

BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR THE NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY: OPENING OF THE KANSAI-KAN AND NEW SERVICES

NORITADA OTAKI

DEPUTY LIBRARIAN

NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY, JAPAN

The year 2002 marked the beginning of a new era for the National Diet Library (NDL). First we celebrated the full opening of the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) in May. Then, after more than 20 years of planning and preparation plus 4 years of construction work, the Kansai-kan, a new facility of the NDL, opened in October in Kansai Science City near Kyoto. Furthermore, the NDL made an overall revision of its website in October and started providing new online services. The three facilities, Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan, and ILCL, of the integrated National Diet Library offer enhanced library services to users in Japan and overseas.

1. KANSAI-KAN OF THE NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY (See the Kansai-kan brochure.)

FACILITIES

- Total floor area: 59,000 square meters, Stack capacity: 6 million volumes
- Two large reading rooms: General Collections Room and Asian Resources Room

COLLECTIONS

- a) Materials transferred from the Tokyo Main Library, such as foreign periodicals, science and technology materials, Japanese doctoral dissertations, and materials in Asian languages,
- b) Reference works from Japan and abroad, frequently used Japanese periodicals.

MAIN FUNCTIONS

- a) Document supply services using all the NDL holdings
- b) Library cooperation projects
- c) Digital library projects
- d) Asian information services

2. ENHANCED SERVICES VIA THE NDL WEBSITE (<http://www.ndl.go.jp>)

- a) NDL-OPAC and Document Supply Services - Most NDL resources, including books (3.03 million items), periodicals (160,000 titles), and Japanese Periodicals Index

- (5.69 million items), are searchable through one interface with online copy request and ILL request functions
- b) Collections of the Electronic Library - Digital Library from the Meiji Era, Web Archiving Project (WARP), Database Navigation Service (Dnavi), etc.
 - c) NDL Gallery - Birth of the Constitution of Japan, Rare Books Image Database, etc.

3. OUR CHALLENGE CONTINUES...

As the parliamentary library of the Japanese Diet and the sole national library of Japan, we have a responsibility to continue our efforts to improve our services, mainly in the following areas:

- a) Offer high quality services to the Diet members and their staff members
- b) Develop the National Collection of Japan regardless of the diversity of media
- c) Improve the accessibility of the collection, taking advantage of new technologies

Our challenge continues.