

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : JAPAN
Name of Library : National Diet Library (NDL)
Name of Chief Executive : Mr. Takao Kurosawa

The NDL has been continuing its efforts to providing better service through its three facilities, that is, the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature, based on the plan called "NDL Vision 2004" (http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/ndl_vision.html) which was formulated in January 2004. "NDL Vision 2004" specifies four priority areas that the NDL should focus on: 1) Enhancement of legislative support function; 2) Creation of digital archives; 3) Improvement of access to information resources; and 4) Promotion of cooperation.

In conjunction with "NDL Vision 2004," "NDL Digital Library Medium Term Plan 2004" was released in February 2004. One of its aims is to promote the creation of digital archives, the second priority area set forth in "NDL Vision 2004." One of the latest achievements related to the creation of digital archives is that the Legal Deposit System Council submitted a report to the Librarian of the NDL in December 2004, which said that domestic Internet information should be acquired without any content-based selection. The NDL is now working on making the proposed ideas in the report into law. As a preparatory process, the NDL set a two-week period in April to hear comments from the public, which gathered comments from various stakeholders.

In 2004 the NDL also introduced an evaluation system to inform the people of its performance. In the framework of this evaluation system, the NDL commits itself to set up concrete objectives and standards every fiscal year to fulfill the missions and goals set forth in "NDL Vision 2004" and publishes the results of the evaluation in the following year. The result of FY2004 evaluation can be seen on the NDL website before the CDNL in Oslo. (http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/ndl_vision.html)

After about a year of remodeling, the Tokyo Main Library launched several new services on October 1, 2004. In this renewal the NDL made drastic changes to its infrastructure system. Now most of the materials in the NDL collections can be requested directly on the NDL-OPAC terminal in the Library. Also the opening days and hours have been extended since October 2004, resulting in a 43% increase in total service hours in a year. These improvements are regarded as a part of the NDL's efforts to realize the third priority goal, "improvement of access to information resources," defined in "NDL Vision 2004."

The Kansai-kan has also continued to improve its services. It plays the role of the center of various important projects of the NDL: projects on promoting library cooperation and resource sharing such as the National Union Catalog Network Project and Collaborative Reference Database Project, both of which aim to promote utilizing information resources among libraries in Japan. Also experimental projects on digital preservation are under way at the Kansai-kan.

The Board of Inquiry on Expansion of Library Services of the International Library of Children's Literature, which was set up in September 2004 to study the future development of the services as a national juvenile literature center, submitted a report to the Librarian of the NDL in March 2005.

Address : 1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8924 JAPAN
Telephone and fax details : tel:+81-3-3581-2331 / fax:+81-3-3508-2934
Web address of Library : http://www.ndl.go.jp