

29th General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
1-2 November 2023, Wednesday & Thursday
Doha, Qatar

Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022]

Name of Country : Japan
Name of Library : National Diet Library
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1 Facts and Figures

* Figures for the fiscal year ending March 2023.

| Sn | Item Description | Figures |
|-----------|---|--|
| a | Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources | i. 20,243,361,000 yen from April 2022 to March 2023 ii. N/A |
| b | Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications | 894 as of April 2023 i. N/A ii. N/A |
| c | Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved | i. 48,550,883 items as of March 2023 ii. 7,533,375 items as of March 2023 |
| d | Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites | i. 503,404 visitors from April 2022 to March 2023 ii. 32,153,795 accesses from April 2022 to March 2023 |
| e | Inter Library Loans provided (Annual) | 5,780 loans from April 2022 to March 2023 |

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

i. Acquisition of online publications

The NDL, in accordance with the National Diet Library Law, has for some time been acquiring freely available online publications not protected by digital rights management (DRM) and with the June 2022 amendment of the Law started in January 2023 to acquire online books, magazines, and other publications that are either available for a fee or protected by DRM. These online publications are available to patrons via the National Diet Library Digital Collection from computer terminals at the NDL. Publications for which permission is obtained from the rights holders will be made freely accessible via the Internet.

ii. Digitization of the library collection

In accordance with the Basic Plan for Digitization 2021–2025 as formulated in March 2021, the digitization of books published and catalogued in Japan prior to 1988 was completed by March 2023. During FY2023, books published and catalogued in Japan between 1988 to 1995 will be the main target of digitization. As of August 2023, 3.56 million items are available via the NDL Digital Collection. Of these, 600,000 are freely available via the Internet, and 1.84 million are available via the Digitized Contents Transmission Service to partner libraries and to individual registered users residing in Japan. The NDL also converts digital images of library materials to text data using optical character recognition (OCR) and is developing an OCR program called NDLOCR.

iii. Redesign of the National Diet Library Digital Collection website and expansion of full-text search

In December 2022, the National Diet Library Digital Collection was given a newly redesigned website. Full-text search and snippet displays using full-text data were greatly expanded from 50,000 to 2.47 million items. Generation of text data for full-text searches remains an ongoing project. In addition, an image search functionality has been added for rare books and old materials as well as for books in the public domain that are available via the Internet.

iv. Full-text data generated from digitized materials is available via the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (Mina Search) (Beta version)

As of March, 2023, residents of Japan with print disabilities are able to access full-text data created from digitized materials. This full-text data is available via the beta version of the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (commonly called “Mina Search”), which began trial availability that same day. The full-text data for 2.47 million items is available via this service, the official release of which is scheduled for January 2024.

v. 20th anniversary of the NDL Kansai-kan

The Kansai-kan was originally designed both to provide additional stack space in order to accommodate the increasing volume of library materials stored by the NDL and to serve as a base for providing library services in an era of developing information and communication technology. The Kansai-kan celebrated its 20th anniversary in October 2022. A new Storage Annex, which was completed in February 2020, has expanded total capacity to 11 million volumes. It also serves as a base for library cooperation projects and services of Asian information. A variety of lectures, exhibitions, and other events were held to commemorate the 20th anniversary.

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

i. Japan Search

The NDL is responsible for developing and operating the system on which the Japan Search (<https://jpsearch.go.jp/>) website runs as well as for coordinating cooperation with other institutions. Officially launched in August 2020, Japan Search is an integrated platform for aggregating and searching metadata to 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 a range of other functions to support utilization of content, including a curation function that permits the easy selection, editing, publishing of digital content. As of September 2023, Japan Search collaborates with 45 aggregators that acquire data from more than 1,200 institutions as well as with 219 databases to provide access to 29 million items of metadata.

ii. Data Transmission Service for Persons with Print Disabilities

In accordance with the Implementation Plan for Library Services for People with Disabilities 2021–2024, the NDL has been acquiring accessibility-enhanced data from public libraries and institutions in Japan, which together with full-text and other data created by the NDL as well as data acquired from overseas institutions in accordance with the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled is made available via the Data Transmission Service for Persons with Print Disabilities. As of September 2023, 37,764 items acquired from 131 libraries and institutions have been combined with additional items created by the NDL, and together a total of 2,506,684 items are available to 276 institutions and 697 individual registered users, including persons with print disabilities.

iii. Preservation cooperation activities

In order to support local libraries which were affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, which in recent years have occurred frequently in Japan, the NDL provides technical training for restoring library materials and cooperates in repairing affected books.

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.

ii. Organizing international events

The NDL has sponsored a number of webinars, including one in March 2022 that featured a former IFLA president discussing SDGs and another in March 2023 that featured the deputy director of the Material Development Department at the National Library for the Disabled (NLD) in Korea.

Webinar: *Libraries and UN SDGs: IFLA supporting the libraries to achieve the SDGs* (March 24, 2022)

<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/event/events/20220324lecture.html>

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>

iii. Preservation cooperation activities

The NDL serves as the IFLA PAC Regional Centre for Asia and has endeavored to provide information on preservation and conservation domestically and internationally on the NDL website.

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. Also, the NDL is currently in the process of initiating a personnel exchange program with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

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>