

# **JAPAN**

## **NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY**

**TAKAO KUROSAWA — LIBRARIAN**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003**

### **NEW LIBRARIAN APPOINTED**

As of July 19, 2002, Mr Masao Tobari, Librarian of the National Diet Library, retired and Mr Takao Kurosawa, former Secretary General of the House of Councillors, was appointed the thirteenth Librarian of the National Diet Library.

In addition, Mr. Noritada Otaki was appointed the Deputy Librarian on February 28, 2003, succeeding Mr. Tsuyoshi Ujigo.

### **BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR THE NDL**

The year 2002 marked the beginning of a new era for the NDL with two big events, namely, the full opening of the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) in May and the opening of the new Kansai-kan facility in October. The Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the ILCL function as parts of one integrated body and have started providing services based on a new library system, which was developed to realize coordinated services and operations in those three facilities.

The Kansai-kan is located in Kansai Science City, 500 km away from Tokyo. The total floor space, including reading rooms for on-site users, is 59,500 square meters and storage capacity is 6 million volumes. Its major responsibilities are document supply services using the materials held by the whole NDL, library cooperation projects, digital library projects, and Asian information services.

The ILCL currently holds 200,000 volumes of children's literature and related materials. It is now fully functioning as a national centre supporting research and study on children's literature.

The Tokyo Main Library continues to function as the headquarters of the NDL. Its facilities will be renovated in FY 2003 to 2004 to accommodate new reading rooms and offices established in the reorganization of 2002 and to introduce a new on-site user service system which is already operating in the Kansai-kan.

### **ENHANCED SERVICES VIA THE NDL WEBSITE**

The NDL made an overall revision of its website in October 2002, and started providing new services online. Several other functions were added to the website by March 2003, and the library's remote services were enhanced dramatically.

First of all, the NDL-OPAC that replaced the NDL Web-OPAC started operating. It enables users first of all to search most of the resources held by the NDL through one interface. It also enables registered users to make photocopy requests, and registered libraries to

request ILL services online. In this innovation, release of the Japanese Periodicals Index, which at the time included 5.4 million items accumulated since 1948, was of great value and has been highly appreciated.

The contents that are a part of the NDL services as a parliamentary library, such as Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet, have also been improved and enriched.

The following databases and digital exhibitions also became available on the NDL website in FY 2002 (April 2002 - March 2003):

- NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC - Books in Chinese and Korean acquired in and after 1986, and all periodicals and newspapers in Chinese and Korean held by the NDL are searchable in the original languages.
- Digital Library from the Meiji Era - Full text database of more than 30,000 books published in the Meiji Era in an image format
- Dnavi (NDL Database Navigation Service) - An experimental project that navigates to databases on the Internet. Currently contains more than 50,000 databases created in Japan.
- WARP (Web Archiving Project) - An experimental project that collects and preserves websites and online periodicals on the Internet as cultural heritage.
- National Union Catalog of Newspapers - Bibliographic data and holding information of newspapers in various forms held by approximately 1,300 institutions in Japan
- Books on Japan - Information on books on Japan in Western languages newly acquired by the NDL
- Japanese Calendar - Digital exhibition which offers an accessible introduction to the history of the Japanese calendar
- Birth of the Constitution of Japan - Digital exhibition which shows the major events and important documents concerned in the framing and promulgation of the Constitution of Japan

In the past year, many primary and secondary resources of the NDL have become available on the Internet to users around the world. And we assure you that, through digital library services, more and more resources will be released to follow them.

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