International Library of Children’s Literature

Children’s books link the world and open up the future.
About the ILCL

The International Library of Children’s Literature (ILCL) is a national library dedicated to children’s books, which provides internationally linked library services for children’s literature published in Japan and abroad. Founded as a branch of the National Diet Library (NDL) in January 2000, it opened to the public partially in the following May and started full services in May 2002.

Guided by the principle “Children’s books link the world and open up the future,” the ILCL serves three basic roles:

A library dedicated to children’s books
The ILCL collects, preserves, and makes available a wide range of Japanese and foreign children’s books and related materials. By conducting surveys and research and providing professional training and information, it also supports a variety of programs related to children’s books and reading.

A place where children encounter books
By making available Japanese and foreign children’s books, holding events and tours, and providing information, the ILCL gives every child the opportunity to become familiar with libraries and reading.

A museum of children’s books
The ILCL introduces the general public to the appeal of children’s books through exhibitions and related lectures and events.

Services of the ILCL

Basis of ILCL Services

Acquisition and Preservation of Materials
Domestic materials
As a dedicated children’s library that forms part of the NDL, the ILCL maintains a complete collection of children’s books (defined as materials intended primarily for users aged up to 18 years) published in Japan, based on the legal deposit system, under which publishers are required by law to furnish a copy of every new publication to the NDL. Since FY 2002, the Library has also collected school textbooks. Materials are also digitized for purposes of preservation and storage.

Foreign materials
The ILCL houses children’s books and related resources which it acquires from about 120 countries and regions through purchases, international exchanges, and donations.

Special Materials and Collections

Nobumasa Ikeda Collection
These 860 titles consist of works by Nobumasa Ikeda, an author of biographies and adventure stories who wrote mainly for the magazine Shonen Kurabu (Boys’ Club), and related materials.

Ingram Collection
About 1,150 mainly British children’s books from the 18th–20th centuries.

Children’s Book Collection of the Gordon W. Prange Collection
A microfilm archive of about 8,000 children’s books in the collection, housed at the University of Maryland Libraries (U.S.), of publications reviewed by Occupation censors at the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers.

ILCL Collection Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Books (volumes)</td>
<td>261,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign books (volumes)</td>
<td>85,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese magazines (titles)</td>
<td>2,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign magazines (titles)</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese newspapers (titles)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign newspapers (titles)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-books</td>
<td>55,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(as of Mar. 31, 2013)
On-Site Services

- **Reading-room services**
  On-site reading, copying, and reference services for children’s books and related materials are available.

- **Services for children**
  Materials for young readers are centered on endurably popular children’s books. Events such as story hours are also held.

- **Exhibitions, lectures, and other events**
  Exhibitions on children’s literature and lectures, and various events related to the exhibitions are held.

- **Tours**
  Library tours are available to provide clearer understanding of the ILCL.

Remote Services

Users can receive the following services at home or via their community library, without visiting the ILCL.

- **Reference service**
  Inquiries regarding children’s books and related materials can be made in writing or by telephone.

- **Remote copying service**
  Copies can be requested by post or via the NDL-OPAC, and can be received by post.

- **Interlibrary loan service**
  You can access materials from the ILCL collections at a public library near your home (limited use).

Digital Library Services

The ILCL’s various digital resources and information are available via the ILCL website.

- **NDL Search (“Union Catalog Database of Children’s Literature” is included)**
  By this service, collections and digital materials owned by libraries including the NDL, museums, archives, and academic institutions inside and outside Japan can be searched at the same time and in various ways.

- **NDL-OPAC**
  Materials in the ILCL can be located using this system which enables searches and requests for materials held by the NDL.

  Online Public Access Catalog for children. Materials in “Children’s Library”, “Meet the World” and ILCL holdings can be searched here.

- **RESEARCH NAVI (mainly in Japanese)**
  This system navigates you to information on children’s books, children’s reading, and related subjects.

- **Digital Library from the Meiji Era**
  This is an image database of the books and magazines available on the Internet which are held by the NDL and published in the Meiji, Taisho and Showa eras. You can view a part of the digital images of children’s books.

- **NDL Digitized Contents (Rare Books, etc.)**
  In this database you can search and read various digitized materials held by the NDL. Part of the children’s books and magazines are included.

- **Online Gallery**
  Each exhibition is organized thematically, using digital images combined with commentary.
  
  - **Picture Book Gallery**
  - **Exhibition for “The 100th anniversary of the former Imperial Library building”**
  - **Children’s Books Going Overseas from Japan**
  - **Children’s Books in the Victorian Era: from the Winnington-Ingram Collection**
**Programs to Encourage Children to Read**

Under the ILCL’s “Support Plan for the Promotion of Children’s Reading Activities 2010,” we have provided staff and volunteers serving children at public libraries, school libraries, and private libraries throughout Japan of better access to resources and information and increased support for human resources development.

### Improved information-sharing and network-building in relation to children’s reading

- Information provided on the ILCL website: “News on children’s books and libraries”, “Laws and plans about children’s reading activities in Japan,” etc., and issuing of the ILCL Email magazine
- Offering a forum for people involved in children’s services and hosting events

### Helping to develop human resources

- Hosting the ILCL Lecture Series on Children’s Literature to help foster a broad knowledge of children’s books
- Hosting lectures and symposiums

### Support for school libraries

- Book Sets Lending Service to School Libraries all over Japan under the theme of international understanding, offering practical examples of how the service was used
- NDL-wide efforts to provide school libraries with remote copying and reference services, and prompt bibliographic information on newly arrived books

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**National Diet Library Kids’ Page**

*(In Japanese)*

This portal mainly for elementary school children is designed to encourage them to take an interest in libraries and to use their own local community and school libraries.
About the Building

A Historic Structure Preserved and Restored

The original Imperial Library building dates from 1906 and was enlarged in 1929. As a leading example of Renaissance-style Western architecture from the Meiji period (1868–1912), it was designated a selected historic structure by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

The building was remodeled in FY1997–FY2001 for use as the ILCL.

In the remodeling, work on “Meet the World” (the former VIP Room of the Imperial Library), the “Researchers’ Reading Room 2” (the former Special Reading Room), the “Museum” (the former Reading Room), and the “Grand Staircase” was limited to repairs in order to preserve the architectural heritage value of both the exterior and the interior design and structure to the maximum possible extent.

The restoration has integrated structures built in the Meiji, Showa (1926–1989), and Heisei (1989–) eras. While preserving and utilizing this precious architectural asset, the building was given new life as a library with innovative functions and new environment for the public.
Meet the World
This room provides children with materials on the geography, history, and folklore of various countries and regions. The selection is designed to stimulate their interest in the world and to deepen their understanding of foreign lands.

Children's Library
This reading room, mainly for children's use, contains picture books, storybooks, knowledge books, magazines, and other children's literature published in Japan and abroad. Online catalog terminals for children allow them to find books for themselves. Small themed exhibitions are also held from time to time.

Story Hour Room
Storytelling and children’s song events are held here.

Researchers’ Reading Room 1
Part of the collection of children's literature and related materials published in Japan and other Asian countries is held here on open shelves, together with the latest editions of Japanese school textbooks.

Researchers’ Reading Room 2
Children's literature and related materials published in countries outside Asia are held here on open shelves. DVDs and CD-ROMs for children and microform materials can also be viewed.

Meeting Room
Librarian training programs and meetings are held here on a small scale.

Media Corner
Computers can be used to view a selection of about 130 DVDs for children and the “Picture Book Gallery,” an electronic exhibition created by the ILCL.

Hall
Lectures, exhibitions, and other events are held here.

Museum
Exhibitions of children's literature are held here.

Stacks
Materials are delivered from stacks on request in the Researchers’ Reading Rooms. Storage capacity is approx. 400,000 volumes.
International Library of Children’s Literature

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ILCL Email Magazine (in Japanese)

To subscribe, visit the website.

Hours 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays, public holidays (except Children’s Day on May 5), year-end and New Year holidays, and the third Wednesday of every month for reshelving. In addition, the Researchers’ Reading Rooms (2F) are closed on Sundays, and the Media Corner and Museum (3F) are occasionally closed for special events.

Location 10 minutes’ walk from JR Ueno Station (Park Exit) or JR Uguisudani Station (South Exit)