



New Directions for the ILCL Proposed Report of the Board of Inquiry on Expansion of Library Services of the ILCL submitted to the Librarian of the NDL Background and Summary of the Report

This is an excerpt translation of the article

“Report of the board of inquiry on expansion of library services of the ILCL

– process of discussion and overview of the report–”

and a translation of the article

“Report of the board of inquiry on expansion of library services of the ILCL (summary)”

in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 531 (June 2005)

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I Introduction

On March 16, 2005, the third meeting of the Board of Inquiry on Expansion of Library Services of the International Library of Children’s Literature (ILCL) was held and approved the report to be submitted to the Librarian of the National Diet Library by the chairperson, Mr. Satoru Takeuchi, on the same day.

This Board was the second to be summoned by the NDL. The first board submitted its report in 1995, based on which the National Diet Library formulated plans for the ILCL. According to the plan, the ILCL, partly opened in May 2000 and fully in May 2002, has functioned as a national center that supports a wide range of studies on children’s literature and the children’s book publishing in cooperation with other libraries inside and

outside Japan.

Though it has been three years since ILCL's full opening, some services that had been proposed in the 1995 report have not yet been implemented in full because of lack of space and the structural limitations of the building. In addition, the environment surrounding children's reading has changed so much since 1995 that it seems that new directions should be sought again.

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II Board of Inquiry on Expansion of Library Services of the ILCL

The new Board was established in September 2004 with 14 members consisting of representatives of related institutions and organizations as well as experts in children's books and reading. The Board first met in September 2004 to elect as chairperson Mr. Satoru Takeuchi, who then appointed Mr. Tadashi Matsui as deputy chairperson. The Librarian of the NDL consulted the Board to seek their views on the future direction of improvement of the ILCL services. The Board set up a working group to examine the subject in more detail and draw up a draft proposal based on the discussion at the Board meetings. The Board met twice more in December 2004 and March 2005, while the working group had five meetings from October 2004 to March 2005. At the last Board meeting a report was submitted to the Librarian of the NDL. To assist with the work of the Board, a few NDL staff members were appointed as secretaries, and the Planning and Cooperation Division of the ILCL served as the Board secretariat.

The members of the Board and the working group were as follows:

Chairperson: Satoru Takeuchi, Director General,
Japan Library Association*

Deputy chairperson: Tadashi Matsui,
Senior Corporate Advisor,
Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers Inc.

Members:

Muneo Ishii, Chairperson of the Board of Directors,

Japan School Library Association

Kuniko Kameda, President,

Japanese Board on Books for Young People

Norio Komine, President,

Japanese Association of Children's Books Publishers

Masamine Sasaki, Director General,

National Science Museum

Motoko Sato, Professor, University of Chiba

Taku Sugimoto, Associate Professor,

Chiba Institute of Technology

Yasuko Nakata, Chairperson,

Committee on Children and Young Adults,

Japan Library Association
Koji Nakanishi, Director-General,
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
Kenn Nakamura, Cultural writer, Asahi Shimbun
Akihiro Fujita, Deputy Director-General,
Life Long Learning Policy Bureau,
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Kyoko Matsuoka, Director, Tokyo Children's Library
Noyuri Mima, Deputy Director,
Research, Development and Education,
National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

Working group members: Motoko Sato (Leader), Yasuko Nakata

*Members' titles and affiliations as of March 2005

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III Summary of the "Report of the Board of Inquiry on Expansion of Library Services of the ILCL"

1 Changing environment surrounding children

The environment surrounding children has been changing greatly with the ongoing informatization of society, aging population with fewer children, and the increase in nuclear families. Under these circumstances, recognized anew are the mission and roles that libraries fulfill and play in fostering children's sensitivity and creativity. The importance of promoting children's reading has also been emphasized in the "Law on the Promotion of Reading Activities for Children" established in 2001, the activities of related organizations aiming to realize the spirit of the law, and the 2004 report of the Council for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, "Demands on National Language Proficiency in Future Eras."

The ILCL should recognize that expanding the services stated below is a requisite to fulfill its mission as the national center for children's literature in response to the rapid and large-scale changes surrounding children.

2 Future direction for expanding the ILCL services

The ILCL should expand its functions with the three pillars of major roles defined as a special library for children's literature, an intersection of children and books, and a museum of children's literature. Around these three pillars, five functions are regarded as the most important.

3 Expected roles of the ILCL

3.1 Function as a special library for children's literature (service for adults)

1) To sophisticate its function as information and resource center

The ILCL should establish a large reading room with a much more sophisticated function of providing information and further develop the collection which will be the basis of the reading room. The ILCL should add to its facility new stacks with a capacity of a million volumes which will be able to accommodate the increasing volume of materials in the next fifty years.

2) To promote its function of research and study

The ILCL should plan and implement research and study on children's books and at the same time should support researchers by providing information resources. The ILCL should also improve its facility to receive researchers and students from inside and outside of Japan for training.

3) To explore new roles for children's reading

In response to the introduction of the law which aims to promote children's reading activities and subsequent changes in environment, the ILCL should support the activities to promote children's reading and other related activities. In this regard, the ILCL should enhance its training programs, lectures, and workshops for librarians and others engaged in children's services so that they can develop their expertise to serve children better. The ILCL should also provide a function and a facility where those who are engaged in children's books and reading can form a cooperative network to share information and get to know each other.

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3.2 Function as an intersection of children and books (service for children)

4) To establish a function to support children's research and study using books in addition to support for children's reading

The ILCL should develop the core collection for children and provide a place for them to get in touch with books so that they can inherit traditional wisdom such as folk tales, get to know their own country and other countries, comprehend the earth and nature as a place for them to live in, and live an enriched life with books. The ILCL should also support children's "research" in addition to their "reading" taking into consideration the services most suitable for each stage of children's development. In establishing a function to support children's research, a focus should be put on the field of international study and science.

3.3 Functions as a museum

5) To further develop a museum function as a third pillar of the library services

An exhibition is a means to edit library's "resources" according to the chosen themes and display them in three dimensions. Coordination is needed to make the achievement of the library's collection development and the result of various studies and researches into a chance of meeting books. The ILCL should hold exhibitions for everyone who is interested in children's books and reading. The ILCL building can provide the most suitable facilities

to implement the museum projects such as these exhibitions. The ILCL should also hold not only the exhibitions for visitors but also electronic exhibitions on the Internet, and should provide support to the exhibition activities of public libraries.

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4 Digital information transmission and coordination/cooperation

The three pillars stated above must be underpinned by two kinds of infrastructure: digital information infrastructure and coordination/cooperation with other related institutions at home and abroad.

First with regard to digital information infrastructure, the ILCL should enhance its digital library function and transmit/propagate information on its activities on a wider scale. It is also necessary to expand the ongoing digital archive and digital museum projects.

Second it is essential to build up a network among libraries and other related institutions engaged in children's books and reading, not only in order to raise the level of the children's services nationwide but also to reinforce and expand the ILCL services. Furthermore, the ILCL is expected to contribute even more to the international community in the area of children's culture. It will be of great service to Asian countries for a network among those who work for children's books to be established in Asia.

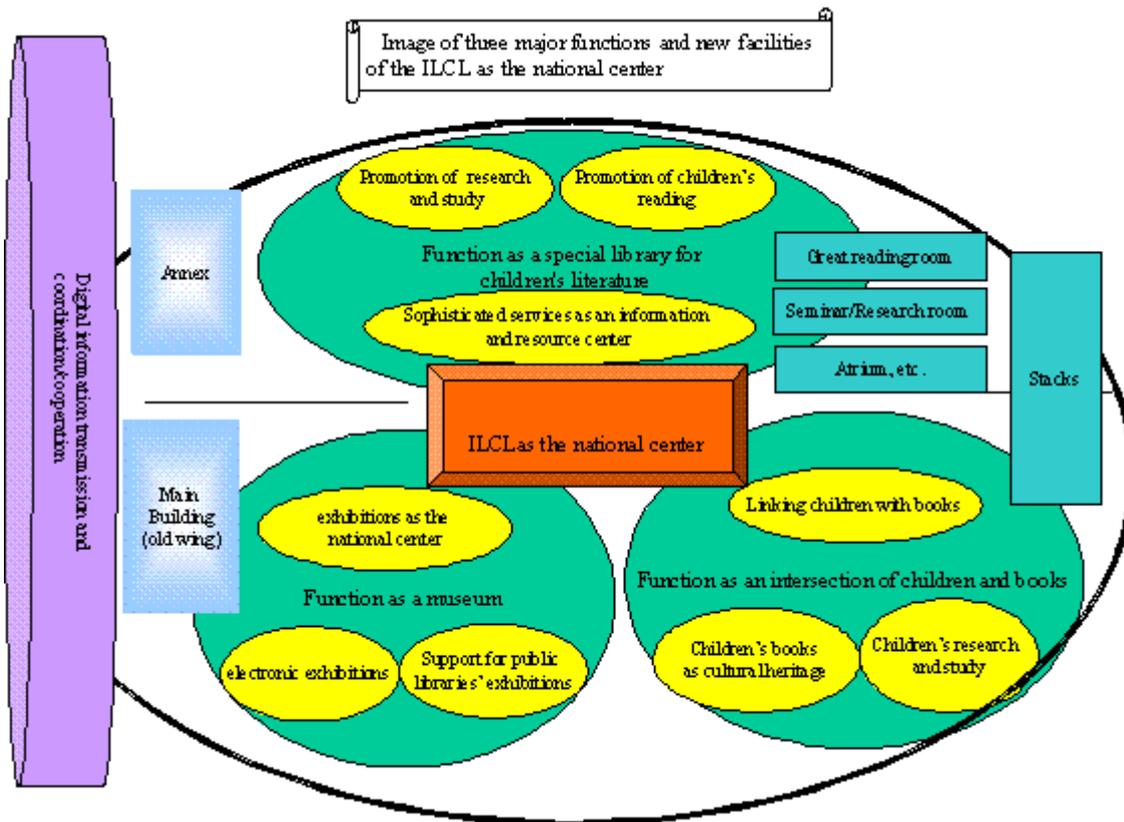
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5 Improvement of the system of operations and facilities

It is essential to improve the system to back up ILCL's operations while seeking further efficiency and rationalization in administration in order to fulfill the mission of the ILCL as the national center of children's literature from now on and into the future. It is also necessary to pull experienced and knowledgeable outside experts together and to secure and foster competent staff.

As the national center of children's literature, it is necessary to improve the working environment and conditions by extending facilities such as stacks, reading rooms, offices, etc., to accommodate the ever-increasing collections. Having inherited the tradition of 100 years from the Meiji era, the ILCL facilities should be something that Japanese can be proud of, while at the same time utilizing the latest technology and being environmentally aware.

The expansion should be built as an "Annex" in the NDL premises included in the Ueno Park of the Ueno Cultural Zone so that the Annex, near to the present ILCL building (main building), can be operated in tandem with the main building. The Annex should have stacks and function as a special library of children's literature for adults. The present library should function as an intersection of children and books and as a museum by making the best use of the attractive historical building which houses it.



For more information on the Board of Inquiry on Expansion of Library Services of the ILCL and its report, please contact:
 Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children's Literature
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The 9th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of Korea

A National Library of Korea (NLK) delegation visited Japan from May 31 to June 7, 2005, on the 9th mutual visit program between the NDL and the NLK. The program started in 1997 to promote interlibrary cooperation and to strengthen mutual understanding. For reports of past programs, please see [here](#). For an outline of the programs and reports presented at the programs, please see [here](#).



Delegation of the NLK at the Opening session: from left, Ms. Sun-Hwa Lee, Mr. In-Yong Shin, interpreter and Ms. Sook-Hee Han

Headed by Mr. In-Yong Shin, Director of the Thesis Library, this year's delegation had the following other members: Ms. Sun-Hwa Lee of the Thesis Library, and Ms. Sook-Hee Han of the Library Policy and International Relations Division.

In the opening session, recent developments in the two libraries were introduced. The session was held in the Tokyo Main Library of the NDL with participation from the Kansai-kan using the TV conference system. The following sessions were held under the theme of "Children's services" in the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL).

Opening session (June 1)

Mr. Shin from the NLK reported in his keynote speech on renovations and organizational restructure being undertaken by the NLK and its efforts to achieve policy objectives such

as acquisition of the online digital resources. The report of Ms. Ikuko Tozawa, Library Counsellor of the Administrative Department, was about the NDL's recent undertakings such as the new public services which started in October 2004, activity evaluation, acquisition and provision of information resources on the Internet, and cooperation with other libraries.

Session I and II : Children's services (June 2)



Session at the International Library of Children's Literature

The NLK is preparing for the establishment of the National Children's Library (tentative name) planned for next year. Ms. Lee presented an outline of this project at the session on the following day. Ms. Naoko Sato, Director of the Children's Services Division, ILCL and Mr. Hidetoshi Kanebako, Director of the Planning and Cooperation Division, ILCL reported respectively about services for children in the ILCL and its future plans. In the question period, participants exchanged information and views about a wide range of topics such as acquisition of foreign materials, classification for children's books, personnel training, cooperation with other institutions, and support program for researches. A guided tour of the ILCL was also provided on the same day.

Visits to the Kansai-kan and other institutions

After the sessions in Tokyo, the NLK delegation visited the Kansai-kan in

Kyoto. The Kansai-kan staff members provided them with a library tour, explanation of each section's work, and both parties exchanged opinions and information on various topics including acquisition and preservation of electronic information and copyright issues related to the digital library project.



The delegation at the Kansai-kan

The delegation also visited other institutions related to children and children's literature including the Chihiro Art Museum Tokyo, the International Institute for Children's Literature, Osaka, and the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka.

In the closing session held at the Kansai-kan on June 6, the reports and the discussions of the previous sessions were wrapped up. Both parties shared the significance of this mutual visit program and hoped for the further development of cooperative relationship of the two libraries.

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National Diet Library List of Subject Headings (FY2004 edition) available on the website

The National Diet Library List of Subject Headings (NDLSH) is applied to the catalogs compiled by the NDL. It is under revision now and the data accumulated up to March 2005 is available on the NDL website as the FY2004 edition.

http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/library/data/ndl_ndlsh.html (Japanese only)

Major revisions compared with the 5th edition (1991) are the following:

- added new headings
- introduced "see also" reference
- reviewed the way to apply subject subdivisions
- enhanced scope notes
- introduced class numbers of the Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC) newly revised 9th edition.

The NDL gathered opinions on the working edition of the NDLSH from librarians from October to December 2004. The FY2004 edition reflects them as much as possible.

(Bibliographic Control Division, Bibliography Department)





Electronic exhibitions of the NDL's collections "Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures" and "Incunabula – Dawn of Western Printing" upgraded

The electronic exhibitions of the NDL's collections "Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures" and "Incunabula – Dawn of Western Printing" were revised on August 4th, 2005. The English commentary which had been provided only in abridged form, now has almost the same contents as the Japanese edition. Moreover, the Japanese edition of "Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures" has been expanded with a list of the materials whose text can be read in the NDL's "Digital Library from the Meiji Era" selected from the materials which the respective person wrote or translated. If you are interested in a person, you can also try reading his/her literary works.

Please see: [NDL Gallery](#)





Development of Programs for Enhancement of Research and Reference Services to Diet Members

by Keiji Tsuchiya

Senior Researcher

Overseas Legislative Information Division

Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

This is the country report presented at the 8th APLAP (Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific) Conference in New Delhi in January 2005.

Introduction

Development of Programs towards the New Millennium

1. Reorganization of the Research Bureau (April 2001)
2. The Basic Plan for Services to the Diet (March 2001)
3. Reorganization of the National Diet Library (April 2002)
4. National Diet Library Vision 2004 (drawn up in February 2004)
5. Short-term Program for Implementing Principal Program (July 2004)

Main affairs referred to in programs for enhancing services to the Diet

I. Enhancement of the substance of legislative research and reference services to the Diet

1. Assessment on what has been done already
2. Planning

II. Enhancement of the infrastructure for services to the Diet

1. Personnel and training
2. Research Materials
3. Information dissemination from the Research Bureau
4. Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications
5. Facilities and equipments

Conclusion

Introduction

The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau ("the Research Bureau") of the National Diet Library has the function of providing legislative support services for the National Diet, the parliament of Japan ("the Diet").

The mission of the Research Bureau remains unchanged, but its practices have inevitably been transformed according to meet the new needs for legislative research services to reflect political, economical or social changes.

The most noticeable changes in these early years of the new millennium are the reforms of the Diet, the development of “the Information Society” or “Digital Society”, and the “Internationalization of Society” in Japan.

Evolutional movements in the Diet have been emerging in tangible form since the 1990s, as follows:

1. The advancement in the legislative and policy-making abilities of the Members of the Diet has been shown by the increasing number of bills proposed on the Members' own initiatives since 1993.
2. A Preliminary Research System was introduced in the House of Representatives in 1998, in accordance with the Amendment of the National Diet Law (1947 Law No.79). At the same time, the functions of monitoring and auditing the Executive Branch were enhanced in both Houses, when the appropriate committees were established.
3. In 1999, the Act for Promotion of Debate in the Diet was enacted (1999 Law No. 116), which abolished the position of Executive Officer in charge of explaining in the Diet and introduced the Face-To-Face Discussion between the Prime Minister and the Heads of Parties in the Diet, thereby enhancing the deliberation system.
4. In January 2000, the Research Commissions on the Constitution were established in both Houses to research and review the Constitution of Japan. The Commissions have energetically endeavored to investigate both the domestic and the foreign constitutional problems, using the personnel of the Diet Secretariats as well as the senior staff of our Research Bureau.

These transformations in the Diet have brought out the changes of needs in legislative support.

Development of Programs towards the New Millennium

The Research Bureau has endeavored to provide services and mechanisms to meet the needs emerging from the reforms in the Diet. To cope with the needs mentioned above, the Bureau has endeavored to plan and implement some programs in these years.

1. Reorganization of the Research Bureau (April 2001)

The Research Bureau reorganized its structure to make its services to the Diet more efficient, and started providing services based on its new organization from April 2001.

The new Research Bureau has been framed in accordance with main targets in enhancing its function for planning and coordinating services, providing materials and information for the research services, establishing an environment well suited to electronic information, enhancing its research units, steadily carrying out interdisciplinary research, and enhancing its research on foreign legislation.

2. The Basic Plan for Services to the Diet (March 2001)

In March 2001, the Research Bureau announced “The Basic Plan for Services to the Diet” providing for a period of about five years after the start of the new Bureau.

This Plan outlines and describes the main policies and the specific menu of the services for the Diet, presenting targets for, enhancing its research through an analytical approach, carrying out interdisciplinary research from a multi-perspectives viewpoint, enhancing the research on foreign legislative affairs, improving its functions for delivering legislative information and making the related services more efficient, and establishing a service system that takes its feasibility into consideration.

3. Reorganization of the National Diet Library (April 2002)

In April 2002, the National Diet Library reorganized its structure. It now consists of the Head Office in Tokyo which includes the Administrative Department, the Research Bureau, the Acquisitions Department, the Bibliography Department, the Public Services Department, the Reference and Special Collections Department, and the Detached Library in the Diet, the Kansai-kan which is a department of the NDL and the premise of which is located in the region neighboring both Osaka and Kyoto, the [International Library of Children’s Literature](#), and the [Toyo Bunko](#) (Oriental Library). [NDL Organization chart](#)

The Research Bureau in the reorganized National Diet Library renovated the Office for legislative materials so as to provide legislative materials and information including those received from governments at home and abroad or international organizations, to the Diet, the executive and judicial branches of government, and the general public.

4. National Diet Library Vision 2004 (drawn up in February 2004)

The National Diet Library has been working to provide services to satisfy the changing needs in the information and social environment. Two years after its fresh start, June 2004, the National Diet Library released the [NDL Vision 2004](#) that specifies the mission and roles to be implemented and to chart the course to be taken in future.

In this Vision, improvement of the research services to support the legislative activities of the Diet is given the highest priority.

5. Short-term Program for Implementing Principal Program (July 2004)

Based on the assessment of the legislative support services to the Diet during the three years after the commencement of the Basic Plan, the Research Bureau worked out the short-term program to prescribe the tasks and how to proceed with them.

This program emphasizes the following:

- Highly-elaborated research and precise information services meeting legislative needs should be provided promptly.
- Products and compilations completed in the process of services should be published in a timely and appropriate manner through either the print or electronic media.
- Legislative information in electronic form, which is generated in the process of the activities of the Diet, for instance proceedings and other information related to Acts, should be provided in such a manner that electronic devices are used to the full to

guarantee promptness and convenience.

- In line with “NDL Vision 2004” and “[Digital Library Medium Term Plan for 2004](#)”, it is essential to expand and improve the Electronic Library Services to the Diet, establishing the infrastructure for those services without delay.

These programs above-mentioned have been developed in accordance with the changes in needs and the changes in the services provided in response to the changing needs.

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Main affairs referred to in programs for enhancing services to the Diet

I. Enhancement of the substance of legislative research and reference services to the Diet

1. Assessment on what has been done already

(1) Identification of the needs of the Diet

We have made efforts to collect, share and analyze information on Bills to be submitted to the Diet in the current session, through materials released by the Cabinet, the Secretariats of each House of the Diet and others, and to acquire information by means of questionnaires to Members of the Diet. However, there is still room for improvement in acquiring and analyzing information by every means available including electronic media so as to exactly identify those needs.

(2) Research in response to the requests

We have made substantial progress in:

- completing written reports,
- summarizing or making abstracts of materials or information in foreign languages; we do not deliver materials in the original text without comment by the researcher in charge to the Members, who do not always understand the foreign language, unless they request the originals,
- uniting and coordinating the work of each research section or unit in the Research Bureau, coping with interdisciplinary matters.

We need further to endeavor to

- report, explain, lecture, comment or advise actively on the matters concerned at the committees or conference of the Members of the Diet.
- enhance “interdisciplinary research” or research from multiple perspectives.
- make closer selection or evaluation of the materials or information provided to assure the accuracy and usefulness
- have the Members aware of the availability of the website of the Research Bureau (“Chosa no Mado”).

(3) Research on matters anticipated on the researchers’ initiatives

(a) We have made substantial progress in ensuring the effective use of the “Basic Research Work Plan” which all staff members of the Research Bureau plan annually on

their own initiative.

(b) "The Outline of Political Issues at the Diet", that provides brief explanations on the critical issues to be debated in the current Session of the Diet, is to be published at the beginning of the Session, in the form of the Feature version of "Research and Information-ISSUE BRIEF-" (to be referred to later). This service has been carried on since 2003. The latest version that deals with specified issues relating to "Science and Technology" was published in November 2004.

(c) "Interdisciplinary research" has steadily been developed, and the results have been published at least once a year. The next step to be taken is a strict assessment of the performance of each researcher and to provide the research of high quality through an analytical approach.

(d) A research service system concerning the Constitution of Japan was established by the Office of the Constitution in the Research Bureau, corresponding to establishment of the Research Commission on the Constitution in each House of the Diet. The Office has made efforts not only to answer requests relevant to the Constitution in general but also to help the Commissions' research activities and published reports on the constitutions of some foreign countries.

(4) Publications of the research findings

The research findings are to be provided to the Diet through various media such as:

- "[Reference](#)" (monthly)
- "[Research and Information-ISSUE BRIEF-](#)"
- "[Foreign Legislation](#)" (quarterly; and bi-weekly version exclusively on the Diet WAN)
- "[Findings Monograph Series](#)"
- "Total Points of National Political Issues" (provided exclusively on the Diet WAN)

They have been provided to the public through the Web site of NDL since January 2004, except those provided exclusively on the Diet WAN.



2. Planning

(1) Enhancement of identification of legislative research needs

(a) Identification of trends of needs

We should accurately identify the needs of the Diet through closer analysis of the trends of requests for legislative research by making full use of the function in statistics of the Total System for Research and Information Services, in order to prepare in advance materials corresponding to those needs through research on our own initiatives, so that we can respond to requests more promptly and accurately when they are raised.

(b) Identification of the critical issues in the current Session of the Diet.

(2) Enhancement of research through analytical approach

We should promote staff on the basis of their competence in order to enhance research through analytical approach.

(3) Enhancement of anticipatory research

We have to carry on systematically and steadily the research according to the “Basic Research Work Plan” based on the identified needs mentioned above.

(4) Promotion of the interdisciplinary research

We have to promote the research through a multi-perspective approach, with collaboration among several research units of the Research Bureau.

(5) Promotion of research of constitutions at home and abroad

We need to raise efficiency of the Office of the Constitution and the cooperation between the Office and the other research units in the Research Bureau so that we can thoroughly support the activities of the Research Commissions on the Constitution in their final stages.

(6) Enhancement of the services providing information related to foreign legislation

We have to promote the collaboration between the Overseas Legislative Information Section and other research sections or units of the Research Bureau, as well as among the staff of the Overseas Legislative Information Section, each of whom is in charge of a different country.

(7) Enhancement of the function to provide information to support the legislative activities of the Members of the Diet

We have to make rapid progress in applying IT to the function of providing information to support the legislative activities of the Members of the Diet, in the following ways:

- making contents of the website of the Research Bureau (“Chosa no Mado”) more substantial.
- improving the function of either “Electronic Library” of the NDL or “Navigation” for the information distributed outside of the NDL.
- inform and encourage the members of the Diet to make good use of the information provided on the website of the Research Bureau.

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II. Enhancement of the infrastructure for services to the Diet

1. Personnel and training

(1) Problems

- Recently the number of veteran staff has decreased in the Research Bureau.
- Younger staff have not yet gained sufficient expertise.
- The Research Bureau has few staff who have the competence in advanced analytic research.

(2) Countermeasures; personnel policy

(a) According to “the guideline for developing competence of the staff in NDL” we will carry out personnel placement to heighten their aptitude and specialization.

- (b) In FY2003 we adopted a mid-career recruitment system so that we can acquire more specialized staff.
- (c) We will continue to interchange our staff with the Secretariats of both Houses and the other appropriate government agencies.
- (d) Since FY2004 we have dispatched younger staff to study abroad or study in a Japanese university.
- (e) For the tasks of interdisciplinary research, Constitutional research, overseas legislative information research and compilation of the Index of the Japanese Laws and Regulations, we will hire guest researchers and part-time researchers successively. In case of the need for advanced professional expertise or knowledge of special languages we will utilize the ability of guest researchers or part-time researchers.
- (f) In order to enrich our research services, we will endeavor to utilize external human resources, for example outsourcing a part of the research translations, writing and other work relevant to IT.

(3) Countermeasures; training

- (a) We will improve the "research work training" programs to put emphasis on practical contents to meet the requests of Diet members.
- (b) We will continue to carry out seminar-style training for the study of foreign statutes.
- (c) We have introduced training programs from external institutes, such as orientations of commercial databases, training by the National Personnel Authority, or IDE-JETRO (Institute of Developing Economies), and we will continue to expand these activities.
- (d) We will increase chances for researchers to learn foreign languages which have become important recently and remain a rarity in the Research Bureau.

2. Research Materials

- (1) Since FY2003 the budget for purchasing research materials has increased by 36%. We will draw up "the action plan for acquisition of research materials" by March 2005, so that we can execute it efficiently. This plan's purposes are for example:
 - (a) improve the work of selection and purchase of research materials
 - (b) endeavor to introduce new titles of foreign electronic journals
 - (c) endeavor to grasp and collect materials and information of the executive and judicial agencies of Japan which cannot be acquired through the normal route
 - (d) improve the acquisition of foreign books and magazines to meet the needs of the Diet
 - (e) in the acquisition of electronic publications, in principle put more emphasis on network resources rather than packaged resources such as CD-ROMs.
- (2) We have introduced commercial databases, for example, Factiva, Lexis-Nexis on the Web, Inside-Web and Data-Star. If any of these databases is rarely used, it can be replaced by another.
- (3) In FY2004 we were admitted to membership of the "Japan Center for Economic Research". Since then its services have been available to us.

3. Information dissemination from the Research Bureau

- (1) In 2003 "Total System for Research and Information Services" got two additional functions,
 - (a) Exclusive page for Diet members
 - (b) SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) service, which gives the titles of newly published articles for Diet members registered for the service.
- (2) "[Index of Japanese Laws and Regulations Database](#)" was opened to the public in June 2004.
- (3) "Chosa no Mado (Gateway to Research Services) on the Internet" started up (only for Diet members) in April 2004.
- (4) The number of accesses to the "[Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet](#)" is growing year after year. (FY2002: 400,076, FY2003: 523,002)
- (5) Now we are engaged in construction of the "[Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet](#)" (*opened to the public on July 1, 2005)
- (6) We started to provide digitized articles of the Research Bureau's publications through the NDL website in addition to "Chosa no Mado" on May 28, 2004.

4. Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications

- (1) In December 2003, the [Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room](#) was set up by integration of the Statutes and Parliamentary Documents Room and the Law, Politics and Official Publications Room. Since October 1, 2004, the Tokyo Main Library has extended its opening days and hours after the completion of its remodeling. Now we are making efforts to improve services for the general public as well as Diet members.
- (2) We will endeavor to collect parliamentary documents of several regions, which are difficult for us to acquire, for example, Asia, Latin-America and Northern Europe.
- (3) We will endeavor to collect web resources of foreign organizations, especially those published only in electronic media. We will also try to build a structure for information exchange with foreign organizations through the Internet.
- (4) We will endeavor to enrich the contents of the "Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room" on the NDL website.

5. Facilities and equipments

We have already refurbished the reading rooms for Diet Members (14 individual study rooms, 1 seminar rooms, 5 meeting rooms). In addition, since October 2004, we have set up a "special study room" for secretaries of Diet members.

Conclusion

Whether the parliament can function well or not in the new millennium depends on the accurate and ample legislative support of the parliamentary library. In order to enhance its support services, the parliamentary library should obtain all appropriate information and human resources available. Among these, competence of the staff is the most important factor for enhancement of our research services.

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Services for children in the International Library of Children's Literature: Sharing the pleasure of reading with children (part 1/2)

by Naoko Sato

Director, Children's Services Division, International Library of Children's Literature

This is a translation of the article of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 528 (March 2005).

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Introduction

The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) went into its sixth year in May 2005 since its opening in 2000. We launched "services for children" of which the National Diet Library (NDL) had had no previous experience, with an establishment of the Children's Services Division when the library fully opened in 2002. Here I would like to review how we decided to offer services to children and how we have been developing the services for these several years, and based on that, I will take this opportunity to reconsider the

purpose of providing services for children in our library and to present a future perspective.

1. Movement toward the opening of the ILCL

It was at the end of 1994 that the NDL decided to renovate the building of the former Ueno Library, a branch library of the NDL, which has had a nearly hundred years of history since being built as the Imperial Library in 1906, in order to house a library of children's literature. At that time there was a widespread movement of Diet members and citizens who were concerned about the "tendency among children to read less" and the NDL had received a series of requests for the establishment of a "national library for children."

The commission inside the NDL established in January 1995 drew up Draft Proposal of the Concept of a Library of Children's Literature in March, followed by the submission of the report to the Librarian of the NDL in November 1995 by the Board of Inquiry on an NDL Facility to Provide Children's Books and Others, a board consisting of external experts established in July of the same year. Based on this report, the NDL formulated the Basic Plan for a Children's Literature Center (tentative name) in May 1996.

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2. Concepts of services for children

The Draft Proposal of the Concept of a Library of Children's Literature classifies the direct services for children (defined as users under the age of 18 years) as "the secondary service" of which the "objective is to create, based on a collection of extra copies, a place that allows children to enjoy reading just as they like. It will also serve as a base of support service for public librarians and other related people."

The Report places importance on exhibitions and events, stating: "The concept is a library available for children, but as a national library, it will be different from front-line libraries. It will offer a place for children to meet books and get close to them through exhibitions, tours, classroom groups visiting the library, and other events, making good use of computer terminals and audio-visual equipment. It will also aim for well-developed services for children utilizing networks with libraries and other institutions around the country and the digital library function" (excerpt from the Report of the Board of Inquiry on an NDL Facility to Provide Children's Books and Others (summary)).

Based on this concept, the Basic Plan for Children's Literature Center (tentative name) says: "The principles of services for children are the support of front-line libraries to encourage their services and the assurance of services of the same quality to be enjoyed by all children all over the country. Remote services will be offered through networks and using the digital library function, to enable children to access materials and information held by this center from libraries and schools around the country. Services for children visiting the facility consist of activities such as exhibitions, various events and tours, with the aim of being 'a place for children to get close to books' that can lead them to discover

the pleasure of reading and to get familiar with libraries in their neighborhood.”

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3. Discussions over the concepts of services for children

These concepts were put under consideration through a wide range of discussions extensively held at many opportunities, including in the newspapers, seeking for optimal services for children as a national library. Some argued that it is nonsense if a library for children does not lend out to children 120,000 books originally written for them, and others insisted that materials of the NDL should not be allowed to be touched by children because they are acquired via legal deposit and thus should be preserved carefully.

In response to these discussions the NDL stated its position as follows: “For a good relationship of children to books, the most important is the development of local libraries in their neighborhood and thus the NDL is expected to be the ‘last resort’ to support those libraries. Based on this understanding, if the Children’s Literature Center gives priority to its role as a resource and information center and a support to front-line libraries, this means that its ultimate goal is nothing else than to make a good environment for children’s reading and to enrich the relationships of children to books.”

There were also the following discussions inside the library: 1) It is necessary to have a field where services for children are actually offered in order to support front-line librarians and for training and upgrading the staff, so we should create a model for public libraries; 2) What the national government should do is to make it possible for all children to enjoy library services in their neighborhood; 3) It is true that a direct service is important, but there is a risk that such a front-line service may absorb resources that are supposed to be used for the essential function as a resource and information center. Whatever position the NDL would take, it was anticipated that the issue of the staff would be one of the most important keys in thinking about this matter, that is, who should be in charge of the services for children, and how to secure experts in the field.

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4. Change of the name to the “International Library of Children’s Literature”

In January 1997, the Planning Office of the International Library of Children’s Literature was established, and the name of the facility on the Basic Plan, “Children’s Literature Center,” was changed to the “International Library of Children’s Literature.” This shows a major turning point of the NDL’s previous concept which had positioned the function of a resource and information center as the axis of the facility. Also, the newly added adjective “international” expressed that the library would have a function to stimulate children’s international understanding and appreciation of other cultures, in addition to those of the acquisition of foreign materials including of Asian countries and of international library cooperation.

The NDL decided on the policy on direct services for children in July of that year. That is, by establishing a *Children's Library* in addition to the *Museum* and *Hall*, the facility would provide services for children such as reading service and reader's advisory service which would also offer opportunities of practicing and training for the staff members, as well as the services mentioned on the Basic Plan. To be specific, it was decided that services as follows would be provided from 2000 to the full opening in 2002: 1) digital library service (OPAC, provision of electronic books, etc.), 2) provision of an introduction video of the library and exhibitions of picture books and others, 3) placement of a *Corner to Enjoy Reading* (where mainly extra copies of children's books published in Japan and picture books of foreign countries are available). After the full opening, 1) regular/special exhibitions, 2) digital library service, 3) library tours, 4) other events in the *Museum* and the *Hall*, and services for children in the *Children's Library* such as reading service and reader's advisory service, services developed from those offered in the *Corner to Enjoy Reading* during the previous period.

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5. Opening of the International Library of Children's Literature

The International Library of Children's Literature opened on May 5, Children's Day, 2000, and that year was designated as "National Year of Reading for Children" in commemoration of the opening of the ILCL. This was the first time for the NDL in its history to accept children as users except for a certain short period after the War. At this moment, we accepted to play "the double role of offering services directly for children as well as for people who serve children, which is mandated especially to this library," as Her Majesty The Empress expressed in her address at the opening ceremony.

At this opening of a part of the building, it was decided that the library would be managed by two divisions, that is, the Planning and Cooperation Division and the Resources and Information Division. The latter consisted of a Resources and Information Section and a Children's Services Section. The duties of the Children's Services Section were defined as 1) exhibitions, 2) events using children's books and related materials, 3) management of the *Museum* and the *Children's Library*, 4) library visits and tours for children.

We started to offer services for children in the *Children's Library* (actually *Work Room*) established on the 4th floor of the Showa era building (a wing added in 1929) which had been renovated by that time, with about 3,000 picture books and other materials on the open shelves. At the same time, we provided contents of the digital library such as "Picture Book Gallery," and held eight exhibitions in two years.

After the opening ceremonies and events, without a pause, we started preparations for the full opening scheduled for two years later, such as, a plan for the construction and furnishing, acquisition and processing of materials, creation of contents of the digital library, and discussions about services for school libraries. Many people from outside followed these preparations with a high degree of attention and expectation.

Here I would like to make a special mention of an invited specialist in services for children, whom we had had as a staff member since the opening of the library, on secondment from the Tokyo Metropolitan Library. Without the assistance of an experienced specialist it would have been impossible for us to make a good start, because although the NDL had always held children's books published in Japan, we had had no experience of providing them to children, while it is said that the principles of services for children are "to know books," "to know children," and "to know how to connect children with books."

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6. Services for children after the full opening

The ILCL fully opened in May 2002. In April, in addition to the Planning and Cooperation Division and the Resources and Information Division, a Children's Services Division had been established consisting of two sections: the Project Promotion Section and the Children's Services Section. The former section is mainly in charge of: 1) Book Sets Lending Service to School Libraries, 2) cooperation to other libraries' activities related to children's reading, 3) management of the *Media Corner*. And the latter: 1) book selection and reading service for the *Children's Library* and *Meet the World*, and management of these rooms, 2) events for children, 3) library visits and tours for children. Exhibitions, of which the Children's Services Section had been in charge, were put under the responsibility of the Planning and Cooperation Division at the time of the full opening so that all the three divisions could share this work.

At the full opening, the *Children's Library* which had been on the 4th floor was moved to the first floor and enlarged, with *Meet the World* and the *Story Hour Room* newly situated close to it. In these rooms, services are provided to children based on the Execution Plan for Services of the ILCL after the Full Opening formulated in autumn 2001. Here are the services actually offered.

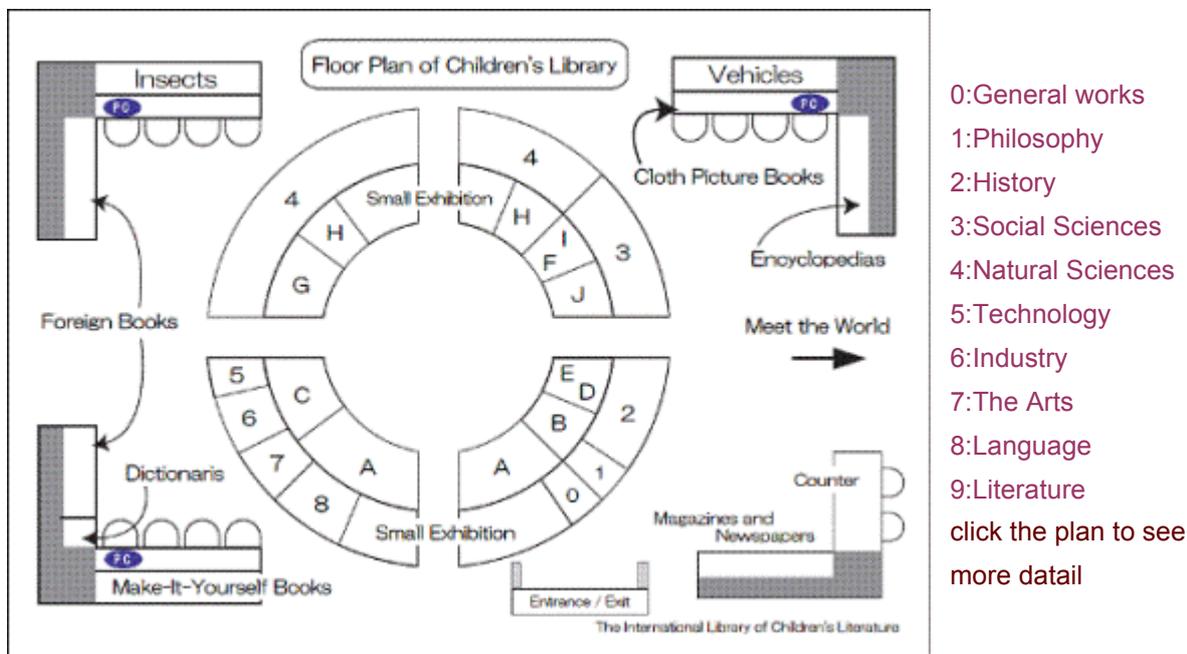


Children's Library

6-1. Reading service

In the *Children's Library*, about 8,000 books are on the open shelves, selected from basic books to be provided to children, that is, picture books and story books people have

enjoyed reading for generations, and knowledge books to stimulate children's curiosity and interest in science. These books are acquired mainly by purchase and accessioned exclusively as materials for the open shelves, apart from materials managed by the Resources and Information Division which are acquired mainly via legal deposit.



The objective of *Meet the World* is to encourage children to get interested in the world and to deepen their international understanding. For that purpose it makes available for children on the open shelves materials about the geography, history and folk customs of about 120 countries and regions from around the world as well as about 1,000 books of popular children's literature and folk tales of those countries and regions.



Meet the World

We also hold small exhibitions in these two rooms on various themes, seasonal or related to the current exhibition held in the Museum, displaying children's books with the covers in front in order to make it easy for children to find books that appeal to them and pick them

up.

The *Children's Library* is situated next to *Meet the World*. Linked by a door in the party wall, the two rooms are managed as one reading room. Staff members of the Resources and Information Division and the Children's Services Division take turns to give general information, offer reference services and assist in searching materials at the counter. We had 3.3 adult visitors to one child, calculated from an average of the number of visitors per day from January to December 2004 (58 children and 191 adults). It is rare that a child visits the library accompanied by no adult. On weekdays there are many mothers with babies, university students, and people who are active for children's reading in their local community, and on Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays, lots of families.

We don't lend out books, which is the most important difference between services for children in our library and those of public libraries in the children's neighborhood. Public librarians can learn a child's interests and introduce books which seem to be good for him/her through the books that are lent out and returned at the counter. Another disadvantage for us is that it is difficult to follow one child for a certain consecutive period of time and that in general we have only one chance to get to know a certain child, though it is important to hand over to a child books appropriate for his/her character and in accordance with his/her stage of development. That is why we are actively involved in floor-work, approaching children in the rooms to look for books with them and read for them. We always keep records of what we did in order to share the information and experiences among the staff members.

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[To be continued in the next issue \(No. 145\)](#)





Selections from the NDL collection

Tsukishima

Bibliographic information

Title: Tsukishima

Published: between 1615 and 1643

Description: 3 volumes, 26.8 x 19.3 cm, wooden-typed print, hand painted, some illustrations are missing

NDL call number: WA 7-253



Tsukishima is a ballad for *Kowaka-mai* (dance dramas) established in the Muromachi era (1338–1573). It is also called "*Hyogo*" or "*Hyogo tsukishima*." The literal meaning of "tsukishima" is "making an island," and the ballad is based on an episode when Taira no Kiyomori built a port in Fukuhara, Hyogo. The story starts with Kiyomori's decision to build a new port in Fukuhara. To ensure success in the construction of the port, 30 people are captured to make human sacrifices to the gods. Seeing the grief of the sacrifices and their families, Matsuo, a handsome young page who has gained Kiyomori's favor, offers himself as a sacrifice instead of the 30 people. Eventually he is sunk into the sea alive with 10 thousand copies of the Lotus Sutra, and this incident makes people call the port "*kyo-no-shima*," the island of sutra.

There is a record that *Tsukishima* was performed in 1545. Although there are some older

manuscripts, this is the first printed edition (wooden-type print) of *Tsukishima* and no copies of the same edition have been found. The year of publication is not clear, but it must be earlier than 1632, the year which a woodblock edition was published.



This book was designated as a rare book of the NDL by the 36th committee on the designation of rare books in January 2005. At this committee, two other Japanese books and eight western books were designated as rare books and one Japanese book and six titles of serial publications of the 19th century as semi-rare books. (In total, there are 1,206 rare books and 763 semi-rare books to date.)

You can see the whole text of *Tsukishima* in the [Rare Books Image Database](#) in the NDL website. The Database was redesigned in June 1, 2005, adding 39 titles to *Wakansho* (Japanese and Chinese Old Books), 4 titles to *Nishikie* and a new category "Ezu" which presents 53 old maps.

[How to use Rare Books Image Database](#)

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National Diet Library Newsletter

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Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals (Text in Japanese)

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin (no.517-). The text is provided in PDF format* (Japanese only).

*To see the full-text (PDF), you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download). Click [here](#) to download. ([Adobe Website](#))

[No. 533, August 2005](#) [PDF Format, 3.53MB]

- Report of the 13th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) [related article](#)
- Conference with directors of prefectural and major municipal libraries in fiscal 2005
 - 34th meeting of the Council on the Index to the History of Japanese Law
 - New facilities in the Tokyo Main Library
 - <Announcement>
 - More materials available on the Digital Library of Children's Literature
 - Books newly added to the Digital Library from the Meiji Era
 - <Invitation>
 - Practical workshop for librarians on early Japanese books FY2005
 - Training program on science and technology materials FY2005 – the collection of the NDL

[No. 532, July 2005](#) [PDF Format, 2.46MB]

- Priority objectives and service standards for FY2005 and evaluation for FY2004
 - Service standards for FY2005
 - Evaluation of service standards for FY2004
 - <Invitation>
- 2005 ILCL Lecture Series on Children's Literature – utilizing the ILCL collections

- The Collaborative Reference Database Project: call for participating libraries
- Virtual International Authority File and international cataloging principles: report of the lecture by Dr. Barbara B. Tillett, Chief of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, Library of Congress [related article](#)
 - <Announcement>
 - Energy conservation measures in the NDL
 - Summer event of the International Library of Children's Literature: Fun with science "Seeing the invisible – experiments with air using a rubber balloon"
 - The Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet available on the NDL website
- Japanese travelers 100 years ago: Records of journeys included in the Digital Library from the Meiji Era (Enchanting world of books – Guide to regular exhibition, 14) [related webpage \(Japanese only\)](#)

