

## **Japan Liaison Report**

### **1 Future of the training program for Japanese studies librarians**

For more than a decade the International House of Japan (IHJ) and the National Institute of Informatics (NII), the National Diet Library (NDL), and the Japan Foundation (JF) have jointly offered a training program in Japan for Japanese studies librarians/information specialists from abroad.

While the program ended in FY2007, there is high recognition of the importance of such training program among Japanese related institutions in Japan and abroad. In response to the strong request and need for such a program from many including NCC, NDL and IHJ, discussions have been undertaken regarding a successor to the JSIST program. Efforts are still in the planning stage and it will take sometime to create and fund a new program.

### **2 Final report of the Government Panel on the Management of Official Documents submitted**

The Government Panel on the Management of Official Documents established in February 2008 submitted its final report in November last year. The Report points out the importance of official documents and the need to improve record management and archives. The report specifically urged the upgrade of the present National Archives of Japan by enhancing its status as an institution and by a large expansion of its professional staff. Local governments have also been asked to follow the central government practices. A related bills is expected be put forward in the present ordinary session of the Diet.

This move would result in improvement in the availability of research resources both on a short term and a long-term basis.

### **3 Portal sites of Japanese digital resources**

While supporting the creation of institutional repositories among Japanese universities, the National Institute of Informatics (NII) has worked to effectively develop a search system to work across these academic digital resources. NII started its new portal site named JAIRO (Japanese Institutional Repositories Online) from which over a half million items from 84 academic institutions are searchable.

NDL have started its portal site named PORTA containing digital resources including those of NDL, the National Archives, several ministries of the government, university libraries, public libraries, and the private Aozora Bunko.