

New Features of Digital Services at the NDL

Onuma, Tahee

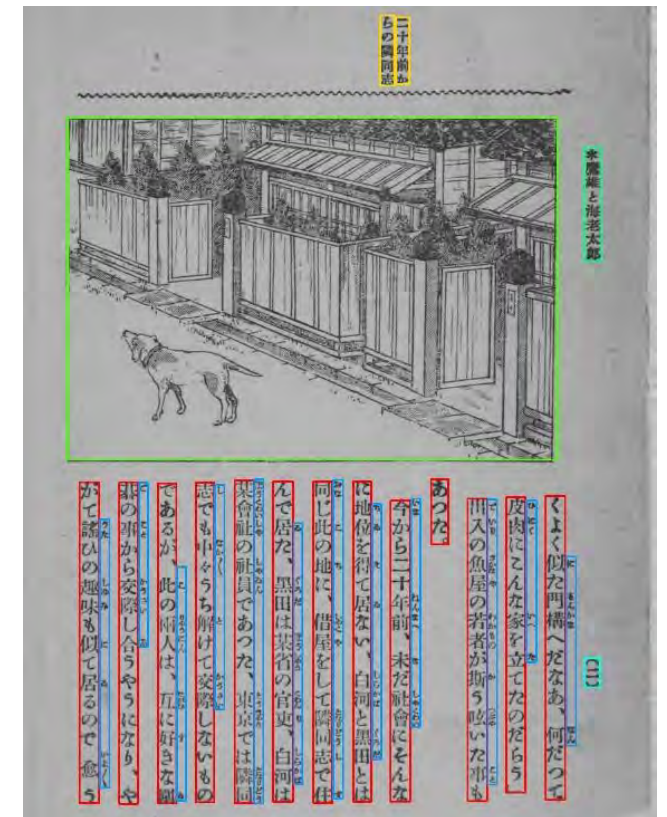
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Impact of Machine Learning Technology

- The development of machine learning/AI technology has greatly expanded possibilities for information exploration.
 - Data mining
 - Natural language processing
 - Computer vision
 - ...
- Significant recent advances at the NDL:
 - Services using **full-text data**
 - **Image search** functionality



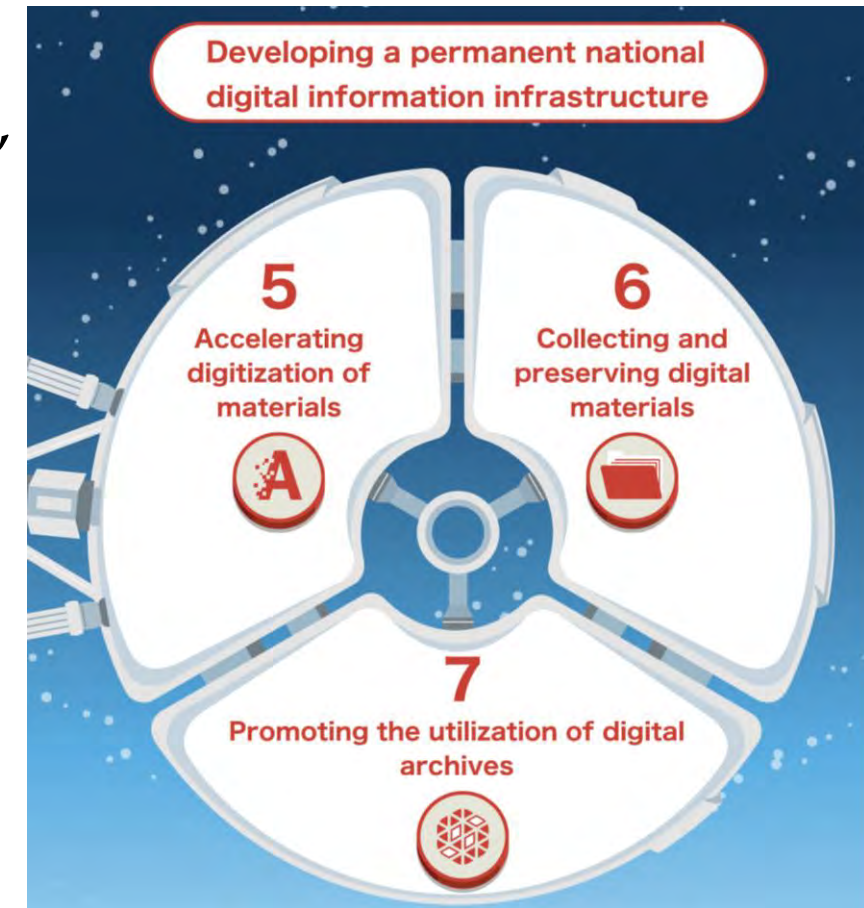
1. Use of Full-Text Data

- [Vision 2021-2025](#)

Initiative 5: “Accelerating digitization of materials,” which also includes full-text conversion

- Benefits of full-text data

- For search purposes
- Datasets for machine learning



Challenges in OCR for Modern Japanese Materials

1. Complexity of writing system

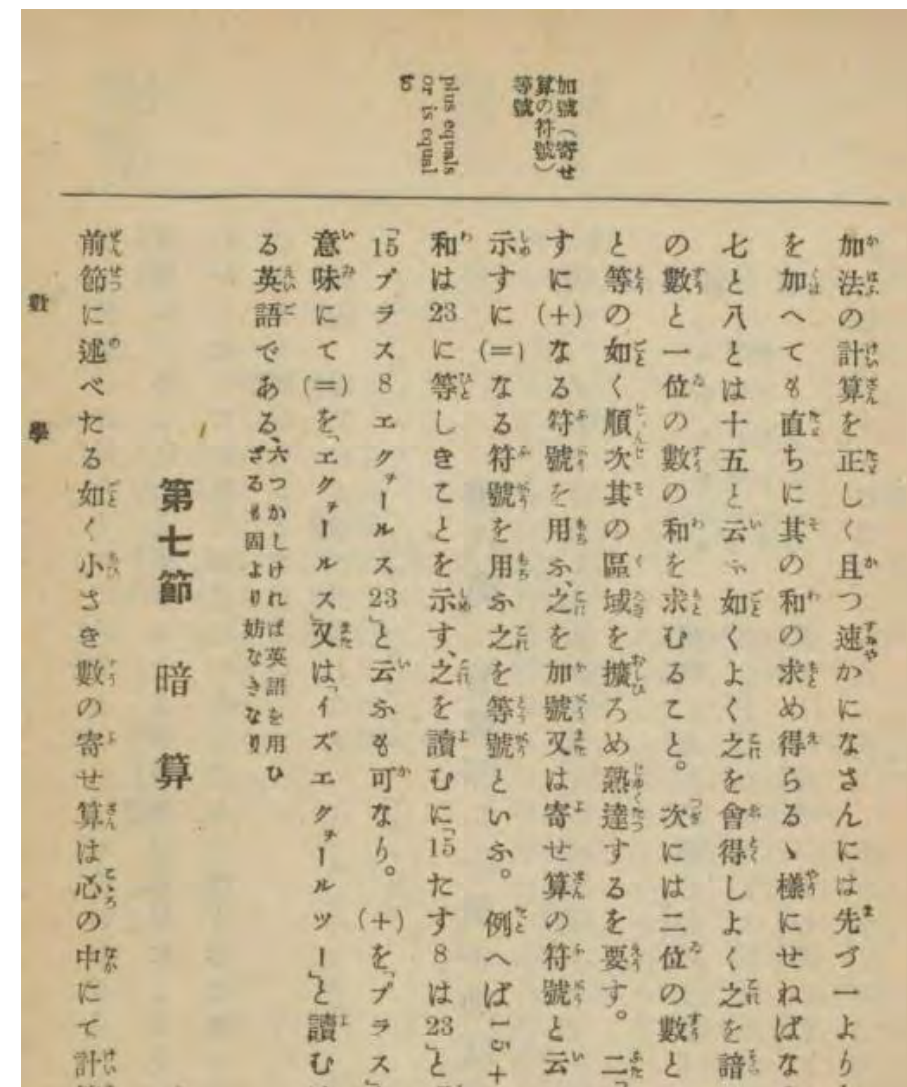
- Kanji (漢字), hiragana (ひらがな), katakana (カタカナ)
- Latin alphabet and other signs (abc, 123, #\$\$%&...)

2. Mixture of reading direction

- Vertical or horizontal, sometimes mixed (!)

3. Some typographic features


- Ruby characters (ルビ)
- Headnotes (頭注), split annotations (割注)



OCR-related Projects in FY2021: Overview

- **Project 1: Mass conversion from digitized images into text data**
 - Target: **2.47 million items** (223 million images)
 - = almost **all** documents that had been digitized as of 2020
- **Project 2: Development of AI-OCR software for Japanese materials**
 - To be used for the text conversion of materials digitized after 2021
 - To be made freely available as open-source software (**OSS**)

OCR-related Projects in FY2021: Challenges

- How to generate full-text data for massive amounts of digitized images (*cost, time*)
 - How to deal with characteristics of and variety in pre-WW II (1868-1945) Japanese-language materials, such as outdated character forms or fonts (*quality*)
- 
- Development of an AI-OCR model optimized for digitized materials of the NDL



OCR-related Projects in FY2021: Output

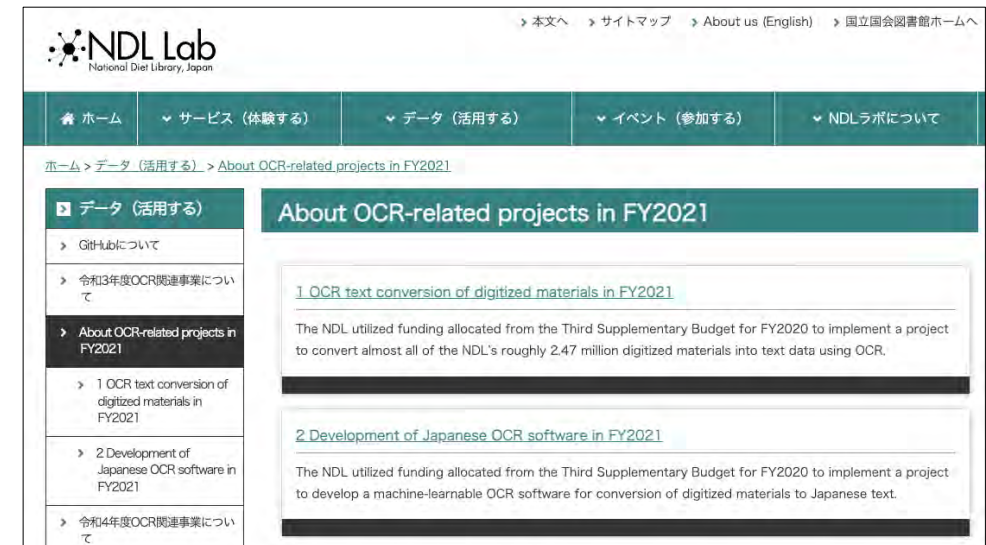
1. A huge amount of full-text data

- Books, periodicals and other digitized collections (uncorrected)
- Integrated into **NDL Digital Collections** for full-text search

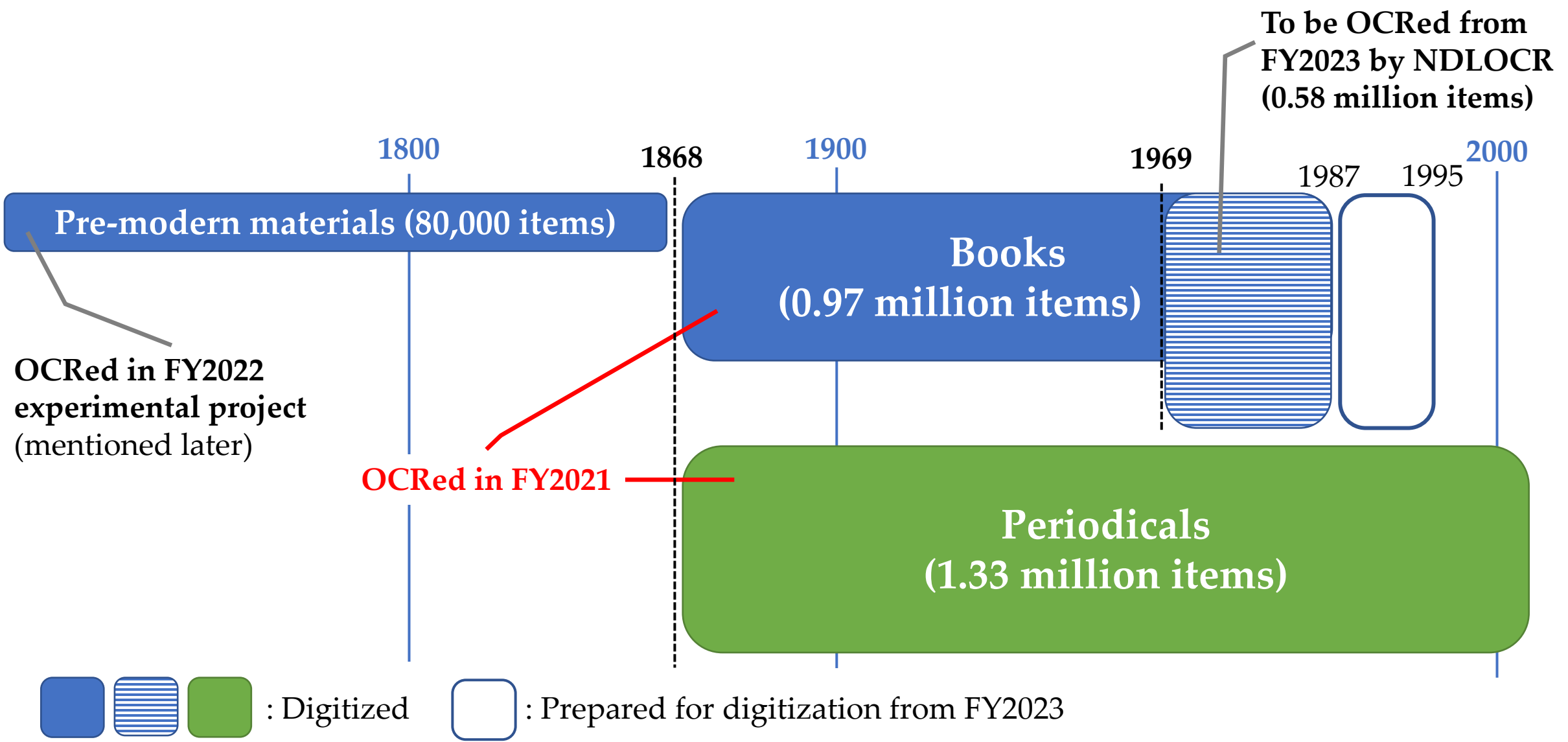
2. AI-OCR software NDLOCR

- Customizable and trainable OSS
- Freely available on GitHub (CC-BY)

For more details of these OCR projects, please see:
https://lab.ndl.go.jp/data_set/ocr_en/



Summary: Digitized and OCRed Materials at the NDL



NDL Digital Collections: Overview

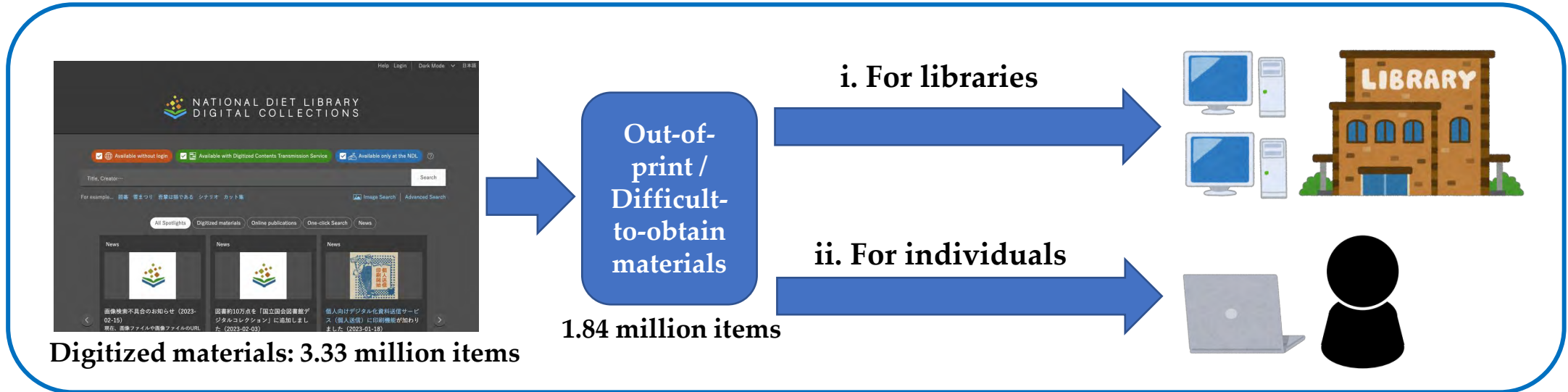
- Platform for digital materials collected by the NDL
 - Digitized documents (3.33 million items)
 - Online publications (1.46 million items)
 - Doctoral dissertations in digital format (0.1 million items)
- 3 levels of access:
 - Available online (mostly PD)
 - Available through the Digitized Contents Transmission Service (see next slide)
 - On-premises only



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

Digitized Contents Transmission Service

- Provides online access to digitized out-of-print or otherwise difficult-to-obtain materials (including those under copyright protection)
 - i. **For libraries** (January 2014-)
 - In partner libraries, patrons can access materials at terminals on premises
 - ii. **For individuals** (May 2022-)
 - Official registered users (Japanese residents only) can access them via internet



Digitized Contents Transmission Service (for Libraries)

- **List of overseas partner libraries** (as of March 1, 2023)

Country	Libraries
United States of America	C.V. Starr East Asian Library, University of California, Berkeley 【View Only】 University of Iowa Libraries 【View Only】
Belgium	Library of Arts and Philosophy - Ghent University 【View Only】
Ireland	University College Cork Library 【View Only】
Italy	Istituto Giapponese di Cultura Biblioteca (ローマ日本文化会館図書館) 【View Only】
Spain	Biblioteca de Humanidades, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid 【View Only】
Israel	Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem 【View Only】

https://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/soshin_librarylist

NDL Digital Collections: Recent Progress

- Acceleration of digitization (as of February 2023)
 - Available online: 0.58 million items
 - Available through transmission service: 1.84 million items
 - On-premises: 0.91 million items
- Totally renewed in December 2022 with new functionalities:
 - Full-text search
 - Image search



cf.

“[Digitizing Library Materials at the NDL \(part 1\)](#)”, *National Diet Library Newsletter*, (249).

“[Renewal of the National Diet Library Digital Collections](#)”, *ibid.*

NDL Digital Collections: Full-Text Search

- Text data produced in FY 2021 has been integrated. (2.47 million items)
- In the search results page, query keywords and their surrounding text are displayed as snippets.
- This functionality has led to a significant improvement in possibilities for information seeking. (e.g. first appearance of a specific term in the corpus)

The screenshot displays search results for the term 'ザンギリ頭' (Zangiri-oka) across four different book entries. Each entry includes a book cover, title, author, publisher, and year, followed by a list of matching text snippets. The snippets show the term in various contexts, such as 'ザンギリ頭に驚異の眼を向けたといふのだから' and 'ザンギリ頭を叩いて見れば文明開化(の音がする)'. Each result also indicates that the content is available without login.

Book Title	Author	Publisher	Year	Matched Parts
岡山秘帖	高取久雄 著	吉田書店	昭和6	3 matched parts
信仰英雄物語 3	梅田安之 著	日曜世界社	昭和7	2 matched parts
老船長の回顧六十年	横山愛吉 著	高橋南益社	昭和7	128: 陳代謝して非常に濃いザンギリ頭になつた、以て其病勢の如何に猖獗なりしかを察せらるゝであらう。...
秩父多摩山・総の海	高橋源一郎 著	武蔵野歴史地理学会	昭和7	171: るゝ程であつた。勿論ザンギリ頭である。顔中のヒゲも同様、何尺あるか一寸はかつて見な

NDL Digital Collections: Full-Text Search

- Full-text search within a document is also available.
- Snippets are displayed for PD documents (as shown below).

The screenshot shows the NDL Digital Collections interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Keyword Search', 'Help', 'Login', 'in NDL', 'Dark Mode', and '日本語'. The main content area displays a scanned document with Japanese text. On the right side, a search results panel is visible, showing the search term '明智光秀' (Arai Hakuseki) and the number of results '3 cases'. The 'Full-text search' button is highlighted with a red circle. Below the search results, three document entries are listed with their IDs and snippets of text.

Search results for '明智光秀':

- 6 0006.jp2
上洛。五月二十九日信長上洛。家康、堺に至る。六月二日今曉 明智光秀、信長本能寺に殺す。六月四日家康戦乱中の危険を脱し、三河大
- 16 0016.jp2
長の恩恵を受くこと其深厚なる口舌の能く及ぶ所に非るなり。我 明智光秀を誅す。信長何ぞ肩を黄城に開かざらんや。而して信孝、信雄皆我を
- 61 0061.jp2
からず。彼は聚楽に在り。其動かし得べき兵は伏見に在るものに比すれば頗る多数なり。彼にして若し 明智光秀 たらしめば或は此に第二の本能寺亂を現出したらんやも知るべからず。彼の家臣の中にも此の如き策を

Document text (left page):

六月五日 家康岡崎城に入る。

家康は上方にて本能寺の變に逢ひたれども、幸にして戦乱中の危険を脱し途を伊賀路に取り、伊勢の白子より乗船し、六月四日三河國大濱に着し、岡五日岡崎まで歸りしかば德川氏の家人等始めて安んず。かくて家康は上方に而て出陣の用意をし、信長の爲めに復讐の師を擧げんとす。此時伊勢、尾張の寺、使を家康に發して共に光秀を討たんとしたるもの多し。然るに障ることありて出陣豫期より少し延び六月十五日に至りて家康瀬川鳴海に達したるに、伊勢の神兵より光秀既に亡びたる報あり。されど家康は猶ほ酒井忠孝等の長官をして津島まで進ましめたり。津島は當時の津渡なれば因て以て更に詳細なる上國の報に接せんことを欲したるものならん。間もなく秀吉より光秀既に其手に誅せられたりとも治まりたれば家康にも早々歸陣ありて然るべしと言ひ來る。此報、岡十九日を以て鳴海に達せしかば岡二十一日家康は濱松に引かへした。

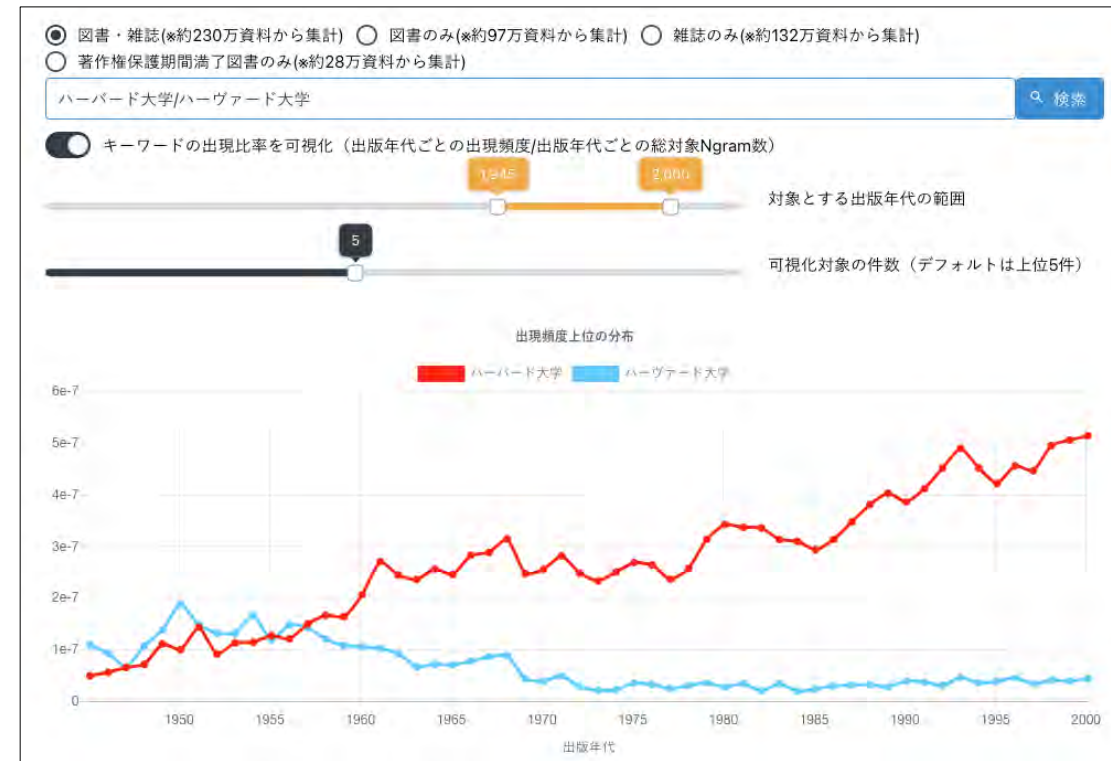
Document text (right page):

四月十四日 信長、田中に泊る。
四月十五日 信長、遠江掛川に泊る。
四月十六日 信長、濱松に泊る。
四月十七日 信長、吉田に泊る。
四月十八日 信長、池田に泊る。
四月二十二日 此に至るまで信長は家康の領地を通過す。
信長公記に曰く、「國々遠國まで道を穿らせ、江川には舟楫を仰せ付けられ、路邊に御警固を申付られ、御泊りの御屋敷に立て置かれ、又路邊の辻々に透間なく御茶屋、御茶屋、御茶屋、御茶屋、おびたゞしき結陣に相傳へられ、御膳御進上御用意に京都御へ入せのぼせられ、津島にて珍奇を調べ、御崇敬料ならず。其外諸々の御まかなひ、是亦數日を送りて仰せ付けられ、千五百間づつの小屋御先々にて立て置かれ家康増萬方の御心賦一方ならず。御苦勞盡期なき次第なり」
四月二十一日 信長、安土にかへる。
五月十五日 家康、穴山梅雪を同道し安土に至る。今度の縁を信長に謝せんがためなり。
五月二十一日 家康上洛。
五月二十九日 信長上洛。家康、堺に至る。
六月二日 今曉明智光秀、信長本能寺に殺す。
六月四日 家康戦乱中の危険を脱し、三河大濱に着す。

<https://doi.org/10.11501/1907107>

NDL Ngram Viewer

- Experimental analytic tool for the corpus of digitized **books** and **periodicals** (2.3 million items)
- Visualizes frequency of query keywords by publication year
- Useful features:
 - Supports **regular expression** search
 - Target corpus can be selected (only books, periodicals, or PD books...)

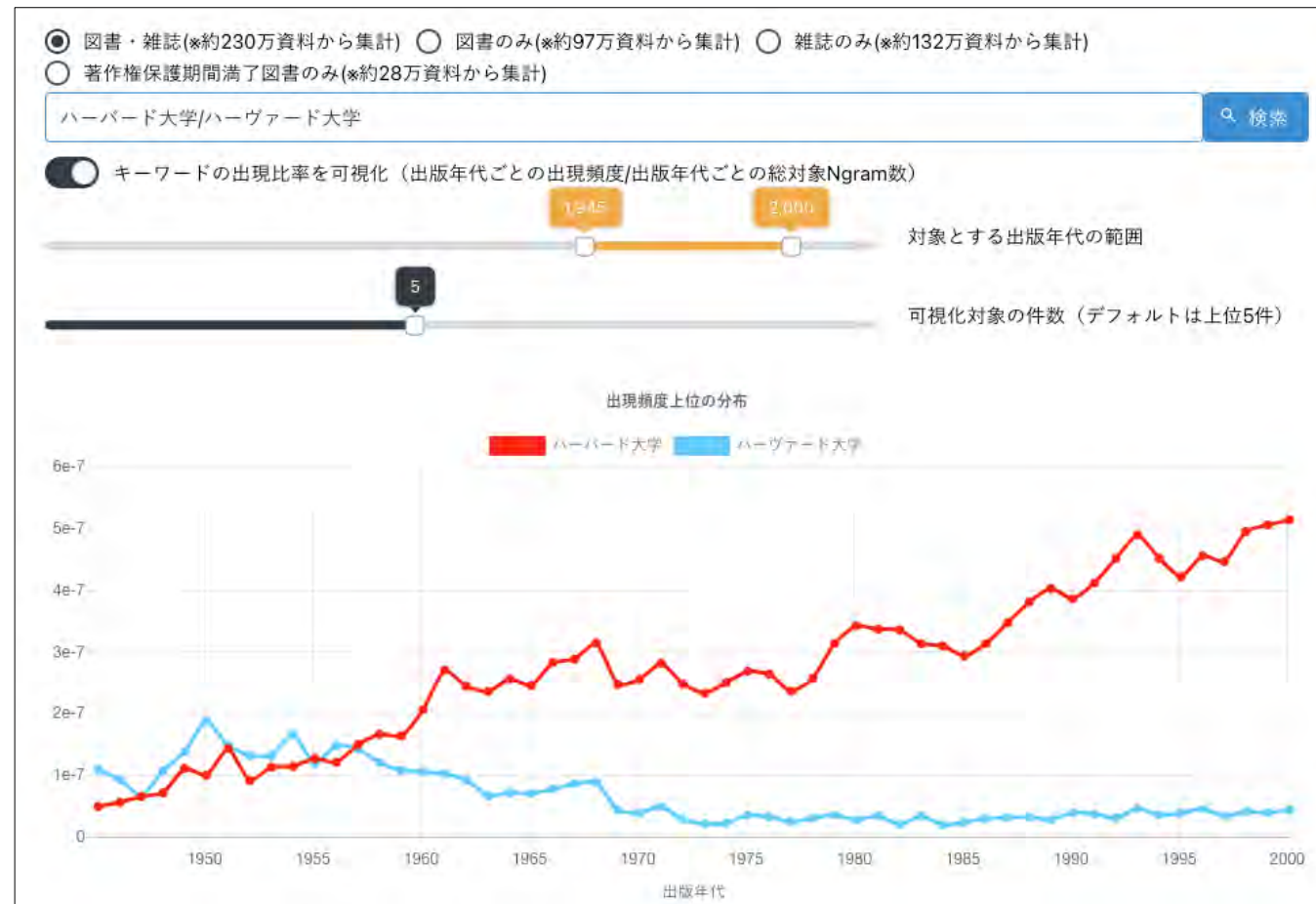


<https://lab.ndl.go.jp/ngramviewer/>

For more information, see: <https://lab.ndl.go.jp/service/ngramviewer/en/>

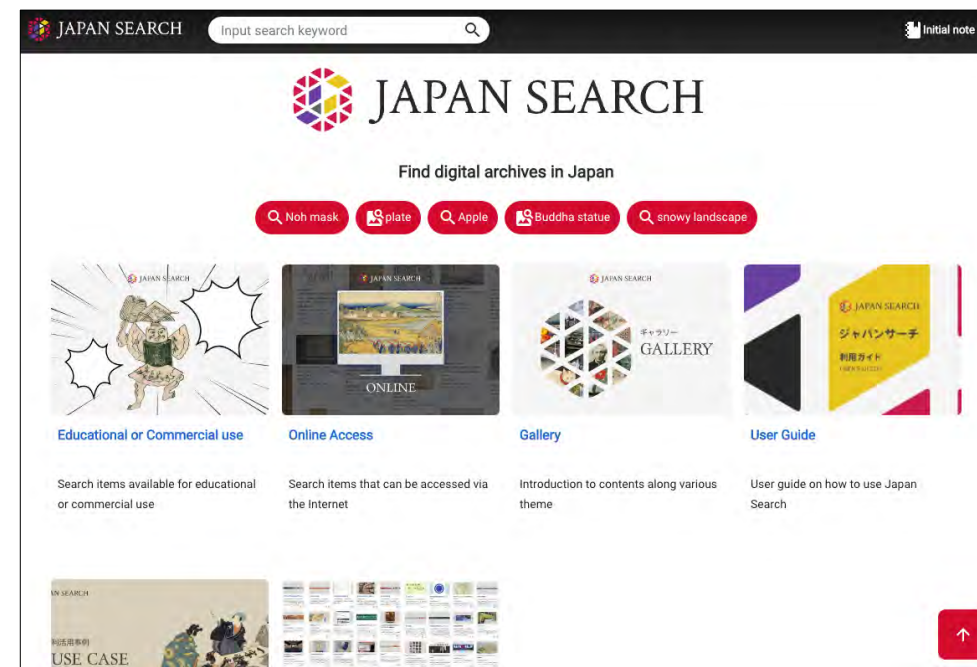
NDL Ngram Viewer

- Example: Comparison of two variants for “Harvard University” in Japanese writing (“ハーバード大学” or “ハーヴァード大学”)



2. Use of Image Data

- Image-based search services offered by the NDL:
 - NDL Digital Collections
 - Japan Search



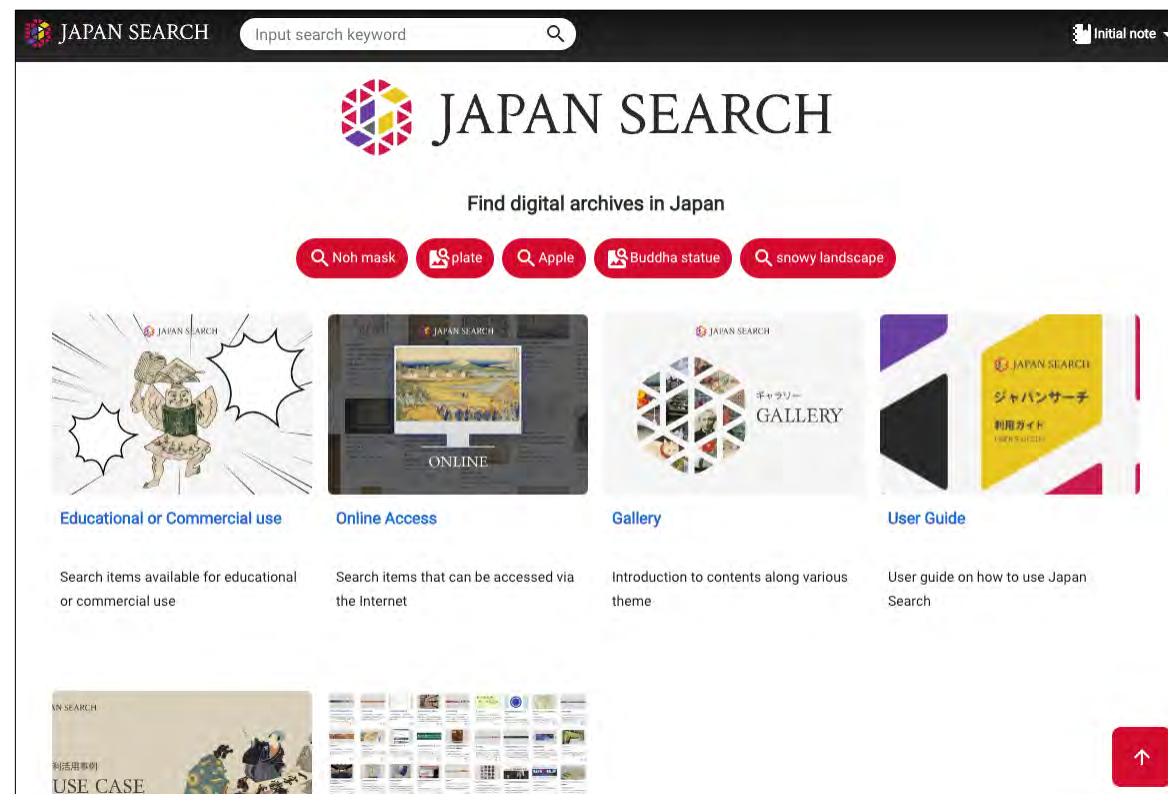
NDL Digital Collections: Image Search

- Image search functionality: released in December 2022
- Queries can be launched by:
 - Uploading an image file
 - Referring an image by URI

The screenshot shows the NDL Digital Collections website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and text "NDL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS" on the left, and links for "Keyword", "Search", "Help", "Login", "in NDL", "Dark Mode", and "日本語" on the right. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "Image Search" with the subtitle "Search using images instead of text." There are two search methods available: 1. "Search using the image file you have": This section features a dashed box for "Drag & Drop a Image Here" and a "Select a File" button. 2. "Search by Image (URI)": This section has a text input field containing "https://website/image.jpg" and a "Search" button. Below the input field, it says "Enter the URL of .jpg.png .bmp at the end." At the bottom right of the interface, there is a link for "Keyword Search".

Japan Search: Overview

- Official release in August 2020
- National platform for promoting the use of content from Japan's digital archives (such as GLAMs)
- Includes various types of digital materials (images, videos, sounds, 3D data...)
- 3 main functions: *Search*, *Galleries*, *API (SPARQL)*



<https://jpsearch.go.jp/>

Japan Search: Image Search

- Image search can be launched from any thumbnails shown
- Feature-based, not metadata-based

Cross Search
Search all databases with keywords. ⓘ

Example [Fuji\(San\(Mt.Euji\)\)](#) [Tachi\(sword\)](#) [Udon\(noodle\)](#) [Karamatsu\(larch\)](#) [Magatama\(comma-shaped jewel\)](#) [Nomen\(Noh.mask\)](#)

Input search keyword

紺糸威六枚胴具足

Use Condition Contents Type Database Field Time Location Contributor By Image

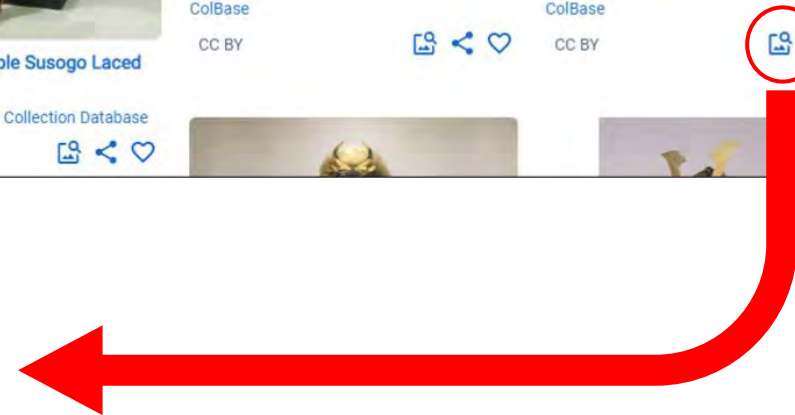
1,896 records found

Image	Title	Source	License	Actions
	Suit of Armor in Okegawa Nimaido Gusoku Style with Black Lacing	Tokyo Fuji Art Museum Collection Database	CC BY	
	南蛮胴具足	ColBase	CC BY	
	仁王胴具足	ColBase	CC BY	
	紺糸威南蛮胴具足	ColBase	CC BY	

仁王胴具足
ColBase
CC BY

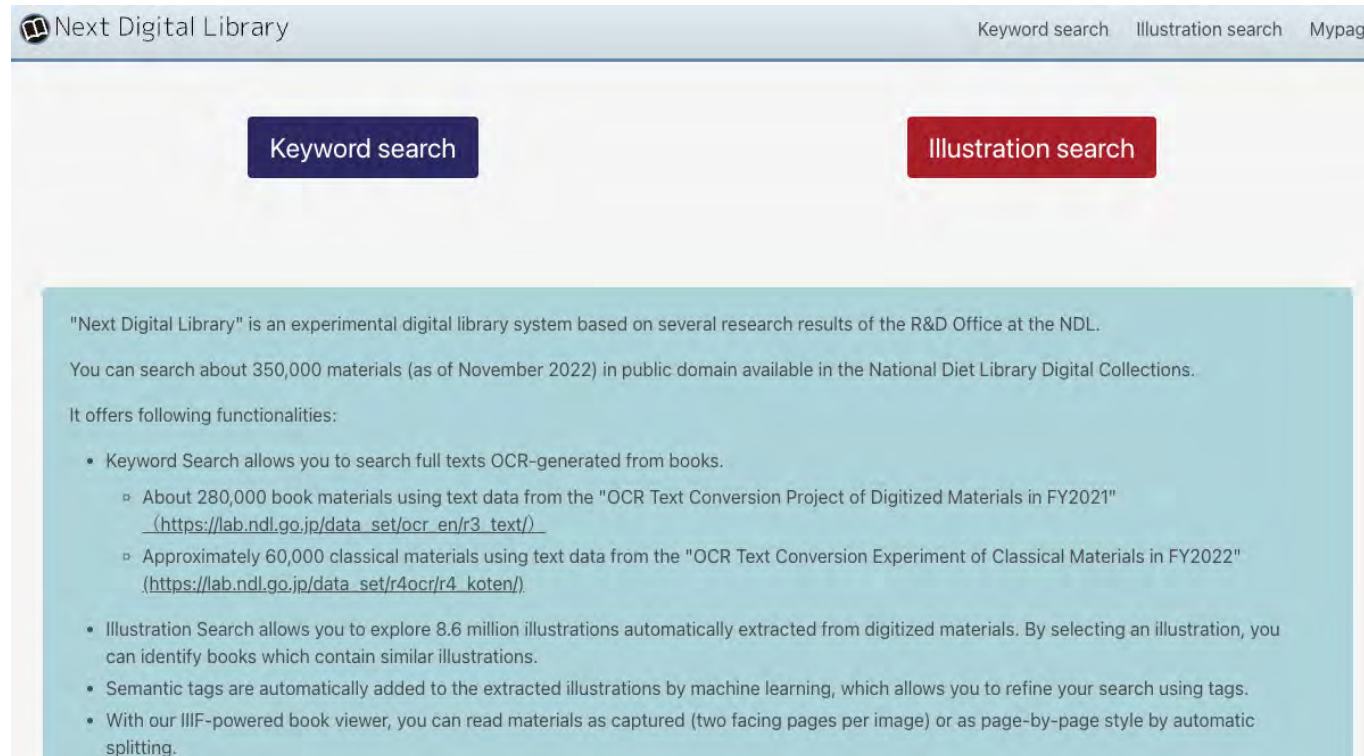
紺糸威六枚胴具足
ColBase
CC BY

ium Collection Database



Next Digital Library: Overview

- Experimental search/retrieval system for field trials of new functionalities developed by the R&D Office (March 2019-)
- Contains **books** and **pre-modern materials** in PD (350,000 in total)



Next Digital Library

Keyword search Illustration search Mypage

Keyword search Illustration search

"Next Digital Library" is an experimental digital library system based on several research results of the R&D Office at the NDL.

You can search about 350,000 materials (as of November 2022) in public domain available in the National Diet Library Digital Collections.

It offers following functionalities:

- Keyword Search allows you to search full texts OCR-generated from books.
 - About 280,000 book materials using text data from the "OCR Text Conversion Project of Digitized Materials in FY2021" (https://lab.ndl.go.jp/data_set/ocr_en/r3_text/)
 - Approximately 60,000 classical materials using text data from the "OCR Text Conversion Experiment of Classical Materials in FY2022" (https://lab.ndl.go.jp/data_set/r4ocr/r4_koten/)
- Illustration Search allows you to explore 8.6 million illustrations automatically extracted from digitized materials. By selecting an illustration, you can identify books which contain similar illustrations.
- Semantic tags are automatically added to the extracted illustrations by machine learning, which allows you to refine your search using tags.
- With our IIf-powered book viewer, you can read materials as captured (two facing pages per image) or as page-by-page style by automatic splitting.

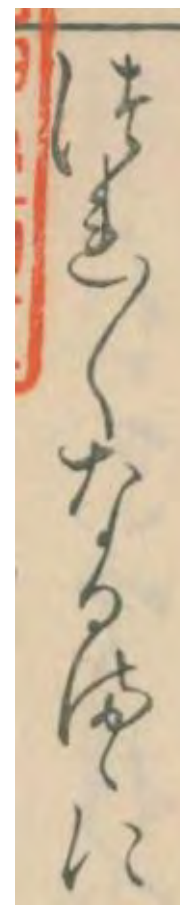
<https://lab.ndl.go.jp/dl/>

Challenges in OCR for Pre-modern Japanese Materials

Cursive characters (崩し字)



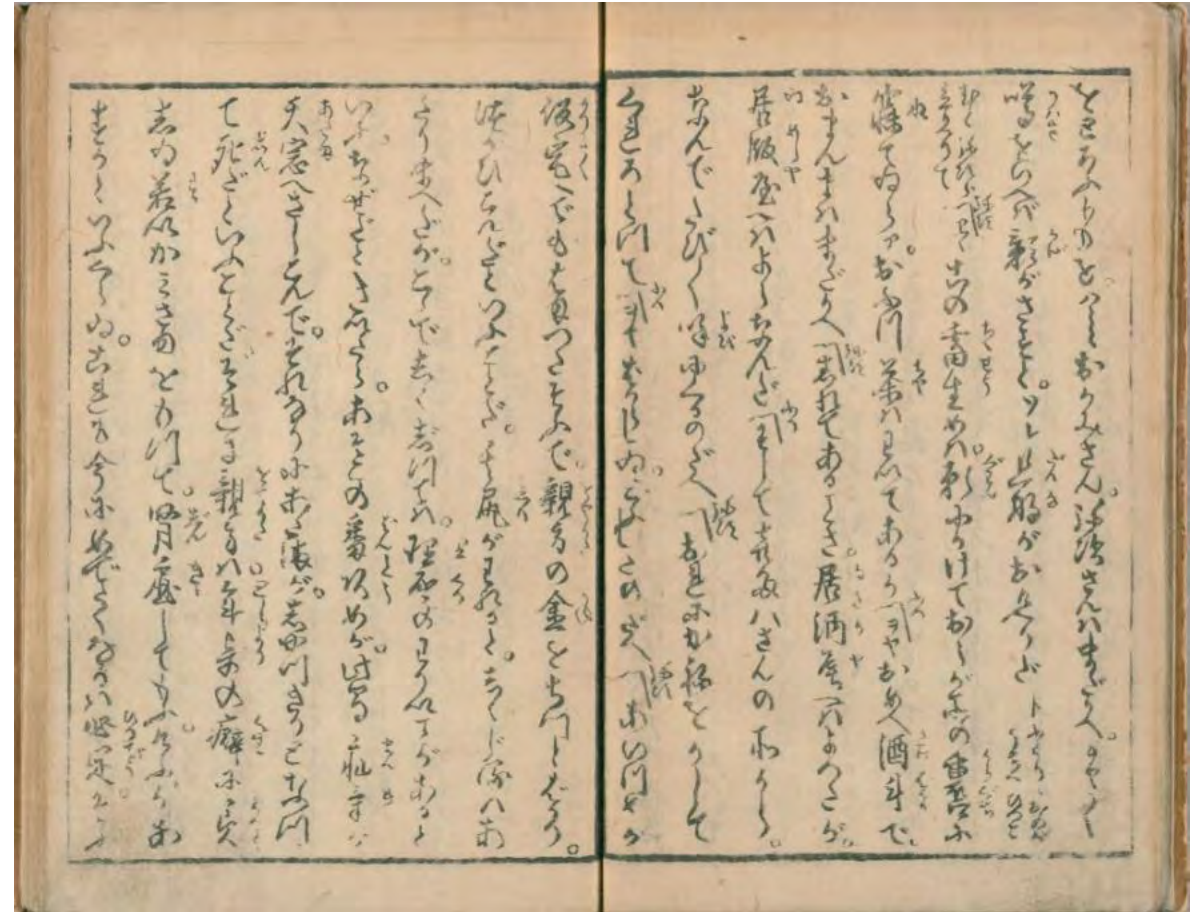
Variants of hiragana (変体仮名)



= つれづれなるままに

OCR Experiment for Pre-modern Materials

- In FY2022, the R&D Office developed in-house an AI-OCR software specialized in pre-modern materials (mostly before 1868) and generated full-text data.
- The full-text search for all digitized pre-modern materials (80,000 items) is available.



<https://doi.org/10.11501/2558997>

Next Digital Library: Full-Text Search

- In search results, snippets are displayed with query keywords highlighted.

道中膝栗毛 8編続12編 [1]
十返舎一九 作・画柳屋喜兵衛[ほか] 1800

駿河の府中からおどつた**弥次郎兵衛**殿は差元で出ざるかやアハイこつちらでござりますが、其方は先なにものだいへアイわしたしかへ**弥次郎兵衛**の女房でござります「アニ女房だいい見た」でもないやアこれ**弥次郎兵衛**お身女房をもつたかエし是程に及ばない縄をくれ、国元へひいていかすに、縄をくれ。**弥次郎兵衛**と申すものと妹めが密通をいたせしこと、神もつてなせすそれゆへ精納も受納いたせし所に、いんもふとめは察世の男ならでは、添ないと申、しかれば妹が首をきつて。

Illustrations in this book

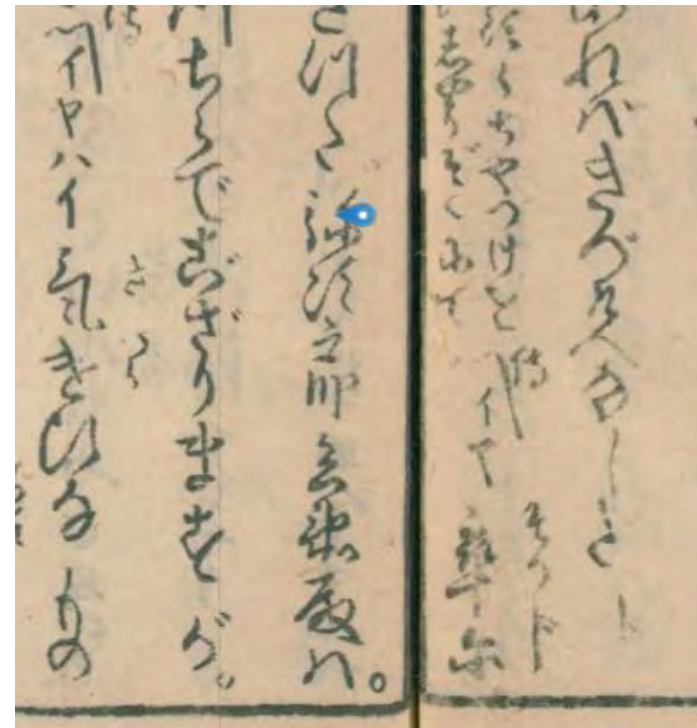
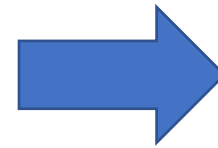
Search Book Search Book Search Book Search Book Search Book

道中膝栗毛 8編続12編 [11]
十返舎一九 作・画柳屋喜兵衛[ほか] 1800

弥次郎兵衛丑年山田の町のcccc安土山子見ゆるぬけ参り二ともスル力府中愚者一徳十一月十一日太夫用主所万文用立所喜多八は、かの上方ものと打つれ。
一人の侍**弥次郎兵衛**にちがつき「モシあなたがさぬおしの手代いづれ人、おこしてござりますなへしれた事、太神宮さまへまいりやすへイヤ太夫八どれへへ太夫は竹本義太夫殿さへア義太夫と申すは、アノ江戸はどこじやいなへんどは神田の八丁堀とちめんやの**弥次郎兵衛**さまといつちやア、ちとひねくつたぬさまアへそのおえどの神田八丁ぼり、とちめんやの**弥次郎兵衛**どのといふひねくつたやつこさまが。

Illustrations in this book

Search Book Search Book Search Book Search Book Search Book



Search for “弥次郎兵衛”

Next Digital Library: “Text-to-Image” Search

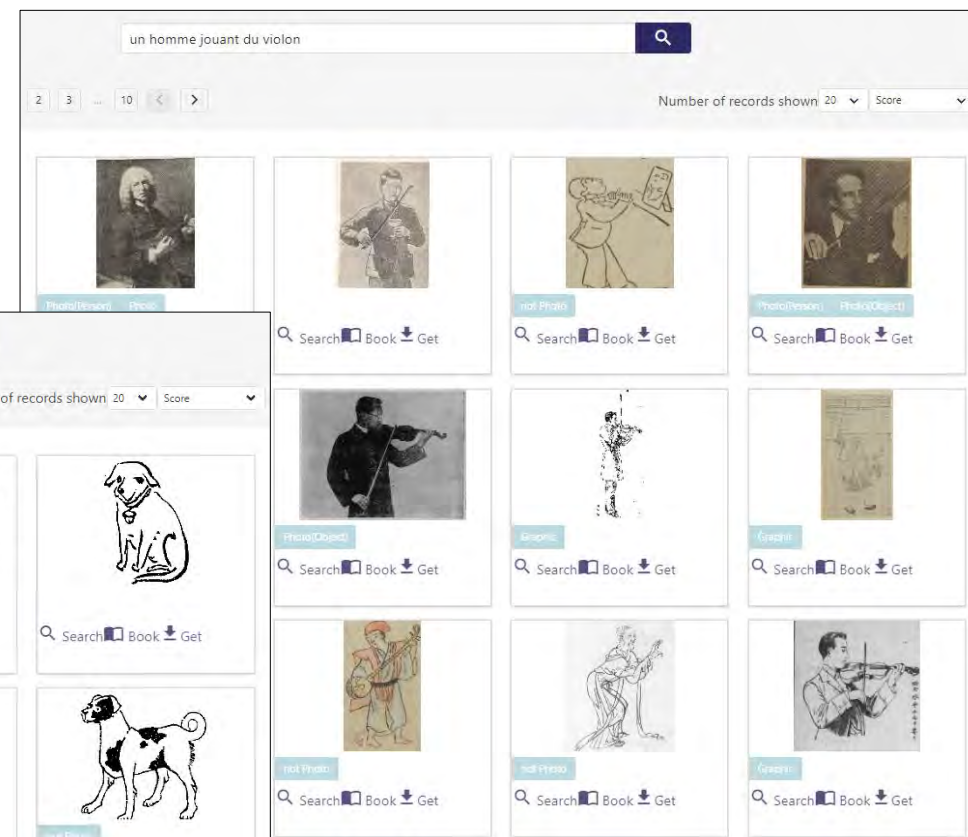
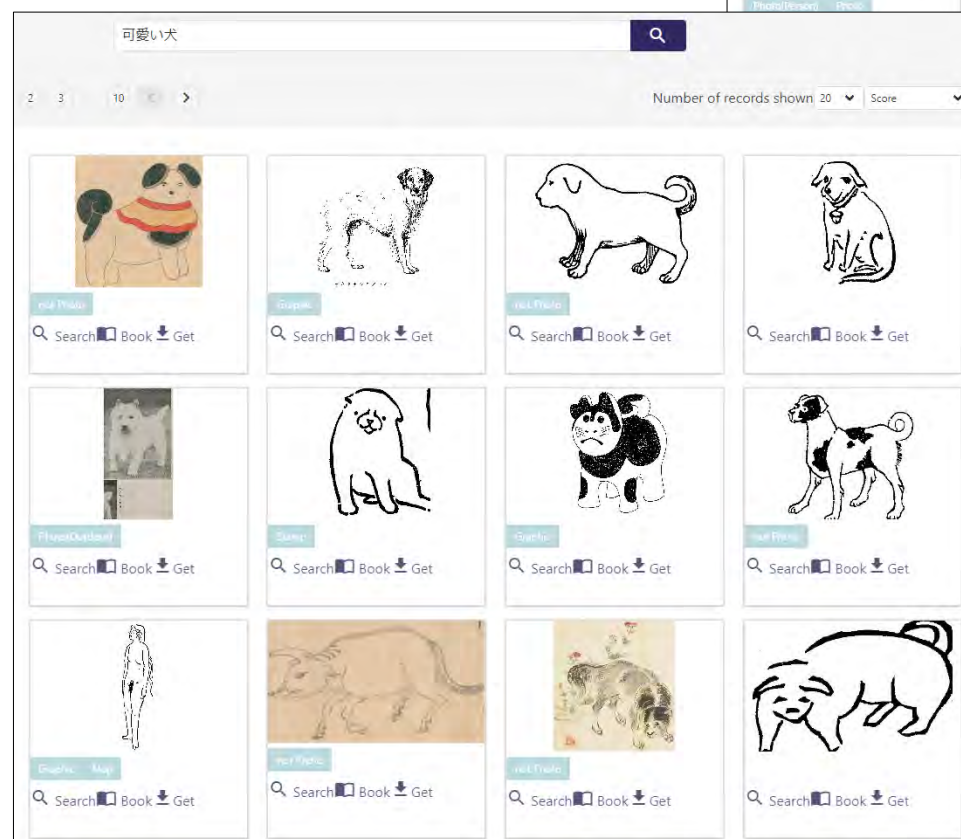
- Image search function by free text
- Supports multilingual queries by using machine translation

Examples of:

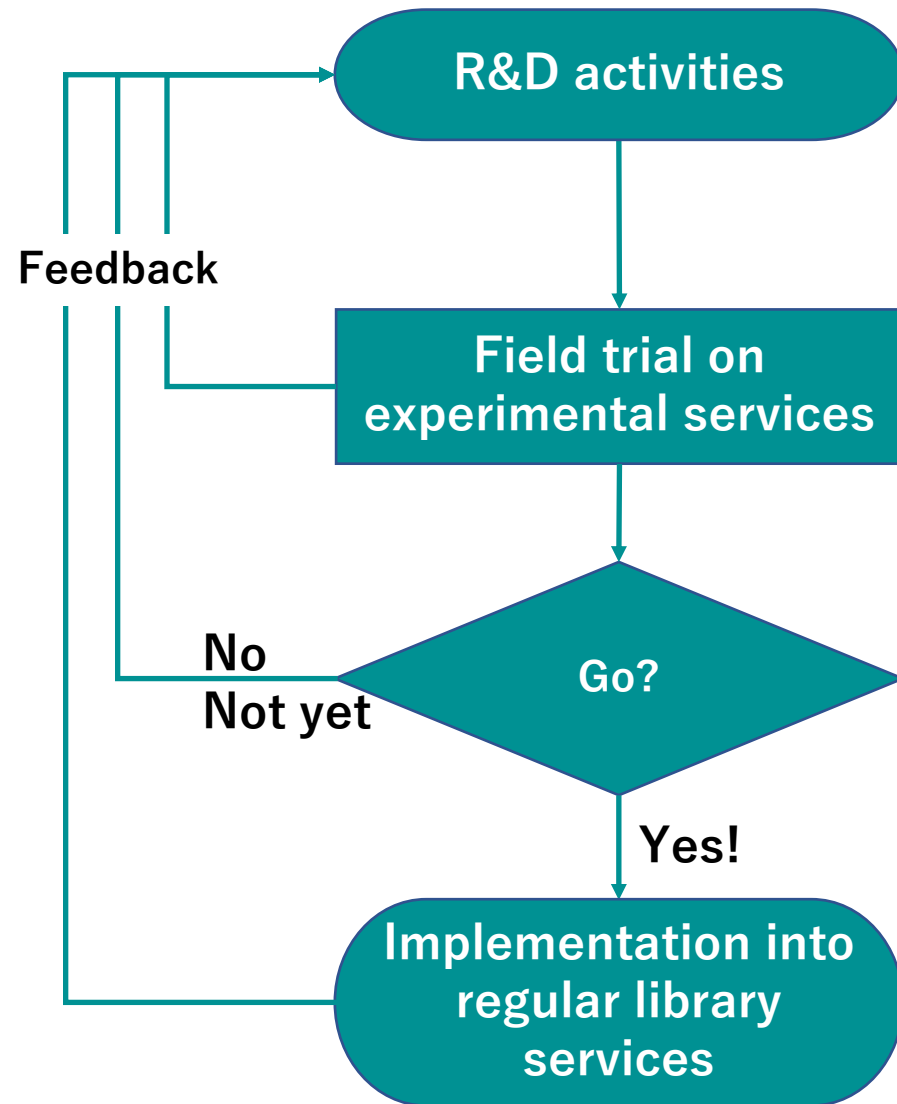
“可愛い犬” (cute dog(s))

and

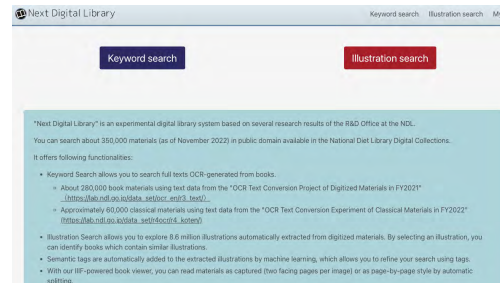
“un homme jouant du violon”
(a man playing the violin)



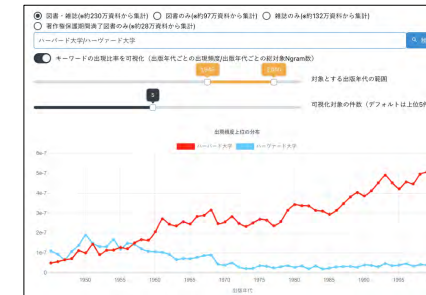
Ecosystem Towards New Library Services



Next Digital Library



NDL Ngram Viewer



NDL Digital Collections



Japan Search

