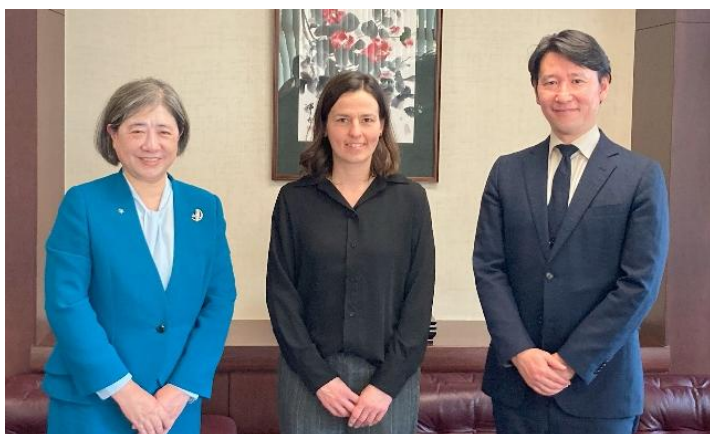
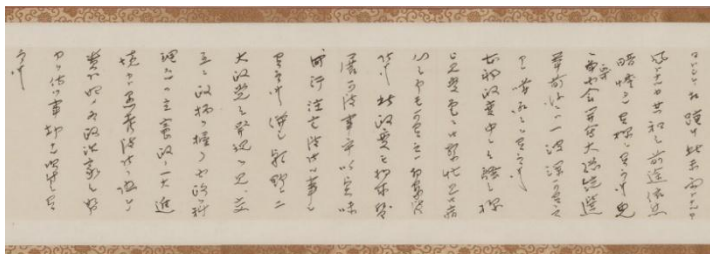


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 268, April 2026



## Contents

### Selections from NDL collections

- Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: A Collection of Personal Letters

### Articles by NDL Staff

- Did you know that the NDL offers remote training programs?  
National Diet Library remote training—anytime, anywhere!

### Events

- Lecture—Connecting the World with Intelligence and Culture: Initiatives of the National Library of Korea
- The 14th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service
- The International Policy Seminar FY2025: Recent Political Trends in European Countries

### News from NDL

- National Diet Library Vision 2026-2030: Co-create the Circulation of Knowledge
- The National Diet Library in Figures  
From the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2024

### Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

- The NDL Monthly Bulletin  
No. 779, March 2026/ No. 780, April 2026

Selections from NDL collections

## Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: A Collection of Personal Letters

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. 763 \(November 2024\)](#).*



Image 1: Writing on a scroll box

### Introduction

The National Diet Library holds a significant number of materials 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 being 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.

### A Collection of Personal Letters (Constitutional Government Documents Collection 392)

This material comprises 22 letters wound into two scrolls. The letters were written from the Meiji period to the early Showa period, and the box that holds the material is labeled "SHINDO's Collection" (Image 1), suggesting that the scrolls belonged to SHINDO Saiichi (1857-1934), a member of the House of Representatives from Kanagawa Prefecture.

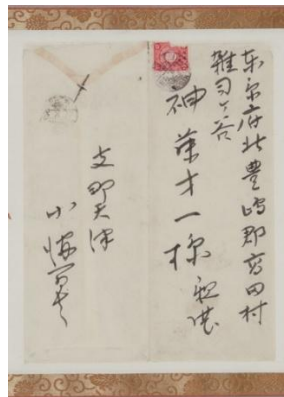
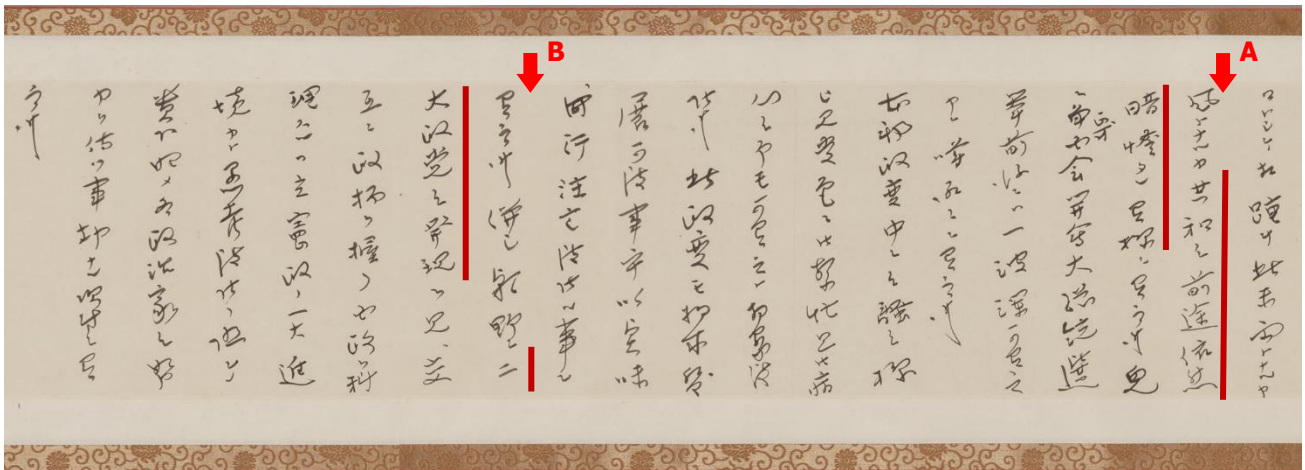


Image 2: A letter from OBATA Yukichi to SHINDO Saiichi, dated February 11, [1913].

NDL Call No. Constitutional Government Documents Collection 392-2-3.

One of the letters is from OBATA Yukichi (Image 2). OBATA was serving as consul-general of Tianjin, China, when the letter was written in February 1913. Describing the chaotic social situation in the Republic of China, which had been established just the previous year, Obata writes, "The outlook for the Republic remains to be seen" (A). He also touched on political affairs in Japan following the Taisho political crisis and expressed his hope for the "realization of a two-party system" (B) with Rikken Seiyukai and Rikken Doshikai (later the Kenseikai).



Image 3: OBATA Yukichi

### OBATA Yukichi (1873-1947)

Born in Ishikawa in 1873. He served as a diplomat, primarily in China (Qing and the Republic of China) and in 1918 was appointed minister for Japan to the Republic of China. After retiring, he served as a member of the House of Peers and died in 1947.

The portrait is from *Kizokuin yoran, revised in December 1937 (3)*. Kizokuin Jimukyoku. 1937.

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

(Translated by KUBO Satoshi)

### Related content from the National Diet Library Website

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

Articles by NDL staff

## Did you know that the NDL offers remote training programs? National Diet Library remote training—anytime, anywhere!

Library Support Division, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 768 (April 2025).*

### Introduction

In 2006, the National Diet Library (NDL) began to offer remote training programs so that more librarians could participate remotely. Initially available only via a dedicated system, starting in 2018 the program was shifted to YouTube to make it easier to access.

As of December 2025, there are 41 programs covering subjects such as the reference service, the preservation and digitization of library materials or how to use other services offered by the NDL. A list of all currently available courses is provided on the NDL [Remote Training Programs](#) website. The list links to a page that shows program content in detail, with links to the training videos as well as to lecture materials and reference sites. All program materials and videos are in Japanese, but you can watch the videos using YouTube's automatic translation feature.<sup>1</sup>



Screenshot from the training video of "NDL Search—How to make the best use of reference tools available from the National Diet Library"

Many of the programs are taught by NDL employees. These training videos are created using content that has been carefully curated by the instructors in collaboration with the relevant NDL department, which carefully reviews the content to ensure all explanations are given in clear, easy-to-understand language. Some programs are recordings of group training sessions that were organized by the NDL. So they are an excellent way for people who previously took part in these sessions,

either in-person or via live stream, to review what they learned. The programs offer concise summaries of key points, which makes them suitable for learning during brief work breaks. Depending on the subject matter, these programs might also be useful for in-house training of employees at your library.

This article takes a look at some of the programs that are currently available on the [NDL's YouTube channel](#).

### (1) Reference tools provided by the NDL

#### URL:

- [NDL Search—How to make the best use of reference tools available from the National Diet Library—](#)
- [National Diet Library Digital Collections—How to make the best use of reference tools available from the National Diet Library—](#)
- [Research Navi—How to make the best use of reference tools available from the National Diet Library—](#)
- [Collaborative Reference Database—How to make the best use of reference tools available from the National Diet Library—](#)

#### Training overview

The four courses listed above feature lectures on the use of online tools from the perspective of a reference librarian. The courses are independent of each other, so feel free to view only what interests you.

#### Comment from the instructor (Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department)

The term "reference services" refers to providing patrons with information and access to their materials of interest, which many people immediately imagine to involve providing direct assistance with individual inquiries. But actually, equally important is providing indirect support by making available to patrons and librarians alike tools that can be used to conduct research on their own. Reference tools made available by the NDL represent one such form of indirect

<sup>1</sup> The English translations featured in programs on "How to use sources of Japanese studies" were all produced by a professional translation service. The English translations for "Conservation of Paper Materials: Minor Repair" and "How to make good use of the NDL Digital Collections for Japanese Studies" are embedded in the video.

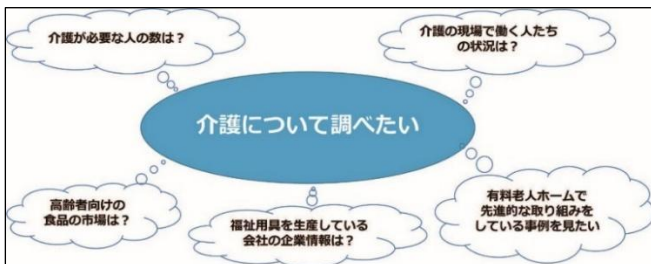
assistance. This remote training program, which instructs viewers on the features and the use of such tools, differs from training that focuses on learning how to research a specific subject. The goal of this program is to help librarians to better assist patrons with their research. It can be considered basic training for mastering the tools made available by the NDL. While viewing this video, you might find it helpful to deepen your understanding by pausing the video and actually using the tool in question. We hope you will find this content a useful tool for your daily reference work.

## (2) [How to find economy and social science information in Japan](#)

### Training overview

This is an edited version of two lectures given during an online reference service training program held in November 2022 and called "How to find economy and social science information in Japan." The first lecture is called "The basics of finding economy and social science information in Japan" and covers tools for finding economic and social information as well as basic statistics. The second lecture is called "How to find industry and market trends" and covers the key points of and tools for finding information on industry and market trends in Japan.

\*Please note that some of the online services mentioned in these lectures have since been updated and the descriptions given during the lecture might be out of date.



Screenshot from the training video of "How to find economy and social science information in Japan"

### Comment from the instructor (Business, Science and Technology Division, Reader Services and Collections Department)

Rather than merely providing viewers with a list of reference tools, this program is intended to provide practical information on researching the economy and social sciences. For example, the opening section explains the importance of reference interviews using concrete examples.

"The basics of finding economy and social science information in Japan" focuses heavily on statistical materials. Many statistics are available via the internet, and all libraries will have access to such resources. The content was structured to help viewers master the basic research approach of moving "from aggregate statistics to primary statistics."

The section "How to find industry and market trends" is centered on an explanation of the "Industry Information Guide" within the Research Navi.

Reference queries on the economy and social sciences often include requests like "I want to know the trends in the XX market." The Industry Information Guide compiles sources for researching market information organized by industry sector. We regularly review its content to reflect the latest information. We hope this program will help you learn how to use and put to good use these reference tools.

## (3) [An introduction to finding information on the humanities](#)

### Training overview

Here are two videos that explain how to use tools for researching information on the humanities, "Using the Humanities Links!" and "Using the Research Navi for reference," as well as two more videos, "Searching for institutions that have materials related to the humanities" and "Finding information about Japanese ancestors," that show detailed examples. All these videos are intended to summarize key points concisely for those new to providing reference services.



Image from handout of "Searching for institutions that have materials related to the humanities"



Image from handout of "Finding information about Japanese ancestors"

### Comment from instructor (Humanities, Maps, Rare Books and Old Materials Division, Reader Services and Collections Department)

We have prepared this training program to cover basic tools provided by the NDL as well as subject matter commonly encountered in humanities research and hope that viewers will be able to apply what they have learned in their work providing reference services starting the very day they watch the videos.

The Humanities Links video is intended to present the very best basic tools for humanities research. The Humanities Links webpage lists approximately 800 databases that are useful for reference work in subjects like art and literature. We explain the key points while demonstrating how to operate the tools, so that even beginners can quickly master their use.

We believe that research into institutional holdings and the tracing of ancestors or genealogical research in Japan are both frequently requested subject matter. Some of you may have experienced confusion when asked about books not held by your local library or about ancestors from the Edo period. Knowing the main search methods beforehand makes research go much smoother, so we've provided clear explanations of the basics.

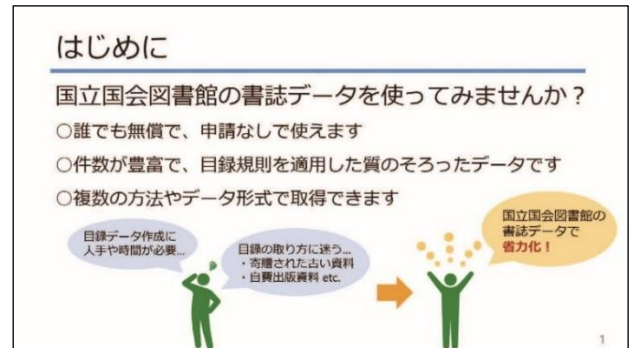
This content is designed to hold just the key points and to be easily accessible. Please take a look.

#### [\(4\) How to make good use of the bibliographic data of the NDL: Overview and how to use](#)

##### Training overview

This course focuses on bibliographic records in use at the NDL, in particular the Japanese National Bibliography (JNB). We provide lots of references in introducing the features of bibliographic records, how records are used for copy cataloging or book lists, and

tips on how to align bibliographic records for your intended use. The final chapter's "Summary of Utilization References" clearly lists the purpose and usage methods for each service, as well as how to retrieve data.



Screenshot from the training video of "How to make good use of the bibliographic data of the NDL: Overview and how to use"

### Comment from instructor (Acquisitions Administration and Bibliographic Control Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department)

This course was developed to coincide with the renewal of the NDL Search website and incorporates the latest content as of September 2024. It places particular emphasis on the Web Japanese National Bibliography, which began service in January 2024. The Web Japanese National Bibliography is a sub-section within the NDL Search that exclusively searches the JNB, which comprises bibliographic records of all domestic Japanese publications collected by the NDL. The training explains practical methods, such as using a barcode reader to scan and search ISBN consecutively and importing search results into Excel. The first half of the training includes sections on Overview and Characteristics of Bibliographic Data and on Examples of Utilization of bibliographic records from various libraries. Viewing these sections will provide greater familiarity with the JNB. Bibliographic records created by the NDL are available to anyone free of charge. Please watch this training program and learn to utilize bibliographic records in accordance with your needs.

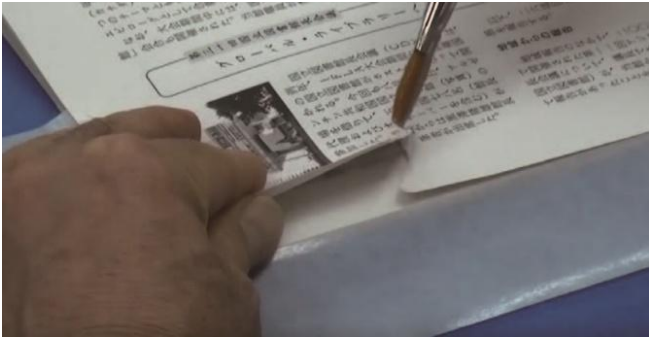
#### (5) Preservation and conversation

##### URL:

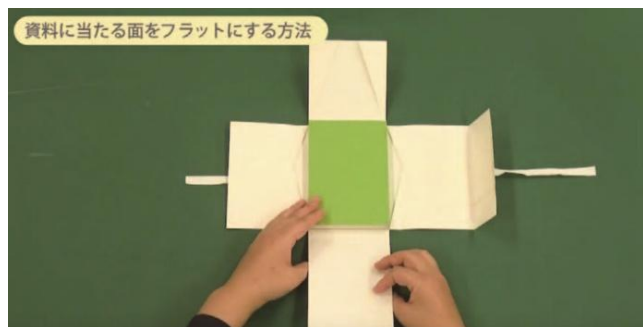
- [Conservation of Paper Materials: Minor Repair](#)
- [Conservation of paper Materials: How to make simple folding cases](#)
- [Conservation of Paper Materials: How to perform Japanese four-hole book binding \(yotsume toji\)](#)
- [Conservation of Paper Materials: How to attach a peeled-off title label \(daisen\)](#)
- [Conservation of Paper Materials: How to make paste in the microwave](#)

## Training overview

As of 2025, we have made five videos available on the conservation of paper materials. For example, the video "Minor Repair" shows how to quickly repair library materials using washi (traditional Japanese hand-made paper) and starch paste. The video "How to Make Simple Folding Cases" shows how to make simple and inexpensive folding cases that protect fragile library materials from many kinds of deterioration. All content is intended for learners who perform general maintenance on library materials without specialized knowledge or skills in restoration.



Screenshot from the training video of "Minor Repair"



Screenshot from the training video of "How to Make Simple Folding Cases"

## Comment from instructor (Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department)

This course was developed using content from a preservation training program conducted by the Preservation Division of the Acquisitions and Bibliography Department. Our goal was to create teaching materials that impart practical skills.

The "Minor Repair" video was created with careful consideration given to camera angles and how to show proper hand movements, making it easy to understand even for those undertaking repairs for the first time. The "How to Make Simple Folding Cases" video teaches the steps necessary to create a preservation container from a single sheet of paper. It includes practical methods for

adapting the process to the condition of the material. We hope you will pay close attention to the finer details of the work—such as tool handling and the amount of adhesive applied—which are difficult to convey through text alone.

In addition to these videos, NDL preservation courses include one on "Disaster Preparedness for Library Collections," which outlines the basic knowledge of disaster preparedness needed to protect library collections from fires, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters. We plan to continue creating videos related to materials preservation. If you're interested, please take a look.

## How to utilize information sources for Japanese Studies

The NDL conducts webinars primarily for individuals engaged in Japanese studies overseas. The goal is to help participants learn about and acquire skills to effectively utilize essential information sources for research and support. Since the content is also considered beneficial for librarians in Japan, recordings of the lectures are made available for remote training after each webinar. The topics change annually and include modern and contemporary Japanese history, Japanese linguistics, modern Japanese literature, and Japanese Politics and Japanese Political History with lectures delivered by experts who possess deep knowledge in their specialization.

Participants learn not only how to use tools useful for Japanese studies but also concrete, practical research methods in an easy-to-understand manner. These programs are where you will discover tools and information sources that will allow you to conduct all kinds of research!

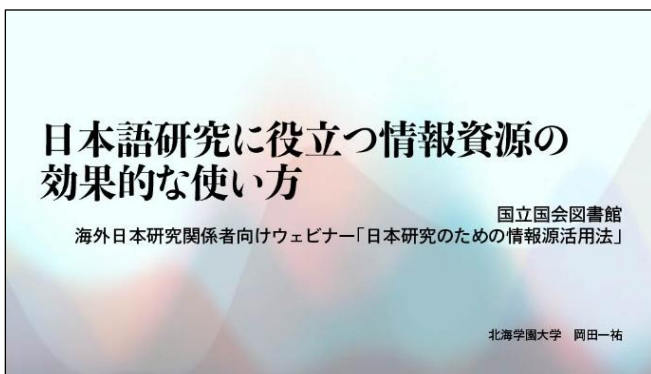
\*Instructors' titles are those held at the time the lecture was recorded.



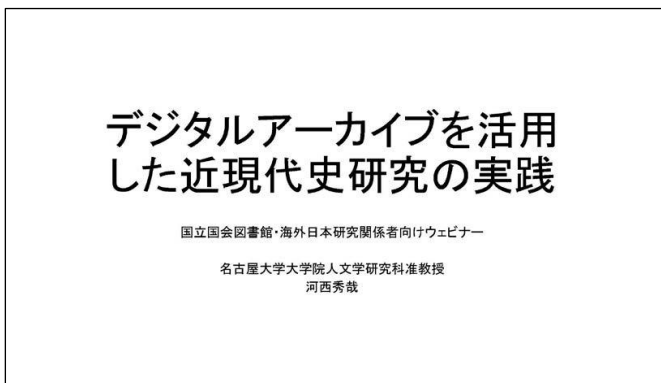
"A Guide to Studying Japanese Politics and Japanese Political History from Outside Japan" by Dr. SHIMIZU Yuichiro, professor at Keio University.



"Research on Modern Japanese Literature Using Full-Text Data" by Dr. Yoshitaka Hibi, professor at Nagoya University. Handout in English is available.



"Useful Resources for Japanese Linguistics Research and How to Use Them Effectively" by Dr. OKADA Kazuhiro, part-time lecturer at Hokkai-Gakuen University.



"Practical Examples in the Research of Modern Japanese History Using Digital Archives" by Dr. KAWANISHI Hideyuki, associate professor at Nagoya University.

## The past and the future of the remote training program

### From LMS to YouTube

The NDL's remote training program began in 2006. The first set of materials was entitled "Basic Ideas of Preservation and Conservation." Reviewing documents

from that time reveals that training scenarios were being developed alongside system development approximately two years prior to the program's launch, indicating the significant effort invested.



Screenshot from the Learning Management System (LMS)

Initially, remote training programs required participants to take the course through a dedicated Learning Management System (LMS). While this did enable self-paced training, it required user registration and had limited capacity, meaning that it wasn't readily accessible to everyone. And although the LMS facilitated progress tracking, testing, and surveys, the creation of materials that were compliant with its specifications required significant effort and cost. This put a limit on both the number of courses offered and the frequency with which they were updated. Recognizing these challenges, extensive discussions on improving delivery methods led to the decision to migrate to YouTube. Publishing on YouTube meant we could reach a large user base and create an environment in which more librarians could participate.

Publishing training materials also became easier. Content creation that had previously been outsourced could now be handled inhouse using video editing software, and this allowed us to add multiple new training materials to our lineup each year.

### The number of views rise during the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2020, the number of views for remote training programs surged dramatically. The total annual views for all courses from April 2020 to March 2021 reached 143,374 views. This was more than ten times the 12,588 views from the previous year.

(All figures taken from YouTube statistics).

2020 was the year that the COVID-19 pandemic forced libraries nationwide to close. Many librarians likely began working from home. These figures suggest that during the pandemic, when in-person interactions were restricted, numerous librarians utilized remote training to enhance their skills.

**What we are doing to make the most of the training program**

In recent years, we have been enhancing the effectiveness of our training programs by combining remote training via pre-recorded video with live-stream training sessions. For example, the reference service training course on How to Search Science and Technology Information was conducted via live stream in November 2023, and participants were asked to view remote training program on this topic before joining the live stream. The goal was for participants to learn basic concepts from the pre-recorded videos, then focus on exercises during the live sessions covering more advanced material. The participants were greatly pleased with this approach, and we received comments such as "The combination of pre-training learning and the live session allowed for active, rather than passive, learning." We plan to continue offering training in this format.

**What can we do to make it more engaging**

While the remote training program focuses primarily on basic concepts, we believe that the currently available courses do teach a great deal that is useful for library work. There are, however, some videos that exceed an hour in length, which could make those who are unable to set aside a block of time hesitant to watch. We are planning to increase the number of shorter videos that concisely summarize key points, making them easier to watch for those with limited time.

We may also need to refine how we present the videos and structure the website to make them more appealing, encouraging people to want to watch them.

**Remote training programs in figures**

In 2018, when we began publishing on YouTube, we had 18 programs. By 2025, this number had increased to 41, with annual views reaching 57,229. Note that view counts are the sum of all videos within a course, even if a course consists of multiple videos.

As of the end of December 2025, the course with the highest number of views was Conservation of Paper Materials: Minor Repair, with 47,847 views.

(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

## Events

## Lecture—Connecting the World with Intelligence and Culture: Initiatives of the National Library of Korea

Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division, Administrative Department

A lecture entitled *Connecting the World with Intelligence and Culture: Initiatives of the National Library of Korea* was held on February 4, 2026, with more than 150 people in attendance including NDL staff members.

The event opened with remarks from Ms. KURATA Keiko, director general of the National Diet Library (NDL), after which Dr. Kim Heesop, chief executive of the National Library of Korea (NLK), took the rostrum to present his lecture. In the subsequent talk, Mr. OBA Toshiyasu, director general of the Reader Services and Collections Department at the NDL, joined as facilitator. Closing remarks were made by Ms. KITO Junko, deputy director general of the NDL, which brought the event to a satisfying conclusion.

### Lecture

**Dr. Kim's lecture: *Connecting the World with Intelligence and Culture: Initiatives of the National Library of Korea***



Dr. Kim Heesop

In the lecture, after introducing an overview of the NLK which celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2025, Dr. Kim spoke of the NLK's key achievements in 2025 such as the following: formulating future strategies for AI data services, building text data for AI learning, research for AI infrastructure and library development, enhancing AI literacy for library staff and management of bibliographic data with UCI (Universal Contents Identifier) and BIBFRAME.

He also spoke of plans for 2026 and beyond, focusing on initiatives related to AI, such as the role of libraries and librarians in the AI era and a proposal of the future role of the NLK to manage learning data. Lastly, he invited the audience to attend the 2026 World Library and Information Congress, which will be held in Busan, the Republic of Korea.

### Talk

In the talk, Dr. Kim and Ms. Kurata discussed the situation surrounding libraries in Korea and Japan, using the content of the lecture as a basis for the discussion. They discussed a variety of topics related to AI and libraries, such as the following: the AI strategy of national libraries, the role of national libraries in building learning data, research and development for AI utilization and frameworks to do so, and AI literacy and libraries.



Talk



Participants in a successful collaboration between the NLK and the NDL

### Reference:

The lecture materials and recorded videos are available on our website in either the Japanese or Korean language, as shown below.

- Lecture materials and recorded video [Lecture—Connecting the World with Intelligence and Culture: Initiatives of the National Library of Korea](#)

## Events

# The 14th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service

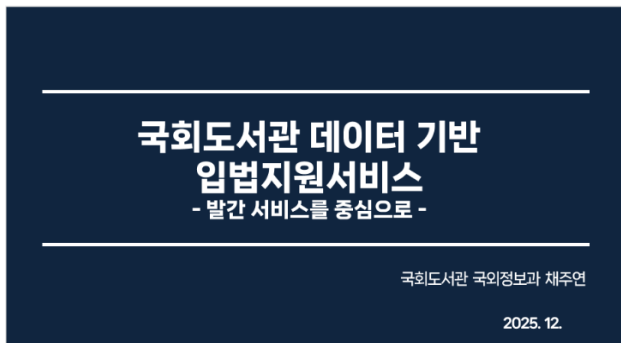
Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

The 14th mutual visit program with [the National Assembly Library](#) (NAL) and [the National Assembly Research Service](#) (NARS) of Korea was held in Seoul from December 1 to 4, 2025.

## Session 1:

### Joint seminar with the NAL

- NAL presentation titled *NAL's Legislative Support Services Based on Data: Focusing on Publication Services* by CHAE Ju-Yeon (Deputy Director, Foreign Information Division)
- NDL presentation titled *Information Provision Services of the NDL to the National Diet* by SASAKO Masashige (Director, Research Cooperation Office)



Title slide to the NAL presentation

Ms. CHAE gave an overview of legislative support services based on data the NAL puts efforts into while showing some publications including data-visualization infographics. Mr. SASAKO presented an outline of information provision services to the National Diet such as publications of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau and electronic information resources.

After their presentations, a Q&A session was held and the participants at the seminar had an exchange regarding topics such as the background behind the launch of infographic materials and the training of researchers.



Session 1 participants

## Session 2:

### Joint seminar with the NARS

- NARS presentation titled *Results and Challenges of the Korea-U.S. Security and Trade Negotiations: The Renaissance of the Korea-U.S. Alliance* by KIM Dohee (Legislative Researcher, Foreign Affairs and National Security Team)
- NDL presentation titled *Results and Challenges of the Japan-U.S. Tariff Negotiations* by AMEMIYA Takushi (Researcher, Economy, Trade and Industry Division)



Title slide to the NDL presentation

Both Dr. KIM and Mr. AMEMIYA reported on the results and challenges of their countries' trade negotiations with the United States. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session and the participants exchanged ideas about the results of the negotiations, their impact on prices and support for companies affected by tariff measures.



Session 2 participants

## Reference:

- [Chronology of Mutual Visit Programs between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service](#)

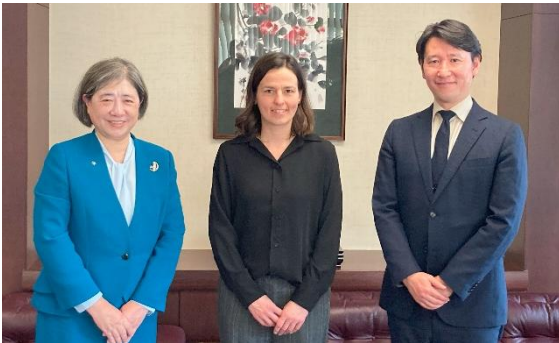
## Events

## The International Policy Seminar FY2025: Recent Political Trends in European Countries

Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

The National Diet Library (NDL) provides information and research services to members of the National Diet of Japan as well as to Japanese citizens. As part of these legislative support services, every year we invite a leading scholar from overseas to speak at an international policy seminar.

In recent years, as mainstream parties across Europe show signs of decline, so-called "challenger parties" have emerged to create an entirely new political dimension. It was with these circumstances in mind that the NDL's International Policy Seminar for FY2025, titled "Recent Political Trends in European Countries" was held online on February 3, 2026.



NDL Director General KURATA Keiko (left) with Prof. Ruth DASSONNEVILLE and Prof. HINO Airo (right)

The seminar comprised a keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Ruth DASSONNEVILLE of KU Leuven, Kingdom of Belgium, commentary by Prof. HINO Airo of Waseda University, who served as coordinator, and reports by panelists Prof. AMIYA Ryosuke of Tsuda University and Prof. ITO Takeshi of The University of Tokyo, all of which was followed by a panel discussion.

### Keynote lecture

Prof. Dassonneville delivered a keynote lecture titled "Change and Instability in European Politics." She utilized empirical data to explain the electoral volatility that has become so pronounced in some European countries. One potential driver of this change is the emergence of new sociocultural dimensions, which have led to the rise of challenger parties that compete with mainstream parties. Prof. Dassonneville further speculates that this is what has caused the fragmentation of political systems and as a result the political instability.

Her presentation materials are available on the NDL website as a PDF file in either the original [English](#) or a [Japanese translation](#).

### Commentary and reports

The keynote lecture was followed by commentary by Prof. Hino as well as reports from panelists Profs. Amiya and Ito.

Key points were raised about conventional understanding of party systems, including whether new political competition is bi-dimensional or multi-dimensional and how Europe's new sociocultural dimensions will prioritize factors such as gender, environment, immigration, and the EU.

### Panel discussion

Following the commentary and reports, a panel discussion was held in which the keynote speaker, the coordinator, and the panelists considered various points aroused from questions by the audience.

The discussions touched on topics such as factors behind the decline of mainstream parties and the rise of challenger parties. Also mentioned were the various efforts undertaken to counter the fact that voters have become increasingly distant from politics as well as the impact of electoral systems on the transformation of party systems.



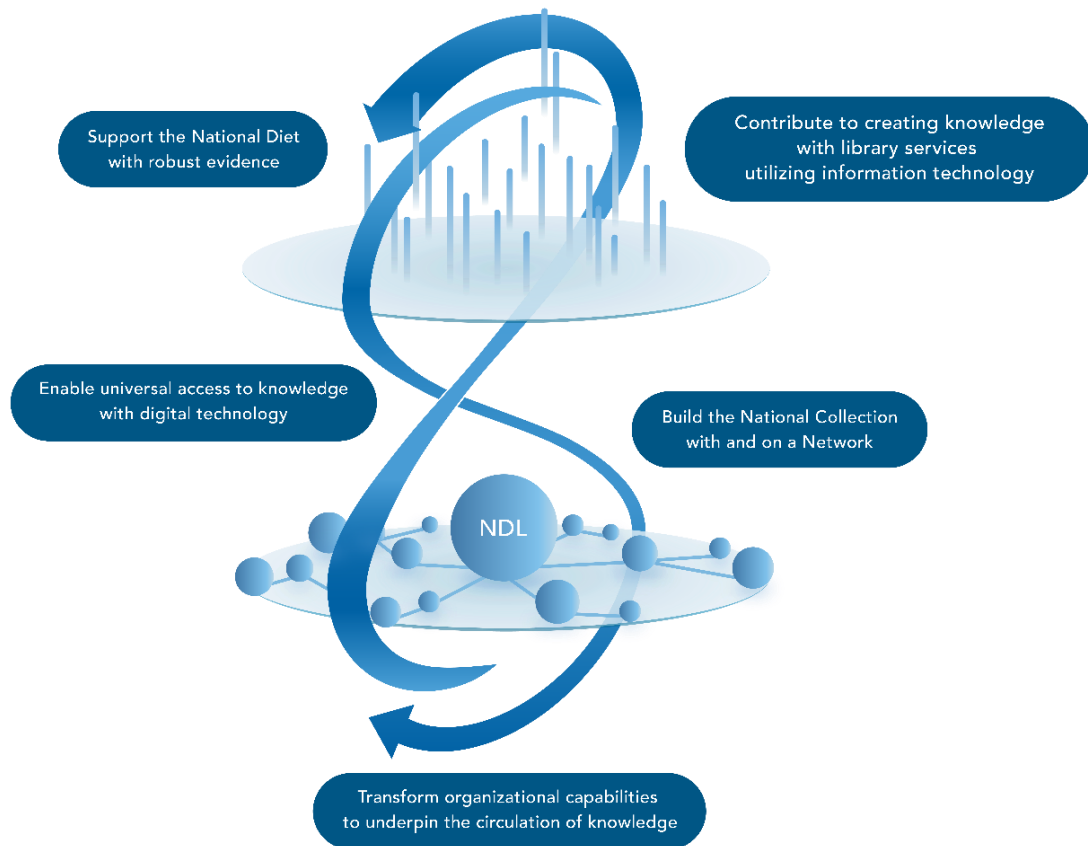
Panel discussion

This International Policy Seminar was an opportunity for the nearly 200 people who attended to share their own insights regarding Japan's increasingly multiparty political dimension. The NDL was pleased to receive positive feedback from most participants, such as comments that indicated the ideas presented at the seminar were valuable for understanding and analyzing not just recent political trends in Europe but, by extension, political and electoral developments in Japan.

An overview of this seminar will be published and made available on the NDL website as part of the NDL's summer 2026 Research Materials.

News from the NDL

# National Diet Library Vision 2026-2030: Co-create the Circulation of Knowledge



Five initiatives to co-create the circulation of knowledge with all stakeholders in response to changes in the information ecosystem

## About the NDL's new Vision

On April 1, the NDL launched our new vision, "National Diet Library Vision 2026-2030: Co-create the Circulation of Knowledge."

The "Circulation of Knowledge" in this vision refers to a growing cyclical process where the National Collection is used for the purpose of the National Diet's activities, intellectual activities and other activities. New knowledge or information created as a result of these activities then improves the National Collection.

While the NDL has historically built the National Collection largely on its own, we aim to re-define the National Collection in response to changes in the information ecosystem and collectively build and expand the National Collection with affiliated institutions. We will also prioritize co-creating the circulation of knowledge with stakeholders who use, produce, and manage information resources, based on the National Collection.

We have established five initiatives for the five years starting in FY2026, as follows, to achieve the aims mentioned above.

## The five initiatives of the new Vision

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Initiative 1 | Build the National Collection with and on a Network                                     |
| Initiative 2 | Enable universal access to knowledge with digital technology                            |
| Initiative 3 | Support the National Diet with robust evidence  |
| Initiative 4 | Contribute to creating knowledge with library services utilizing information technology |
| Initiative 5 | Transform organizational capabilities to underpin the circulation of knowledge          |

The NDL is launching various projects to realize its vision.  
[National Diet Library Vision 2026-2030](#)

## Related articles from the National Diet Library Newsletter:

- [National Diet Library Vision 2021-2025: the Digital Shift at the National Diet Library \(No. 239, June 2021\)](#)

News from NDL

## The National Diet Library in Figures From the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2024

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 777 (January 2026).*

Here are key statistics related to the business, services and organization of the National Diet Library (NDL) based on the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2024. The annual report is available at the NDL website (in Japanese). <https://www.ndl.go.jp/publication/annual>

\* Figures are as of March 31, 2025 (results for FY 2024).

### Services for the Diet

Research on request

**32,685 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

**307 cases**

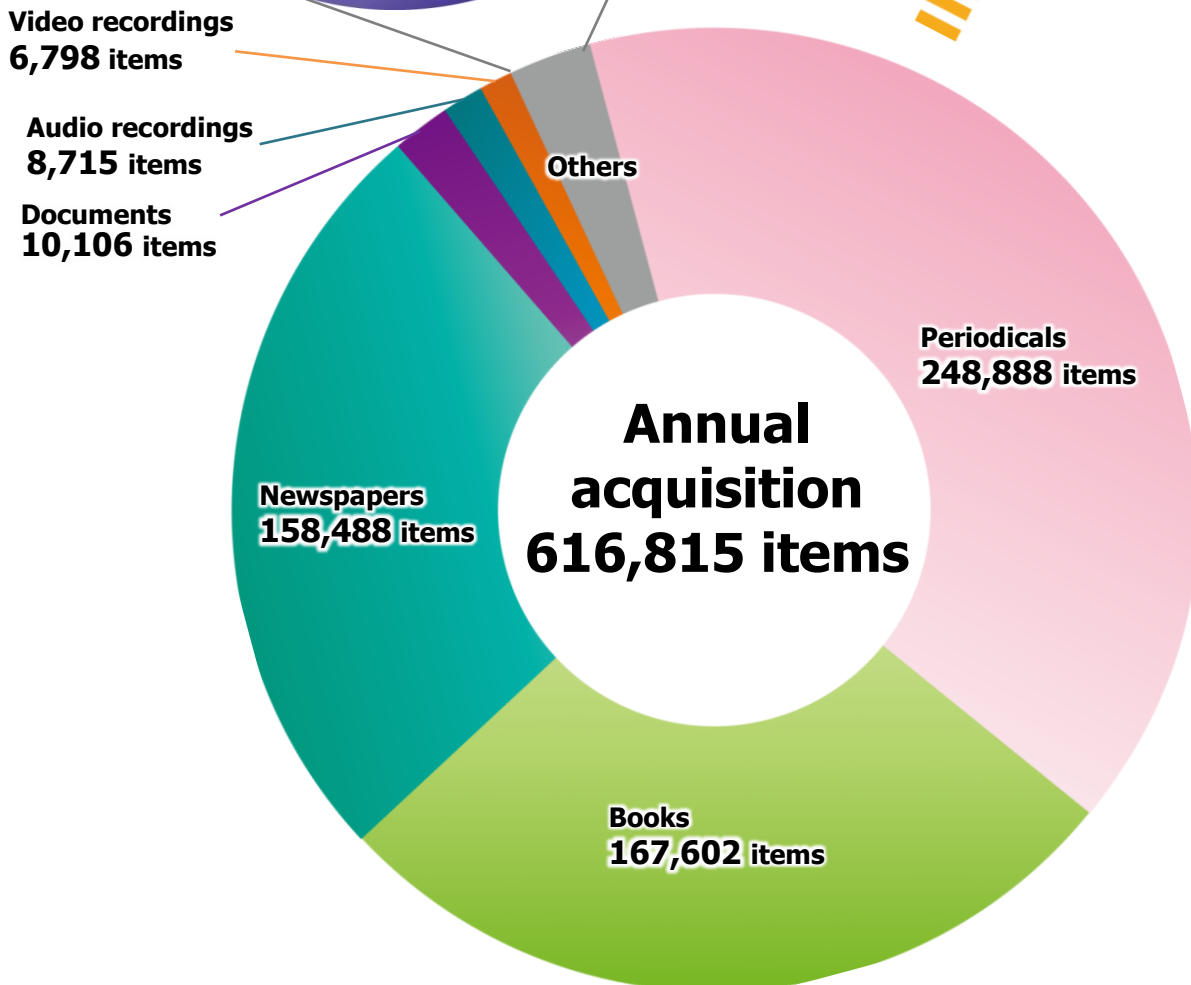
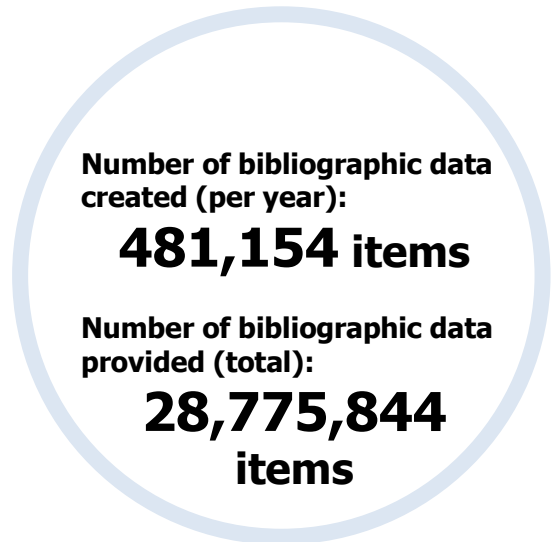
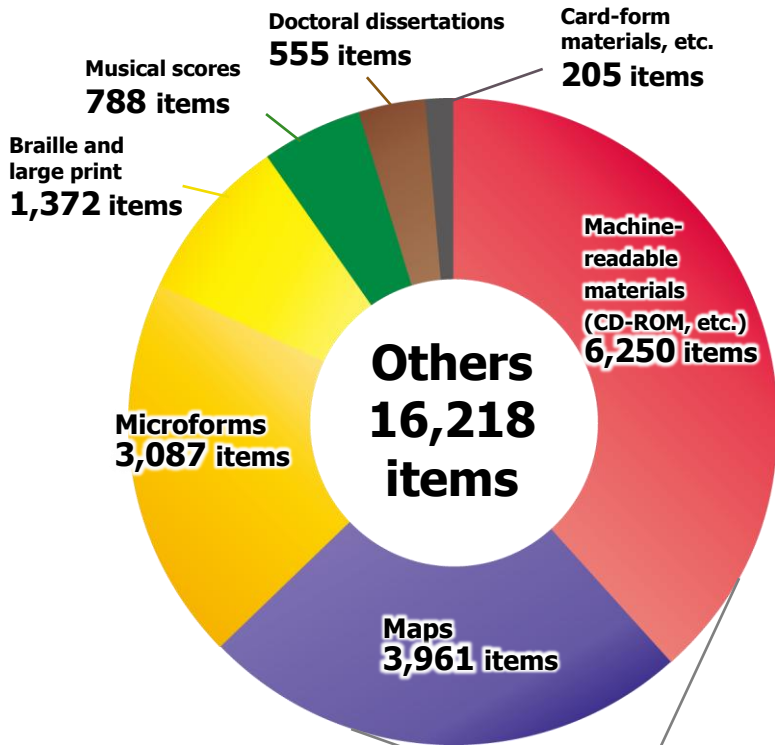


### Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government

Loan services

**3,033 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.





**Bibliographic data  
available for integrated  
search in NDL Search:**

**189,127,741 items**

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

**Data collected by  
the Web Archiving Project:**

**277,921 items**

**Collected data capacity:  
3.6 PB**

**Number of digital materials**

**Available via the internet:**

**2,013,800 items**

**Available with Digitized Contents  
Transmission Service:**

**2,052,268 items**

Data provided for the Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries/Individuals

**Available only at the NDL:**

**2,153,527 items**

**Loan services to libraries**

**11,892 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**

**250,014 cases**

Number of cases of photoduplication services requested without visiting

**On-site users****669,616 people**

**Tokyo** 457,444 people  
**Kansai** 73,478 people  
**ILCL** 138,694 people

**Tokyo**

Tokyo Main Library

**Kansai**

Kansai-kan

**ILCL**International Library  
of Children's Literature**Reading services****1,712,416 items**

**Tokyo** 1,616,207 items  
**Kansai** 67,977 items  
**ILCL** 28,212 items

Number of items requested  
for reading by on-site users**On-site photoduplication  
services****906,900 cases**Of which, printout services  
for digital materials**480,519 cases**Number of cases of photoduplication  
services requested by on-site users**Visitors to the NDL  
website****57,913,665  
accesses**Various databases such as catalogs  
of collections, proceedings of the  
Diet and other useful information for  
research are available through the  
Internet.**Budget and accounts of all facilities**

Current expenditure budget:

**Approx. 29,511 million yen**

Settlement amount:

**Approx. 24,946 million yen**Amount brought forward from the preceding FY: Approx. 5,770 million yen  
Amount carried forward to the succeeding FY: Approx. 3,845 million yen**Number of staff  
members****895 members****Male: 48.2 %****Female: 51.8 %**Proportion of women in  
Senior Specialist and  
managerial posts  
Approx. 38.0 %**Total floor space****246,284 m<sup>2</sup>****Tokyo****147,853 m<sup>2</sup>**

Detached Library in the Diet

**1,331 m<sup>2</sup>****Kansai****84,339 m<sup>2</sup>****ILCL****12,761 m<sup>2</sup>****Total storage space****120,578 m<sup>2</sup>****77,829 m<sup>2</sup>****609 m<sup>2</sup>****39,026 m<sup>2</sup>****3,114 m<sup>2</sup>****Total area of  
reading rooms****25,864 m<sup>2</sup>****18,983 m<sup>2</sup>****562 m<sup>2</sup>****4,265 m<sup>2</sup>****2,054 m<sup>2</sup>**

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

## The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 779, March 2026/ No.780, April 2026

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. 779, March 2026 \(PDF: 4.82 MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>  
Noh as seen through the eyes of non-Japanese  
T. Nogami, *Japanese Noh Plays: How to See Them*
- Materials for Japanese Studies outside Japan:  
Researching family crests  
KOYAMA Noboru
- Travel writing on world libraries  
Bibliothèque nationale de France
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Connect with the world through legislative research  
and information services
- <Books not commercially available>  
*Kokubunken (oshi) no issatsu: Soritsu 50shunen  
kinen tenji*
- <NDL Topics>

### [No. 780, April 2026 \(PDF: 3.90 MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>  
*Nihongo no hokekyo*: ENAMI Bunzo, a nearly  
forgotten literary figure; ABE Yoshishige, on the last  
day of World War II
- National Diet Library Vision 2026-2030:  
Co-create the Circulation of Knowledge
- The Personal Libraries of Well-Known People (8)  
Nunokawa collection
- Strolling in the forest of books (31)  
What did homemade curry taste like in the Meiji Era?
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Strengthening connections with NDL branch libraries
- <Books not commercially available>  
*Ai chikyuhaku kaikoroku: 2005nen nihon kokusai  
hakurankai* (revised edition)
- <NDL Topics>