



# What Is Our Future ? National Libraries In 2040

27<sup>th</sup> General Conference  
21 February 2019  
Singapore

## Country Report

[Period Coverage: 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018]

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|---|---|
| <b>Name of Country</b>  | : Japan   |
| <b>Name of Library</b>  | : National Diet Library (NDL)   |
| <b>Name(s) of National Librarian,<br/>Director-General and/or Director<br/>Contact Person</b> | : Sawako Hanyu, Ph.D., Director General of the<br>National Diet Library<br>: Ms. Miho Kawai, Director of the Branch Libraries<br>and Cooperation Division, Administrative<br>Department |
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### 1 Facts and Figures

| Sn | Item Description  | Figures  |
|----|---|--|
| a  | Operating Budget (FY2018; from April 2018 to March 2019)<br>i. Government<br>ii. External Sources         | i. 23,076,131,000 yen<br>ii. N/A   |
| b  | Total Staff (FTE)<br>i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications<br>ii. Other Qualifications | 888 (as of April 2018)<br>i. N/A<br>ii. N/A                                      |
| c  | Collection Size<br>i. Physical collection<br>ii. Digital collection preserved                             | i. 43,426,450 items (as of March 2018)<br>ii. 3,795,047 items (as of March 2018) |
| d  | Visitorship (Annual)<br>i. Physical visits to reading rooms   | i. 778,070 visitors (April 2017 to March 2018)                                   |

|   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
|   | ii. Digital visits to websites        | ii. 20,894,477 accesses (April 2017 to March 2018) |
| e | Inter Library Loans provided (Annual) | 7,488 loans (from April 2017 to March 2018)        |

## 2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services

### a) NDL Online Search and Request Service

The NDL Online Search and Request Service (NDL Online) (<https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/#!/>) was launched in January 2018 and incorporates numerous enhancements for better usability, including expanded search targets, an improved user interface, and online user registration for services like remote photoduplication services. The NDL Online is also available in English, making it much easier for patrons who cannot read or write Japanese to request remote photoduplication, interlibrary loan, or other services.

### b) Launch of new websites for the NDL and the International Library of Children's Literature

The NDL launched new websites for the NDL and its branch, the International Library of Children's Literature, in February 2018, with a new, responsive web design that improves navigation and accessibility for users of smart phones and tablets.

### c) Construction of new stacks at the NDL Kansai-kan in Kyoto

The four year plan to expand stack space for library materials at the Kansai-kan in Kyoto during the period from September 2016 to FY 2019 continues on schedule.

### d) English interface of the NDL Web ARchiving Project (WARP)

The NDL launched an English-language user interface for WARP in November 2018. [http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/?\\_lang=en](http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/?_lang=en)

### e) Promoting digital archives

As of September 2018, the NDL Digital Collections hosts approximately 2,690,000 digitized materials, 530,000 of which are available on the Internet. The Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries makes 1,480,000 materials accessible on the premises at partner libraries (see 4 iii), and there are another 670,000 materials available only on the premises at the NDL.

Additionally, 1,128,000 born-digital publications that are available free of charge and without DRM have been collected and are available via the NDL Digital Collections.

Some of the digital images available from the NDL Digital Collections have been compatible with the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) image API since May 2018.

### **3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in Japan**

#### **a) NDL Search**

Launched in 2012, the NDL Search is an integrated search database of catalogs and digital archives at the NDL and 73 other organizations in Japan, including libraries, archives, museums and academic institutions. Newly added to this lineup are the Integrated Collections Database of the National Museums, Japan (ColBase <https://colbase.nich.go.jp/?lang=eng>), the Cultural Heritage Online, and A System of Digitization and Exhibition for Archive Collections (ADEAC).

The NDL has also enhanced collaboration with the Japan Publishing Organization for Information Infrastructure Development (JPRO) to improve provision of data on books that are about to be published.

#### **b) NDL Great East Japan Earthquake Archives**

The NDL's efforts to enhance the content of the NDL Great East Japan Earthquake Archives included the addition of a PR video from the Nuclear Regulation Agency and collaboration with other databases, such as the Iwate Earthquake Tsunami Archive, managed by Iwate Prefecture. The NDL also concluded a partnership agreement with the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience and participated in events like the National Conference on Promoting Risk Reduction 2018.

#### **c) Collaborative Reference Database Project**

The Collaborative Reference Database (CRD) is a database of library reference queries handled by the NDL and other libraries in Japan. As of October, 2018, 782 libraries have joined the CRD, and the number of entries added by partner libraries has reached approximately 215,674. While participating in the IFLA 2018, the NDL presented its first poster session and distributed flyers, entitled *Connections and Collaboration of 800 Libraries in Japan: Collaborative Reference Database*.

[http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/publication/ndl\\_newsletter/220/22006.html](http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/publication/ndl_newsletter/220/22006.html)

#### **d) Nippon Cataloging Rules 2018**

The NDL has been working in collaboration with the Japan Library Association to revise the Nippon Cataloging Rules (NCR), which were published in printed form in December 2018. The new NCR will soon be applied to the cataloguing of library materials at the NDL.

#### **e) Development of a portal site for Japan-related content**

The NDL has been working with the Cabinet Office and other Government agencies to develop a prototype for a new Japan Search platform that will facilitate easy navigation and utilization of content on the Internet by collecting and providing access to metadata for various kinds of Japan-related material.

### **4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries**

#### **a) Holding international conferences and collaboration with overseas libraries**

As part of its 70th anniversary celebrations, the NDL sponsored the 12th Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) in Tokyo from October 31 to November 2, 2018, during which 50 delegates from the NDL and 19 other parliamentary libraries discussed issues related to developing human resources and providing parliamentary research services. Ms. Kazuko Sakata, Deputy Director General of the National Diet Library, has served as APLAP President since April 2017.

The NDL continues to hold mutual visit programs with the National Library of China and the National Library of Korea. Also, the NDL exchanged books on specific subjects with the National Library of Viet Nam under a bilateral cooperation agreement concluded in May 2016.

#### **b) Services for people with disabilities**

The terms of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled came into effect in Japan in January 2019. The NDL is now working with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) toward participation in the Accessible Books Consortium Global Book Service.

#### **c) NDL Digitized Contents Transmission Service**

The latest revisions to Copyright Law in Japan came into force in January 2019 and will enable the NDL to transmit digitized images of out-of-print and other difficult-to-obtain materials to libraries outside Japan. The NDL has been working with the Agency for Cultural Affairs and other concerned parties to prepare to implement these enhancements during 2019.

#### **d) Preservation and conservation**

The NDL serves as the IFLA PAC Regional Centre for Asia and has endeavored to provide information on preservation and conservation by holding workshops and publishing English-language manuals that describe basic techniques for the care of paper materials on the NDL website. In May, 2018, the NDL welcomed two specialists from the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, Syria, to participate in a

training program as part of the Silk Road Friendship Project, which is funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a means of promoting cultural heritage.

**e) On-site and online training**

Having relaxed the qualifications for participation, the NDL held a Training Program for Librarians and Researchers for Japanese Materials in February 2018. Also, as part of our efforts to promote remote training, video training programs have been available on the official NDL YouTube channel since March 27, 2018. Although taught in Japanese, some of the videos, such as Elementary Techniques of Paper Materials, have English subtitles.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmxgH\\_dUKZs&list=PLXvKjMC1JnVu50NOnLQh5\\_rBq-U5LpzFj](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmxgH_dUKZs&list=PLXvKjMC1JnVu50NOnLQh5_rBq-U5LpzFj)

[http://dl.ndl.go.jp/view/download/digidepo\\_11045360\\_po\\_NDL-Newsletter203\\_20306.pdf?contentNo=1&alternativeNo=](http://dl.ndl.go.jp/view/download/digidepo_11045360_po_NDL-Newsletter203_20306.pdf?contentNo=1&alternativeNo=)