

JAPAN

NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

Throughout FYs 2003-2004, the NDL has been continuing its efforts to further improve its services, building on what has already been accomplished since the opening of the Kansai - kan in October 2002.

THE NDL VISION 2004

The NDL worked out its “NDL Vision 2004” in January 2004, which confirms its mission and roles and clarifies four priority areas for the years to come:

Enhancement of legislative support function: to raise the level of research services for the Diet.

Creation of digital archives: to store and provide national heritage as digital information.

Improvement of access to information resources: to guarantee free and equal access to the public.

Promotion of cooperation: to strengthen ties with domestic and overseas libraries and related institutions so as to promote sharing and distribution of information resources; to foster library professionals and contribute to developing library and information services.

*Full text of the Vision has been available on the NDL website since June 2004.

(<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/outline.html>)

The NDL introduced a performance-measuring program in FY 2004 to give substance to the Vision. With emphasis on the four priority areas, the organization as a whole and all the departments have set their own objectives and developed operational plans to achieve them. The performance will be reviewed periodically and the objectives for the next fiscal year will be redefined based on the achievements of the previous year.

FORMULATION OF THE NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY DIGITAL LIBRARY MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2004 AND EXPANSION OF DIGITAL CONTENTS

To give a concrete shape to one of the above-mentioned priority areas “Creation of digital archives,” the NDL has been working on the following two programs:

(1) The NDL Digital Library Medium Term Plan 2004 was formulated. The plan specifies the objectives of the NDL digital library services as (i) Creation of digital archives, (ii) Expansion of information on information resources, and (iii) Digital archive portal functions.

The NDL is now developing essential technical, legal and systematic frameworks to realize the plan.

(http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/elib_plan2004.html)

(2) Digital contents on the NDL website are increasing: digital images of 50,000 books published in the Meiji era, 33,000 images of rare books, and a series of electronic exhibitions introducing library holdings, have been made available on the NDL website.

FOR BETTER ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION RESOURCES

Further improvement of access is another priority for the NDL, according to the Vision. Remote access dramatically increased after the Kansai-kan started operations; the number of requests for copying service by mail has doubled since the Japanese Periodicals Index was made available on the NDL website in conjunction with the opening of the Kansai-kan.

The next step for the NDL is to upgrade its services at the Tokyo Main Library. Following the reorganization of the subject reference rooms there in 2002, other renovations have been under way and will be finished by October 2004. From that date, a new circulation control system for on-site users will start operating at the Tokyo Main Library. Its opening days and opening hours will be extended, resulting in a 43% increase in total service hours in a year.

NETWORKS AND COOPERATION

Cooperation with libraries and related institutions, which is another priority area, has been promoted throughout the year. The National Union Catalog Network was expanded and 840 public libraries in Japan currently use the database. Part of the data will be released on the Internet in October 2004.

Collaborative Reference Database Project, a three-year trial project, and various librarian-training programs, were continued or newly started in FY2003.

The NDL also has strengthened its cooperative relations with other national libraries, especially with those in Asia. In addition to the existing programs with the National Library of China and the National Library of Korea, we started a mutual visit program with the National Assembly Library of Korea in 2003. We also held an international symposium on Asian materials, inviting guest speakers from abroad.

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