

Report on Japanese Studies Association of Australia Biennial Conference

by Maiko Honda (National Diet Library, Japan) & Ayako Hatta (Monash University)

The Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) Biennial Conference is the professional association for those in Australia who teach, research or study Japan, and it is open to Japanese studies practitioners in Australia and overseas. This year it was hosted by the Japanese Studies Section of the School of Languages, Cultures, Literatures and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, Monash University and was held during 1st to 4th July 2019 at Caulfield campus.

The conference started simultaneously with the Postgraduate and Teachers workshop, then followed by concurrent panels for three days which also included three keynote speakers and a special panel in memory of Dr Romit Dasgupta's work that has informed studies of Japanese society across disciplines and geographical boundaries.

The Library session was organised and presented during lunchtime where the academics and researchers can come and meet the key library partners to gain insights into latest developments in resources and collections. The library partners were collaborated with Di Pin Ouyang and Rika Wright from the National Library of Australia, Maiko Honda from the National Diet Library, Japan and Ayako Hatta from Monash University Library. It was well attended and had many positive feedbacks from the audience after the session.

Ayako welcomed the academics and researchers to Monash University, and introduced the newly renovated libraries of Sir Louis Matheson Library where the Japanese collection locates at Clayton campus, and the Caulfield Library where the conference was held. Introducing with strong specialisations in Japanese linguistics and language acquisition, anthropology, translation studies, cultural studies and history in the collection, it was also introduced the latest resources acquisition to the collection, and how the resources are physically presented at the Asian Collections display area and how virtually presented in the online Library blogs. It was emphasised that all physical resources are available to borrow from their own institution's interlibrary loan services.



From left to right: Maiko Honda, Ayako Hatta, Rika Wright & Di Pin Ouyang

Monash University libraries have each Teaching & Learning Point staffed with librarians and learning skills advisors where students and researchers can drop in and ask questions. There is also library guides created by subject librarians where students and researchers can find resources and find key databases to get to the right direction for their subject. At same time, subject librarians are getting more and more involved in creating elearning modules in online educational platforms such as Moodle. As researching is now able to share the research outcome and able to get opportunities for finding researchers in the same area online, Ayako introduced some social networking tools and finding academic profiles in Japan that might be useful for researchers in Japanese studies.

Maiko introduced the National Diet Library presenting four online resources—the NDL Online, NDL Search, Research Navi, and the NDL Digital Collections—as well as the new Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries Overseas.

The first online resource introduced was [NDL Online](#). This website enables users to search for any library material in the National Diet Library catalogue either in physical holdings or in digital contents. This system also lets you become a registered user without actually visiting the NDL. Once you are a registered user, you can take advantage of remote services like the Remote Photoduplication service, which enables users to request copies of library materials via the NDL Online and receive them via postal mail. The NDL Online also has an English user interface, making it easy for patrons who cannot read or write Japanese to request services.

The second online resource introduced was [NDL Search](#). This service can be used when you would like to search online for materials held at the NDL or other institutions in Japan. The NDL Search database contains not only the catalogue of NDL holdings, but also catalogues of the holdings at public libraries and of digital data from many other institutions. NDL Search results also include links to the online public access catalogues of other institutions and to online book stores.

The third online resource introduced was the NDL's [Research Navi](#). If you don't know where to start, please use the NDL's Research Navi. The Research Navi page contains a variety of useful links to reference information, including some English content on Japan and Asia.

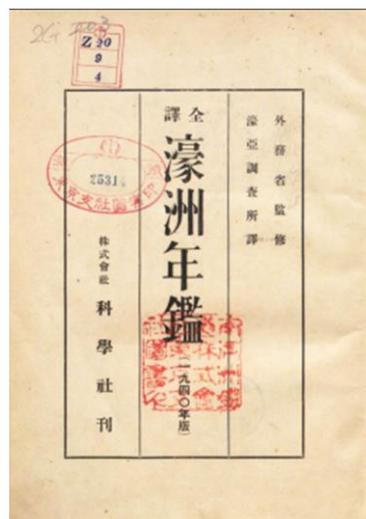
The fourth online resource introduced was the [National Diet Library Digital Collections](#). When you find something in our collection which interests you, be sure to check whether or not it is available via the Internet. In recent years, the NDL has digitized a significant amount of material, and the National Diet Library Digital Collections now comprises roughly 2.7 million items, 540,000 of which are available via the Internet. So you can enjoy them from your PC at home.

All available via the Internet



[二十四好今様美人](#)

Nijushiko toji no hanamono



[濠洲年鑑：全訳 1940年版](#)

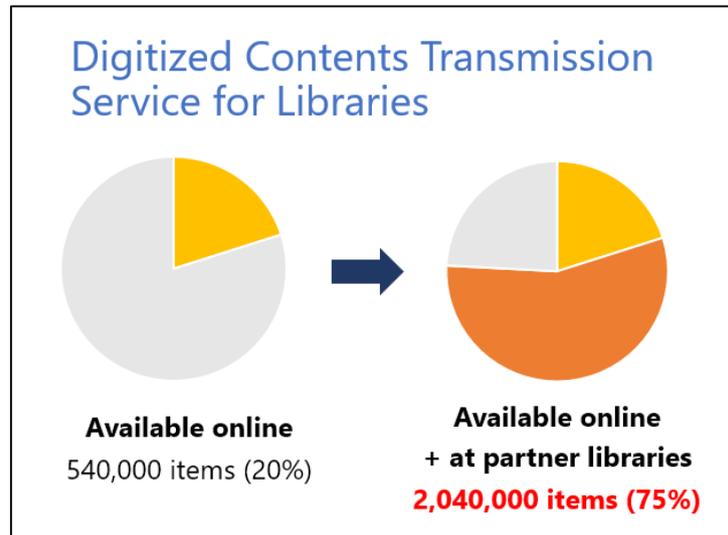
Goshu nenkan : zenyaku



[三つの宝](#)

Mitsu no takara

Finally, Maiko spoke about a new service, called the [Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries Overseas](#), which was launched in April 2019. Simply put, patrons at overseas libraries that subscribe to this service have access to about 1.5 million items from the NDL Digital Collections that are not available via the Internet. In other words, they have access to 75% of the roughly 2.7 million digitized items from the NDL Digital Collections. Subscription to this service is free of charge, provided that the subscribing library meets certain qualifications.



You are probably wondering what materials are available via this service. Materials that are available via this service are copyrighted works that are either out-of-print or otherwise difficult to obtain commercially. This includes books acquired by the NDL prior to 1969, non-commercial periodicals at least 5 years old, and doctoral dissertations in Japanese acquired by the NDL between 1991 and 2000.

This service does require library patrons to browse not at home but at the library, and no copying is allowed for any of these materials. Still, we consider this service to be a major boon for both casual readers and serious scholars of Japanese studies, and I hope that more and more libraries will take advantage of it.

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank the JSAA conference organizers for giving us this library session time to greet and introduce our library services to the Japanese studies academics at the conference.