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National Diet Library, Vision 2021-2025



# Digital Shift at the National Diet Library

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# Overview of the National Diet Library

# Overview of the National Diet Library (NDL)

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- Established in 1948
- The only national library in Japan that belongs to the National Diet
- Collects all materials and information published in Japan under the legal deposit system
- Provides services to the National Diet, the executive and judicial agencies of the national government and the people of Japan

➤ The National Diet Library Law (Law No.5, 1948 )

Preamble: The National Diet Library is hereby established as a result of the firm conviction that truth makes us free and with the object of contributing to international peace and the democratization of Japan as promised in our Constitution.

Article 2. The National Diet Library shall collect books and other library materials for the purpose of assisting the members of the National Diet in the performance of their duties and also for the purpose of providing certain library services as hereinafter specified for the executive and judicial agencies of the national government and for the people of Japan.

# Buildings & Equipment

\*The number of seats is based on figures as of the end of the fiscal year 2021.



## Tokyo Main Library

Providing services for the National Diet and on-site users while overseeing the operation of three facilities.

Storage capacity  
4.5 million in the Main Building  
7.5 million in the Annex

Reading space  
18,983m<sup>2</sup>/1,018 seats



## Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

Serving as the base of operations for remote library services as well as providing on-site library services for the general public.

Storage capacity  
6 million in the Main Building  
5 million in the Stack Building

Reading space  
4,265m<sup>2</sup>/359 seats



## International Library of Children's Literature

The sole national library dedicated to children's books.

Storage capacity  
400,000 in the Brick Building  
650,000 in the Arch Building

Reading space  
2,054m<sup>2</sup>/124 seats

# Main Web Services



## NDL ONLINE

<https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/>

System for searching and requesting the use of materials held by the NDL.



## NDL Search

<https://iss.ndl.go.jp/?ar=4e1f&locale=en>

System for searching for materials and digital contents at the NDL, prefectural libraries, archives, museums, and academic research institutes in Japan. It provides the Union Catalog and the Data Transmission Service for Persons with print disabilities.



## NDL Digital Collection

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

System for searching and browsing digital materials collected and preserved by the NDL.  
Renewed in December 2022.

Planning to integrate in January 2024

\*The NDL also offers services such as Research Navi, Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet, Web Archiving Project (WARP), and the Collaborative Reference Database. (Reference) List of Online Services <https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/use/service/index.html>

# Collections

\*All figures are as of the end of fiscal year 2021.

## ➤ Tangible materials (Approximate)

Books	Periodicals & Newspapers	Other non-book materials
11.93 million items	19.94 million items	14.35 million items

## ➤ Intangible materials (Approximate)

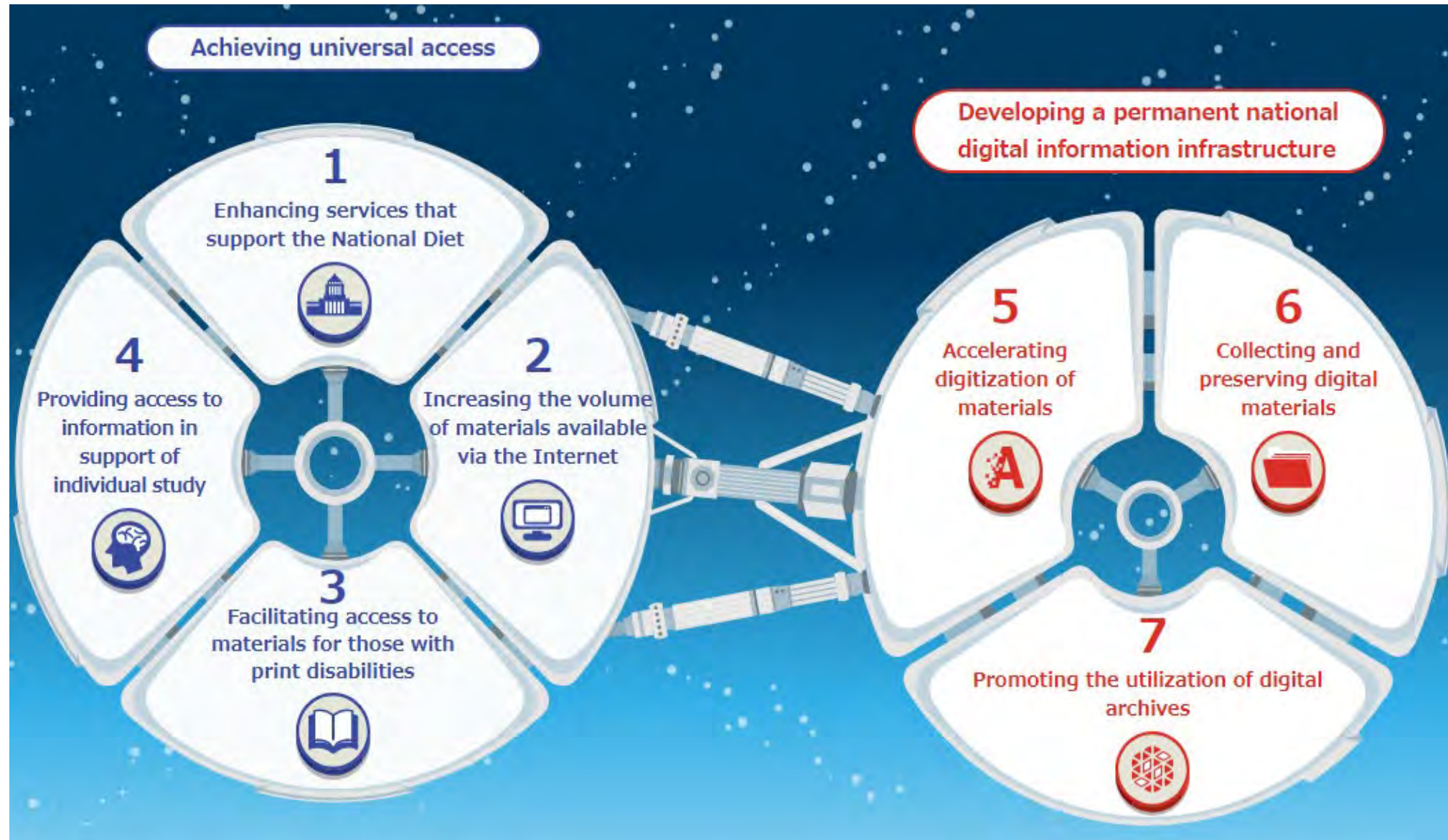
Internet materials (websites)	Online materials (e-books, e-magazines)
14,000 titles Approx. 220,000 records (data capacity: approx. 2PB)	Published by private institutions: 857,000 items Published by public institutions: 546,000 items

(Reference) The NDL in figures <https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/outline/numerically.html>  
Annual Report of the National Diet Library <https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/publication/annual/index.html>

# The Vision of the National Diet Library

National Diet Library, Vision 2021–2025:  
The Digital Shift at the National Diet Library

# The National Diet Library, Vision 2021-2025



<https://vision2021.ndl.go.jp/en/#vision>



# Background of Vision Formulation

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- Preamble to Vision 2021-2025

Spurred on by the impact of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), advances in [information technology](#) are transforming both our social activities and how we communicate with others online. Put plainly, our society is experiencing an ever-accelerating [digital shift](#).

In recognition of this, the National Diet Library is now planning seven initiatives that are intended to better connect [over the next five years information resources with intellectual activities under the moniker The Digital Shift at the National Diet Library](#).

# Composition of Vision 2021-2025

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- I The Digital Shift at the National Diet Library
  - Seven initiatives for connecting information resources and intellectual activities –

[\\*Pick up businesses to be particularly focused on over the next 5 years](#)

## II Basic Roles of the National Diet Library

- 1 Supporting the National Diet
- 2 Acquiring, cataloging, and preserving materials and information
- 3 Providing access to information resources
- 4 Tie-ins with other institutions

[\\*Organize the entire business into four areas.](#)

# Seven initiatives ①

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## ➤ Achieving universal access

### 1. Enhancing services that support the National Diet

NDL services that support the activities of the National Diet will be improved by utilizing a quantitatively and qualitatively enhanced digital information infrastructure and more effective search tools.

### 2. Increasing the volume of materials available via the Internet

The volume of digital materials available via the Internet or at local libraries will be increased by adding materials for which copyright protection has expired as well as materials which the rights owners have agreed to make available.

### 3. Facilitating access to materials for those with print disabilities

Reading materials for those with print disabilities will be acquired, cataloged, and made available in a variety of formats to facilitate access to information including additional support for the production of text data.

### 4. Providing access to information in support of individual study

Using our accumulated expertise, vast amounts of materials and information will be curated and made available to the general public, including guides to efficient research and introductions to materials about specific fields.

# Seven initiatives ②

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- Developing a permanent national digital information infrastructure

## 5. Accelerating digitization of materials

Over the next five years, the NDL will digitize more than a million library materials to achieve our vision of making all domestic publications available in digital form. We will convert them to full-text data, making them searchable and suitable for processing with machine learning.

## 6. Collecting and preserving digital materials

Cooperating with authors and publishers, the NDL undertakes acquisition of commercially available e-books and e-journals under the provisions of the law. Moreover, we strive to achieve long-term preservation of digital materials by collecting digital materials of other institutions, converting media that are no longer playable into usable formats, and other initiatives.

## 7. Promoting the utilization of digital archives

Japan Search connects digital archives across a range of specializations in support of the creation of an environment that enables information and data to be made open and fully utilized.

# Current situation of digitized contents (as of August 2023) (Approximate)

Material type	Available Online	Available only at the NDL and its partner libraries or to official registered users in Japan	Available only at the NDL	Total	Details
Books	360,000	850,000	390,000	1,600,000	Books acquired by the NDL up to 1987 since the Meiji era
Periodicals	20,000	820,000	530,000	1,360,000	Deteriorated magazines and academic journals among domestically published periodicals (published more than five years ago)
Rare Books and Old Materials	80,000	20,000	-	90,000	Rare books, Semi-rare books, Japanese old books up to the Edo Period
Doctoral Dissertations	10,000	140,000	20,000	170,000	Japanese doctoral dissertations received by the NDL from 1988 to 2000
Newspapers	-	-	80,000	80,000	Newspapers published since the Meiji era that have been digitized for preservation purposes
Audio-Visual materials	-	-	10,000	10,000	Cassette tapes, sono-sheets (including the attached booklet), laserdiscs (including the attached booklet), part of the broadcast scripts, part of the manuscript of Japanese composers
Others	120,000	20,000	100,000	230,000	Official Gazettes, modern Japanese political history materials, maps, the Gordon W. Prange Collection, materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan, historical recordings collection
<b>Total</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>1,840,000</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>	<b>3,560,000</b>	

# Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries/ Individuals

## Transmission Service for Libraries (since January 21, 2014)

The National Diet Library



Digitization of the library collection

**Available only at the NDL**  
**About 1.12 million items**

Items that do not meet the requirements for internet publication and transmission service.

**Available Online**  
**About 600,000 items**

Items for which the copyright protection period has expired, publication on the internet has been authorized, and have been adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

**Transmission Service**  
**About 1.84 million items**

Out-of-print or otherwise difficult-to-obtain materials

- Among the digitized materials, the subject items include out-of-print materials or difficult-to-obtain materials that have undergone specified exclusion procedures, have no circulating stock, are not commercially available for electronic distribution
- Manga, picture books, commercial magazines, etc. are not included
- Currently, the materials transmitted to libraries and individuals are the same

**Transmission Service for Individuals**  
(since May 19, 2022)



Registered users of each library can access from specific terminals installed in public libraries and university libraries, etc., that have been approved as participating institutions in the service.



Registered users residing in Japan who have agreed to the Terms of Service can access from their personal devices.



Available to anyone, anywhere.<sup>13</sup>

# Progress of Textualization

- The revised Copyright Law (Articles 30-4 and 47-5), which took effect in January 2019, allows for the creation of text data from image data and the implementation of location search services.
- As of December 2020, text data was created from images of approximately 2.47 million digitized materials using OCR processing. (The character recognition rate (for books and magazines) averaged 96.86%.)
- To continue textualization, the NDL developed an OCR processing program (NDLOCR) and released it as open source.

## Utilization in Services:

- December 2022: Started use as full-text search data in The NDL Digital Collection.
- March 2023: Started offering text-based data through the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (Mina Search) Beta Version.

## ➤ Breakdown of about 2.47 million items

Type	Detail	Number of items (Approximate)
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Books acquired until 1968</li><li>• Part of materials related to earthquakes and disasters (including materials acquired after 1969)</li></ul>	970,000
Periodicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Periodicals from the Meiji period or later (published more than five years ago)</li></ul>	1,320,000
Doctoral Dissertations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doctoral dissertations received from 1988 (partially) to 2000</li></ul>	150,000
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Official Gazettes, etc.</li></ul>	20,000
Total		2,470,000

\* Materials digitized after 2021 will also be progressively textualized in the future.

# Promotion of barrier-free reading

- The NDL has begun offering text-based data from digitized materials specifically for persons with print disabilities (March 28, 2023, onward).
- Individuals with print disabilities registered with the Data Transmission Service for Persons with Print Disabilities and institutions approved for transmission can download and use approximately 2.47 million full-text data items from the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (Mina Search) Beta Version, which has been in trial release since March 28, 2023.



National Diet Library Materials  
Search for Persons with Disabilities  
(Mina Search) (Beta version)  
<https://mina.ndl.go.jp/>

\*The official version is scheduled to  
be released in January 2024.

(Reference) Persons with print disabilities can now access the full-text data of digitized materials through the National Diet Library Materials Search for Persons with Disabilities (Mina Search) Beta Version (news).

[https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/news/fy2022/230328\\_01.html](https://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/news/fy2022/230328_01.html)



# For Next Generations: Initiatives of NDL Lab

- The NDL operates the NDL Lab website to conduct demonstration experiments of elemental technologies that contribute to the development of the next-generation library system
- The NDL explores the potential of utilizing digital information resources, centered on machine learning and AI technologies
- The NDL releases the results of its experiments to make them available for use in various research fields, including Digital Humanities



NDL Lab

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

➤ Examples of experimental services currently provided.

- Next Digital Library <https://lab.ndl.go.jp/dl/>

Next Digital Library is an experimental digital library system that allows full-text and image searches applying AI and other technologies. The full text of about 80,000 old materials, which are the products of the OCR Text Conversion Experiment of Classical Materials in FY2022, are also available for full-text search.

- NDL Ngram Viewer <https://lab.ndl.go.jp/service/ngramviewer/en/>

NDL Ngram Viewer enables the visualization and enumeration of the frequency of occurrence of query words and phrases ("keywords") by publication date from OCR-generated text data.