National Diet Library
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 purposes 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 four basic roles.

- **Supporting the National Diet**
- **Acquiring, cataloging, and preserving materials and information**
- **Providing access to information resources**
- **Cooperation with affiliated institutions**
History

The NDL has two origins: one is the libraries of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives in the former Imperial Diet; and the other is the Imperial Library under the Ministry of Education. Most of these collections were transferred to the present NDL. The National Diet Library Law was enacted in February 1948, and the NDL opened on June 5 of the same year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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>1949</td>
<td>Former Imperial Library became the Ueno Branch Library of the National Diet Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>2000</td>
<td>International Library of Children’s Literature partially opened in the renovated former branch Ueno Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>International Library of Children’s Literature fully opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Service started in the Arch Building of the International Library of Children's Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organization

The NDL is a part of the legislative branch, the National Diet of Japan. The NDL comprises three main facilities: the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, 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.
Supporting the National 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.

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

   **Research on request**
   (33,500 reports annually)
   ◇ Briefings and lectures at study sessions organized for Diet members (520 annually)
   ◇ Creation of written reports (4,200 annually)
   ◇ Lending and copying library material (28,100 annually)

   **Environment for research and study**
   ◇ Building databases such as the Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet
   ◇ Providing databases from Japan and around the world
   ◇ Reading rooms and research rooms for Diet members
   ◇ Detached Library in the Diet

   **Japanese citizens**
   Respond
   Reflect in national policy
   Provide

   **Diet members**
   Materials, information and facilities

   **NDL website**
   (Freely available to anyone)
   Publish

   • NDL’s enormous library collection and information
   • Staff members who have professional knowledge

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**
   https://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/ (Built in cooperation with the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.)

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

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

   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.
Acquiring, cataloging, and preserving 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, be deposited with the NDL. Through this Legal Deposit System, the NDL collects many domestic publications.

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
  https://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/?_lang=en

Online Publications
The NDL also collects e-books and e-magazines which are private online publications.

2 Making and Providing Bibliographic Data

The NDL makes bibliographic data of collected materials and provides it through the National Diet Library Search.

- National Diet Library Search
  https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/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.
1 Services Available without Visiting the Library

The NDL provides online services available to anyone from anywhere at any time.

Services Available via the Internet

- **National Diet Library Search**  [https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en](https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en) (see p.5)
  Remote copying services are available for registered users.

- **NDL Digital Collections**  [https://dl.ndl.go.jp/?lang=en](https://dl.ndl.go.jp/?lang=en)
  NDL Digital Collections enables users to search and view a wide variety of digital materials. Also, official registered users of the NDL who reside in Japan and who have agreed to the latest version of the terms of service are able to access out-of-print and other hard-to-find materials.

  Research Navi provides an introduction to key research techniques, reference materials, useful databases and websites, indexed by subject matter and resource category.

Services Available from Local 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, through which digitized versions of NDL holdings that are out-of-print or otherwise difficult to obtain are available at libraries and institutes that are partners of the NDL.

2 Services Available by Visiting the Library

The NDL provides services including access to materials held by the NDL, copy services, and reference services.

3 Services for the Staff of Agencies in the Executive and Judicial Branches of Government

We lend library materials and accept requests for photocopying and reference services via National Diet Library branch libraries in many agencies of the executive and judicial branches of government.

4 Services for Persons with Print Disabilities

  Mina Search has a single interface to search for reading materials in a variety of accessible formats. Registered users of this service can download materials in Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY), text, or other accessible formats made by public libraries.
  In addition, the NDL produces talking books of academic literature for users with print disabilities and lends them through libraries across Japan.

5 Promoting Children's Reading Activities

The International Library of Children’s Literature provides library services for children’s books from both Japan and around the world. We feel that every child should have the opportunity to become familiar with books and libraries, and we support programs that promote children’s reading activities through exhibitions and other events related to children's literature.
Cooperation with affiliated institutions

1 Support for and Cooperation with Libraries in Japan

We provide training and information to libraries in Japan in support of their activities and human resource development, sharing our expertise in library sciences to help improve the operations and services of libraries throughout Japan.

• Collaborative Reference Database [https://crd.ndl.go.jp/reference/](https://crd.ndl.go.jp/reference/)
  The NDL’s Collaborative Reference Database is a Japanese-language resource, through which libraries are able to share their responses to reference questions as well as to provide information for personal study.

   ![Collaborative Reference Database](image1)

   For Librarians

2 International Cooperation

The NDL participates in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and other international activities, through which we interact with other national libraries and their affiliated institutions in working to solve problems that are universal to all libraries, as well as promote cooperative and collaborative projects with organizations that share common goals.

   ![International Cooperation](image2)

3 Comprehensive Access to Information Resources

We employ data linkage via the internet to provide our patrons with a variety of data-linkage platforms that access digitized materials or search guides for Japanese libraries, including integrated searchability for records on the Great East Japan Earthquake and other useful means for accessing cultural resources throughout Japan.

   ![Japan Search](image3)

   Japan Search

   ![Great East Japan Earthquake Archive](image4)

   Great East Japan Earthquake Archive (HINAGIKU)
Wide variety of NDL collections

Digitized images of materials marked with * are available on the NDL website.

**Modern Japanese political history documents**

Collections of private papers in and after the latter half of the 19th century. They comprise a wide variety of materials, including letters, diaries, office materials, photographs and audio recordings, once owned by political leaders, i.e. Cabinet Ministers, Diet Members, senior civil and military officers, and others. Each collection bears its former owner's name.

**Shin Seifu Koryo Hassaku, included in Boyucho**

November 1867

Papers of ISHIDA Eikichi 1-5

SAKAMOTO Ryoma’s handwritten conception of the form of government, compiled after the Taisei Hokan (restoration of political power to the Emperor).

**Rare books and old materials**

Collections of rare books, semi-rare books, Japanese old books up to the Edo Period, Chinese old books up to the Qing Dynasty, etc.

**Taketori monogatari**

3 volumes [copied in the early Edo period]【本別 12-3】

Beautiful picture scrolls of Taketori monogatari, which was written in the early Heian period.

**Hyakumanto Dharani**

770【WA3-1】

The oldest traceable publication in the world whose production date is clear. It was created at the behest of the Empress Shotoku (718-770) of the Nara period.

**Materials related to Japan**

Works about Japan and works by Japanese people published outside Japan, as well as foreign periodicals about Japan, which have been intensively collected since the time of the former Imperial Library.

**Asian-language and Asia-related materials**

Asian language materials and materials about Asia written in Japanese and European languages. It covers East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.
Maps
Domestic and foreign single-sheet maps published during and after the Meiji era (from 1868), and residential maps of Japan.

Children’s literature
Japanese and foreign children’s books and periodicals, and related materials.

Music and audio-visual materials
Audio-visual materials, musical scores, electronic publications (CD-ROMs, etc.) and scripts.

Science and technology materials
Technical reports, foreign doctoral dissertations, preprints of academic societies, proceedings in Western languages, standards, foreign patent materials, etc.

Parliamentary and legislative documents, and official publications
Parliamentary documents of Japan and other countries, official gazettes, official bulletins, statutes, law reports and publications of government offices as well as publications of international organizations (UN, EU, etc.)

Newspapers
Newspaper collections of Japanese titles and major foreign titles. Japanese titles include national papers, regional papers, trade papers, and sports papers.

Audio recordings
(phono graph records, CDs, etc.)
Phonograph records, cassette tapes and CDs, primarily those released in Japan.

Digital Exhibitions
Each exhibition features the NDL's diverse collections with easy-to-understand explanations.
NDL in figures

Key statistics of FY 2022

Collections 46,855,998 items

- Periodicals 13,456,981 items
- Books 12,113,354 items
- Microforms 9,167,880 items
- Newspapers 6,904,107 items
- Audio recordings 813,300 items
- Video recordings 281,359 items
- Doctoral dissertations 601,664 items
- Maps 596,759 items
- Manuscripts 438,370 items
- Machine-readable materials (CD-ROMs, etc.) 182,830 items
- Braille and large print 50,220 items
- Musical scores 31,840 items

Annual acquisition 871,292 items

- Periodicals 260,288 items
- Books 186,646 items
- Microforms 163,479 items
- Newspapers 186,299 items
- Audio recordings 11,458 items
- Video recordings 28,614 items
- Machine-readable materials (CD-ROMs, etc.) 9,461 items

Number of bibliographic data produced (per year) 535,762 items

Number of bibliographic data provided (total) 27,569,063 items
### Services for the public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference services</td>
<td>500,513 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading services</td>
<td>1,652,421 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photoduplication services</td>
<td>942,166 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote photoduplication services</td>
<td>277,981 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-site users</strong></td>
<td><strong>509,023 people</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tokyo Main Library
- 334,626 people (1,199 per day on average)

#### Kansai-kan of the NDL
- 67,188 people (241 per day on average)

#### International Library of Children’s Literature
- 107,209 people (377 per day on average)

### Digital library services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors to our website</td>
<td>37,941,442 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewers of digitized materials on the NDL Digital Collections</td>
<td>66,871,857 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewers of contents on the WARP</td>
<td>38,797,455 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Digitized materials available on the NDL Digital Collections
- Total: 5,028,894 items
  - Number of materials available via the internet: 1,838,041 items
  - Available with Digitized Contents Transmission Service: 1,851,430 items
  - Available only at the NDL: 1,339,423 items

### Services for the Diet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research on request</td>
<td>33,465 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on national policy issues</td>
<td>319 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Services for libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference services</td>
<td>4,142 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan services</td>
<td>14,024 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Libraries participating in the Collaborative Reference Database
- 907 libraries

### Buildings and storages (Approximate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</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 m²</td>
<td>148,000 m²</td>
<td>19,000 m²</td>
<td>78,000 m³</td>
<td>12,000,000 volumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansai-kan of the NDL</td>
<td>83,000 m²</td>
<td>84,000 m²</td>
<td>4,300 m²</td>
<td>39,000 m³</td>
<td>11,000,000 volumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Library of Children’s Literature</td>
<td>7,700 m²</td>
<td>13,000 m²</td>
<td>2,100 m²</td>
<td>3,100 m³</td>
<td>1,050,000 volumes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Staff members (excluding staff of branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government)

- Number of regular staff members as of April 2023: 894 members

### Budget (Approximate)

- Initial budget for FY 2023: 19.87 billion yen
- Budget for materials: 2.27 billion yen
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)

Main Collections
- 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

Opening Hours
From 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. on Saturdays)*
Closed
Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays, and the third Wednesday of every month (for refiling)
Patrons
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

Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library
8-1-3 Seikadai, Seika-cho, Soraku-gun, Kyoto 619-0287, Japan
Phone: +81-774-98-1200 (automated voice information service)

Main Collections
- 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

Opening Hours
From 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*
Closed
Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays, and the third Wednesday of every month (for refiling)
Patrons
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

International Library of Children’s Literature
12-49 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan
Phone: +81-3-3827-2053
+81-3-3827-2069 (automated voice information service)

Main Collections
- Children’s literature and periodicals published in Japan and overseas
- Materials related to children’s literature

Opening Hours
From 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
Closed
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)
Patrons
Anybody can use the library.

*Opening hours may vary depending on the service.