

NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY

DIGITAL LIBRARY MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR 2004

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ABSTRACT

The National Diet Library (NDL) drew up National Diet Library Digital Library Medium Term Plan for 2004 in February 2004. This plan was intended to build on the accomplishments of the digital library services the NDL had been tackling and specifies the targets of the digital library services for the next five years or so. The targets are three: building digital archives such as acquiring domestic Internet information; expanding information on information resources; building a portal site leading at “one stop” to digital information kept by respective domestic organizations. As part of the digital archives the NDL will digitize and make available its books published in and after the Meiji era. The acquisition of and the access to domestic Internet information will be legislated and the acquisition will be done not only by the unit of website, but also by the unit of work as “online deposit”. The necessary framework for these should be prepared so that the three targets will be met satisfactorily.

INTRODUCTION

The National Diet Library (NDL) issued “National Diet Library Vision 2004” in February 2004 and declared inside and outside of the Library its missions and roles. This vision reflects the situation that the rapid development of information network has greatly changed the way information is disseminated in society. Among the major challenges the NDL will face the vision refers to “building digital archives”, which will accumulate digital information information resources shared among the people and make it available.

Under this vision National Diet Library Digital Library Medium Term Plan for 2004 (Medium Term Plan) was drawn up. The Medium Term Plan was based on what the digital library service accomplished by 2003 and specifies concretely the direction of the digital library services the NDL should develop in the next five years or so and the necessary framework to bring these into reality. The Medium Term Plan

consists of five parts: the background to the planning, the achievements of the Digital Library Concept by the end of 2003, the guiding principles for the planning, the targets of the digital library services and the necessary framework for their realization. Today I will give you the gist of it.

1 BACKGROUND TO THE PLANNING

Behind the formulation of the Medium Term Plan there are changes in the social environment surrounding digital information:

1-1 Digital information as social infrastructure

It is the case that digital information is increasing in significance as social infrastructure. Various human activities now deeply depend on computers and information communication networks. Information is electronically produced, disseminated and available in any field, whether political, economic, social, cultural or whatever.

1-2 International environment on digital information

The change in the international situation on digital information is another behind-the-scene influence. “The Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage” was adopted at the 32nd UNESCO General Conference in 2003. It declared that the preservation of digital information such as Internet information, although it is significant in present society, is insecure, and considering the current situation, each government needs to raise awareness of the issue and to make efforts for preservation.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek (The National Library of the Netherlands) has been conducting its accumulation and preservation project of electronic journals and the National Library of Australia its PANDRA project. Like these libraries each national library of the world recognizes that collecting, accumulating, preserving and providing digital information are imminent challenges and tackles them vigorously.

1-3 Domestic situation on digital information

Lastly, there are some changes of the domestic situation on digital information. At the end of fiscal 2000 the Japanese government issued the e-Japan Priority Policy Program and started promoting “digitizing and archiving the holdings of museums, libraries and so on”. The e-Japan Priority Policy Program 2004, to preserve and expand the availability of the contents kept by the government and others, requires them to establish a cooperation scheme with the NDL, and the central government is moving actively toward archiving digital information.

2 THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES OF THE NDL SO FAR

The Medium Term Plan summarizes the previous digital library services, that is, “the accomplishments of ‘the Digital Library Concept’ by the end of 2003”. The NDL, based on the “National Diet Library Digital Library Concept” drawn up in 1998, built up the digital library infrastructure and expanded digital library services. It has been more than a year since the Medium Term Plan came out and today I will update the information of the major digital library services of the NDL.

2-1 Producing and providing digital contents

The NDL has been facilitating digitization of its holdings. To date we have digitized and made public some 55,000 books published in the Meiji era and held by the NDL into the Digital Library from the Meiji Era. We have also produced and made available some 37,000 frames of image data of rare books and the like.

The full-texts of the Diet minutes from the first session to the present are also available and this July we started to provide the texts and image data of the Imperial Diet minutes. For the service for the Diet we also provide the materials produced by the NDL digitally via the Diet WAN.

Besides we have been producing and making available the contents of our electronic exhibitions. At present there are nine of these: the Birth of the Constitution of Japan, the Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures, the Picture Book Gallery, to mention a few.

2-2 Web archiving and providing – WARP(Web ARchiving Project)

The NDL has been experimentally collecting, accumulating and making available the information resources on the Internet. The websites produced by government organizations and relevant organizations, municipalities (cities, towns, and villages) before merger, and universities, and of a variety of events are, under the permission of the copyright holders, collected and provided. At present some 1,500 titles of electronic journals and the websites of some 1,300 organizations (27 million files, 1.6 terabytes) are accumulated and available.

2-3 Information leading to materials

2-3-1 Secondary information

The NDL-OPAC, which covers almost all the basic bibliographies of the NDL holdings, has been available since October 2002. The NDL-OPAC provides some 6.4 million items of periodical indexes from some ten thousand titles of academic journals published in Japan as well as some 6.5 million items of bibliographic information of books, magazines, newspapers, doctoral dissertations and so on. It also allows us to order copies off-site.

The NDL also provides a union catalog of Japanese books held by prefectural libraries and others, a union catalog of juvenile literature and a union catalog of newspapers.

2-3-2 Navigation to outside resources

Some information resources on the Internet cannot be collected automatically and Database Navigation Service (Dnavi), a portal service, is available especially for databases, which are a significant part of Internet Information. There are some 9,600 databases collected at the moment.

2-4 Improvement of the NDL website

The NDL website was drastically renewed in October 2002 and it works as a service point for the general users and provides the full range of digital library services.

2-5 Research and development

Since fiscal 2002 the NDL has been conducting research and development on preservation of digital information. It also studied the literature of both domestic and foreign experiences of digital information preservation, conducted a feasibility study of the CD-ROM materials held by the NDL in the latest environment and studied their migration and emulation. Furthermore, we are developing a database of reference records as a joint project with domestic libraries.

3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLANNING

The Medium Term Plan was drawn up, responding to the above-mentioned needs and achievements, to expand the digital library services. There are three guiding principles:

First, the employment of information communication networks will greatly expand the accessibility of the NDL services, with no time or space limitation.

Second, the information environment has changed, and in and out of the country, the significance of the acquisition, organization, preservation and dissemination of digital information is rising.

Third, it is essential to cooperate with related organizations in order to improve the digital library services of the NDL and it is vital to specify the direction in which the NDL is heading and to make itself understood by the organizations.

4 TARGETS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES

There are three targets of the digital library services: building digital archives, enriching information on information resources and creating a portal function for digital archives.

4-1 Building digital archives

The first target of digital library services is for the NDL to be a pivotal center of digital archives in Japan; there are two aspects, that is, digitization of the holdings and acquisition of Internet information.

4-1-1 Digitizing its holdings

The NDL will keep on digitizing our holdings, which are continuing projects from the previous stage. For the digitization of some 170 thousand books published in the Meiji era among the NDL holdings, most of them, after copyrights have been cleared within this fiscal year, will be available in the Digital Library from the Meiji Era. Then we will start the digitization of the books published in the Taisho era and held by the NDL. We will also continue the digitization of the rare books among the NDL holdings.

4-1-2 Acquiring Internet information

The acquisition of Internet information is another task. This is to collect Internet information either institutionally or selectively mainly generated inside Japan, using certain criteria of acquisition, preservation and access. Institutional acquisition is now under scrutiny to legislate for it, responding to the report of the Legal Deposit System Council of December 2004. The report proposed that the comprehensive acquisition of the Internet information generated domestically should be legislated. Listening to the opinions of the relevant organizations and the public, the NDL is considering starting gradually with the websites of the central government, municipalities, academic organizations and other public organizations. There are two ways of acquisition under consideration.

) Acquiring web information by website

The acquisition of web information by website is one way. It is to collect web information by the unit of website into web archives in the same structure as it was generated whenever possible, and accumulate, preserve and provide the information in the form which allows chronological recognition. At present there are two kinds we have in mind: bulk acquisition, which automatically collects specific domains among Internet information submitted in Japan, and the other kind which is conducted by theme or with different frequency, using some criteria like the present WARP project. The former requires a vast amount of memory capacity and for the time being we will collect “snapshots” once a year or so.

ii) Acquiring web information by work

There is plenty of information in the depth of the World Wide Web which cannot be collected

automatically. There is also some information which could be collected automatically, but would be more suitable to be collected by the unit of work, such as books and articles. For these what we have in mind is the “online deposit” system, through which the information will be acquired, organized, preserved and served.

4-2 Expanding information on information resources

The second target of digital library services is to facilitate the access to the digital information which has been archived. For this purpose we will prepare a searching interface such as full-text searching and intellectual concept searching, improve searching tools for information resources, and create and provide digital exhibitions from the digital archives we are building.

4-3 Portal function of digital archives

The third target of digital library service is to build a total site which will navigate digital information around Japan. The NDL website is the service point of the NDL only, but we will open another service point where the users will be able to obtain necessary information at one stop. This will lead users to appropriate digital information resources and information supply services mainly provided by the central government and other public organizations as well as the NDL digital archives.

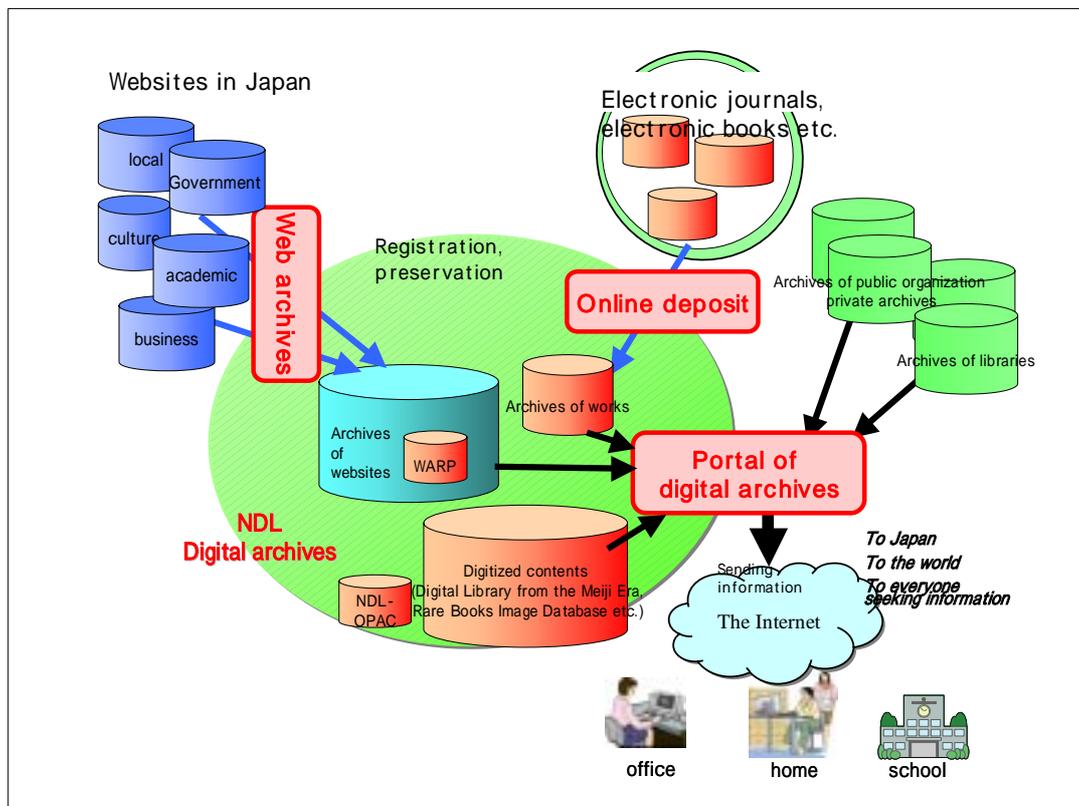


Fig 1. Image of NDL digital archives

5 NECESSARY FRAMEWORK FOR REALIZATION

Lastly, to bring these into reality, besides the organizational readiness of the NDL, it will be important to cooperate with related organizations, prepare the legislation and facilitate research and development.

5-1 Cooperation with related organizations

Establishing the necessary cooperative relationship with the relevant organizations will be an especially vital challenge. Standardizing metadata and long-term preservation, and securing the reciprocal operability of portal functions, will be some of the technical issues which will require cooperation among the related organizations to solve and operate them.

5-2 Preparing legislation

Preparing the relevant legislation will be another. It will be essential to legislate such laws as will restrict the copyrights and the like of the Internet information when we acquire, accumulate and preserve domestic Internet information as our cultural heritage.

5-3 Promoting research and development

Promoting research and development will be the last but not the least. There are numerous technical, financial and institutional issues to be solved for the long-term preservation of digital information. It will be important to build a framework to facilitate research and development in cooperation with related organizations in order to deal with the challenges.

Table 1 Major Digital Library Services of the NDL (Secondary Information)

title	summary
(NDL-OPAC) National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog	Japanese Books (3.06 million volumes), Foreign Books (900,000 volumes), Japanese Magazines and Newspapers (120,000 titles), Western Magazines and Newspapers (50,000 titles), Domestic Doctoral Dissertations (310,000 items), Technical Reports (1.89 million items) etc. Total 6.5 million items of the NDL holdings are searchable through this system. There are 13.4 million items when Japanese Periodicals Index and National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books are included.
(NDL-OPAC) Japanese Periodicals Index	Indexes of 10,000 titles of mainly academic Journals published in Japan. Indexing level is equivalent of tables of contents. 6.4 million items.
(NDL-OPAC) National Union Catalog of Braille and Recorded Books	Nation-wide union catalog of Braille and recorded books. 300,000 items.
NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC	Newspapers and magazines written in Chinese and Korean and books in Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese processed in 1986 or later.
National Union Catalog Network System	Union catalog for interlibrary loan among public libraries. There are 926 participants, including 50 libraries which offer their data (57 prefectural libraries, 151 libraries of designated cities, 718 libraries of cities, towns or villages and the NDL). 28.2 million titles (7.78 million basic titles).
Union Catalog of Children's Literature	Union catalog of juvenile literature held by six organizations, including the NDL. 415,361 books (56,809 western books included). 6,966 titles of magazines.
National Union Catalog of Newspapers	Union catalog of newspapers held by 1,252 organizations in Japan, including the NDL. 19,413 titles as of March 2004.
Japanese National Bibliography weekly list	Internet version of Japanese National Bibliography weekly list.
Books on Japan	Bibliographic information of western books on Japan processed by the NDL since 2002. Available since January 2003.
Index to the Japanese Laws and Regulations	Index to the laws and regulations from 1886 (effective, defunct, legislated) and the bills from the first Diet session in 1947 (bills and proposals of treaties). Deliberations of bills and proposals of treaties are searchable in the minutes of the Diet.
Review of Reference Books	Review of reference books held by the NDL. 20,000 items.
Database Navigation Service (Dnavi)	Navigation to the databases on the websites. 9,600 items

Table 2 Major Digital Library Services of the NDL (Digital Archives)

title	summary
Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet	Database for the minutes of the Diet from the first session to the present.
Rare Books Image Database	Colored images from the rare books held by the NDL. Japanese/Chinese old books, colored wooden prints and pictures. Important cultural assets are included. 861 titles. 37,000 frames of images.
Digital Library from the Meiji Era (Texts and Tables of Contents)	Black and white images of texts of books published in the Meiji era. The tables of contents are also provided. 34,800 items, 54,957 volumes, 6 million images. Total 170,000 volumes (100,000 items) will become available in 2003-2005.
Digital Library of Children's Literature	Black and white images of juvenile literature in and before 1950. 322 titles in the public domain are available on the Internet. 1,200 titles under the permission of copyright holders are available inside the International Library of Children's Literature.
NDL Gallery Birth of the Constitution of Japan	Materials on the formulation of the Japanese Constitution.
NDL Gallery Rare Books of the National Diet Library	Four important cultural assets and others from the rare books and semi-rare books among the NDL holdings. Total some one hundred items.
NDL Gallery Incunabula - Dawn of Western Printing	Incunabula, books that were printed using metal type up to the year 1500.
NDL Gallery Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures	Statesman, bureaucrats, military figures and businessmen etc. who influenced the formation of Modern Japan. Portrait photos of some two hundred people.
NDL Gallery The Japanese Calendar	Digital images of the calendar collection showing the history of the Japanese calendar. Available since October 2002.
NDL Gallery Japanese Ex-libris Stamps	Ex-libris stamps on books showing the footsteps of the collectors and the trend of the time. Available since July 2003.
NDL Gallery Nippon in the World	Electronic exhibition consisting of three themes: Scenic mementos of Japan, Vienna International Exposition and Modern Japanese Political History Materials.
NDL Gallery Exhibition: Eyes to Nature Natural History in East and West (the Edo)	Japanese picture books of plants, birds and fishes printed in the late Edo era from the NDL holdings.
NDL Gallery Exhibition: Eyes to Nature Natural History in East and West (the West)	Western picture books of plants from the NDL holdings.
Picture Book Gallery	Virtual exhibition of digital images of picture books.
Web Archiving Project (WARP)	Electronic journals on the websites, websites kept by the government organizations and relevant organizations are collected, organized, preserved and provided. Available since November 2002. 1,496 Electronic journals, 36 government organizations, 1,306 relevant organizations. Total 27 million files.