National Diet Library
(Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan)
Three facilities of the National Diet Library, that is, the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan, and the International Library of Children’s Literature, are linked organically, working in tandem to provide services.

### Tokyo Main Library

**Address:** 1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8924, Japan  
**Phone:** +81-3-3581-2331 +81-3-3506-3300 (automated voice information service)  
**URL:** http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/service/tokyo/index.html (Japanese)  
http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/service/tokyo/index.html (English)

**Main functions of the Tokyo Main Library are:**

1) Coordination of the whole operation of the Library:  
   ○ Administration of the overall organization  
   ○ Acting as a planning center for all operations in cooperation with libraries and other related institutions in the country and overseas  
2) Provision of library services:  
   ○ Services for the National Diet  
   ○ Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government  
   ○ Services for in-house users  
   ○ Reference service  
3) Infrastructure Development for the Library's services:  
   ○ To make and implement collection development and preservation policies  
   ○ To compile the national bibliography

**Main Collections of the Tokyo Main Library are:**

- Books, periodicals, newspapers and electronic publications published in Japan and collected via the legal deposit system  
- Foreign books and newspapers  
- Special collections such as: law and parliamentary records, government and international organizations’ publications, rare books and old materials, modern Japanese political history documents, map collection, musical and audiovisual materials  
- Major reference books, bibliographies, catalogs and indexes published in Japan and overseas

### Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

**Address:** 8-1-3 Seikadai, Seika-cho, Soraku-gun, Kyoto 619-0287, Japan  
**Phone:** +81-774-98-1200 (automated voice information service)  
**URL:** http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/service/kansai/index.html (Japanese)  
http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/service/kansai/index.html (English)

**Main functions of the Kansai-kan are:**

1) Provision of the library services:  
   ○ Services for remote users  
   ○ Services for in-house users  
   ○ Services of Asian information  
2) Promotion of library cooperation projects:  
   ○ To develop and manage the national union catalog  
   ○ To promote research activities in library and information science, and to provide training programs for librarians in Japan and overseas  
   ○ To cooperate with libraries for people with disabilities  
3) Promotion of digital library services  
   ○ To create and provide digital library content

**Main collections of the Kansai-kan are:**

- Foreign periodicals, science and technology materials, Japanese doctoral dissertations, scientific research reports under grants from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology, recorded books of academic literature for the blind  
- Major reference books, bibliographies, catalogs and indexes published in Japan and overseas, government publications  
- Asian-language and Asia-related materials

### International Library of Children’s Literature

**Address:** 12-49 Ueno Koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan  
**Phone:** +81-3-3827-2053 +81-3-3827-2069 (automated voice information service)  
**URL:** http://www.kodomo.go.jp/index.html (Japanese)  
http://www.kodomo.go.jp/english/index.html (English)

**Main functions of the International Library of Children’s Literature are:**

- To collect, preserve and provide children’s literature and related materials  
- To provide in-house library services for the public including children  
- To provide library services for remote users  
- To hold exhibitions and other public relations programs  
- To promote digital library projects such as: “Picture Book Gallery,” “The 100th anniversary of the former Imperial Library building (only in Japanese)”  
- To cooperate with school libraries and other related institutions

**Main collections of the International Library of Children’s Literature are:**

- Children’s literature, including monographs and periodicals, published in Japan and overseas  
- Children’s literature-related materials
Objective

The National Diet Library (NDL) is the sole national library in Japan. It was established in 1948 by the National Diet Library Law, based on Article 130 of the National Diet Law, “The National Diet Library shall be established in the Diet by a separate law, in order to assist Diet Members in their study and research.”

The law declares the ideal of the library’s establishment in its 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. It sets the library’s objective in 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.

History

The NDL has two origins. One is the Imperial Library and the other is from the old parliament: the Library of the House of Peers and the Library of the House of Representatives. Most of these libraries’ collections were transferred to the present NDL and form the basis of the current collection.

In February 1948, the National Diet Library Law was enacted and the NDL was established. Since then the NDL has been making steady improvements as the research library for the Diet and the only national/deposit library. Recently the NDL has been making efforts to enhance its digital library services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1948</td>
<td>NDL opened to the public using the former Akasaka Detached Palace (now the State Guest House) as a temporary facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1961</td>
<td>First phase of the present Nagata-cho facility completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Main building of the Nagata-cho facility completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Annex of the Nagata-cho facility completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2000</td>
<td>International Library of Children’s Literature (ILCL) partially opened in the renovated former branch Ueno Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2002</td>
<td>ILCL fully opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2002</td>
<td>Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2004</td>
<td>New service systems introduced in the Tokyo Main Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>Service systems revamped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organization • Staff • Budget

The NDL belongs to the National Diet (the country’s legislature). The presiding officers of the two Houses appoint the Librarian of the NDL after consultations with their Standing Committees on Rules and Administration and with the approval of their Houses. The Standing Committees also examine and approve NDL’s rules and regulations, operations and budget. As of April 2013, the NDL has 890 staff including the Librarian and the Deputy Librarian (excluding staff of branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government). The general staff is recruited through open competitive examinations.

The NDL organization consists of the following libraries: the central library (Administrative Department, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department, Reader Services and Collections Department, Digital Information Department, and the Kansai-kan) and ILCL branch library of the NDL, and 27 branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government.

The government provides all the NDL’s expenses. The FY2013 budget allocated to the NDL is approximately 17.142 billion yen, excluding expenses for facilities and the amount provided for the Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Expenses for purchasing collections are 2.325 billion yen.
Functions

Services for the National Diet

One mission of the National Diet Library is to assist in the activities of the Diet by supplying appropriate analysis and information. The NDL therefore provides legislative research and information services at the request of the Diet members, in addition to offering them reading, lending and copying services of library materials. All departments of the NDL work together to ensure satisfactory services for the National Diet.

The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, a legislative support organ of the Diet, carries out wide-ranging research on national issues including the political, economic and social systems of Japan and other countries, using large amounts of materials and internal and external databases. The number of answers provided by the Bureau in response to requests from Diet members and Diet staff is approximately 40,000 a year.

The research papers, other publications, the “Full-text Database of the Minutes of the Diet (jointly constructed with both houses),” “Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet” and the “Index Database to Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills” which the Research and Legislative Bureau provides and develops for the Diet deliberations, are available not only to Diet members but also to the general public on the NDL website (Japanese only).

Public services

Anyone 18 years old or over of any nationality is eligible to use the services of the National Diet Library.*

The International Library of Children’s Literature (ILCL) is open to people of all ages.

*If you are under 18 years old but need to use material available at the Tokyo Main Library or the Kansai-kan, please ask for an individual consultation.

Registered user system

Most of the materials of the NDL are stored in closed stacks and user registration is necessary to use them. Registered users can receive copies by mail and request copying service via the Internet as well. Registered users can also enter the library with simplified procedures.

For further information to apply for user registration, please see the NDL website.

Services available inside the library

Registered users can use materials in the closed stacks of the Tokyo Main Library and the Kansai-kan. Materials located in the special materials rooms, digitized images of library holdings and subscribed electronic journals are available for all users without registration. The library materials can be requested for paid copying services within the scope of the Japanese Copyright Law. Individuals are not allowed to take materials out on loan from the library.

Services available via other libraries

The NDL provides reader service by delivering materials to public and university libraries*. You can also request copying and reference services through your local library.

* Indicates those libraries which are affiliated with the NDL interlibrary loan system. As there may be some materials which cannot be loaned out, please ask the libraries beforehand.

The ILCL provides lending services of selected sets of books which consist of 40-60 children’s books assembled by subject (“Book Sets Lending Service to School Libraries”) and copying and reference services to school libraries.
Services available from your home and workplace

Images and databases provided via the NDL website are available to anyone, anytime. Registered users can request photocopies of materials which are searchable via the NDL-OPAC by identifying specific pages to be copied and receive them by mail.

Acquisition of library materials

Legal deposit

Via the legal deposit system stipulated in the National Diet Library Law, the NDL collects publications (including maps, phonographic materials, microfilms, CD-ROMs, etc.) published in Japan. National government agencies and local public bodies deliver a prescribed number of copies of their publications, while private publishers send one.

Purchase

The NDL purchases frequently used materials (books, magazines and newspapers published in Japan). Foreign materials and rare and old materials, which are recognized as useful and selected for the collections of the NDL, are also purchased.

Exchange and donation

Through international exchange with national libraries all over the world, the NDL makes efforts to acquire publications of foreign governments. In addition, many international organizations, including the United Nations, designate the NDL as a depository library and deposit their publications with the NDL.

Preservation

The NDL has the duty to conduct appropriate management and to preserve library materials as the cultural heritage of the nation and to assure future access to them.

In recent years, damage or deterioration of library materials from various causes is being experienced, so the NDL is engaged in preventing deterioration by various methods such as media conversion including digitization, restoration of damaged originals as well as disaster prevention, maintenance of stack environment and training programs on preservation, and the diffusion. Recently the NDL has also been testing various methods of preserving digital information.

Major bibliography and index

The NDL compiles and provides various bibliographies of library materials. Most of the collections are searchable through the NDL-OPAC and NDL Search.

Providing National Bibliography (Japanese only)

The NDL provides accurate bibliographic information on the newly collected publications published in Japan and Japanese-language materials published in foreign countries, through the NDL-OPAC. Data can be downloaded in the MARC format and in-process bibliographical data can be also provided. The bibliography is distributed as JAPAN/MARC.

Japanese Periodicals Index (Japanese only)

Index for searching articles carried in major Japanese periodicals, approximately 20,000 titles of which 10,000 titles are still published. The NDL provides data which have been accumulated since 1948, on the NDL-OPAC and in CD-R, etc.

Index Database to Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills (Japanese only)

An online database providing list and information on the history of Japanese current or abolished laws since 1867. Users can also refer to minutes of the Diet at the stage of deliberation. This is available on the NDL website.

Interlibrary cooperation

Domestic cooperation

The NDL responds to many requests for loan, copy
and reference from other domestic libraries. The NDL introduces trends and topics of libraries and library and information science inside and outside Japan through its information bulletin “Current Awareness” and the website “Current Awareness Portal” (mostly in Japanese).

Providing infrastructure for interlibrary cooperation

The NDL carries out research on library and information science and provides various training programs for librarians. It manages the “NDL National Union Catalog Network System,” a union catalog of Japanese books, as well as providing functions to support interlibrary loan between libraries participating in this network system. It also compiles national union catalogs of newspapers, braille and recorded books and children’s literature. Furthermore, the NDL makes recorded books of academic literature for people with visual disabilities and lends them out to libraries throughout Japan.

In addition, it is conducting the “Collaborative Reference Database Project,” which collects and accumulates data of reference cases from the member libraries and provides them on the Internet.

International cooperation

As the sole national library in Japan, the NDL works together with overseas libraries. Its multifarious cooperative activities include interlibrary loan, copy, reference, mutual visit programs and international exchange of publications with foreign countries. It also acts as the Japanese center for the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) Network and as the Regional Center for Asia for the IFLA Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation (IFLA/PAC).

Digital Library Service

The digital library project of the NDL aims an Internet-accessible library that anyone can use. Since 2002, the NDL has been digitizing rare books and books published in the Meiji, Taisho, and early Showa eras held in the NDL and providing images via the Internet.

As of June 2013, 458,000 volumes were available via the Internet. Materials in the copyright protection period, however, are released only inside the library.

On the theme of Japanese history and culture, collections of the NDL are exhibited with easy-to-understand explanations through the “Online Gallery” on the NDL website. In addition, collection catalogs and various bibliographic data and indexes are created and provided.

In January 2012, “NDL Search” was fully released. By this service, collections and digital materials owned by libraries including the NDL, museums, archives, academic institutions inside and outside Japan can be searched at once and in various ways. Links to digital materials and information on how to use materials and how to obtain the materials are also indicated. As an access point of the knowledge accumulated by various institutions, the NDL is increasing the number of cooperative institutions.

For digital information resources, “Database Navigation Services (Dnavi),” which navigates users to digital information databases, is provided. Since April 2010, the NDL has been collecting information on the web distributed by public institutions based on legislation. Collected information is provided via the NDL website.

Current situation of digitization of NDL’s collection (as of June 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of materials</th>
<th>Provided inside the library</th>
<th>Provided via the Internet (part of ‘provided inside the library’)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rare books and Old Materials (volumes)</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>73,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Books (volumes)</td>
<td>894,000</td>
<td>344,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Periodicals (volumes)</td>
<td>1,063,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Gazettes (volumes)</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral dissertations (theses)</td>
<td>141,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NDL in figures (as of FY2012)

### Total site area
- **Tokyo Main Library**: 30,000 m²
- **Kansai-kan of the NDL**: 82,000 m²
- **International Library of Children’s Literature (ILCL)**: 7,700 m²

### Total floor space
- **Tokyo Main Library**: 148,000 m²
- **Kansai-kan of the NDL**: 60,000 m²
- **ILCL**: 7,000 m²

### Total area of reading rooms
- **Tokyo Main Library**: 19,000 m²
- **Kansai-kan of the NDL**: 4,000 m²
- **ILCL**: 1,000 m²

### Storage capacity
- **Tokyo Main Library**: 12,000,000 volumes
  (Main building: 4,500,000 volumes, Annex: 7,500,000 volumes)
- **Kansai-kan of the NDL**: 6,000,000 volumes
- **ILCL**: 400,000 volumes

### Collections
- **Total**: 39,430,946 items
- **Books**: 10,096,114 volumes
- **Periodicals and newspapers**: 15,407,485 items
- **Maps**: 546,379 items
- **Recorded materials**: 681,338 items
- **Microforms**: 9,120,195 items
- **Machine-readable materials (CDs, DVDs, etc.)**: 115,049 items
- **Doctoral dissertations**: 571,266 theses
- **Manuscripts**: 350,905 items

### Number of materials newly acquired in FY2012
- **Total**: 1,042,082 items
  - Books: 215,406 volumes
  - Periodicals and newspapers: 574,509 items
  - Maps: 4,977 items
  - Recorded materials: 12,311 items
  - Microforms: 185,986 items
  - Machine-readable materials (CDs, DVDs, etc.): 8,176 items
  - Doctoral dissertations: 16,570 theses
  - Manuscripts: 12,394 items

### Services for the public
- **Reference services**: 982,977 cases
- **Reading services**: 2,154,690 items
- **Photoduplication requests**: 1,356,194 cases
- **On-site users**: 683,788 people
- **Tokyo Main Library**: 507,102 (1,811 per day on average)
- **Kansai-kan of the NDL**: 64,767 (231 per day on average)
- **ILCL**: 111,919 (390 per day on average)

### Services for the National Diet
- **Research on request**: 36,587 cases
- **Loan services**: 26,407 items
- **Photoduplication**: 5,842 cases
  *excluding loan service and photoduplication for research on request*

### Services for the executive and judicial branches
- **Reference and research on request**: 886 cases
- **Loan services**: 9,308 items

### Services for libraries
- **Reference services**: 5,477 cases
- **Loan services**: 22,454 items

### Digital library services
- **Number of accesses to our website**: 18,484,346
Major collections

Modern Japanese Political History Documents

Collections of private papers which trace Japanese modern political history in and after the latter half of the 19th century. The 310,000 items comprise mainly diaries, letters, drafts and memorandums once in the possession of eminent statesmen and women, diplomats, military men, government officials and businessmen and women who were involved in Japan’s modern politics. <Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room>

Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan

A microform collection of documents concerning the Allied Occupation of Japan in the post-WWII period. The collection comprises documents of GHQ/SCAP (General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers) currently owned by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, the Prange Collection owned by the University of Maryland, and others. <Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room>

Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications

Collection of laws and parliamentary materials and official publications in and outside Japan. They include minutes and other parliamentary documents of about 70 countries and areas, and official gazettes, statutes, court reports and treaties of about 150 countries. They also include official publications and documents and publications of international organizations. This collection of parliamentary and statutory documents is one of the greatest collections in Japan. <Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications Room>

Map Collection

Approximately 540,000 domestic and foreign maps are held. A collection of official maps of Japan from the Meiji era, such as topographic maps, geological maps and hydrographic charts, and topographic and other kinds of maps of foreign countries. <Map Room>

Musical Materials

Approximately 660,000 copies of phonographic records and CDs issued in Japan are held by the Library. <Audio-Visual Materials Room>

Foreign Books on Japan

Since the era of the Imperial Library, the predecessor of the NDL, books on Japan written by foreigners, translations of books written by Japanese, and foreign periodicals on Japanese studies have been given high priority in the acquisition of materials policy. <Rare Books and Old Materials Room>

Rare Books and Old Materials

The NDL holds about 300,000 volumes of rare books, semi-rare books, Japanese old books up to the Edo period, Chinese old books up to the Ch‘ing Dynasty, Dutch books, etc. They include special collections such as the Tokugawa Shogunate Government Succession Documents, Ito Bunko, Shirai Bunko, and Shinjo Bunko. <Rare Books and Old Materials Room>

Science and Technology Materials

The collection includes technical reports, doctoral dissertations of foreign countries, papers of academic associations, proceedings in western languages, national and international standards, and patents of foreign countries. <Kansai-kan>

Asian Materials

Materials written in the languages of East Asia, including Chinese and Korean, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, and North Africa, as well as materials about these regions written in Japanese and Western languages are held. <Asian Resources Room of the Kansai-kan>

National Diet Library (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan)

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