



31st CDNLAO

# Japan Search : A National Platform of Digital Archives



YAMAJI Yasushi  
Deputy Director General  
National Diet Library, Japan



# About the National Diet Library (NDL)

\*Statistics for FY 2024

## The Tokyo Main Library

Providing library services for the National Diet while overseeing the operation of three facilities.



### Storage capacity:

4.5 million in the Main Building  
7.5 million in the Annex

### Reading space:

1,433 seats in 18,983 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

## The Kansai-kan

Serving as the base of operations for all remote library services as well as providing on-site library services for the general public.



### Storage capacity:

6 million in the Main Building  
5 million in the Stack Building

### Reading space:

359 seats in 4,265 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

## The International Library of Children's Literature

A library specializing in children's literature.



### Storage capacity:

400,000 in the Brick Building  
650,000 in the Arch Building

### Reading space:

143 seats in 2,054 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

## Supporting the National Diet



The NDL provides reliable research and analysis on national policy issues as well as other prompt and accurate information services that support the activities of the National Diet. Additionally, we make information about the National Diet available to the general public via the Internet, thereby helping to connect the Diet with the people it represents.

Research and analysis

**33,000**

cases per year

Minutes of the Diet Database

**23 million**

searches per year

## Providing access to information resources



We provide access via the Internet as well as at local libraries through remote services for searching, browsing, photocopying, and acquiring information. We also provide browsing, photocopying, and reference services for patrons at our facilities.

Access to digital materials

**43** million

pageviews per year

Onsite patrons

**670,000**

persons per year

## Tie-ins with other institutions



We provide useful access to knowledge and culture for all people through our tie-ins with a wide variety of affiliated institutions, both in Japan and abroad.

Data linkage with

**1,160**

institutions

Training programs for librarians and others are held

**128**

times per year

## Acquiring, cataloging, and preserving materials and information

We acquire, catalog, and preserve as well as digitize materials from Japan and abroad.



**48.11** million

materials acquired via legal deposit, purchase, or donation



Books/Magazines/  
Newspapers/CDs, DVDs, etc.

**3,645** TB



Websites

**617,000**  
new materials  
acquired each year

**13.62** million  
bibliographic records

**15.3** billion  
files collected from  
websites

**61,000**  
materials repaired  
each year

**15.15** million  
records in our Japanese  
periodicals index

**1.60** million  
online publications  
collected

**4.46** million  
materials digitized

**1.46** million  
NDL Authorities

**121** different  
databases available on  
site



JAPAN SEARCH

# What is Japan Search?

## ■ Japan Search

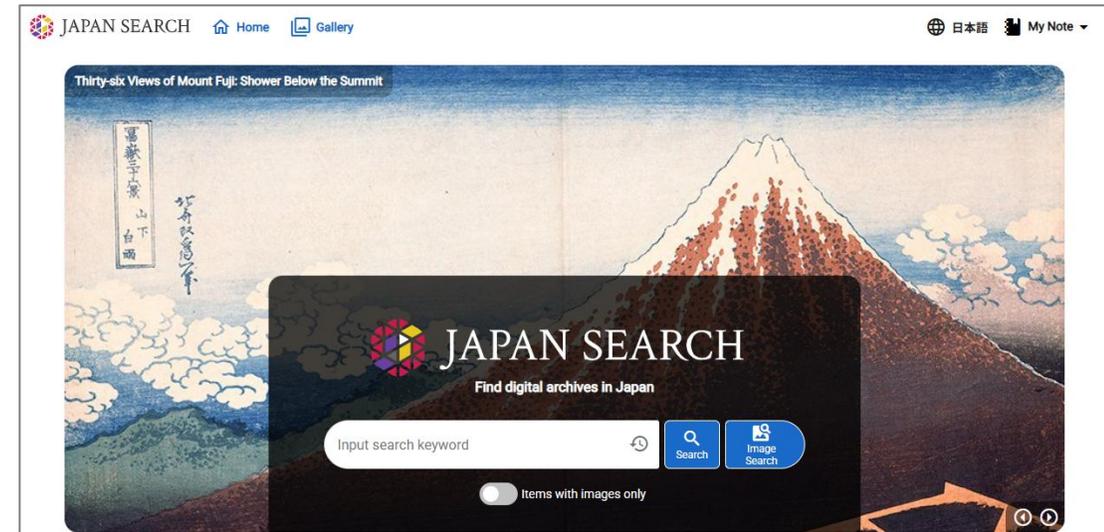
National platform for promoting the use of digital resources

- publications at libraries
- artwork and other cultural assets at museums
- official documents at archives
- academic resources in fields such as the humanities and natural history
- TV programs and movies

## ■ National Initiative

managed by a committee with a secretariat of Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters in the Cabinet Office

- system development and operation as well as collaborative practices handled by the NDL



 Japan Search Official X (@jpsearch\_go)  
[https://x.com/jpsearch\\_go](https://x.com/jpsearch_go)

 Japan Search Official YouTube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSK72iSEQMzEcu8BWLEFzPQ>

 Japan Search Instagram  
[https://www.instagram.com/japansearch\\_go/](https://www.instagram.com/japansearch_go/)

 Japan Search Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/jpsearchgo/>

# Search Results in Japan Search

Keyword:  
Mount Fuji (富士山)

JAPAN SEARCH Home Gallery

日本語 My Note

Top / Cross Search

## Cross Search

Search all databases with keywords. ⓘ

Example Fuji San(Mt.Fuji) Shishi(lion) Udon(noodle) Karamatsu(larch) Five-storied pagoda Fishing

富士山

Contents : Has Thumbnails Reset

Use Condition Contents Type Database Field Time Location Contributor By Image +

3,383 hit 2 / 170 page 20 Score Display mode



**富士山(河口湖)**  
橋 貞雄 1937-51  
Contents holder/Provider: Keio Art Committee  
Aggregator: Keio University Keio Object Hub  
CC BY



**Helmet in the Shape of Mount Fuji with White Lacing**  
東京国立博物館, Tokyo National Museum  
江戸時代・17世紀, Edo period, 17th century  
Contents holder/Provider: Tokyo National Museum  
Aggregator: National Institutes for Cultural Heritage ColBase  
CC BY



**富士山と菜の花**  
静岡県, 中部二宮町山西  
Contents holder/Provider: NHK Archives michishiru  
IN COPYRIGHT



**探幽/月字富士山図**  
晴川楼, 東京国立博物館  
Contents holder/Provider: Tokyo National Museum  
Aggregator: National Institutes for Cultural Heritage ColBase  
CC BY



**富士山水碓繪櫛**  
江戸後期/19世紀  
Contents holder/Provider: National Theatre Japan Arts Council  
Aggregator: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan Cultural Heritage Online



**(No English Title)**  
永田城, 京都国立博物館, Kyoto National



**探幽/四季富士山図**  
権兵、佐久間晴岳撰, 東京国立博物館 弘化四年四月



**Jinbaori (Coat worn over armor), Mt**



**Mount Fuji with Woodcutters on Their Way Home**  
アルフレッド・パーソンズ筆, By Alfred William Parsons (1847-1920), 東京国立博

4



JAPAN SEARCH

What is Japan Search?

# Japan Search Linking Model



Flow of sharing metadata

Flow of sharing digital content

## Content Holders

Partners via aggregators, data providers:

Libraries, museums, archives, industry, Japanese national and local governments



- Create metadata and digital content

## Aggregators



- Aggregate and standardize metadata, provide a portal in their domains or regions
- Guarantee long-term access

## Platform



JAPAN SEARCH

- Aggregate metadata and provide it for use
- Provide thumbnail and preview images for viewing and link to digital content

## Users

Local residents, businessmen, students, researchers ...

Education

New Business

etc.

Regional Revitalization



Virtuous Cycle of Data/Content Production



JAPAN SEARCH

What is Japan Search?

# Japan Search Partners

31 million metadata records from  
284 databases of 60 aggregators

National as well as municipal institutions, universities, etc. (as of October 2025)



### National Diet Library

The National Diet Library (NDL), founded in 1948, is the library which belongs to the Diet. The NDL assists the activities of the National Diet. The Library collects and conserves materials and information both from Japan and abroad, serving as a foundation of knowledge and culture and



### NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF JAPAN

The National Archives is an organization for preserving, as historical materials, public records and archives of importance transferred from state organs, and providing them for public use, with the aim of achieving appropriate preservation and use of such public records and archives that



### Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

The Art Research Center was established in 1998. Since then, the Center's mission has been not only to conduct historical and social research and analyses of both tangible and intangible human cultural properties such as visual and performing arts and



### NHK Archives

NHK, known as Tokyo Broadcasting Station at the time, started radio broadcasting in March, 1925. Following World War II, the station changed its name to Japan Broadcasting Corporation, and started television broadcasting in 1953. The NHK Archives is a collection of programs,



### Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

- Opened in 1926 as the Tokyo Prefectural Art Museum, the first public art museum in Japan. The collection was transferred to the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo when it opened, with part of the collection re-transferred when the museum was renovated in 2012. - Currently, the



### Library of Education, National Institute for Educational Policy Research

Library of Education at the National Institute for Educational Policy Research is a library specializing in education. The library holds approximately 100,000 textbooks from the Edo period to the present,



List of organizations: <https://jpsearch.go.jp/organization?from=0>

List of databases: <https://jpsearch.go.jp/database?from=0>



JAPAN SEARCH

Functions

# Search Functions

## Searching for digital content in a variety of ways

### Cross Search

Search all databases with keywords

### Cross Search

Search all databases with keywords. ?

Example Fuji San(Mt.Fuji) Shishi(Lion) Udon(noodle) Karamatsu(larch) Five-storied pagoda Fishing

- Use Condition ▾
- Contents ▾
- Type ▾
- Database ▾
- Field ▾
- Time ▾
- Location ▾
- Contributor ▾
- By Image ▾
- +



火焰型土器  
縄文時代(中期)・前3000~前2000年 伝新潟県  
長岡市馬高出土



Search similar images



杯形土器  
Base  
BY



深鉢形土器  
ColBase  
CC BY



深鉢形土器  
ColBase  
CC BY



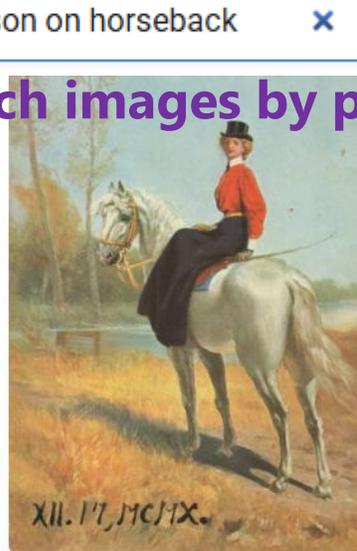
### Image Search

Search images by phrases



Bullfight, Plate 24: Ceballos, mounted on one bull, fights another in the bullring at Madrid

フランシスコ・デ・ゴヤ・イルシエンテス, Francisco de Goya y Lucientes 1816年10月出版(初版), Published October 1816 (first edition)  
Contents holder/Provider: Tokyo Fuji Art Museum  
Aggregator: The Japanese Council of Art



馬に乗る貴婦人

140×90 北方文化博物館(伊藤家), 日本国内他  
Contents holder/Provider: Niigata University, Regional Image Archive Research Center



Water Dropper, Design of Chinese figure on donkey

渡邊豊太郎氏・渡邊誠之氏寄贈, Gift of Mr. Watanabe Toyotaro and Mr. Watanabe Masayuki, 東京国立博物館, Tokyo National Mus... 江戸時代・18~19世紀, Edo period, 18th-19th century

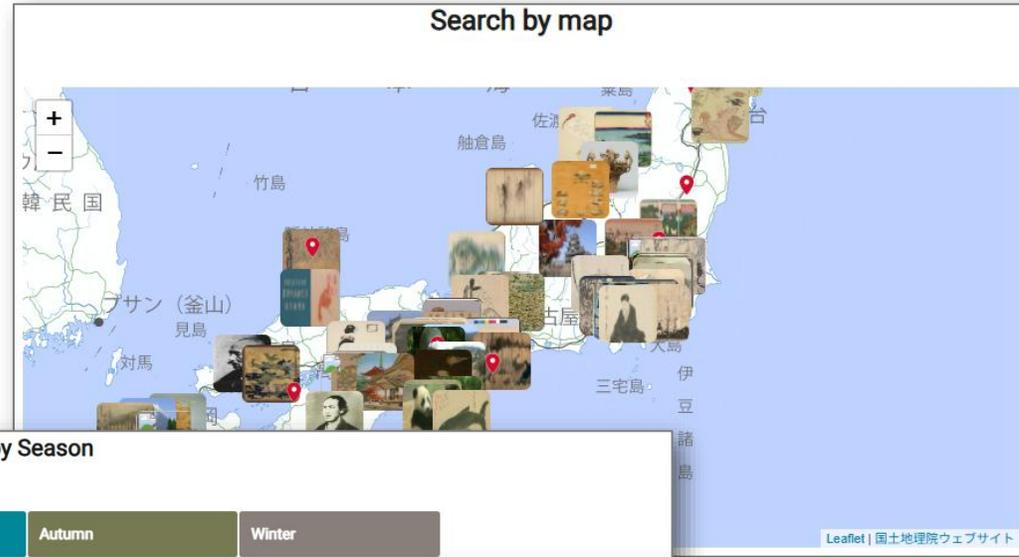
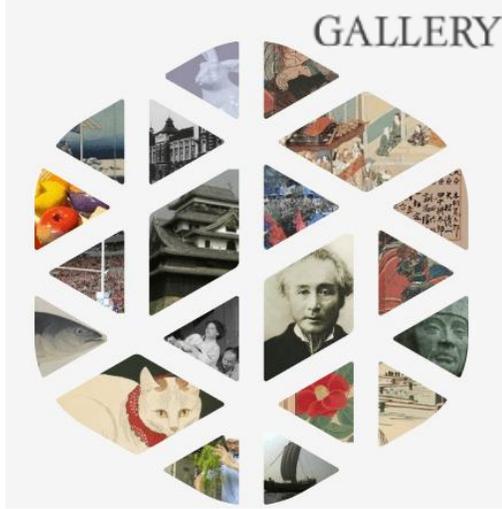


JAPAN SEARCH

# Functions Gallery

An online exhibition introducing content with digital images, captions, and descriptive information on more than 500 subjects

Search galleries on the gallery's main page by season, people, map, keyword, etc..



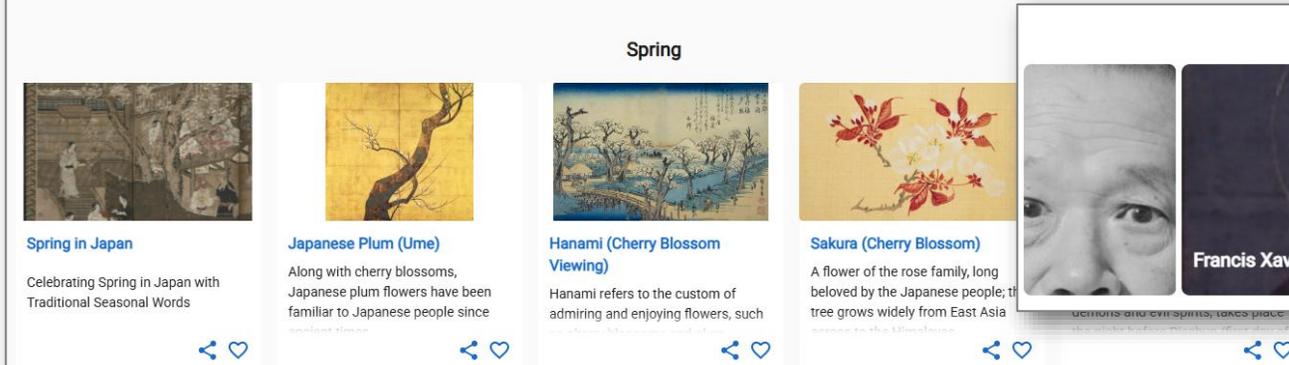
Buddhist Statues in Japan (Asuka ~ Kamakura periods)



Fireworks at Ryogoku



Fugaku sanjurokkei (The 36 Views)





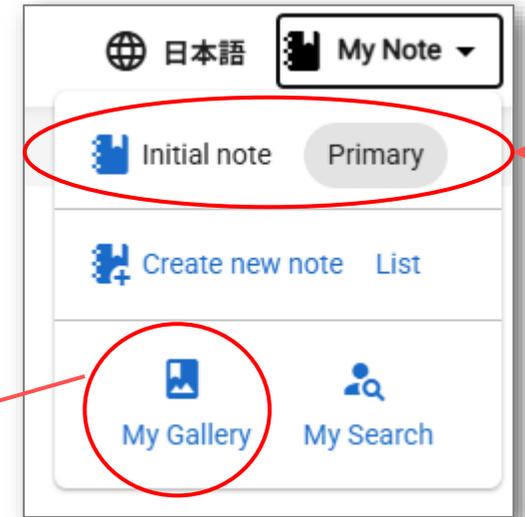
Functions

# My Note, My Gallery

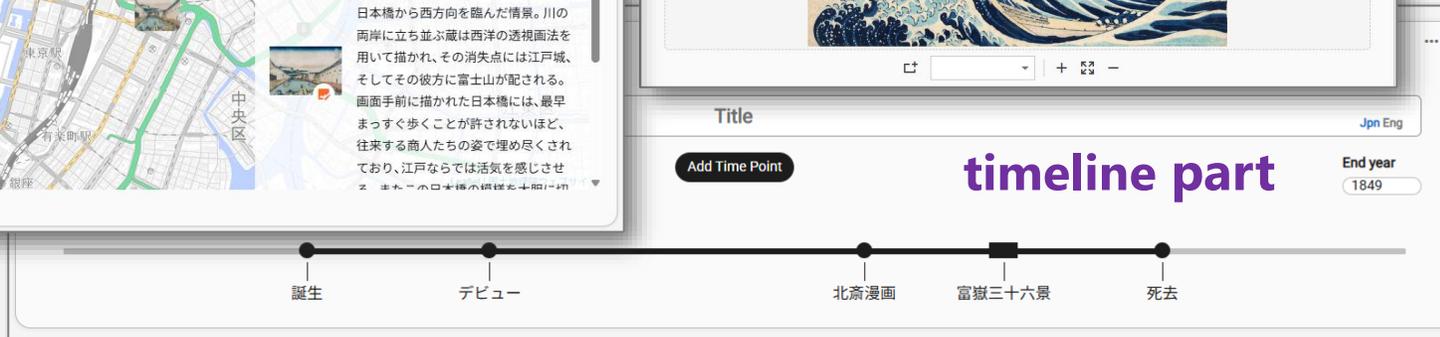
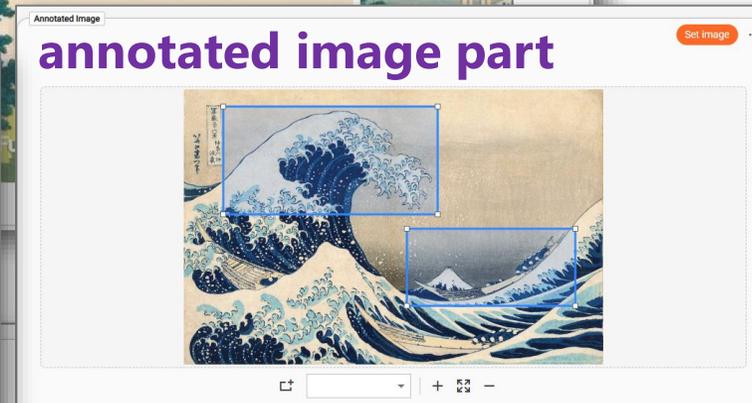
JAPAN SEARCH

My Note: Adding an item to notes in your favorites list

My Gallery: Creating your own online gallery by combining various customizable parts, such as images, text, timeline, etc..

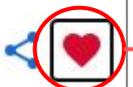


My Gallery



Toggle ("Netsuke") Shaped Like a Rabbit and a Mortar  
Tokyo National Museum

My Note





JAPAN SEARCH

Functions

# Use Cases

## Using content on Japan Search for education, event, creation, etc..



"[Using Japan Search in the classroom] Workshop on creating educational materials from digital archives"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGLY-bYjmaM>



先生たちはグループに分かれて、さまざまな議論をしながらデジタルアーカイブで教材を作っていきます



I tried Edo-period recipes!



I tried a retro hairstyle!

"I tried it on Japan Search!"  
(JAPAN SEARCH YouTube Channel)  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4KTWzfKoHlG9NwLLwD\\_DqrBg46mVWwxC](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4KTWzfKoHlG9NwLLwD_DqrBg46mVWwxC)

"Exploring The Tale of Genji: Insights from Tokyo Gakugei University Library's Educational Collection"  
[https://jpsearch.go.jp/gallery/u\\_gakugei-genji](https://jpsearch.go.jp/gallery/u_gakugei-genji)

# Next Strategy

- A new five-year strategy starting in FY2026 was announced in May.
- It continues the mission of creating a society in which digital archives are part of everyday life.
- It goes beyond the original Japan Search strategy by expanding to nationwide strategy for promoting digital archives.
- Core archival institutions are expected to take the lead in the development of digital archives for their respective fields while positioning Japan Search as the main platform. The National Diet Library is the lead institution for books and related materials.

