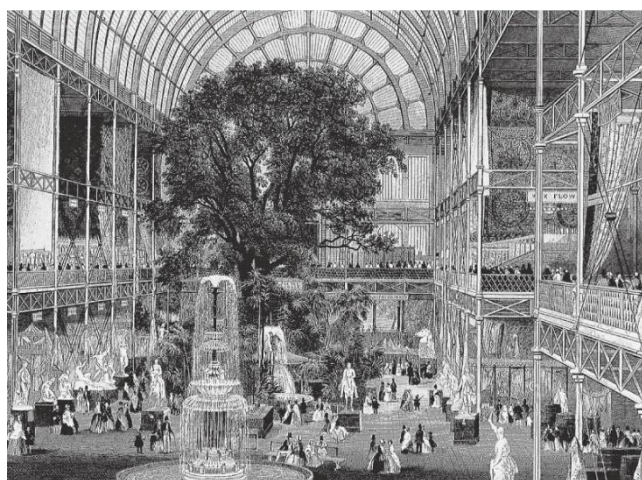
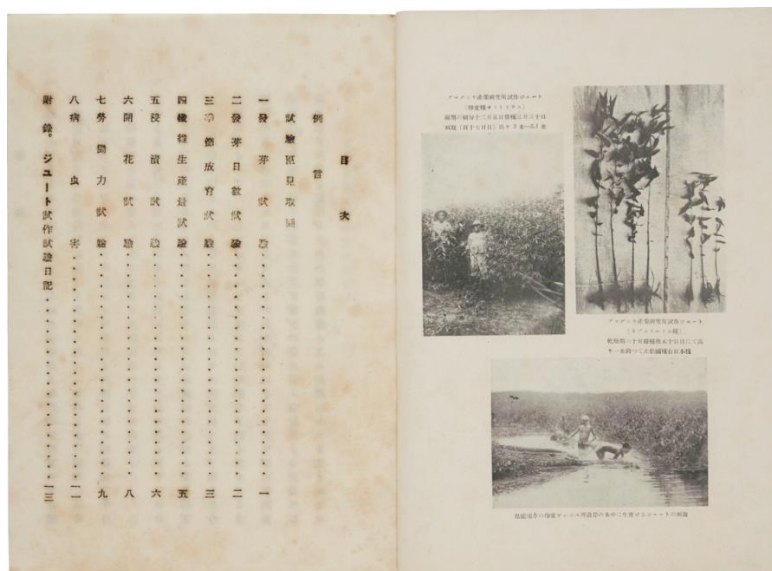


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 266, December 2025



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Selections from NDL collections

## Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The UETSUKA Tsukasa 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. 751 \(November 2023\)](#).*

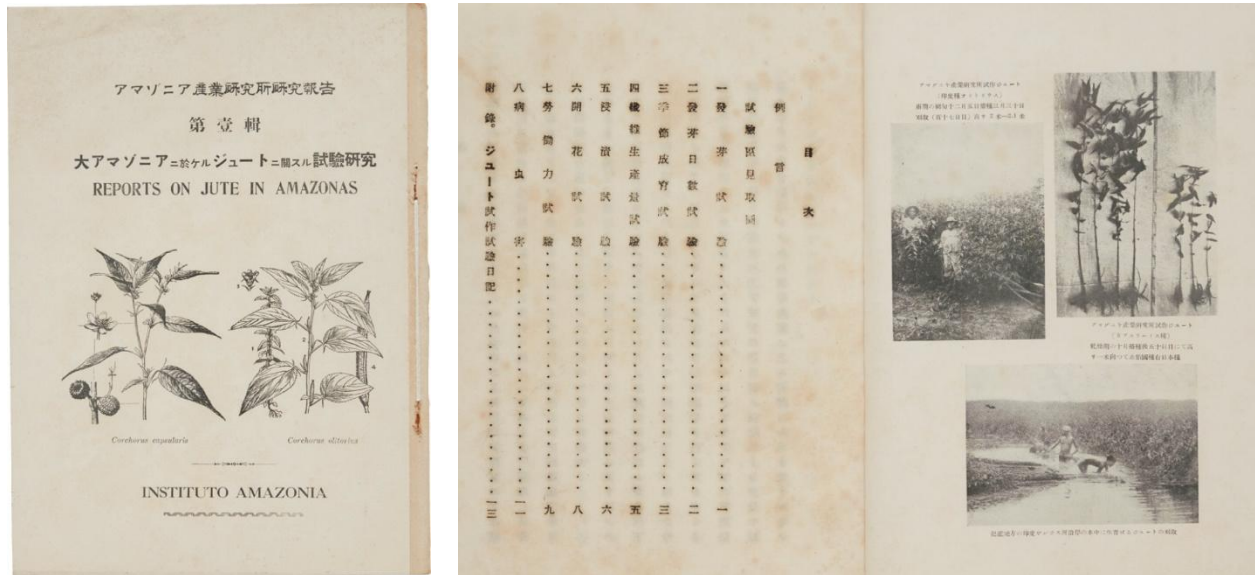


Image 1: Amazonia Industrial Research Center Report, vol.1: Reports on Jute in Amazonas.

NDL Call No. UETSUKA Tsukasa Papers 2018.

### Introduction

The National Diet Library holds approximately 430,000 documents on modern Japanese political history, including the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers. 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 UETSUKA Tsukasa Papers (Additions)

(136 items, available since January 2023)

UETSUKA Tsukasa served in the House of Representatives and was involved in national politics as a secretary to TAKAHASHI Korekiyo. He was also passionate about the development of the Amazonia in faraway Brazil.

Image 1 is a research report on the cultivation of jute prepared by the Amazonia Industrial Research Center established by UETSUKA in Brazil. At the time, jute was used to make bags for packing coffee, but since it was being imported from India, the Amazonia Industrial Research Center attempted to cultivate it in Brazil. Not only did they succeed in cultivating jute, they improved it through selective breeding. The additional materials donated to the UETSUKA Tsukasa Papers at this time include some obtained during the postwar period from emigration-related organizations. The occasional notations found in these materials also indicate UETSUKA's unrelenting passion for the South American migration project.

While many Japanese emigrated to Hawaii, the United States, and other destinations starting in the last half of the 19th century, this had at times caused friction with the local community. At the turn of the 20th century, politicians and businessmen who were promoting emigration from Japan began to look at Brazil as a potential destination. The days of a growing population and people aspiring to work overseas might seem a world apart from today's Japan and its declining in population. Which is why these materials provide us with a glimpse of the ambience of a different age.



Image 2: UETSUKA Tsukasa

### UETSUKA Tsukasa (1890-1978)

Born in Kumamoto in 1890. After working for the South Manchuria Railway Company and serving as a member of the House of Representatives, he served as secretary to TAKAHASHI Korekiyo, assisting him in his duties as Agriculture and Commerce Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister, and Finance Minister. After World War II, he served as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Finance in the first YOSHIDA Cabinet, Chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Director of the Amazonia Industrial Research Center, Principal of the Nippon Koto Takushoku Gakko (Japan Colonization School), and President of the Japan-Brazil Central Association, etc. UETSUKA Shuhei, similarly known for his involvement in the Japanese immigration to Brazil, is his cousin.

The portrait is from *Shugiin yoran*. (2). Shugiin Jimukyoku. 1920.

Available via the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

### Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Selections from NDL collections](#) : Introduction to materials available at the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room in the Tokyo Main Library.

### Related content from the National Diet Library Website

- [Research Navi](#) : Summary of Modern Japanese political history materials (in Japanese)

(Translated by KUBO Satoshi)



Articles by NDL staff

## The Life of Magazines and Newspapers: From the first issue to the last

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. 763 (November, 2024).*



Before the introduction of computerized systems, library acquisitions were recorded on an accession register. We often refer to these records, some of which were handwritten by NDL employees during the 1950s, shortly after the opening of the NDL. These relics of the library's early days give a sense of the passage of time.

Last year, the discontinuation of *Shukan Asahi* (NDL Call No. [Z24-18](#)) raised some eyebrows. Originally published thrice monthly and later a weekly magazine, *Shukan Asahi* was first published during the Taisho era (1912–1926) and now—for the time being, at least—has ended its 101-year-long history. Looking through data on the library's accession records to see just when the last issue was delivered, I was a bit overwhelmed by the sheer number of issues and the passage of time.

The Accession Section of the Serials and Non-Book Materials Division is the front door to the library for serial publications, which roughly speaking means journals, magazines, and newspapers published in Japan and distributed as printed matter, CD-ROM, or other tangible media. We receive approximately 1,800—and sometimes as many as 3,000—magazines and newspapers per day, mainly sent by the publishers in compliance with Japan's legal deposit system. The Accession Section checks each journal, magazine, and newspaper we receive, first for stains, damage, or missing pages, and then for changes in title, format, or other characteristics. After that, we record the data in our system.

And let me tell you, this is no easy task. Particularly when checking for changes in title, format, or other characteristics. Every day we find things that require careful research. For example, journals, magazines, and newspapers often merge or are transferred to the web. Over the years, publications change in one way or the other. Journals, magazines, and newspapers each have personalities, which undergo all sorts of changes over the course of successive issues. In this sense, serial publications are truly alive, and we strive to keep abreast of these changes to ensure that our data is always up to date.

We not only inspect newly received issues; we also make sure that the publication's legal deposits are up to date and apprise ourselves of the next scheduled issue. We check for missing issues as well as for publishers that continue to release new issues without submitting them to the legal deposit system. Should we discover that a new issue has yet to be submitted, we contact the publisher and ask for their cooperation in keeping their submissions up to date, so that we can be sure that we have every issue from first to last in our collection.

The Accession Section performs many proactive duties, such as catching changes in publications and requesting deposit of missing materials.

Amazingly, first issues arrive every day—not just first issues from new serial publications but those of existing serials, as well. And every day the final issue of another serial arrives. The staff of the Accession Section gets to watch each journal, magazine, and newspaper from its beginning to its end, including the many changes it undergoes during its lifetime.

(Translated by MANO Yukako)

Articles by NDL staff

## The History of Expos—Digital exhibition: Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited

Editorial Section, Administrative Division, Administrative Department

This article is a translation of an article in Japanese from *NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 771/No.772 (July/August 2025)*.

First London International Exposition of 1851: Inside of the Crystal Palace

Tallis, J. et al.: *Tallis's history and description of the Crystal Palace*. London: J. Tallis, [1851?] 3 v. NDL Call No. [D7-A28](#)

Since Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan opened in April of this year, we have seen and heard a lot of news about World Expos. The world's first Expo, held in London in 1851, was a showcase of Britain's industrial power following the Industrial Revolution. Over the years, the Expo became more and more spectacular, with more pavilions showcasing the cultural relics of various countries and a variety of attractions.

One of the National Diet Library's digital exhibitions, "Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited" (released in 2010), presents many documents and episodes from 11 of the World Expos held up to 1900.

Why not take this opportunity to learn about the history of the Expo?

\*All figures in this article are available in the digital exhibition "Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited"

(<https://www.ndl.go.jp/exposition/e/index.html>).



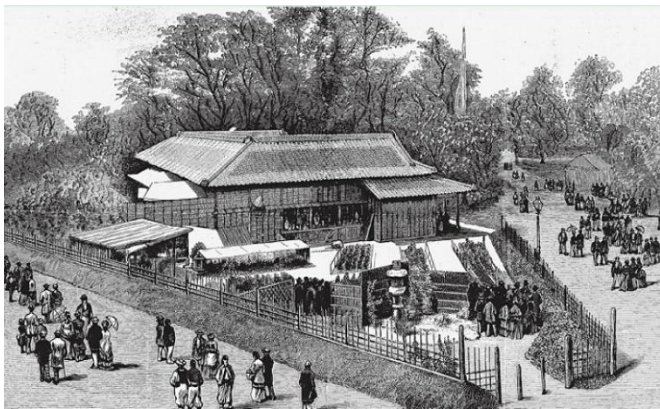
The "Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited" is a digital exhibition of the National Diet Library. Anyone can view it on the website of the library at <https://www.ndl.go.jp/exposition/e/index.html>.





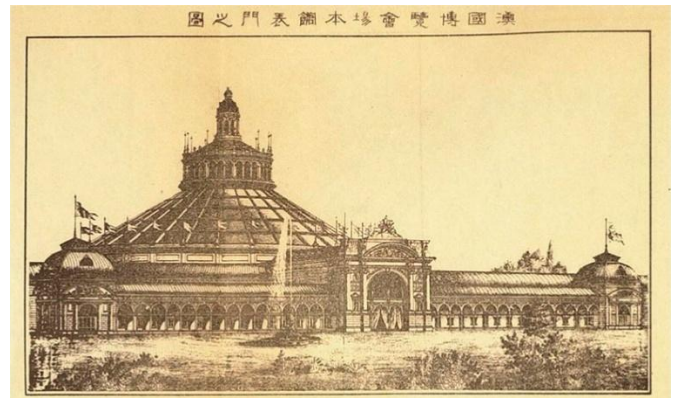
Vienna International Exposition of 1873: Venue plan

*Gerold's ground plan of the Vienna universal exhibition.* Vienna: Charles Gerold, 1873. NDL Call No. [70-188](#)



Philadelphia International Exposition of 1876: Japan Pavilion (Bazaar)

Norton, F. H. (ed.): *Frank Leslie's historical register of the United States Centennial Exposition, 1876*. New York: Frank Leslie's Pub. House, 1877. NDL Call No. [YP51-A230](#)

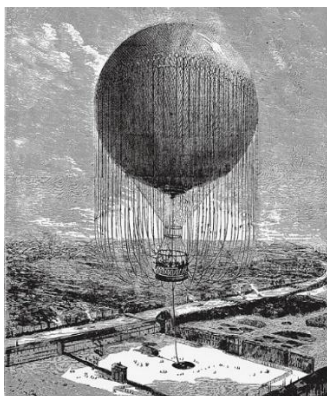


Vienna International Exposition of 1873: View of the front gate of the main building at the exposition site

Edited by TANAKA Yoshio, HIRAYAMA Narinobu. *Okoku hakurankai sando kiyo*. Moriyama Shun'yo, 1897

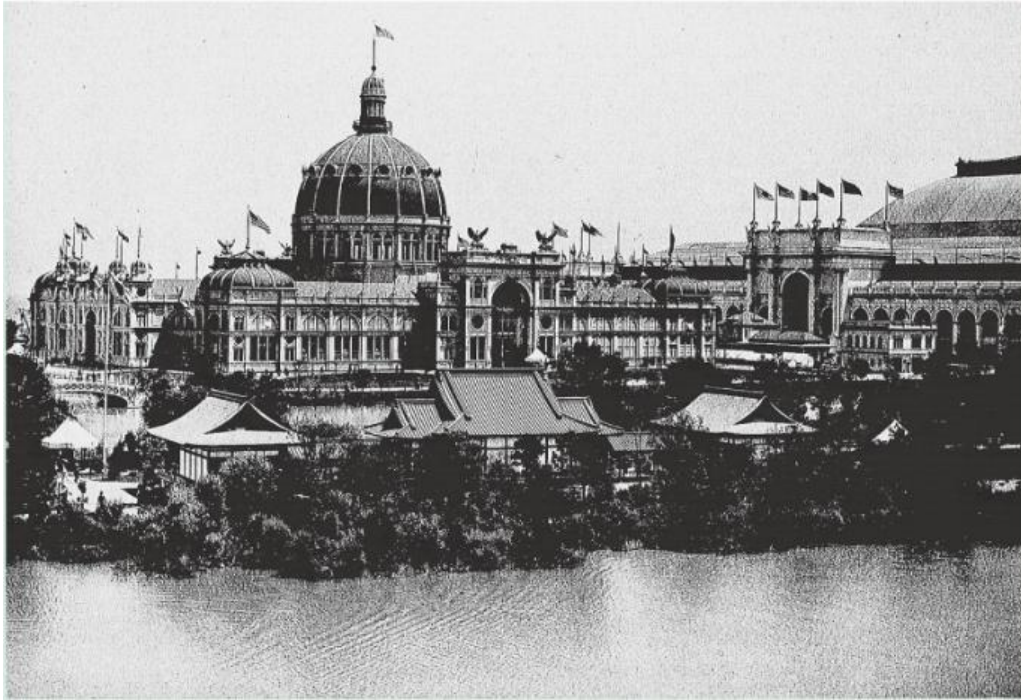
<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/pid/801730/1/256>

\*This image is only available on the [Japanese website \(digital exhibition\)](#).



Third Paris International Exposition of 1878  
Hot-air Balloon Attraction

*L'Exposition universelle de 1878: illustrée: quatre-vingt-sept belles gravures sur bois: texte descriptif par S. de Vandières.* Paris: C. Lévy, 1879. NDL Call No. [YP51-A227](#)



Chicago International Exposition of 1893: In the foreground is the Japanese pavilion, also known as the Ho-o-Den, behind which is the U.S. Government Building.

Arnold, C. D., Higinbotham, H. D.: *Official views of the World's Columbian Exposition*. [Chicago]: Press Chicago Photo-Gravure Co., c1893. NDL Call No. [D7-A63](#)

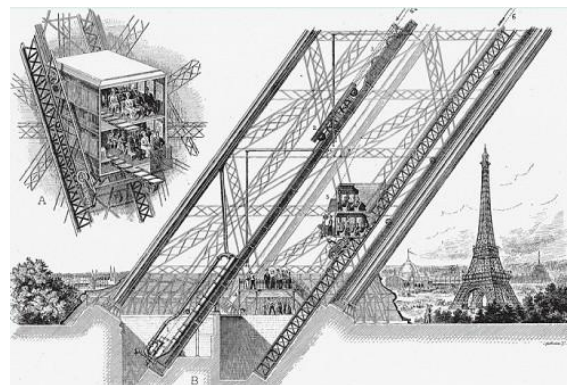


Fourth Paris International Exposition of 1889: Bird's-eye View of the Venue (Seen Obliquely from a Distance)

*L'Exposition de Paris, 1889*. Paris: En vente a la Librairie illustrée, 1889. v.1&2. NDL Call No. [YP51-A224](#)

The Eiffel Tower was built as the main attraction for the fourth Paris Exposition.

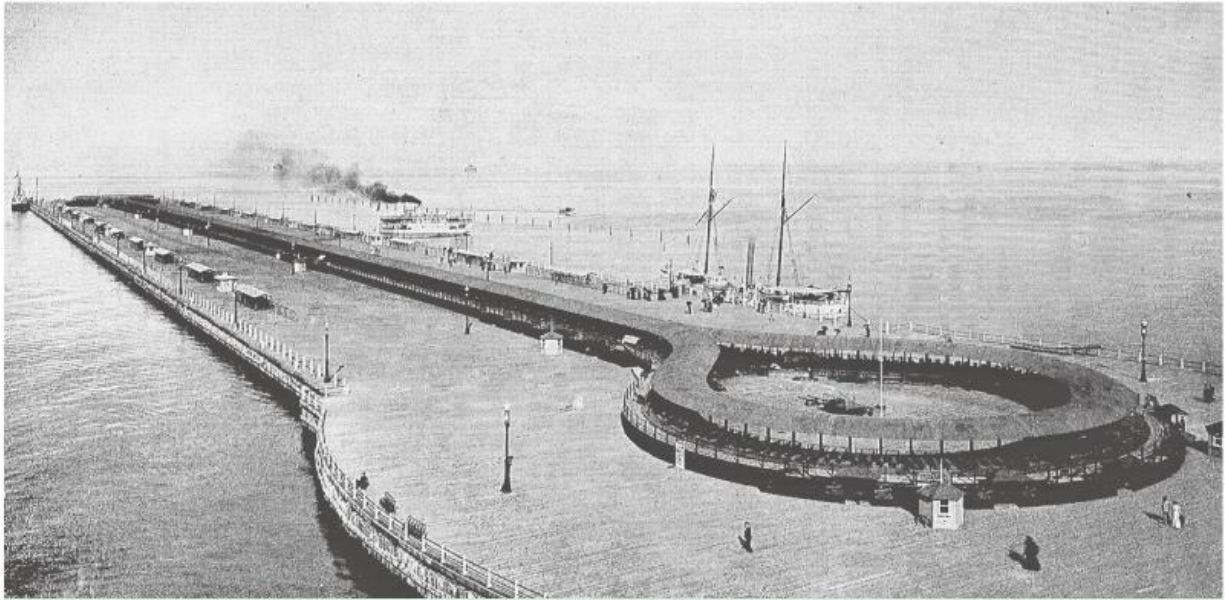
The Eiffel Tower was selected from a number of design proposals and built by the Eiffel Company.



Fourth Paris International Exposition of 1889: The Eiffel Tower Elevator

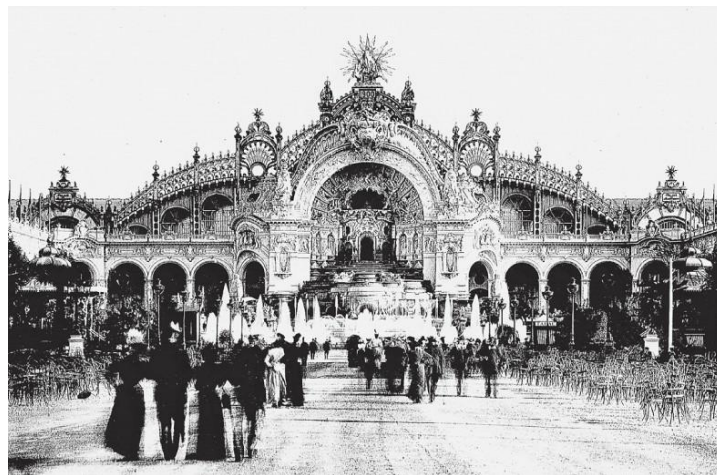
*L'Exposition de Paris, 1889*. Paris: En vente a la Librairie illustrée, 1889. v.1&2. NDL Call No. [YP51-A224](#)





Chicago International Exposition of 1893: Movable Sidewalk

Bancroft, H. H.: *The book of the fair: an historical and descriptive presentation of the world's science, art, and industry, as viewed through the Columbian exposition at Chicago in 1893*. Chicago: The Bancroft Co., 1893. 25 v. in 5. NDL Call No. [YP51-A642](#)



Fifth Paris International Exposition of 1900: The Electricity Pavilion (Back) and the Water Palace Fountain (Front)

*L'Architecture à l'Exposition universelle de 1900*. Paris: Librairies-imprimeries réunies, [1900?]. NDL Call No. [YP51-A228](#)



Fifth Paris International Exposition of 1900: Monument Gate (Main Gate)

*Cafés du Guatemala : Exposition universelle de 1900*. Paris: Lacoudre, [1900?]. NDL Call No. [YQ51-A75](#)



Fifth Paris International Exposition of 1900: Electric Railcar at the Venue

*Exposition universelle, 1900*. Paris: Ludovic Baschet, [1900?]. NDL Call No. [YQ51-A77](#)



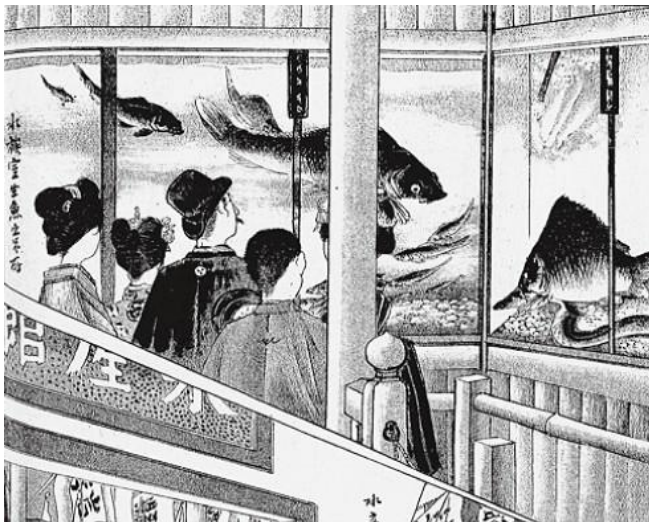
The digital exhibition, "Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited," introduces the features and venues of the National Industrial Expositions as well as the World Expositions held up to 1900. In addition, various products exhibited at the Expos are described by genre, and various machinery exhibited at the National Industrial Expositions are also introduced.

National Industrial Expositions were domestic expositions designed to introduce Western technology and to promote competition and development of domestic industry as part of the Meiji government's efforts to promote national wealth, military strength, and industrial development. Although the Meiji government took the lead in organizing the expositions, the number of private-sector exhibits increased each time.



Second National Industrial Exhibition of 1881: The Machinery Building

*Dai nikai naikoku kangyo hakurankai*. Oohashido, 1881. NDL Call No. 特 44-248



Fourth National Industrial Exhibition of 1895  
The Interiors of the Exhibition Room of Aquatic Living Things and the Marine Production Building

*Fuzoku gaho*, Extra issue no.94, 1895.6. NDL Call No. 雑 23-8



Fifth National Industrial Exhibition of 1903

Dance Performance Using Electrical Engineering at the Wonder Building

*Fuzoku gaho*, Extra issue no.275, 1903.9. NDL Call No. 雑 23-8

### The composition of the digital exhibition "Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited"

Preface

Part 1: Expositions Held In and Before 1900

Part 2: Industrial Technology Development – Seen from Exhibits

Part 3: Japanese Industries in the Meiji Period - Seen from Exhibits

Title list, References, Links

Japanese: <https://www.ndl.go.jp/exposition/index.html>



English: <https://www.ndl.go.jp/exposition/e/index.html>





In addition to the "Expositions where the modern technology of the times was exhibited," the National Diet Library offers many other digital exhibitions to the public. Each content introduces various materials from the National Diet Library collection with easy-to-understand explanations.

(Translated by MANO Yukako)



Articles by NDL staff

## NDL participation in IFLA/WLIC 2025



**Uniting Knowledge, Building the Future**  
World Library and Information Congress  
**89th IFLA General Conference and Assembly**  
18-22 August 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan

Logo

[The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)](#) was founded in 1927 and is the world's largest organization in the field of library and information services. Currently there are about 1,600 members from approximately 150 countries around the world.

The National Diet Library (NDL) joined the IFLA as an associate member in 1966 and became a full member in 1976. At present, four NDL employees serve on standing committees contributing to sections involved in activities such as management or information exchange. The NDL has also been designated as the [IFLA Preservation and Conservation \(IFLA/PAC\) Regional Centre for Asia](#) since 1989. In Japan, the NDL translates guidelines and reports to make the results of IFLA activities available to the public via its website and publications.

NDL employees have attended the IFLA's annual conference since 1967 to take part in sessions and satellite meetings. The IFLA's annual conference, the [World Library and Information Congress: IFLA General Conference and Assembly \(IFLA/WLIC\)](#), is held in a different country each year to present activities reports, network in person, and exchange views on matters of common interest. The 2025 IFLA/WLIC was held from August 18–22 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The theme for this year was "Uniting Knowledge, Building the Future." Director General KURATA Keiko and five other NDL employees were in attendance and enrolled in many sessions. Some were present at the General Assembly on

behalf of Director General KURATA to vote on motions. Others attended business meetings and satellite meetings to network with colleagues from around the world. Although the annual meeting of the [Conference of Directors of National Libraries \(CDNL\)](#), typically held during the IFLA/WLIC, did not take place on-site this year, Director General KURATA had many opportunities to meet with library leaders from other countries, including Dr. KIM Heesop, chief executive of the National Library of Korea (NLK), who gave an invitation speech for the 2026 IFLA/WLIC in Busan, Korea.



Group photo of participants from the NDL

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

## The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 775, November 2025/ No.776, December 2025

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. 775, November 2025 (PDF: 5.35 MB)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>  
"Tsuchiyama zosho mokuroku": Intellectual activities of minor officials at the Imperial Court during the Edo period
- New series: Behind the National Diet Library  
Part 1: Creating the National Diet Library Gallery
- Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Welcome to the magazine stacks!
- <Books not commercially available>  
*Meiji tokyo no shosei shakai: Suzuki shikanosuke zaikyo nikki no sekai*
- <NDL Topics>

### No. 776, December 2025 (PDF: 5.54 MB)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>  
Musical SPY×FAMILY: 2023 Performance Program
- Exploring the biggest library in Japan!  
Children's Day for Visiting Kasumigaseki
- Online content for encouraging students to read and study  
Explore, Learn, and Read: A Guide for Kids  
Explore, Learn, and Read: A Guide for Teens
- National Diet Library Website for Kids
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Opening a window to the world: Acquiring foreign publications
- <Books not commercially available>  
*Daihonyuruiten* = Mammals. 3
- <NDL Topics>
- Annual index to the National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin, Nos. 765-776