National Diet Library

Books, periodicals, newspapers and electronic publications published in Japan and collected via the Legal Deposit System

Foreign books and newspapers
Parliamentary and legislative documents, official publications, publications of international organizations, maps, rare books and old materials, modern Japanese political history documents, materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan, audio-visual materials

Main Collections
From 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. on Saturdays)
Opening Hours
Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays, and the third Wednesday of every month (for refiling)
Closed
Must be 18 years of age or older to enter the library. Please contact us beforehand if you are 17 years of age or younger and wish to enter the library.

Patrons

Foreign periodicals, science and technology materials, Japanese doctoral dissertations, scientific research reports under grants from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, talking books of academic literature for persons with print disabilities
Asian-language and Asia-related materials

Main Collections
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Closed
Must be 18 years of age or older to enter the library. Please contact us beforehand if you are 17 years of age or younger and wish to enter the library.

Patrons

Children's literature and periodicals published in Japan and overseas
Materials related to children's literature

Main Collections
From 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Opening Hours
Mondays, national holidays (except Children's Day on May 5), the year-end and New Year holidays, and the third Wednesday of every month (for refiling)
Closed
Anybody can use the library.

Patrons

1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8924, Japan
Phone: +81-3-3581-2331
+81-3-3506-3300 (automated voice information service)

8-1-3 Seikadai, Seika-cho, Soraku-gun, Kyoto 619-0287, Japan
Phone: +81-774-98-1200 (automated voice information service)

12-49 Ueno Koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan
Phone: +81-3-3827-2053
+81-3-3827-2069 (automated voice information service)

The National Diet Library (NDL) is the parliamentary library of the National Diet of Japan and was founded in 1948 by the National Diet Library Law, in accordance with Article 130 of the Diet Law, which states in part that “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.”

Mission and Role  The mission and role of the NDL is stipulated by the National Diet Library Law.

Mission  “The NDL 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.” (From the Preamble of the National Diet Library Law)

Role  “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 roles of providing certain library services as hereinafter specified for the executive and judicial agencies of the national government and for the people of Japan.” (From Article 2 of the National Diet Library Law)

Basic Roles  The NDL is tasked with the following three basic roles.

- Support to the Diet
- Acquisition and preservation of materials and information
- Providing the public with access to information resources

Organization  The NDL is a part of the legislative branch of the Japanese government, the National Diet of Japan.

The NDL comprises three main facilities: the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan, and the International Library of the Children’s Literature, which each play important roles in providing comprehensive library services as part of a single national organization.

The NDL collaborates with 27 branch libraries operated by agencies in the executive and judicial branches of the Japanese government, which form a network and collaborate closely in providing general library services.

Network  Tokyo Main Library

Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

International Library of Children’s Literature

27 branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government
The National Diet Library (NDL) is the parliamentary library of the National Diet of Japan and was founded in 1948 by the National Diet Library Law, in accordance with Article 130 of the Diet Law.

Support to the Diet

1. The NDL supports the Diet and assists the activities of Diet members, using its professional expertise in research and accumulated information resources.

   Research on request
   The NDL carries out legislative research on a wide variety of national issues related to politics, economy, society, or science and technology in response to requests from Diet members.

   Anticipatory research
   The NDL carries out research and publishes research papers in advance on subject matter it anticipates will prove germane to national politics.

2. The NDL database of the minutes of the Diet and laws in the Japanese language keep the general public informed of Diet activities via the internet.

   Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet
   http://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/

   Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet
   http://teikokugikai-ndl.go.jp/

   Index Database of Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills
   http://hourei.ndl.go.jp/

   (Built in cooperation with the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.)

   The database provides information on deliberations at each stage of the legislative process including enactment, revision or abolition of bills submitted to the Diet and the Imperial Diet. Users can also refer to the text of minutes, laws and bills from links.

   ・NDL’s enormous library collection and information
   ・Staff members who have professional knowledge
Acquisition and preservation of materials and information

1 Material Acquisition

Domestic Publications—Legal Deposit System
The National Diet Library Law requires that all publications published in Japan, including microfilms, CDs, DVDs, maps, and more, must be deposited with the NDL. Through the Legal Deposit System, the NDL collects many domestic publications as the only legal deposit library in Japan. It also holds domestic publications which were published before the legal deposit system was initiated. The NDL owns the largest library collection in Japan.

Foreign Publications
The NDL selects and collects materials on Japan, as well as materials which are useful to support Diet activities and for conducting research and studies, by purchase, international exchange, and donation.

Websites
The NDL archives domestic websites.
・Web Archiving Project (WARP) of the National Diet Library http://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/

Online Publications
The NDL collects e-books and e-magazines which are free, private online publications without Digital Rights Management (DRM).

2 Making and Providing Bibliographic Data

The NDL provides bibliographic data of collected materials.
・National Diet Library Online Search and Request Service (NDL Online) https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/
This service enables users to search and use NDL holdings.
・National Diet Library Search http://iss.ndl.go.jp/?locale=en
The NDL provides services that enable integrated searches of the bibliographic data and digital archives of public libraries, archives, museums, research institutes, and the NDL. Users can access standard bibliographic data for domestic publications collected by the NDL via an Application Programming Interface (API).

3 Preservation and Conservation

To preserve and ensure future access to the library materials the NDL has collected, which are the shared cultural heritage of the nation, the NDL has initiatives to digitize materials, repair damaged materials, and develop a proper environment for preservation.
Acquisition and preservation of materials and information

- National Diet Library Search
- National Diet Library Online Search and Request Service
- Web Archiving Project (WARP) of the National Diet Library

Domestic Publications—Legal Deposit System
The National Diet Library Law requires that all publications published in Japan, including microfilms, CDs, DVDs, maps, and more, must be deposited with the NDL. Through the Legal Deposit System, the NDL acquires materials and information, which are useful to support Diet activities and for conducting research.

The National Diet Library Law was enacted in 1952 and its current version was enacted in 2013. The legal deposit system was initiated. The NDL owns the largest library collection in Japan. Through the Legal Deposit System, the NDL collects, which are the shared cultural heritage of the nation, the NDL has initiatives to digitize materials, repair damaged materials, and developed a proper environment for preservation.

The NDL selects and collects materials on Japan, as well as materials which are useful to support Diet activities and for conducting research. The NDL collects e-books and e-magazines which are free, private online publications without Digital Rights Management (DRM). The NDL archives domestic websites.

Online Publications
The NDL provides services that enable integrated searches of the bibliographic data for domestic publications collected by the NDL via an Application Programming Interface (API). Many other databases are also available.

Foreign Publications
The NDL engages in collaborative projects including training programs for librarians, and distribution of information in the field of library and information science.

- Collaborative Reference Database  http://crd.ndl.go.jp/reference/
  In order for public, university, and other libraries nationwide to effectively respond to users’ inquiries on materials (reference services), the NDL provides a Collaborative Reference Database in the Japanese language which enables libraries to share both information and methods for providing information.

The NDL interacts with foreign libraries extensively through international organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP), discussing and cooperating on common issues and international challenges facing libraries.

The NDL delivers materials to public and university libraries. You can also request copying and reference services through these libraries. The NDL provides a Digitized Contents Transmission Service in Japan only, through which digitized versions of NDL holdings that are out-of-print or otherwise difficult to obtain are available at domestic libraries and institutes that are partners of the NDL.

The NDL engages in collaborative projects including training programs for librarians, and distribution of information in the field of library and information science.

- Collaborative Reference Database  http://crd.ndl.go.jp/reference/
  In order for public, university, and other libraries nationwide to effectively respond to users’ inquiries on materials (reference services), the NDL provides a Collaborative Reference Database in the Japanese language which enables libraries to share both information and methods for providing information.

The NDL interacts with foreign libraries extensively through international organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP), discussing and cooperating on common issues and international challenges facing libraries.

The NDL archives domestic websites.
**Collections** (domestic and foreign publications)

- Books: 11,154,403 items
- Periodicals: 12,050,850 items
- Newspapers: 6,006,088 items
- Microforms: 9,125,325 items

**Total**: 43,426,450 items

**Annual acquisition** (domestic and foreign publications)

- Books: 201,873 items
- Newspapers: 198,830 items
- Periodicals: 319,808 items

**Total**: 801,747 items

**Materials digitized by the NDL (Approximate)**

- Digital library services: 3,778,853 items
- Collaborative Reference Database: 1,500,000 items
- Loan services: 5,317,000 items
- Reference services: 1,357,000 items
- Services for libraries: 1,085,000 items
- Services for the public: 1,085,000 items
- Services for the Diet: 1,085,000 items
- Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government: 1,085,000 items
- Anticipatory research: 1,085,000 items
- Research on request: 1,085,000 items
- Research and reference: 1,085,000 items
- Remote photoduplication services: 1,085,000 items
- Photoduplication services: 1,085,000 items
- Reading services: 1,085,000 items
- Reference services: 1,085,000 items
- On-site users: 1,085,000 items
- Remote users: 1,085,000 items
- Total: 6,042,000 items

**Budget for materials (Approximate)**

- Initial budget for FY 2018: 23.08 billion yen
- Budget (Approximate): 21.5 billion yen
- Number of digitized materials: 1,512,509 items
- Number of materials available via the internet: 1,485,995 items
- Number of digitized materials available on the NDL Digital Collections: 1,485,995 items
- Materials digitized by the NDL: 2,660,000 items
- Materials digitized by partner libraries: 2,000,000 items
- Materials digitized by both: 1,800,000 items
- Materials digitized by NDL only: 800,000 items

**Number of materials available via the internet**

- Available only at the NDL: 1,485,995 items
- Available at partner libraries: 1,485,995 items
- Available only at the NDL and partner libraries: 1,485,995 items

**Number of digitized materials**

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- Available only at the NDL and partner libraries: 1,512,509 items

**Libraries participating in the NDL Digital Collections**

- 769 libraries
- 12,050,850 items
- 5,317,000 items
- 1,031,000 items

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- 1,031,000 items
The National Diet Library (NDL) is Japan's largest library, with a vast collection of materials in various formats. It offers a range of services to the public and other libraries, including digitization services and collaborative reference databases.

### Services for the public

- **Reference services**: 884,830 cases
- **Reading services**: 2,313,096 items
- **Photoduplication services**: 1,329,172 cases
- **Remote photoduplication services**: 262,066 cases

**On-site users**

- **Total**: 791,710 people (2,068 per day on average)
- **Tokyo Main Library**: 576,933 people (264 per day on average)
- **Kansai-kan of the NDL**: 73,576 people (495 per day on average)
- **International Library of Children’s Literature**: 141,201 people (495 per day on average)

**Services for the Diet**

- **Research on request**: 36,224 cases
- **Anticipatory research**: 328 cases

**Services for the executive and judicial branches of the government**

- **Research and reference**: 779 cases
- **Loan services**: 7,317 items

### Digital library services

- **Visitors to our website**: 20,894,477 cases
- **Viewers of digitized materials on the NDL Digital Collections**: 56,137,662 cases
- **Digitized materials available on the NDL Digital Collections**: 3,778,853 items
- **Number of digitized materials available via the internet**: 1,485,995 items
- **Available at partner libraries**: 1,512,509 items
- **Available only at the NDL**: 780,349 items
- **Materials digitized by the NDL (Approximate)**: 2,660,000 items

### Buildings and Storage (Approximate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Total site area</th>
<th>Total floor space</th>
<th>Total area of reading rooms</th>
<th>Total storage space</th>
<th>Storage capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Main Library</td>
<td>30,000 ㎡</td>
<td>148,000 ㎡</td>
<td>19,000 ㎡</td>
<td>78,000 ㎡</td>
<td>12,000,000 volumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansai-kan of the NDL</td>
<td>83,000 ㎡</td>
<td>59,000 ㎡</td>
<td>4,300 ㎡</td>
<td>24,000 ㎡</td>
<td>6,000,000 volumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILCL</td>
<td>7,700 ㎡</td>
<td>13,000 ㎡</td>
<td>2,100 ㎡</td>
<td>3,100 ㎡</td>
<td>1,050,000 volumes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Storage capacity is calculated based on a book thickness of 3cm.*

### History

The NDL has two predecessors. One is the Libraries of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives, which comprised the old parliament under the former Constitution of Japan. The other is the Imperial Library, which was attached to the Ministry of Education. Most of these libraries’ collections were transferred to the NDL and form the basis of the current collection.

The National Diet Library Law was enacted in February 1948, and the NDL opened on June 5 of the same year. The NDL celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2018.

- **1948**: NDL opened to the public using the former Akasaka Detached Palace (now the State Guest House) as a temporary facility
- **1949**: Former Imperial Library became the Ueno Branch Library of the National Diet Library
- **1961**: First phase of current Nagata-cho facility completed
- **1968**: Main building of Nagata-cho facility completed
- **1986**: Annex of Nagata-cho facility completed
- **2000**: International Library of Children’s Literature partially opened in renovated former Ueno Branch Library
- **2002**: International Library of Children’s Literature fully opened
- **2002**: Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library opened
- **2015**: Service started in Arch Building of the International Library of Children’s Literature
- **2019**: Storage Annex of the Kansai-kan scheduled to be completed
**Tokyo Main Library**

1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8924, Japan

Phone: +81-3-3581-2331
+81-3-3506-3300 (automated voice information service)

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**International Library of Children’s Literature**

12-49 Ueno Koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan

Phone: +81-3-3827-2053
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**Main Collections**
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*Opening hours may vary depending on the service.

Published in October 2018