

National Diet Library (NDL) Digital Library Project

National Diet Library

1 NDL and digital information

1.1 History

- 1970 Installation of computers
- 1977 Launch of online cataloging for Japanese books
- 1981 Launch of JAPAN/MARC distribution
- | Launch of provision of online database
- 1990s Advanced information society: progress of electronic communication technology and information processing technology
- Late 1990s Rapid and widespread diffusion of the Internet, which accelerated services for remote users at libraries
- 1996 Setup of the NDL website
- 1998 Formulation of the National Diet Library Electronic Library Concept: aiming for information-providing services with no geographic limitations or time constraints
- 2000 Launch of provision of the NDL-OPAC and images of rare materials on the NDL website

1.2 Changes in the information distribution environment and new responsibilities of the NDL

- Abundant digital information distributed on the Internet
- Creation, compilation of information and publication on the Internet by individuals became easier.
 - ↓
- New responsibilities of the NDL emerged
 - ← So far, focused on preservation of publication-centered physical media
 - The concept of publication changed with printed materials turning one after another into digital information,
 - Digital information can be estimated to be publications.
 - Responsibility to collect and preserve digital information as cultural heritage
- Regardless of types of information media, NDL is expected to
 - ★ collect, accumulate and preserve information.
 - ★ provide information to users rapidly.
 - ★ navigate users to any contents they need.

2 Development of information-communication society

- ★ In the last decade, the Internet population increased by 7.6 times and the penetration rate of the Internet has reached 70 percent of the Japanese population. (White Paper 2007 – Information and Communications in Japan)
- ★ Broadband penetration rate for households in Japan: 95% of households in 2006. (Internet White Paper 2008 published by impress R&D)
- ★ Ubiquitous network age
In Japan, more than half of the population 6 years of age and over connects into the Internet via mobile phones and other equipment. (White Paper 2007 – Information and Communications in Japan)
- ★ In the last decade, the number of Internet domain also increased by 18 times. (Internet Systems Consortium (<http://www.isc.org/index.pl?/ops/ds/>))
- ★ In East Asia,
 - China: aims to provide internet access from all of the townships.
 - South Korea: by 2005, 95% of all rural areas were connected to a broadband communication network.

3 NDL Digital library project

3.1 Outline

- Accumulation of digital contents based on the National Diet Library Electronic Library Concept (1998)
- In parallel with the opening of the Kansai-kan of the NDL (2002): provision of the digital contents on the Internet started.
- Providing online services via the Internet (currently about 30 contents)
- Primary and secondary information: NDL-OPAC, texts of materials

3.2 Digital library contents

- Image database of rare books held by the NDL (about 49,000 images)
- Books published in the Meiji and Taisho eras (about 150,000 books)
- Full text of the Minutes of the Diet
- Digital Exhibition: 11 contents
- Electronically published materials (various information magazines, research information, and collected papers on the history and points at issue of national policy targets, and related foreign situations)
- Web Archiving Project (WARP) which selectively collects Internet information

3.3 Tasks on construction of the NDL digital archive system

- ① System development
- ② Formulation of legal framework which allows collection of Internet information
- ③ Formulation of policy for collecting Internet information regardless of legislation
- ④ Formulation of plan for digitizing paper materials (for the purpose of preservation, also)
- ⑤ Facilitation of copyright clearance work
- ⑥ Engagement in research on long-term preservation and long-term accessibility
- ⑦ Others

3.4 Development of the NDL Digital Archive Portal

- Another principal object along with construction of the NDL digital archive system
- Development of a comprehensive website guiding to all Japanese digital resources
- Full-fledged system open to the public since October 2007 (alias: PORTA)
- Portal site which navigates users directly to information resources and information-providing services on the Internet, not limited to NDL digital contents
- Acquisition of metadata and cross-search function: standard protocol
- Offering Application Program Interface

4 For cooperation among national libraries in China, Korea and Japan

- Need for international linkage in the field of digital library projects
- Mutual collaboration and cooperation among national libraries is important for efficient implementation.
- For coordination with national libraries in China and Korea

4.1 National Library of China

- Focused on development of digital resources and services since 1987 and formulated plans for development of digital resources of the National Library of China.
- In September 2008, the new building of National Library of China opened to the public.
- Next four years are key spot for digital library project
- Achieving collection, organization, management, publication and long-term

preservation of digital resources

- Construction of portal of the digital library services is planned.

4.2 National Library of Korea

- Under construction of the National Digital Library, which will be a gateway of information services both inside and outside Korea
- Developing a portal site to become user-centered and interactive digital library, which expects to be a hub in the knowledge and information society

4.3 Aiming for trilateral cooperation

- Dr. Nagao, Librarian of the NDL, suggested to China and Korea on the occasion of the IFLA Annual Conference 2007 that we could cooperate together.
- Sharing policy and technology is vital for cooperation among libraries and promotion of sharing information resources.
- National libraries of China and Korea agreed to the suggestion.
- Research is in progress.
- Taking the CDNLAO 2008 meeting as an opportunity, discussion sessions among the three countries will start tomorrow.
- Theme is China-Korea-Japan cooperation on digital archiving project.

4.4 Specific subjects of trilateral cooperation

- (1) Standardization of metadata schema
- (2) Realization of an integrated information search service
- (3) Collaboration and cooperation for long-term preservation