2009 CDNLAO COUNTRY REPORT

NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY, JAPAN

1. General Overview

The National Diet Library (NDL) celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008 with several commemorative events including symposiums and lecture meetings. Special exhibitions introducing rare books from the library's collection were held in both the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan (Kyoto), and attracted more than 4,300 visitors. CDNLAO 2008 meeting and the open seminar achieved great success with participants from 23 countries. The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL), one of the NDL's three facilities, had its millionth visitor in October 2008, counted from its opening in 2000.

The NDL has been working on a digital library project, valuing, at the same time, international cooperation in this field. The national libraries of China, Korea and Japan, which share Chinese characters as a culture base, started cooperation on a digital archiving project in 2007, and had the first meeting in October 2008. In December 2008, the NDL concluded an agreement to participate in the World Digital Library, contributing digital contents to its coming website.

As for web archiving, the NDL has been seeking the necessary legislation to enable it to collect wider range of web information than it has been done through WARP (Web ARchiving Project). A revision of the NDL Law is envisaged and the draft is being prepared to be   submitted to the Diet (Japanese Parliament) as early as 2009.

In autumn 2008, the NDL decided to readjust the evaluation system introduced in 2004 in order to make it more effective and more intelligible to the people. Having the vision formulated in 2007 (called "Nagao Vision" after the Librarian's name) at the top of the schema as the previous evaluation system did, the revised performance evaluation system incorporates new aspects such as projects of high priority which the Librarian determines for each fiscal year*, and hearing of opinions of outside experts on the evaluation.

*For the priority projects for FY2009, please refer to "4. New and ongoing projects."

A new medium-term plan for overall library operation was also formulated at the end of 2008. Called "Future Initiative – to build a new knowledge base to generate creativity," the plan states the library's future services and function, relocation of the collection and the role of each facility with an eye to 3-5 years from now. To fulfill the objectives described in this basic plan, plans for each specific area will be reviewed or newly formulated within this year.

2. New Information Products and New Information Services

Research instruction sessions for visitors

Since September 2008, brief instruction sessions for visitors have been held several times in the Newspaper Reading Room and the Business, Science and Technology Room in the Tokyo Main Library. Staff members in charge of the reference services explained how to access necessary information on "market trends and business trends in Japan and overseas," "medical information," "newspapers in the Meiji and Taisho eras," "trade papers," etc. The Kansai-kan also started the same kind of service.

About 500 titles added to the Digital Library of Children's Literature

The Digital Library of Children's Literature offers digital images of Japanese children's books held by the NDL including the ILCL, mainly published in and before 1955. In FY 2008, 490 titles were added and the total available titles increased to 1,687.

Digital Library of Children's Literature:

< http://kodomo4.kodomo.go.jp/web/ippangz/html/TOP.html> (in Japanese)

Enhancement of the PORTA

The National Diet Library Digital Archive Portal (PORTA) is a comprehensive portal site established by the NDL providing access to digital information in Japan. As a portal site for retrieving information from "Digital Archives," PORTA enables people to search various archives owned by national, public, and private organizations in addition to NDL's archives through an integrated search system. With the cooperation of domestic organizations, searchable archives increased to 38 as of the end of February 2009. Using API (Application Program Interface) as the external interface of PORTA, integrated searching or metadata harvesting are available from other systems. In December 2008, the function to output metadata in XML format was added to the portal.

The National Diet Library Digital Archive Portal (PORTA): < http://porta.ndl.go.jp/portal/dt>

Guide for search in the Kansai area (edited by the Kansai-kan of the NDL)

The NDL website began to offer a search guide which provides information on materials and resources available mainly in the Kansai area. It introduces various types of information resources (library materials, websites, databases, neighboring libraries and other institutions) which the staff of the Kansai-kan found to be useful for searching. Users can rapidly get information by searching by theme.

Guide for search in the Kansai area:

< http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/service/kansai/reference/theme/index.html> (in Japanese)

User Survey FY2008

Since FY2004, we have conducted surveys for on-site users and surveys for remote users every other year so that we can grasp the needs of a wide range of users. In FY2008, the NDL conducted a remote user survey from July to September. The results of the survey will be published in English on the website < http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/user_surveys.html>.

RSS feeds of Japanese Periodicals Index launched

In December 2008, RSS feeds of the Japanese Periodicals Index started so that users can efficiently get information on the newly-arrived periodicals at the NDL. To utilize them, users select titles of journals from the list of indexed periodicals in the Japanese Periodicals Index, and subscribe to the feeds. When the article information of selected titles is updated, it is automatically provided to users' feed readers. The article information includes the (1) title of journal, (2) URL of the "article information" page of the NDL-OPAC, (3) title of article, (4) URL of the "bibliographic information" page of the NDL-OPAC, (5) author of article, (6) volume number, publication date and page numbers, (7) date of feeds, and (8) notes on copying the article.

Download service of the search results of the NDL-OPAC started

In February 2009, a download function was added to the NDL-OPAC so that users can easily obtain bibliographic data compiled by the NDL. Bibliographic data of all materials in the NDL-OPAC can be downloaded in tab-delimited format (tsv).

For more information on the service, please refer to

< http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/data/opac_syoshiqa_teikyo.html#a05 >.

3. New and Ongoing Projects

Priority projects for FY2009

The priority projects for FY2009 determined by the Librarian include: improvement of Diet members' satisfaction level; legislation for collecting web information and promotion of digitization for the purpose of preservation; development of the total library system; upgrading of the bibliographic process; promotion of acquisition including by the legal deposit; improvement of user services; launch of the Digital Archiving System; formation of a basic plan for the expansion of the International Library of Children's Literature.

Web archiving and digitization

Projects for web archiving and digitization have been conducted continuously during recent years and produced concrete results such as PORTA (NDL Digital Archive Portal, *see 3. New Information Services*), Digital Library from the Meiji Era, and WARP. Further efforts have been focused on several aspects including legislation for collecting Internet information produced by the national and local governments and specified independent organizations, discussion with stakeholders about digitization, and developing the Digital Archiving System.

User services

On the user services front, we have been discussing a new service plan to be drawn up this year. This will set a future image of NDL's user services responding to the rapid change of information environment we face, and improve the library's activities. For the services on the website, a new service framework called "RESEARCH NAVI" will be launched in the first half of FY2009. This will navigate users to information they need in more integrated and explicit way.

Cooperative projects with other Japanese libraries

NDL has been conducting the Collaborative Reference Database Project and the NDL Union Catalog Network. With the participation of 478 libraries, the former collects and accumulates 41,228 data of reference cases from the NDL and other libraries in Japan. Of these, 23,406 are publicly released on the Internet (as of February 2009). The latter, the union catalog of Japanese books held by the NDL and other public libraries, has the participation of 1,083 public libraries (as of the end of November 2008).

4. Major Events

NDL Database Forum

The National Diet Library Database Forum was held at the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan of the NDL separately on September 17, 2008. A variety of databases and contents offered by the NDL website were presented to the audience. To make the presentations widely available to the public, the NDL took a video of the forum and posted it on the Internet on a trial basis. The forum was the third in the series, but it was the first time that the recorded video was provided on the website <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/dbforum/handouts.html> (in Japanese).

Open Day at the Kansai-kan of the NDL

The Open Day at the Kansai-kan of the NDL took place on November 16, 2008, to coincide with the local event "Seika Festival." On the day, the Kansai-kan opened to the public including people under 18 years old (who normally cannot enter).

Events included the presentation and demonstration of the digital library services of the NDL, a brief introduction of how to use library materials in the Kansai-kan, and a hands-on program of Japanese book binding for parents and children.

Library Fair & Forum 2008

The NDL participated in the 10th Library Fair and Forum from November 26 to 28, 2008. This annual fair in Japan features exhibits by a diversity of organizations including publishing companies, newspaper companies, booksellers, library supply companies, public libraries and university libraries. The NDL exhibited panels and distributed leaflets at a display booth, and also gave presentations on digital library projects and library cooperation.

Lecture meetings, etc.

➤ Open lecture by Mr. Nigel Spencer, Research Manager, British Library: "Services developed by the British Library to support entrepreneurs and small business development" (December 17, 2008)

➤ Lecture and discussion meeting by Dr. Gunnar Sahlin, National Librarian, National Library of Sweden: "National Library of Sweden: Challenges in the Digital Era" (January 21, 2009)

➤ Open lecture "Cataloging now and in future," by invited experts and NDL senior staff (February 5, 2009)

➤ Seminar "eBooks in Japan, 2008: Distribution, Use and Preservation," an open briefing session on the survey conducted by the NDL under the initiative of outside experts (March 9, 2009)

➤ Lecture and discussion meeting by Dr. Claudia Lux, President of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions): "Libraries in the Knowledge Society - visions for the future." (March 10, 2009)

Events at the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL)

In addition to the regular reader services, storytelling and guided tours, the ILCL organized the exhibition "World of Illustrations for Children: Picture Magazines and Their Artists" (September 20, 2008 – February 15, 2009), and lectures and a concert related to the exhibition; the exhibition "Palette of Dream Colours Ⅳ: Winning Works of the 16th Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America" (March 14, 2009 – July 5, 2009); some seasonal events for children; and a lecture series on Japanese folk tales.

5. Particular report on one of the following four themes on cooperation in knowledge-based society adopted in 16th CDNLAO

Web archiving

It was decided at the last CDNLAO Meeting (Tokyo) that the NDL would take leadership in international cooperation for web archiving. Please refer to the separate paper prepared by the NDL.

***Announcement from the NDL ***

The new CDNLAO website was launched on March 12, 2009. The website is hosted by the National Diet Library and can be accessed from the following URL:

http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/index.html

Files presented to the 2008 meeting (country reports, presentation files, minutes, etc.) are carried in this website. Information on meetings before 2008 will follow.

The CDNLAO Newsletter is also integrated with this site and the new URL is:

http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/newsletter/index.html

We will continue to work on improving the website to make it useful to all the members of the CDNLAO.