in this exhibition, and prove that those buildings were later regarded as famous.

[Japan in Africa, Africa in Japan - Exchanges of Culture and People](#)



Africa was once called the "Dark Continent" and regarded as unfamiliar to Japan. In fact, however, Africa and Japan have been connected for a long time through interactions between people and exchanges of things. This exhibition features the relationship between Africa and Japan, which has remained relatively unknown until today. It presents materials from the National Diet Library collection that are

related to people and things that demonstrate the interaction between these two regions.

Parties under the Cherry Blossoms in Edo



How do you feel when cherry blossoms bloom? In Japan, people feel like the spring season has come and are happy when they see news about cherry blossoms blooming on TV. In spring, many people go out to enjoy *hanami* outdoor parties under cherry blossoms. Even for the people in the Edo period, *hanami* was a big event where they prepared from the day before and went out for a day. This exhibition covers cherry blossoms and *hanami* in the Edo period.

Japanese Go – a board game of white and black stones



In Japan, Go (碁) has been popular since ancient times, appearing in many stories and being written about in poetry. Many historical figures enjoyed the game of Go, and records of their games (although some seem fake) still remain today. A lot of materials about Go have been published. In this exhibition, we will introduce historical anecdotes about Go based on contemporary materials. We hope this exhibition will deepen your interest in Go literature.

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 745, May 2023/ No.746, June 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. 745, May 2023 \(PDF: 11.1 MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
Daitokyo shashincho: Photographs of famous places in Tokyo during the early Showa era
- The Kansai-kan 20th anniversary lecture
The Evolution of Communication and the Future of Libraries YAMAGIWA Juichi
- The Kansai-kan 20th anniversary symposium
The future of libraries: Will digital technology change the ways we read?
- Visual media for a new era: The Nishiki-e Shimbun
- The National Diet Library's response to COVID-19
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
Ordering photocopies remotely
- <Books not commercially available>
Hagiwara sakutarō shishū "Tsuki ni hoeru" hyakunen kinenten: Koko kara subete ga hajimatta
- <NDL Topics>

[No.746, June 2023 \(PDF: 4.76MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
Gureishi kaibo kunmozu: Collection of anatomical drawings from the Meiji era
- Introduction to the National Diet Library for first year university students
- Using the National Diet Library for the first time
- How to make the National Diet Library your own personal library
By the author of *Toshokan ni kike* INOUE Makoto
- State-of-the-art technologies for searching content in images
- Kaleidoscope of books (33)
NINJA: In fiction and in reality
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
Distinguishing, unifying, and connecting: The three elements of authority control
- <Books not commercially available>
Konnichiwa kyoto shiden: "Kyoto shiden kankei shiryō" o himotoku
- <NDL Topics>