

Major initiatives to improve the quality and value of the research service: Current topics and challenges at the National Diet Library, Japan

**IFLA 32nd Pre-Conference of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section – Delivering parliamentary library and research services in an interconnected world
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National Diet Library, Japan**



Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

- Legislative Support Organ of the National Diet Library (NDL)
- Performs the **research functions** necessary to legislative activities and parliamentary oversight of government **with a large collection of publications** from Japan and abroad in NDL

Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

Key Statistics (FY 2015)

- Research request responded (“Research on demand”): 41,000
- Articles published (anticipatory research): 337
- Staff members : 190
 - (Specialists in policy research: 110)
 - (Information service and support service: 80)

Today's main topics

1. Research Cooperation Projects
2. Diet Members' Surveys regarding our research service



Research Cooperation Projects

- Research projects on its own initiative with the cooperation of outside experts and scholars
- Strategic goals of the NDL: to “cooperate with research institutions, researchers and others in Japan and abroad and utilize their expertise in our research”
- Interviews, Meetings, Panel discussions

Research Cooperation Projects

- Our approach to research differs from the one of the outside researchers
 - Our researches required to be non-partisan, accurate and objective, not setting forth own political opinions
- Underlying presumptions of our research could often differ from those of academic scholars

Research Cooperation Projects Examples①

Policy seminar with the outside specialists

- they attended as a panelist and provided additional commentary to the presentation of our researcher
- they jointly responded to questions from the floor, being based on the point of view of the specialist

Research Cooperation Projects Examples②

Special issue of our monthly magazine *The Reference*

- a university professor as well as several of our researchers prepared feature articles for this issue
- the inclusion of articles from an academic scholars made possible more multifaceted analysis

**Fig. 1 *The Reference*,
monthly magazine of the
Research and Legislative
Reference Bureau, NDL**



Research Cooperation Projects Examples③

International Policy Seminar

- a professor invited from France held two seminars with two Japanese professors and a Senior Specialist of the Research Bureau
- an excellent opportunity to enhance our knowledge of the current state of affairs in Europe by comparison with Japan

Fig. 2
a poster of the
International Policy
Seminar “The function of
parliament in the global
era – suggestions for
Japanese politics from the
EU experience”
(February 18, 2016)

平成27年度 国立国会図書館 国際政策セミナー

グローバル化の中の議会の役割
欧州の経験から日本への示唆



平成28年2月18日(木) 14:00~17:00
国立国会図書館新館講堂 (千代田区永田町1-10-1)
入場無料 定員300名(先着順) 同時通訳あり(日⇄仏)

基調講演
ジャン=エリック・ジッケル氏
(Prof. Dr. Jean-Eric Gicquel)



レンヌ第1大学法学・政治学部教授。憲法及び議会法を専門とするフランスの有力な公法学者の一人。グローバル化の大きなうねりに対して、議会はどのような役割を果たすべきか、欧州の経験に基づいて、お話しいたします。

パネルディスカッション(発言順)
山元 一 氏 (慶應義塾大学大学院法務研究科教授)
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 国立国会図書館
National Diet Library, Japan

* ホームページ (www.ndl.go.jp/jp/event/events/ipe2015.html) からお申し込みください。
* お問い合わせ 国立国会図書館調査及び立法考査局連携協力室
(国際政策セミナー担当) Email: ml-ipseminar@ndl.go.jp TEL: 03-3581-2331 (代表)

International Policy Seminar



Diet Members' surveys

- Designed and carried out in an effort to identify and to satisfy the needs of Diet Members
- Good opportunity for us to interact with and deepen our relationship with them

Diet Members' surveys

2005,2006,2007

- a combination of interviews to Diet Members and questionnaires for their staff
- Targeted 50 or 100 Members and intended to create a balance for the good sampling

Diet Members' surveys

2011

- intended respondents: **all Diet Members**
- we received 176 responses to the one-page questionnaires (24.4% of all members)
- the number of Members and their staff who accepted our interviews was quite limited

Diet Members' surveys 2014

- intended respondents: newly elected Members (237 in total)
 - 2012 Lower House elections
 - 2013 Upper House elections
- we attempted to make appointments to have direct interviews
- we took this opportunity to explain our services, including explanations of how to best utilize all our services

Diet Members' surveys 2014

[results]

- 69 interviews for Diet Members
- 68 interviews for the staff

(if we could not have direct appointments with the Members)

- 46 responses to the questionnaire
(if we could not have any appointment)

A total of 183 responses, or 77.2%

Diet Members' surveys 2014

[analysis]

- a very high rate of satisfaction with our services overall

- ◆ Prompt responses to research requests
- ◆ Objective and nonpartisan manner of presentation
- ◆ Accurate research results
- ◆ The publication of *The Issue Brief*, compact briefing paper series, were highly evaluated

- There were some who did not grasp how to make research requests

Diet Members' surveys 2014

Some efforts to revise our services based on the analysis of this surveys:

- to provide research results in a more unified, appropriate manner, in order to make them easier to understand
- to make linkage between our responses to research on demand and the preparation of our research publication (anticipatory research)

Fig. 3
a paper of short
questionnaire for Diet
Members routinely
provided with our
responses to the Research
on demand

アンケート(REF. NO.)

**国立国会図書館
調査及び立法考査局**

FAX.03-3581-2603

国立国会図書館調査及び立法考査局は、サービスの向上に資するためにアンケートを実施しております。ご協力いただけますと幸いです。ご記入後は03-3581-2603までFAXで送信いただきますようお願いいたします。

1. 今回の調査回答は、ご依頼の趣旨に合致していましたか。
 合致していた 概ね合致していた あまり合致していなかった 合致していなかった

2. ご提供した資料の分量は適切でしたか。
 多すぎる 適切 少なすぎる

3. 担当調査員が作成した調査結果のご説明文書又は調査報告書が含まれる場合、それは分かりやすいものでしたか。
 分かりやすい 概ね分かりやすい やや分かりにくい 分かりにくい

4. 調査回答はお役に立ちましたか。
 役立った 概ね役立った あまり役立たなかった 役立たなかった

5. 今回の調査回答について改善すべき点をご教示ください。今後の参考にさせていただきます。

衆議院 参議院

議員事務所

様

ご協力ありがとうございました。本アンケートに関するお問い合わせは、調査企画課 澤田、越田
 (内線：衆議院から98-21202、参議院から970-21202)
 にお願います。

Thank you
