National Diet Library

Opening Hours

*Opening hours may vary depending on the service.

Main Collections

From 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. on Saturdays)*

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

Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays, and the third Wednesday of every month (for refiling)

International Library of Children’s Literature

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.*

Closed

Anybody can use the library.

Patrons

Sundays, 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)

Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

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

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

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Asian-language and Asia-related materials

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Kansai-kan of the National Diet 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)

International Library of Children’s Literature

8-1-3 Seikadai, Seika-cho, Soraku-gun, Kyoto 619-0287, Japan

Phone: +81-774-98-1200 (automated voice information service)

Tokyo Main Library

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, 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
- Branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government

27 branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government.
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.

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

- Briefings and lectures at study sessions organized for Diet members (660 annually)
- Creation of written reports (3,930 annually)
- Lending and copying library material (32,600 annually)

Reflect in national policy

- 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

Materials, information and facilities

- Environment for research and study
- NDL website (Freely available to anyone)

Publish

- Research on national policy issues (320 articles annually)
- Issue Brief
- The Reference
- Foreign Legislation
- Research Materials

Reflect in national policy

- Japanese citizens
- Diet members

Respond

- 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/

Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet
https://teikokugikai-i.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.

Information Related to the National Diet
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
  https://warp.da.ndl.go.jp/?_lang=en

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
  https://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.
Providing the public with access to information resources

1 **Services Available by Visiting the Library**

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

2 **Services Available without Visiting the Library**

**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.

**Services Available via the Internet**

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

- **NDL Online**  https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/
  Remote copying services are available for registered users via NDL Online.

- **NDL Digital Collections**  https://dl.ndl.go.jp/?lang=en
  NDL Digital Collections enables users to search and view a wide variety of digital materials.

- **Other Databases**  Many other databases are also available.

3 **Services for Persons with Print Disabilities**

The NDL produces talking books of academic literature for users with print disabilities and lends them through libraries across Japan. In addition, the NDL collects Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) data and braille data made by public libraries, and provides them to libraries and individuals through an online data transmission service for persons with print disabilities.

4 **Services for Libraries**

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**  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.

The NDL interacts with foreign libraries through international organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) or the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) to discuss and explore solutions to common challenges facing libraries around the world.

**Visit and register as user**

**Browse and copy inside the library**

**Search and request material via the NDL Online**

**Borrow material at the counter**

**Material retrieved from closed stacks is delivered to the counter**
NDL in Figures (Key statistics of FY 2018)

Collections (domestic and foreign publications)

- Books: 11,354,294 items
- Periodicals: 12,350,578 items
- Newspapers: 6,194,453 items
- Microforms: 9,137,645 items
- Audio recordings: 762,661 items
- Video recordings: 365,598 items
- Machine-readable materials (CDs, DVDs, etc.): 157,533 items
- Maps: 580,608 items
- Musical scores: 20,285 items
- Doctoral dissertations: 13,614 items
- Manuscripts: 409,666 items
- Braille and large print: 43,525 items

Total: 44,187,016 items

Annual acquisition (domestic and foreign publications)

- Microforms: 13,780 items
- Video recordings: 11,589 items
- Audio recordings: 16,053 items
- Machine-readable materials (CDs, DVDs, etc.): 6,654 items
- Maps: 7,208 items
- Musical scores: 788 items
- Doctoral dissertations: 1,344 items
- Manuscripts: 13,614 items
- Braille and large print: 1,514 items

Total: 777,196 items
**Services for the public**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference services</td>
<td>863,691</td>
<td>2,185,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading services</td>
<td>2,185,497</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photoduplication services</td>
<td>1,320,116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote photoduplication services</td>
<td>285,409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**On-site users**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>People (per day on average)</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Main Library</td>
<td>(2,071)</td>
<td>791,370</td>
<td>575,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansai-kan of the NDL</td>
<td>(260)</td>
<td>72,373</td>
<td>143,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Library of Children’s Literature</td>
<td>(503)</td>
<td>143,241</td>
<td>143,241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reference for the Diet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research on request</td>
<td>37,897</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on national policy issues</td>
<td>323</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and reference</td>
<td>721</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan services</td>
<td>6,046</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Services for libraries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference services</td>
<td>4,416</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan services</td>
<td>14,875</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries participating in the Collaborative Reference Database</td>
<td>805</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Digital library services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors to our website</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewers of digitized materials on the NDL Digital Collections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitized materials available on the NDL Digital Collections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Buildings and Storages (Approximate)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</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 m²</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 m²</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 m²</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
- 2020 Storage Annex of the Kansai-kan completed

**Budget (Approximate)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial budget for FY 2019</td>
<td>27.28 billion yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget for materials</td>
<td>2.36 billion yen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- NDL in Figures (Key statistics of FY 2018)
- 9,137,645 items
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- 409,666 items
- 365,598 items
- 762,661 items
- 596,153 items
- 157,533 items
- 20,285 items
- 43,525 items
- 72,373 people
- 575,756 people
- 72,373 people
- 143,241 people
- 37,897 cases
- 323 cases
- 721 cases
- 6,046 items
- 3,929,535 items
- 1,574,119 items
- 1,510,004 items
- 845,412 items
- 2,690,000 items
- 540,000 items
- 1,500,000 items
- 650,000 items
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1-10-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8924, Japan
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