

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009

Name of country: Japan

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation: National Diet Library

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

As we mentioned last year, the library celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008. Defining the year as the beginning of a new chapter, we actively reconfirmed the library's mission and issued a new vision, whose motto is "Through knowledge we prosper." To make the vision a reality, the Library formulated a new medium-term plan "[Future Initiative – to build a new knowledge base to generate creativity](#)," at the end of 2008. The initiative especially focuses on:

- Building a new knowledge base (information resources, navigation)
- Digital Library (web archiving based on legislation, digitization and archiving, improved searching tools, role as a data provider)
- Working with others: from self-dependence to cooperation

As for web archiving, at present, we are collecting websites selectively based on permission from the copyright holders ([WARP \(Web ARchiving Project\)](#)). We have been preparing for legislation which will enable us to collect websites produced by the national and local governments and the like. We intend to get the relevant revision of the National Diet Library Law passed by the Diet (Japanese Parliament) in 2009. Getting the legal power to extend the scope to non-governmental websites will be an issue we will continue working on for the future.

The National Diet Library (NDL) has digitized mainly rare books and Japanese books published in the latter half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. At present, about 100,000 titles (150,000 volumes) have been digitized and are available on the Internet. We aim to adopt digitization for the sake of preservation of the original materials, instead of microfilming, and have been discussing this with stakeholders (publishers, music industry, writers and others). The relevant clauses of the copyright law are to be amended during the current Diet session.

Cooperation with other institutions is vital for digitization. We intend to take the initiative in developing a national digital archive by facilitating collaboration among libraries, archives and museums. We aim to organize a round table consisting of these members within FY2009 and have already had a preparatory meeting. We especially intend to support public libraries in digitizing their local collections.

The NDL has been also working on digital library projects with other national libraries. The national libraries of China, Korea and Japan, which share the use of Chinese characters, started cooperation

on a digital archiving project in 2007 and had the [first meeting](#) in October 2008 in Tokyo. In December 2008, the NDL concluded an agreement with the Library of Congress to participate in the World Digital Library, contributing digital contents. At the 2008 CDNLAO meeting, four areas of cooperation were agreed upon and the NDL is taking the lead in one of them, namely, web archiving

The [CDNLAO 2008 meeting and its open seminar](#) were held in Tokyo in October 2008, hosted by the NDL. It saw the biggest-ever attendance (23 countries) and paved the way for more practical cooperation in the Asia-Oceania region. The operation of the CDNLAO website was transferred to the NDL from the National Library of Australia.

The NDL celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008 with several [commemorative events](#) including symposiums, lecture meetings and special rare book exhibitions. [The International Library of Children's Literature \(ILCL\)](#) of the NDL had its millionth visitor in October 2008, counted from its partial opening in 2000.

The NDL introduced a performance evaluation system in 2004. This fiscal year, which started in April 2009, the Library readjusted it and has incorporated new aspects such as priority projects and hearing of outside experts. The priority projects for FY2009 determined by the Librarian of the NDL include: increase of Diet members' satisfaction; legislation for web archiving and digitization for the purpose of preservation; development of the integrated library system; upgrading of the bibliographic process; enhancement of acquisition including by legal deposit; improvement of user services; launch of the Digital Archiving System; making of a basic expansion plan of the ILCL.

2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

The NDL was established in 1948 by the [National Diet Library Law](#), based on Article 130 of the National Diet Law, "the National Diet Library shall be established in the Diet by a separate law, in order to assist Diet Members in their study and research." The National Diet Library Law declares the ideal of the library's establishment in its preamble, "the National Diet Library is hereby established as a result of the firm conviction that truth makes us free and with the object of contributing to international peace and the democratization of Japan as promised in our Constitution." Its purpose is defined in Article 2 of the law, "the National Diet Library shall collect books and other library materials for the purpose of assisting the members of the National Diet in the performance of their duties and also for the purpose of providing certain library services as hereinafter specified for the executive and judicial agencies of the national government and for the people of Japan."

3. Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

- [Collections](#) (as of March 2008)
Total: 34,730,903 items
(Books: 9,052,998 volumes / Serials (periodicals and newspapers): 12,474,489 items)
- Number of staff: 896 (as of April 2009)
- Annual budget (FY2008): 21.9 billion yen (approximately 214 million in USD)

4. New developments in creating and building collections.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the [legal deposit system](#) in Japan and in FY2008 the NDL newly acquired over one million items through legal deposit as well as purchase, donation and exchange. In FY2009, in addition to public relations activities to raise people's awareness, a survey on the deposit rate is planned. For our digital efforts, see *1.General overviews*.

5. New developments in managing collections.

This year we will start transferring part of the library materials from the Tokyo Main Library to the Kansai-kan, 500 kilometers away, to cope with the capacity problem of the book stacks in the Tokyo facility. The NDL is also planning to construct additional book stacks in the Kansai-kan.

As regards digital materials, the NDL has been developing the [Digital Archiving System](#) and full-scale operation will start within FY2009. The NDL also drew up a new media conversion plan for FY 2009-2011 with the aim of achieving a good balance between use and preservation as well as facilitating the digital library service.

6. New developments in providing access to collections.

In FY 2008 the library discussed a new public service strategy from 2009 to 2013 and drew up an internal report. The Web-NDL (the NDL on the Internet) will play a pivotal role in the future strategy. A new service framework on our website called "RESEARCH NAVI" will be launched in May 2009.

Recent technical developments concerning public access include the enhancement of the function of our portal [PORTA](#) (the function to output metadata in XML format added) and the functions of the [NDL-OPAC \(National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog\)](#) (RSS feeds for the Japanese Periodicals Index and a download function added).

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

See *1 General overviews* for the planned launch of a round table on digital information resources.