

Japan Liason report

1. Progress of digital library projects in Japan

While digital contents increase in Japanese libraries, digital archive portal sites have been also developed which enable easy integrated DB search. The National Diet Library (NDL) has started such portal site named "PORTA" in October 2007. "PORTA" enables 20 different types of DB of NDL as well as of cooperating institutions in Japan, the National Archives for example.

The National Institute of Informatics (NII) has been supporting development and collaboration of institutional repositories (IRs) in Japanese university. NII currently works to develop and provide IRs portal by defining standard metadata format. NDL and NII both are willing to work closely to integrate their portal sites initiatives.

NDL continues to develop digital library projects. Dr. Makoto Nagao, the chief librarian of NDL, looks forward with much enthusiasm to digitalization of analog collection of NDL as well as archiving Japanese internet resources. The efforts include not only on budget increase for the projects but also on legislative issues.

In regard of the National Archives, there is strong support in government side to enlarge and enhance its role and capability. Prime Minister Fukuda understands well the importance of archives and has been showing willingness for their developments. This will be reflected in the NA's fiscal year 2008 budget to carry out the first phase of development plan. Also a new law for better and proper administration of public documents is expected to be legitimated in the coming Diet session.

2. Future of the Japan Information Specialists Training Program (JISTP)

JISTP which has been organized by the Japan foundation and NDL terminated in 2007 fiscal year after three-year period program. While the future of JISTP is deep concern to many, NDL provide high evaluation to JISTP and is willing to continue such program in a new scheme. The International House of Japan Library also

wishes to continue to participate in a new program when organized. They both look forward to meeting and discussion in June 2008 when concerned people get together in Tokyo. NDL would be a host institution when meeting held..

3. Nippon Foundation's new program

The Nippon Foundation (Nihon Zaidan) announced in December 2007 a new program to donate books on contemporary Japan in English to libraries, institutions and individuals abroad. Its aim is to help understand contemporary Japan and main target of the program is not Japan specialists but opinion leaders in the world.. Selected books on Japan in English cover politics, economics, society, history, literature etc.

While first selected 100 titles will be soon available on the web-site of the Nippon Foundation <http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp>, the list of books will be sent to US institutions and individuals in the first year of the project. Recipient of the first year will be about 100 institutions and 500 individuals and amount of books counts about 15,000.