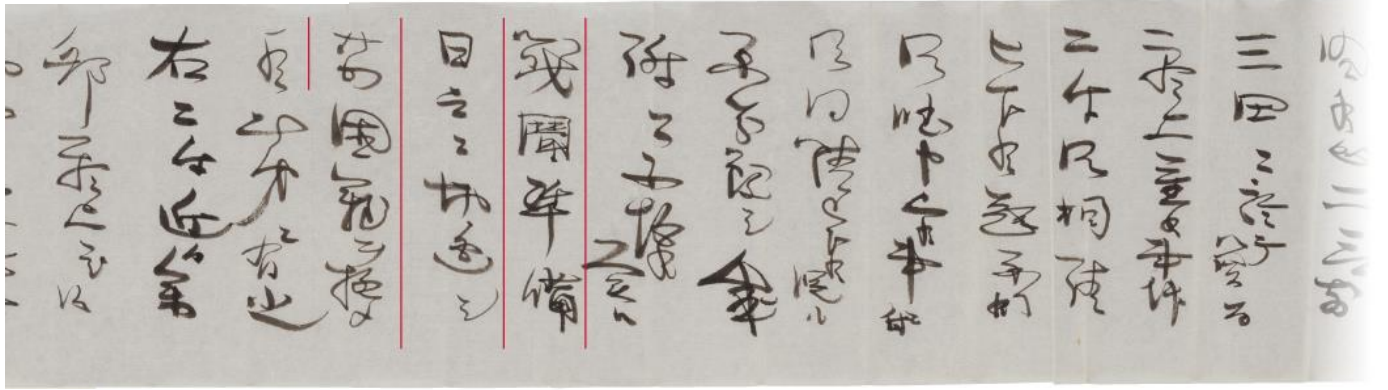


National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 262, April 2025



Online lecture

IFLA

International
Federation of
Library
Associations
and Institutions



<Speaker>
Dr. Marianne Martens

Activities of IFLA's Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section

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Selections from NDL collections

Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The KONDO Renpei Papers

Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

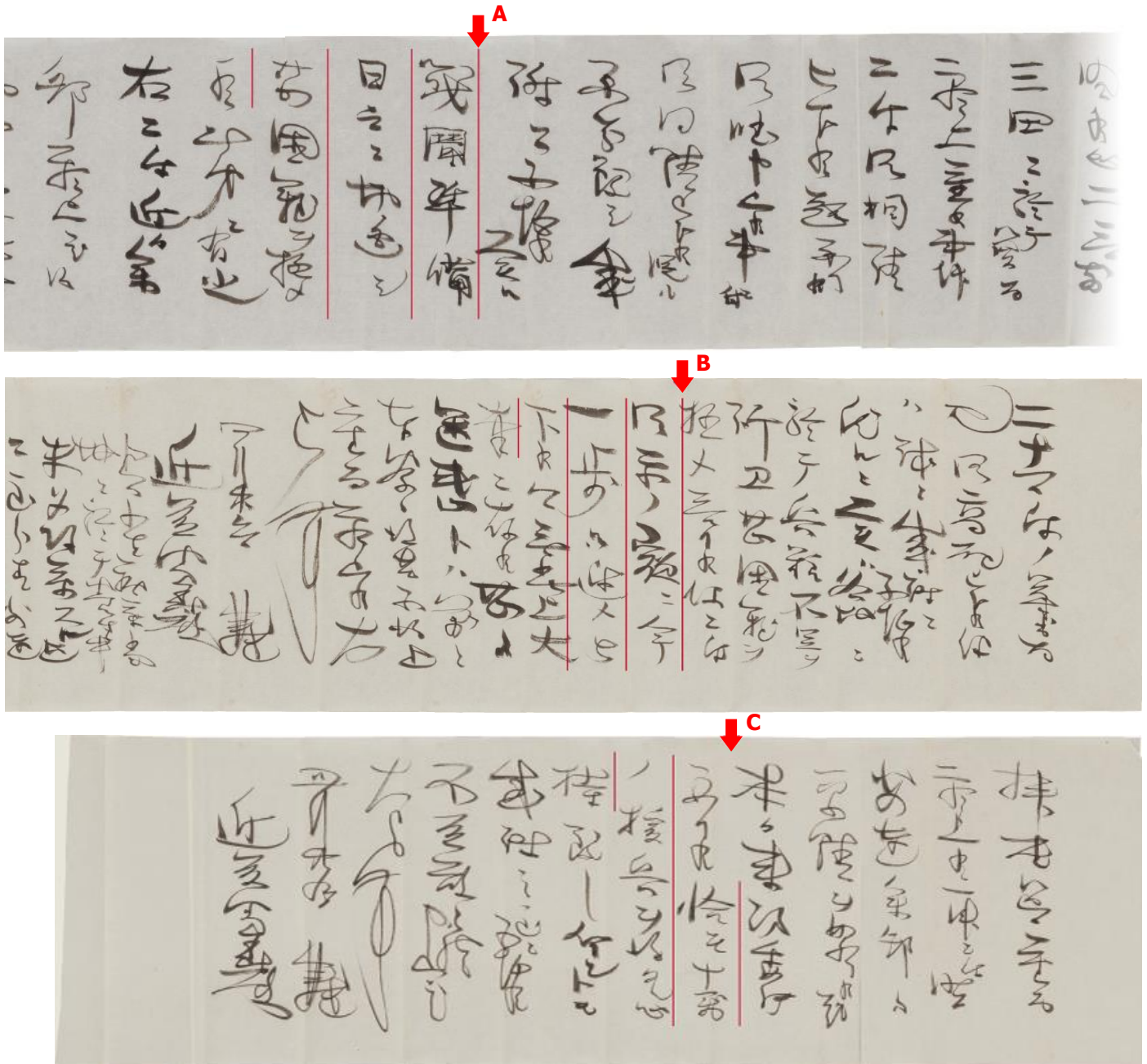
This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 751 \(November 2023\)](#).

Image 1: Letters from OURA Kanetake to KONDO Renpei, dated March 16, April 26, and April 29, 1912 (from top to bottom).

NDL Call No. KONDO Renpei Papers 75, 77, and 78.

Introduction

The National Diet Library holds 430,000 documents on modern Japanese political history, including the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers. This article is one of a series introducing materials available at [the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room](#) in the Tokyo Main Library.

These materials on modern Japanese political history primarily comprise documents that were donated by the families of prominent figures and are made available to the public after 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.

The KONDO Renpei Papers

(1813 items, available since June 2023)

As the Industrial Revolution in Japan progressed in the aftermath of the Russo-Japanese War, there arose an industrialist class that quickly acquired political influence that could not be ignored. OURA Kanetake was a member of the Japanese police force who was generally considered to have opposed the movement for democratic rights. He also worked to organize industrialists politically so that they would support the Meiji oligarchy. He also helped to form pro-government parties such as the Daido Club and the Chuo Club. As the 11th general election for the House of Representatives on May 15, 1912, was approaching, OURA sent letters (Image 1) to the industrialist KONDO Renpei, requesting financial support for a pro-government candidate. The first letter (A) begins with a lament: "Preparations for the battle are urgently needed, and we face extreme difficulties." This was followed by a second letter (B), requesting additional funds: "We would appreciate it if you could send us more than the proposed amount." A third letter (C) closes with: "I feel as if I have 100,000 reinforcements," indicating his satisfaction with the support he had received.

In October 1912, after the election, KONDO published *Keizai shiken (Personal Opinion on the Economy)*, which expressed concern about Japan's worsening balance of payments. KATSURA Taro shared the same concern, and when he was appointed Prime Minister for the third time in December of that year, he offered KONDO the position of Postal and Telecommunications Minister, but KONDO never actually took office.



Image 2: OURA Kanetake

OURA Kanetake (1850-1918)

Born in Kagoshima in 1850 to a samurai family of the Miyanojo Shimazu clan. He participated in the Boshin War and after the Meiji Restoration became a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, during which time he helped suppress the Seinan War (Satsuma Rebellion) and surveilled the Freedom and People's Rights Movement. After serving as governor of Shimane, Yamaguchi, Kumamoto, and Miyagi prefectures, he became Superintendent-General of the Metropolitan Police in 1898, and later became a member of the House of Peers as well as served as Postal and Telecommunications Minister, Agriculture and Commerce Minister, and Home Affairs Minister. After the Russo-Japanese War, he worked with Prime Minister KATSURA Taro and controlled the House of Peers as the leader of the Saiwai Club and also led the pro-government members of the House of Representatives, becoming an executive member of the Rikken Doshikai political party when it formed. In 1915, he lost his position due to a bribery scandal.

The portrait is from Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures.

(<https://www.ndl.go.jp/portrait/e/datas/450/>)



Image 3: KONDO Renpei

KONDO Renpei (1848-1921)

Born in 1848 in Tokushima to a family of doctors. He studied at Keio Gijuku (now Keio University) and Daigaku Nanko (now the University of Tokyo) and joined Mitsubishi Shokai in 1872. In 1883, he became manager of the Yokohama branch of Yubinkisen Mitsubishi. At this time, the government and business leaders who considered the company's monopoly status inappropriate established Kyodo Un'yu, resulting in fierce competition, but the two companies merged to form Nippon Yusen (NYK Line), with KONDO serving as president from 1895 until his death in 1921. After the Russo-Japanese War, he became a leader in the business world. In 1910 he was appointed head of Toshin Jitsugyodan (Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to China), in 1911 he was knighted baron, and in 1918 he was appointed to the House of Peers.

The portrait is from Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures.

(<https://www.ndl.go.jp/portrait/e/datas/566/>)

(Translated by KUBO Satoshi)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(1\)](#) (No. 200, June 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(2\)](#) (No. 201, August 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(3\)](#) (No. 202, October 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(4\)](#) (No. 203, December 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(5\)](#) (No. 220, October 2018)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(6\)](#) (No. 221, December

- 2018)
- [Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(7\)](#) (No. 225, August 2019)
- [Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(8\)](#) (No. 226, October 2019)
- [Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(9\)](#) (No. 233, November 2020)
- [Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(10\)](#) (No. 235, January 2021)
- [Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(11\)](#) (No. 241, October 2021)
- [Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(12\)](#) (No. 242, December 2021)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The YAMAGATA Aritomo Papers](#) (No. 251, June 2023)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The MOTONO Ichiro and Seiichi Papers](#) (No. 252, August 2023)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The UZAWA Fusaaki Papers](#) (No. 254, December 2023)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The America-Japan Society Papers](#) (No. 255, February 2024)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The KAWAKAMI Jotaro Papers](#) (No. 256, April 2024)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: *Shunpoko iboku* \[Scroll Book of Letters from ITO Hirobumi to MAKIMURA Masanao\]](#) (No. 257, June 2024)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The UTSUNOMIYA Taro Papers](#) (No. 258, August 2024)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The MOROHASHI Noboru Papers](#) (No. 259, October 2024)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The HONDA Kumataro Papers](#) (No. 260, December 2024)
- [Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: *Meiji cho meishisho* \(Scroll of Diplomatic Correspondence of the Early Meiji Era\)](#) (No. 261, February 2025)

Related content from the National Diet Library Website

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

Articles by NDL staff

Fun for Children

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

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in *NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 759/760 (July/August, 2024)*.



Singing nursery rhyme at the beginning of the "Special event for children in Autumn."

The Children's Services Division of the International Library of Children's Literature is the only division in the National Diet Library that has a role in providing services directly to children. We read books to children and organize events. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? But children are not always so easy to deal with. They can be very tough! If they are not interested, they easily become fidgety which makes us nervous and break out in a cold sweat. It is very difficult to get children interested in things. In order to make the children have fun, we seriously consider what to deliver and how to deliver it, and we practice how to deliver reading and singing to them.

Every year, we hold a "Special event for children in Autumn" in collaboration with the Ueno Zoological Garden, which is one of the projects where we want children to have fun! It is an event which combines picture books on specific animal themes with stories by a zookeeper. One of the past themes was "Rabbits." We selected interesting picture books featuring rabbits. One is *The Amazing Tree*

(*Gochiso no ki*), a delightful book written by Tanzanian picture book author John Kilaka, who illustrates the folktales of his home country in the Tingatinga¹ style. It is a story of a wise rabbit who saves animals from starvation. For the other book, we chose *Nani no ashiato kana* (What are these footprints?), a picture book with wonderful animal drawings by YABUCHI Masayuki, which makes us imagine the animal on the next page from the picture of the footprints. This book is a fun, quiz-style book in which the children answer questions posed by the person reading it.

The zookeeper introduced the characteristics and ecology of domestic rabbits² by giving a quiz about rabbits and showing specimens of their skulls and fur. Domestic rabbits produce two types of poop: small and round, and sticky. Sticky poop contains important nutrients so is eaten as soon as it is released, so it is rarely seen. It was full of fun to hear such unusual poop stories, but how was it for the children? The children's reactions were varied: listening to the stories, cheerfully answering the quizzes,

¹ Tingatinga is a well-known type of pop art in Tanzania. The genre is named after its founder, Tanzanian painter Edward Saidi Tingatinga (1932-1972), who painted on the side of the road.

² Domesticated breed derived from the wild European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).

taking notes enthusiastically, or just being bored.
Fun is a gateway to wanting to know, read and learn. If children are not interested, they will not go further on their own. Lately, we have been thinking that our job is to provide opportunities for children to pursue what they want to know on their own initiative. We are looking every day for what makes children think "This is fun!"

(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

Events

The 13th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service

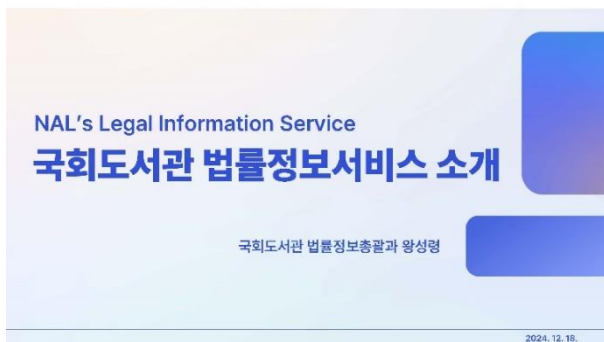
Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

The 13th mutual visit program with [the National Assembly Library \(NAL\)](#) and [the National Assembly Research Service \(NARS\)](#) of Korea was held online and hosted by the National Diet Library on December 18 and 19, 2024.

Session 1:

Joint seminar with the NAL

- NAL presentation titled *NAL's Legal Information Services* by WANG Seongryeong (Librarian, Law Library Coordination Division)
- NDL presentation titled *Provision of information related to the Diet* by SETOYUCHI Yuri (Researcher, Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Division)



Ms. WANG gave an overview of the legal information services the NAL puts efforts into while showing some examples from its website, such as research on legal information as well as its portal site operation and translation of foreign materials. Also, she mentioned the AI-based platform they are currently preparing. The NDL presented an outline of information services related to the Diet including the databases related to the National Diet, laws and regulations.

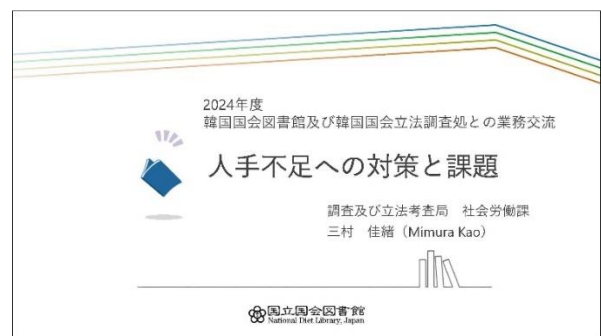
After their presentations, a Q&A session was held and the participants at the seminar had an exchange regarding topics such as the operational structure at each institution.



Session 2:

Joint seminar with the NARS

- NARS presentation titled *Countermeasures for Labor Shortages—Current status of Korea and its responses centering on Legal System of Labor Relations* by CHA Dongwook (Legislative Research Officer, the Society and Culture Research Office)
- NDL presentation titled *Measures and challenges in addressing the labor shortage* by MIMURA Kao (Researcher, Social Welfare and Labor Division)



Both Dr. CHA and Ms. MIMURA reported on the current situation and challenges of labor shortages in each country. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session and the participants exchanged ideas about the current employment situation in South Korea in the case of both young and elderly people, as well as the current situation in Japan of engaging in side jobs.



Reference:

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

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Reports of past programs in the NDL Newsletter](#)

News from NDL

The National Diet Library in Figures From the Annual Report of the National Diet Library FY 2023

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 2023. The annual report is available at the NDL website (in Japanese). <https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/publication/annual/index.html>

* Figures are as of March 31, 2024 (results for FY 2023).

Services for the Diet

Research on request

36,233 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

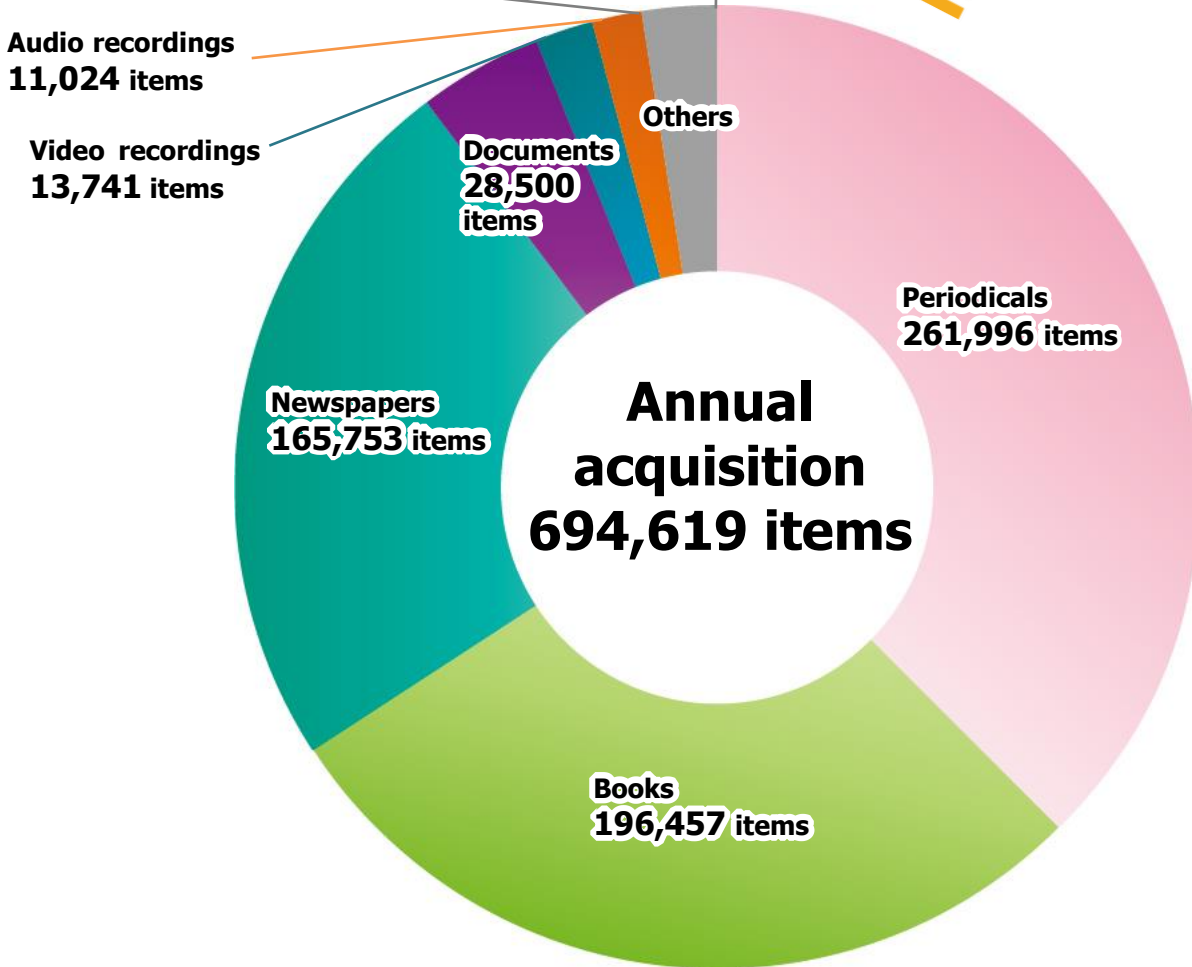
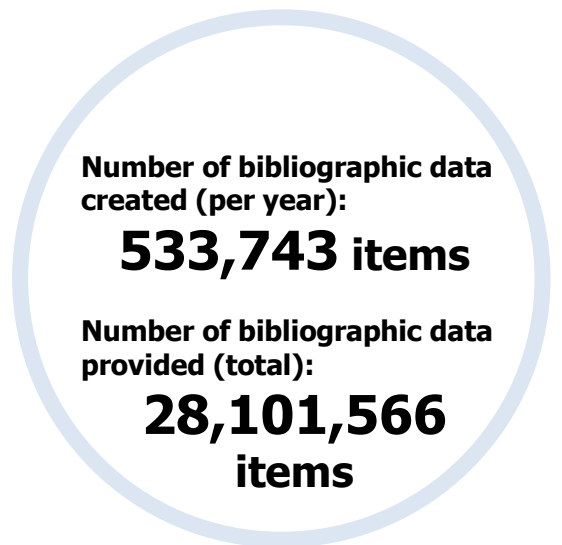
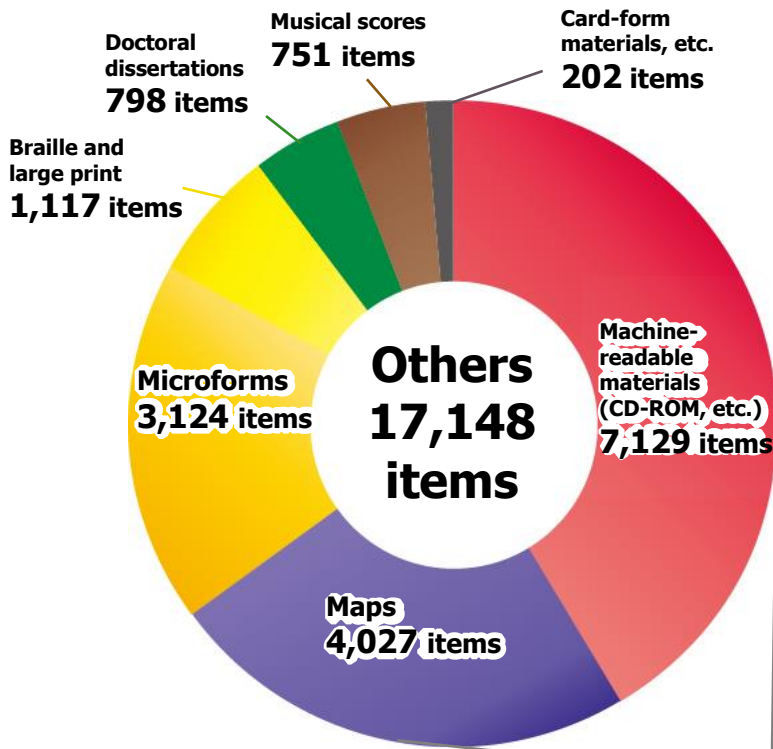


Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government

Loan services

3,344 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:**

**184,949,927
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:**

256,771 items

**Collected data capacity:
3.1 PB**



Number of digital materials

Available via the internet:

1,919,280 items

**Available with Digitized Contents
Transmission Service:**

1,803,834 items

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

Available only at the NDL:

1,855,509 items

Loan services to libraries

13,949 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**

255,806 cases

Number of cases of photoduplication services requested without visiting

On-site users**610,422 people**

Tokyo 413,407 people
Kansai 66,576 people
ILCL 130,439 people

Tokyo

Tokyo Main Library

Kansai

Kansai-kan

ILCLInternational Library
of Children's Literature**Reading services****1,767,221 items**

Tokyo 1,657,946 items
Kansai 77,634 items
ILCL 31,641 items

Number of items requested
for reading by on-site users**On-site photoduplication
services****952,547 cases**Of which, printout services
for digital materials**488,643 cases**Number of cases of photoduplication
services requested by on-site users**Visitors to the NDL
website****46,148,607
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. 30,967 million yen

Settlement amount:

Approx. 24,479 million yenAmount brought forward from the preceding FY: Approx. 5,653 million yen
Amount carried forward to the succeeding FY: Approx. 5,770 million yen**Number of staff
members****894 members****Male: 48.2 %****Female: 51.8 %**Proportion of women in
Senior Specialist and
managerial posts
Approx. 35.2%**Total floor space****246,284 m²****Tokyo****147,853 m²**

Detached Library in the Diet

1,331 m²**Kansai****84,339 m²****ILCL****12,761 m²****Total storage space****120,578 m²****77,829 m²****609 m²****39,026 m²****3,114 m²****Total area of
reading rooms****25,864 m²****18,983 m²****562 m²****4,265 m²****2,054 m²**

News from NDL

Online lecture "Activities of IFLA's Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section"

Planning and Cooperation Division, International Library of Children's Literature

The poster is titled "Online lecture" in a light green box at the top left. It features the IFLA logo (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) in green and black. The main title "Activities of IFLA's Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section" is written in large black font. A portrait of Dr. Marianne Martens is shown on the right, with the text "<Speaker> Dr. Marianne Martens" below it. The background is white with decorative green circles and a wavy line at the bottom.

The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) is pleased to announce that an online lecture, "Activities of IFLA's Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section" by Dr. Marianne Martens, Chair of the IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults (C&YA) Section, is now available on the official YouTube channel of the National Diet Library from March 18, 2025 (Tue.) to March 31, 2026 (Tue.).

Dr. Martens, who is also a professor at the School of Information at Kent State University, has been serving as the president of the IFLA C&YA Section since August 2021, leveraging her experience working at multiple publishing companies and as a children's librarian.

In the first part of the lecture, Dr. Martens introduces the activities of the C&YA section. In the second part, she responds to questions sent in advance, addressing children's services in libraries and the global situation of children's books.

We warmly invite not only those involved in children's services at libraries but also anyone interested in international library services and children's literature to join us for this insightful lecture!

Click here to watch: [Official YouTube Channel of the National Diet Library](#)

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 767, March 2025/ No.768, April 2025

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

No. 767, March 2025 (PDF: 5.13 MB)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
Admiration for Japan from Mexico: *Hiroshigué*
- National Diet Library initiatives to connect the general public with Open Science
- The Imperial Diet comes to life in the National Diet Library Digital Collections:
"The Imperial Diet Collection" undergoes a major expansion
- The Use of Materials from the National Diet Library in "Public Observation of Diet Sessions in Japan."
SUEKI Takanori
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
I Want to Read It 100 Years from Now, Too.
- <Books not commercially available>
Kodomo / Omocha no hakurankai = Toys Expo-Children in modern Japan: *Tokubetsuten*
- <NDL Topics>

No. 768, April 2025 (PDF: 4.85 MB)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
Oshiegusa: Woodblock prints illustrating the manufacturing process of products in the early Meiji era
- Do you know our remote training programs?
Receive training from the National Diet Library anytime, anywhere!
- Lecture related to the exhibition "Open, roll, and appear: The world of picture scrolls"
"How to Appreciate Picture Scrolls"
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
The secret enjoyment of the training section
- <Books not commercially available>
Tokyo kokuritsu hakubutsukan no moshu · *mozo* = Copies in the Tokyo National Museum collection:
Sosoki no tenji to kenkyu: Soritsu hyakugojunen kinen tokushu
- <NDL Topics>