

**30<sup>th</sup> General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania**  
**15-17 November 2024**  
**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

**Country Report**  
**[Period Coverage: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023]**

**Name of Country** : Japan  
**Name of Library** : National Diet Library  
**Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director Contact Person** : KURATA Keiko, director general of the National Diet Library  
**Contact Person** : TATEMATSU Makiko, deputy director general, Administrative Department  
**Contact Person's Email Address** : [kokusai@ndl.go.jp](mailto:kokusai@ndl.go.jp)  
**Mailing Address** : 1-10-1 Nagata-cho  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8924  
**Telephone Number** : +81-3-3581-2331  
**Facsimile Number** : +81-3-3508-2934  
**Website Address** : <https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/>

\*As Japanese fiscal year runs from April to March of the following year, some figures and descriptions are for March or April 2024.

**1 Facts and Figures**

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	i. 19,874,232,000 yen from April 2023 to March 2024 ii. N/A
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	895 as of April 2024 i. N/A ii. N/A
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i. 49,207,979 items as of March 2024 ii. 8,088,091 items as of March 2024
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i. 605,777 visitors from April 2023 to March 2024 ii. 37,163,302 accesses from April 2023 to March 2024

e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	4,807 loans from April 2023 to March 2024
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## 2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

### i. Digitization of books published in Japan

In accordance with the Basic Plan for Digitization of National Diet Library's Collections 2021-2025, as formulated in March 2021, the National Diet Library (NDL) completed the digitization of books published and catalogued in Japan prior to 1995 by March 2024. From April 2024, the NDL will target the digitization of books published and catalogued in Japan between 1996 to 2000 will be the main target of digitization.

Basic Plan for Digitization of National Diet Library's Collections 2021-2025 (Japanese)

[https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/preservation/digitization/digitization\\_plan2021.pdf](https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/preservation/digitization/digitization_plan2021.pdf)

### ii. Expansion of full-text search in the National Diet Library Digital Collections

The National Diet Library Digital Collection is a service that allows patrons to browse digital materials held by the NDL. The NDL converts digital images of library materials to text data using an optical character recognition (OCR) program called NDLOCR developed by the NDL. As of April 2024, full-text search can be used with about 2.62 million digitized books and periodicals. More full-text searchable materials will be added in the future. Rare books and old materials are not included in those 2.62 million items, but a full-text search function is provided in the Next Digital Library for about 80,000 items. The Next Digital Library is an experimental digital library system based on several research results.

National Diet Library Digital Collection

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/>

Next Digital Library

<https://lab.ndl.go.jp/dl/>

### iii. Launch of the new NDL Search

The NDL integrated two of its web services—the National Diet Library Online Search and Request Service (NDL Online) and the NDL Search—and relaunched them as the new NDL Search web service in January 2024.

The new NDL Search continues to allow users to search not just the holdings and digital contents of the NDL but also the holdings of other institutions from a single interface, as well as inheriting the ease of use of the NDL Online and provides easy access to digital contents. Applications for the services of the NDL and the display of holding information of libraries nationwide have also been improved to be easier to understand.

In addition, search results by keywords, etc., have been improved to allow efficient access to the information which patrons want to know, by displaying information that is useful for related research. In addition to search results for bibliographic information, information provided by Research Navi and the Collaborative Reference Database are also displayed as useful information for related research.

Bibliographic data in MARC format or other formats can be downloaded for multiple items at once. In addition, sub screens such as Web Japanese National Bibliography are provided, which enable narrowing the search to national bibliographic data.

NDL Search

<https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en/>

### iv. Launch of the Printing Function of the NDL's Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Overseas Libraries

The Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries (hereafter referred to as "the Service") is provided by the NDL as a means of making digitized versions of out-of-print or otherwise difficult-to-obtain materials available to the general public at public or university libraries that subscribe to the Service. Patrons at partner libraries overseas had previously only been allowed to browse transmitted materials. However, the printing function was added to the Service in April 2024 and applications to use the Service started at the same time. Studies are underway to make it easier for libraries overseas to participate more readily in the service.

Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries (For Librarians)

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/library/dcts/index.html>

v. Launch of useful online content for children's reading and learning

The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) launched two sites of online content for elementary school students and junior high/high school students in March 2024. This content was created to encourage children to read and study, and to help them improve their information literacy. In addition to introducing books in various fields and explaining how to research, the sites offer video content introducing science books for elementary school students and content for junior high and high school students to learn about the history of famous places in Tokyo. Available on smartphones and tablets, the sites can be used in a variety of situations, including studying at home, school classes, and research at the library.

Explore, Learn, and Read: A Guide for Kids: <https://www.kodomo.go.jp/guide/kids/>(Japanese)

Explore, Learn, and Read: A Guide for Teens: <https://www.kodomo.go.jp/guide/ya/> (Japanese)

### **3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]**

i. Launch of the official version of the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (Mina Search)

Following the March 2023 release of the beta version of the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (commonly called "Mina Search"), the NDL continued to improve Mina Search functionality in response to comments from our patrons and launched the official version in January 2024. Using Mina Search, any patron can search for bibliographic or holding information on materials for persons with disabilities held not only at the NDL but at public libraries and other institutions throughout Japan. Persons with visual disabilities and other patrons who are registered users of the NDL as well as libraries that have been approved by the NDL are able to download materials in DAISY and text format. The official version has also added access to CiNii Research (National Institute of Informatics: NII) materials for persons with disabilities and the Metadata Sharing System for Barrier-Free Reading Materials (NII), which enables users to search for even more materials for persons with disabilities. Collaboration with the NII has enabled access to information held by university libraries.

Mina Search

<https://mina.ndl.go.jp/en>

ii. Publication and dissemination of Digital Library Accessibility Guidelines 1.0

In July 2023, the NDL published guidelines which outline accessibility requirements for the use of digital libraries that provide services for loaning commercially available e-books through libraries to persons with visual disabilities and others. The guidelines were prepared by the Working Group on Accessible E-book Services in Libraries, for which the NDL serves as the secretariat. These guidelines have been recommended for use at public, academic, and school libraries in Guidelines for Municipal Governments Formulating Plans to Promote Improved Reading Environments for the Visually Impaired, as published by the Japan Library Association Service Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

### iii. Japan Search

The NDL is responsible for developing and operating the system on which the Japan Search website runs, as well as for coordinating cooperation with other institutions such as libraries, archives and museums. Officially launched in August 2020, Japan Search is an integrated platform for aggregating and searching metadata for digital resources across a wide range of subjects. Established by the NDL in cooperation with related ministries and agencies of the Japanese government, Japan Search offers not just search functions but also a range of other functions to support the utilization of content, including a curation function that permits easy selection, editing, and sharing of digital content. As of March 2024, Japan Search collaborates with 49 aggregators with 230 databases to provide access to 29.5 million items of metadata.

Japan Search

<https://jpsearch.go.jp/>

### iv. Collaborative Reference Database

The Collaborative Reference Database is a database in which librarians register records of daily reference services conducted throughout Japan and data on search guides, and share the data via the Internet. In February 2024, functional modifications were made to improve usability and data linkage with Research Navi so that users can smoothly access the information they are looking for. 925 libraries are participating, with 317,451 registered data.

Collaborative Reference Database (Japanese)

<https://crd.ndl.go.jp/reference/>

Research Navi

<https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en/rnavi>

### v. Preservation cooperation activities

The NDL is a participating organization of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Network Promotion Council and has made efforts such as providing information on material disaster prevention. The council is made up of organizations inside Japan that handle a wide range of cultural heritage. The council's activities include information sharing, protecting cultural heritage from disasters through preventive action, and building networks to effectively support and carry out rescue operations after disasters occur.

## **4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]**

### i. Collaboration with overseas national libraries

The NDL continues to hold mutual visit programs with the National Library of China and the National Library of Korea.

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/international/operating.html>

### ii. Organizing international events

The NDL has sponsored a number of webinars and lectures, including one in March 2023 that featured the deputy director of the Material Development Department at the National Library for the Disabled in Korea and another in October 2023 inviting both the Director General and the Strategic Advisor of the National Library of the Netherlands for a lecture and panel discussion.

Webinar: The Role of Libraries in Implementing Inclusive Information Society—Centered on the National Library for the Disabled (March 23, 2023)

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/event/events/20230323lecture.html>

Lecture: National Libraries in the digital era—focusing on the strategies of the National Library of the Netherlands (October 11, 2023)

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/event/events/20231011lecture.html>

iii. Preservation cooperation activities

The NDL serves as the IFLA PAC Regional Centre for Asia. In response to a request from IFLA, the NDL cooperated in the preparation of a handbook for the purpose of sharing knowledge on the preservation of materials, including how to respond to disasters. In addition, English translations of training texts and other materials related to the preservation of materials have been posted on the NDL website.

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/preservation/iflapac/index.html>

iv. Personnel exchange programs with overseas national libraries

The NDL agreed to start a personnel exchange program with the National Library of Korea (NLK), and an NDL employee was dispatched to the NLK in 2023. In 2024, the NDL are planning to accept an employee from the NLK. Also, the NDL is currently in the process of initiating a personnel exchange program with the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

v. CDNLAO Website operation

The NDL serves as the CDNLAO webmaster and provides conference information and published newsletters.

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/index.html>