

# JAPAN

## NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY

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## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE KANSAI-KAN COMPLETED

The construction of the Kansai-kan, a new facility of the National Diet Library (NDL) in Kansai Science City, 500 km away from Tokyo, was completed in March 2002. It was built to solve the shortage of storage capacity in the Tokyo Main Library and meet the needs of a highly sophisticated information society. The total floor space of the building is about 60,000 square meters, and half of it is stacks. The storage capacity is six million volumes.

Public services will begin in October 2002, but more than 100 out of the 920 NDL staff members have already moved there. The six months before the opening are being used for preparations, including the transportation of 3.2 million books and other items.

The collection of the Kansai-kan consists of foreign periodicals, science and technology materials, Japanese doctoral dissertations, resources on Asia, and so on. Pre-registered users will be able to reserve materials in the Kansai-kan in advance for a specified day. The Kansai-kan will be responsible for the document supply service and the development of various electronic library functions. It will also carry out library cooperation in various ways, including the National Union Catalog Network, services for the handicapped, research in library and information science and training programs for librarians.

### NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY (NDL) REORGANIZED

The NDL has completed a major reorganization in conjunction with the opening of the office in the Kansai-kan in April 2002.

The main objectives of the reorganization are;

- 1 to change the structure of the Tokyo Main Library from collection-based to function-based (acquisition, cataloguing, storage, and public services) and improve its library services,
- 2 to make the functions of the new Kansai-kan run smoothly and efficiently,
- 3 to integrate the Kansai-kan with the distant Tokyo Main Library and make them function as one central library.

Some special material rooms in the Tokyo Main Library have also been rearranged. As a result, the NDL now consists of one central library on two sites (the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan), two branch libraries (the International Library of Children's Literature, the Toyo Bunko (Oriental Library)) and 27 Branch Libraries sited in the Judicial Agency and Executive Agencies of the Government. The central library has a major division, a bureau and several departments:

## **TOKYO MAIN LIBRARY**

Administrative Department (manages the overall NDL system), Research and Legislative Reference Bureau (support for the Diet members), Acquisitions Department, Bibliography Department, Public Services Department, Reference and Special Collections Department, Detached Library in the Diet

## **KANSAI-KAN**

Administrative Division, Collections Department (provision of remote and direct library services, Asian resources), Projects Department (center for library cooperation projects, provision of digital contents of the NDL's electronic library)

## **COVERING ONLINE RESOURCES BY THE LEGAL DEPOSIT SYSTEM IS NOW UNDER REVIEW IN THE LEGAL DEPOSIT SYSTEM COUNCIL (LDSC), THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE NDL**

In October 2000, the NDL began to acquire offline electronic publications such as CD-ROM and DVD through the revised legal deposit system. For online resources, the NDL has been seeking a technological way of selective acquisition in accordance with a report by the Legal Deposit System Research Council, which is the former advisory council. Meanwhile the rapid progress in information technology is expanding online resources quickly, and many of them disappear when a revised version comes out. In April 2002, the Librarian of the NDL submitted an inquiry to the LDSC about applying the legal deposit system to online resources because the NDL recognizes that an institutional framework and a national strategy for preserving long-term access to extensive online resources are crucial under such circumstances. The council report will be put out in fiscal year 2004.

## **DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES OF THE NDL EXPANDED**

Digital library functions of the NDL will be expanded after the Kansai-kan is opened to the public in October 2002.

- *Digitization of the books published in the Meiji Era*

In the fiscal year 2001, the NDL embarked on the digitization of 168,000 books published in the 45 years of the Meiji Era (1868-1912). We plan to digitize books of all genres including society, humanities, natural science, literature and art, and provide them as the contents of an electronic library on the Internet. About 30,000 of them will be available on our website in October 2002, while the whole project will take three years to be completed.

- *Electronic Library Infrastructure System and the NDL-OPAC*

The NDL is now developing a new information system called the Electronic Library Infrastructure System. The major function of the System is to connect the separated facilities of the NDL (Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature) by computer network, so that they can share the bibliographic data of our holdings and provide a seamless library service as a single central library of Japan.

With the establishment of the Electronic Library Infrastructure System, the NDL-OPAC will start operating in the Kansai-kan. The NDL-OPAC will be an alternative to the existing Web-OPAC. The new online database will cover approximately 2,700,000 volumes of Japanese books (acquired in and after the Meiji Era), 200,000 volumes of western-language books (acquired in and after 1986) and 190,000 titles of domestic doctoral dissertations, stocked separately in Tokyo and Kyoto. The NDL-OPAC will be a remote service which will enable registered users to reserve the books they want to read and to apply for photo-duplication service via Internet. The NDL-OPAC will also be introduced to the Tokyo Main Library by the end of the fiscal 2002 (book reservation service will be available only in the Kansai-kan).

- *Web Archiving Project (WARP) and Database Navigation Service (Dnavi)*  
Since April 2002, the NDL has been operating the Web Archiving Project (WARP). In the project, we will practically test our newly developed system of collecting, archiving, preserving and providing online resources. The digital information on the Internet will be collected by harvesting robot or other methods on the basis of selective acquisition policy, assigned bibliographic metadata and then chronologically accumulated in the NDL's server. The provision on our website will depend on obtaining permission from the creators or publishers.

Some online resources such as databases have to be excluded from acquisition for the moment, for technical reasons. As an alternative, we are preparing a Database Navigation Service (Dnavi), which operates as a subject gateway service. Dnavi will also be available on our website from October 2002.

- *Online Japanese National Bibliography*  
The NDL started the provision of the 'Japanese National Bibliography' on the website in April 2002.
- *National Union Catalogue Network*  
The National Union Catalog Network has been developed since 1998. It is the first national union catalog database among public libraries, aiming to strengthen library resource sharing within the public libraries, to promote standardization and utilization of bibliographic services in public libraries and to support interlibrary loan among public libraries throughout the country. Though only 43 prefectural and major municipal libraries participated in the network in 1998, after it was opened to the city, ward, town and village libraries in the fiscal 2001, the number of the libraries increased up to 512 (June 1, 2002). 41 of them provide bibliographic data.

#### **INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (ILCL) WAS FULLY OPENED**

The remodelling of the ILCL, a branch of the NDL, was completed in March 2002 and it was fully opened to the public on May 5, 2002. The total floor space of the building is about 6,671 square meters. The storage capacity is 400,000 volumes. As the first national library of its kind in Japan, it aims to acquire domestic and foreign children's literature and related materials, and make them available to the public. It is also offering services appropriate to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, making use of electronic library functions. In addition to providing reading, photocopying and reference services, the ILCL puts on exhibitions and events to provide opportunities for children to get on familiar terms with books. The ILCL also intends to build up cooperative relations with school libraries, public libraries, and other related institutions. For example, it lends selected sets of materials to school libraries.

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