

National Plans for Library/Information Services and the National Diet Library

図書館・情報サービスの全国計画と国立国会図書館

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要 旨

最近世界各国で、図書館・情報サービスの全国計画が注目をひいている。そこで、米国の図書館、情報サービス国内委員会の活動、英国図書館の組織化、ユネスコ主催全国情報システム会議で採択された NATIS の 16 の目標などを紹介し、次いで日本の計画案である学術情報の流通体制の改善についての学術審議会報告、科学技術情報の全国的流通体制 (NIST) の整備に関する科学技術情報懇談会報告、日本学術会議の広域大量情報の高次処理に関する中間報告等について言及する。計画化の実現までには、まだ時間がかかることであろうが、それを推進する潜在的期待がないでもない。このような情勢下で国立国会図書館はどのように対処すべきであろうか。全国計画が組織化されれば、その協力機関となることであろうから、国立国会図書館の 1 つの機能である国立図書館としての役割を十分に発揮できるように努めることが、重要な協力機関となる所以でもある。第 3 次国立図書館長国際会議で確認された、NATIS の中での国立図書館の役割を引用して、国立国会図書館の方向を示唆する。

During recent years an increasing amount of attention has been paid to the national planning of the library and information services throughout the world. It is a well known fact that in the socialist countries, co-ordinated national information systems have been in existence for a long time, and they are accepted as the important element in the nation's progress. Even in the democratic countries with the tradition of independent and competing institutions, it has become accepted recently that the national information network must be centrally planned and co-ordinated. The needs for such co-ordination have been frequently ex-

pressed. However, the condition and the degree of acceptance are different by country.

In the United States

In 1970, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Service (NCLIS) was established, and this Commission has "the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on,"¹⁾ the national policy on the library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people.

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This Commission came into being as the crystallization of a series of efforts pertaining to the library development in the United States. The Library Services Act and the Library Services and Construction Act were enacted in 1956 and 1964 respectively. Their purposes were to encourage the public library services in rural areas, to extend services to areas where they were lacking, especially to sparsely populated areas with limited financial resources, and to strengthen those which were inadequate elsewhere. In 1965, the Higher Education Act was enacted in order to support the educational activities in the universities, to make grants for the enlargement of the university libraries, and to promote the active training librarians.

As the inadequate services were being upgraded, the library problems have continued to be given serious considerations at the national level through the creations of the President's Committee on Libraries and the National Advisory Commission on Libraries in 1966. And as the result of the recommendation written by the National Advisory Commission and presented through the President's Committee, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Service Act was enacted.

The NCLIS, after a wide and intensive study, published in 1975 a 106-page document entitled, *Toward a National Program for Library and Information Services: Goals for Action*. The Commission's ideal is "to eventually provide every individual with equal opportunity of access to that part of the total information resources which will satisfy the individual's educational, working, cultural and leisuretime needs and interests, regardless of the individual's location, social or physical condition or level of intellectual achievement."²⁾ To make progress toward attaining the goal, the document stresses that it is absolutely necessary to have a national planning of the library and information services and presents an organizational chart outlining the relationships of government agencies and the private sector in a coordinated national information system. It is very interesting to see that the Commission points out, in addition to the executive branches

of the Federal Government, three other key components in the national network which are crucial to the success of its plan. They are the state governments, the Library of Congress, and the private sector.

In connection with the role of the Library of Congress in the National Program, the Commission strongly insists that the Library should be designated as the National Library and accept the following responsibilities: (1) expansion of the lending and lending-management function to that of a National Lending Library of final resort, (2) expansion of coverage of the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging, (3) expansion of Machine Readable Cataloging, (4) distribution of bibliographic data through on-line communication, (5) development of an expanded general reference program to support the national system for bibliographic service, (6) operation of a comprehensive National Serials Service, (7) establishment of a technical services center to provide training in, and information about, Library of Congress techniques and processes, with emphasis on automation, (8) development of improved access to state and local publications and cooperation with state and local agencies to standardize cataloging and other techniques of organization, and (9) further implementation of the national preservation program.³⁾

The British Library

The National Libraries Committee was set up in the United Kingdom at the end of 1967 under the chairmanship of Dr. Dainton. The Committee was charged to examine various National Libraries, and in particular, to consider whether these institutions should be brought into a unified framework. In 1969, the Commission prepared a 320-page report (so-called Dainton's Report) which was presented to the Parliament by the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The Commission recommended that the five institutions (the British Museum Library, the National Reference Library of Science and Invention, the National Central Library, the

British National Bibliography, and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology) should pool their resources and be combined into a single unit. The emphasis was on the full integration under one controlling authority, and not merely to be a loose federation of semi-autonomous bodies. The recommendation was welcomed by the Parliament and accepted by the Government.

The White Paper of the proposed system was issued by the Government in January 1971 setting forth the purpose, the scope and the proposed organization of the British Library system. The main objective of the System was to provide the best possible central library services for the United Kingdom. Some of the services mentioned are: (a) preserving and making available for reference at least one copy of every book and periodical of domestic origin and of as many overseas publications as possible. The aim will be to provide as comprehensive a reference service of last resort as possible; (b) providing an efficient central lending and photocopying service in support of the other libraries and information systems; and (c) providing central cataloguing and other bibliographic services related not only to the needs of the central libraries but to those of libraries and information centres throughout the country and in close co-operation with central libraries overseas. It was also expressed in the White Paper that the proposed British Library was to be an independent corporate body.

In July, 1972, the British Library Act was passed. The Act mostly accords with the main recommendations of the Dainton's Report. "The Library actually began its life in July, 1973 when the Reference Division was formed by combining the library departments of the British Museum, the Lending Divisions of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, and the National Central Library. The Bibliographic Services Division was formed in August, 1974 when the British National Bibliography joined the British Library."⁴⁾ Thus, the present structure of the Library is as follows. Under the British Library Board,

there are: the Central Administration; the Research and Development Department (former Office for Science and Technical Information); the Bibliographic Services Division (former British National Bibliography); the Reference Division (mainly the British Museum Library); and the Lending Division (former National Central Library plus the National Lending Library for Science and Technology). The Reference Division consists of the Department of Printed Books, the Department of Manuscripts, the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, and the Science Reference Library (former National Reference Library of Science and Invention). The Bibliographic Services Division includes the United Kingdom National Serials Data Centre, the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals and the Copyright Receipt Office (formerly of the British Museum).

The creation of the British Library, may well prove to be the most exciting development in library services of the 20th century, and it is the cumulative product of many years of work by librarians, scholars and indeed, by much maligned government officials to provide the nation with a comprehensive library service system:

Unesco Meeting

Unesco, with the strong belief that information has become the essential basis for the progress of human civilization and society, has organized a series of regional experts' meetings regarding the overall planning of documentation, library, and archive service. The Intergovernmental Conference on the Planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures was convened by Unesco in 1974. The purpose of the Conference was "to provide a framework for governments of various stages of development and having different socio-political structures to exchange views and experiences on the co-ordinated national planning of information services over the whole range of human activities."⁵⁾ In addition, the Conference was "to recommend guidelines for the creation and development of national infor-

mation infrastructures and their individual links with various sectors involved in the plans.”⁶⁾ “The growing use of co-ordinated planning is symptomatic of the more highly industrialized countries and is increasing in the developing countries.”⁷⁾ The participants at the Conference unanimously agreed that the concept and objectives of the national information systems (NATIS) were necessary in order to have an efficient and well-informed society.

The methods to be followed in the creation and development of NATIS are crystallized in twelve objectives to be attained by the national governments, and four additional objectives are given for international action by Unesco and other international organizations.”⁸⁾ They are:

Objectives for National Action

(Requirements of NATIS)

Objective 1 A national information policy

A national information policy, reflecting the needs of all sectors of the community, and of the national community as a whole, should be formulated to guide the establishment of a national information plan, whose elements should be fully incorporated in the national development plans.

Objective 2 Stimulation of user awareness

In order to increase user awareness, appropriate bodies, including universities and other educational institutions should include in their programmes systematic instruction in the use of the information resources available in all the elements of NATIS.

Objective 3 Promotion of the reading habit

In order to foster and maintain the reading habit, the network of school and public libraries within NATIS, in co-operation with the appropriate educational institutions, should develop programmes specially designed to attract and sustain the interest of a wide potential clientele.

Objective 4 Assessment of users' needs

A detailed analysis should be made of the

information needs of government for its tasks and of the various groups of users in such areas as industry, research and education to ensure that the national information system is planned to meet these needs.

Objective 5 Analysis of existing information resources

Comprehensive surveys should be undertaken of existing national documentation, library and archives resources as an essential prerequisite of sound national planning for the development of NATIS.

Objective 6 Analysis of manpower resources

Comprehensive surveys should be undertaken of existing national manpower resources as a basis for the planning of manpower provision and the forecasting of future needs for NATIS.

(Planning of NATIS)

Objective 7 Planning the organizational structure of NATIS

The functions of all documentation, library and archives services should be co-ordinated through a central body (or bodies) to form the national information system (NATIS), so as to ensure the optimum use of available resources and the maximum contribution to the cultural, social and economic development of each nation.

Objective 8 Supplying manpower for NATIS

National institutions and programmes of professional education for information manpower should be established as integral parts of the national educational structure at universities or equivalent institutions of higher education, and as the principal means of supplying adequate numbers of professional staff to meet the demand for qualified personnel at various levels to operate the national information system (NATIS).

Courses for assistants in all three fields should be regarded as part of the national programme but distinct from the professional courses and should normally be organized

in middle-level training institutions, or in institutions of higher education.

Objective 9 Planning the technological needs for NATIS

The national information plan should include adequate provision for the application of information technology, as appropriate, in the various components of NATIS with the aim of achieving maximum utilization of existing resources and of reaching compatibility and standardization.

Objective 10 Establishing a legislative framework for NATIS

Legislative action should be taken at the earliest possible stage in support of the planning and implementation of the national information system (NATIS). This legislation should cover the conceptual basis of the system, and of its constituent elements including all specialized subsystems.

Objective 11 Financing NATIS

Adequate financial provision should be made to ensure the effective implementation of the plan for the national information system (NATIS).

(Universal bibliographic control in relation to NATIS)

Objective 12 Universal Bibliographic Control
The concept of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) presupposes the establishment in each country of National Bibliographic Control with its aim to ensure that a bibliographic record for each new publication is made when the publication is issued.

Objectives for International Action

Objective 13 Assistance to member states for the planning and development of NATIS
The planning and development of a national information system and its elements in member states will be promoted to achieve co-ordination at national level and as a basis

for active participation in world information systems.

Objective 14 Promotion of Universal Bibliographic Control

Universal Bibliographic Control will be promoted by Unesco, in co-operation with IFLA, as a major policy objective to create a world-wide system for the control and exchange of information.

Objective 15 A long-term programme of action

A long-term programme of action for Unesco will be elaborated to assist member states in the planning and establishment of coherent national information systems, which can participate as full partners in the transfer of the rapidly growing volume and sources of documentation and information.

Objective 16 Convening of an international conference

An intergovernmental conference will be convened in 1978 to review the progress achieved within the framework of NATIS, UNISIST, and UBC programmes.⁹⁾

Plannings in Japan

In Japan to date, there has not been any practical plan to establish a national system of information services which covers every field of knowledge. However, there have been several projects with national scope planned in some specific categories. In 1972, the Japan Library Association publicized an announcement; Some suggestions for the development of the public libraries.

The Scientific Research Council, an advisory commission to the Minister of Education, presented in 1973, *A Report on the Improvement of the Science Information System*.¹⁰⁾

The Scientific and Technical Information Council submitted a report entitled, *Program of the National Information System for Science and Technology (NIST)*¹¹⁾ to the Minister for Science and Technology in August, 1974.

The Science Council of Japan published in 1975 an interim report on *Advanced Information Processing of Large Scale Data over a Broad Area*.¹²⁾ This was a specific research funded by the Ministry of Education.

The Scientific Research Council reviewed the current status of the Japanese institutions for scientific information. The institutions reviewed were: learned societies (about 1,000 in number), university research institutes (about 1,220), commercial publishers, non-profit organizations, the Government Publication Service Center, university libraries (about 900), the National Diet Library, public libraries (about 900), special libraries, the National Institute of Japanese Literature, research centers attached to national universities, archives, information centers of various fields, and the Government Statistics Bureau. In the process of the review, the Council analysed the needs and use of scientific information and recommended as follows: The results of researches should be published as much as possible in the primary information journals most relevant to the specific topics of the given research in order to avoid the difficulty in retrieval. Approximately 1,200 journals published by the learned societies are being financed by the membership fees only. Therefore, they should seek financial aids from the government so as to maintain the high academic standard in publishing. At the same time, the possibility of integrating some of the bulletins and reports of academic institutions with those journals of major learned societies should be considered to improve the flow of information.

As the amount of primary information is increasing, the importance of the access to secondary information increases and accordingly, a retrieval system using the electronic computers should be developed. Active cooperation should be rendered to international retrieval systems for secondary information, and in response to the users' needs, the establishment of fast and inexpensive information service should be investigated.

In addition, the creation of a national union catalog of books and periodicals, and the in-

dexing of periodical articles should be strongly encouraged. The storage and use of the research and data resources such as numerical data and graphic charts should be adequately studied.

The Scientific Research Council further recommended: Because of too many defects in the conventional information system (first library system), perhaps an entirely new information system (second library system) should be developed. For the improvement of the first library system, the feasibility of establishing information centers should be studied. An information center should be maintained in every major field and the centers should be in charge of information processing, of acquisition of foreign materials which are relatively difficult to get, of providing simple secondary information service, and of lending and photocopying of the materials collected. In addition, the center should serve as an intermediary for obtaining materials and information from abroad, as well as serving in the capacities such as providing the centralized cataloging for other libraries, compiling a union catalog, being the central acquisition point for foreign periodicals, and being the depository of little used materials in the university libraries.

The secondary system is expected to have services not provided by the first system and the system will be implemented by the electronic computers and tele-communication circuits. The first system will not be drastically changed but will gradually change in proportion to the stability of the secondary system. The systems should be planned and tried as a three year project.

NIST

In 1969, the Council for Science and Technology, an advisory organ to the Prime Minister, presented a recommendation in which the plan of the National Information System for Science and Technology (NIST) was outlined. Subsequently, the Scientific and Technical Information Council was established in 1973 to discuss the same matter and after nearly one and a

half year of deliberations, the report entitled, *Program of the National Information System for Science and Technology* was submitted to the Minister for Science and Technology in August, 1974. In parallel with the procedures of the Council, the meetings of the government agencies were convened to discuss the cooperation necessary and the official share of responsibilities.

The basic idea of NIST, according to the Report, involves the following five points: (1) Information activities should be planned with a long-range and comprehensive viewpoint; (2) NIST should be carried out as a national project in close cooperation with the related organizations; (3) the needs of various types of users should be met exactly; (4) close connection with other information systems should be deliberately planned; and (5) cooperation with international information services should be encouraged.

The Central Coordination Body is to be established to coordinate the activities of the following NIST's associated centers.

1. The General Information Center

It is in charge of acquiring and processing the unclassified basic information in every field of science and technology and of photocopying and translating the information acquired. Abstracting, indexing and filing of secondary information are the services of the Center. It functions as the core of NIST, and the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (JICST) should play the role of this Center.

2. The Specialized Information Centers

They are to collect and process the information in the specific fields they serve. A technological forecasting service is also expected. Abstracting, indexing and filing of special data should utilize computers to meet the needs of each respective field with efficiency. The existing information centers (national and private), are expected to serve as NIST's Specialized Information Centers, and additional centers should be established for other fields as required.

3. The Data Centers

Numerical data obtained from various kinds of experiments and observations are very important as the basis for all scientific activities. But the data are generally of little value without proper arrangement and evaluation. The numerical data have been stored in national experimental or observatory stations, but they need to be systematically arranged. They should be classified under such categories as the data on observation of nature, biological data, physical and chemical properties data, engineering data, and others.

4. The Regional Service Centers

They are responsible for the dissemination of various information including NATIS activities. Sometimes they will play an important role filling up the local gap in information. According to the area of service, they are divided into three types: bloc-unit regional centers which cover several prefectures; prefecture-unit regional centers; and special area service centers in such places as the Tsukuba Academic City or an industrial-complex area.

5. The Clearing Center

It collects and disseminates information on research institutes, research topics, researchers thereof (includes on-going research), etc. The Center is also charged to provide guidance to NIST's information centers. It acts as a referral center of science and technological information.

6. The Central Depository

In order to provide the information needed by the users, the Centers should have an access to all materials in the relevant fields. The materials initially collected by the information centers which cannot be stored due to the limitation of storage space should be sent to be preserved in the Depository if they are worthy of long-term preservation.

7. Other Organizations.

The training facilities for information specialists, libraries, etc. come under this category. The secondary information provided by NIST has significant implications for the reference service of the library.

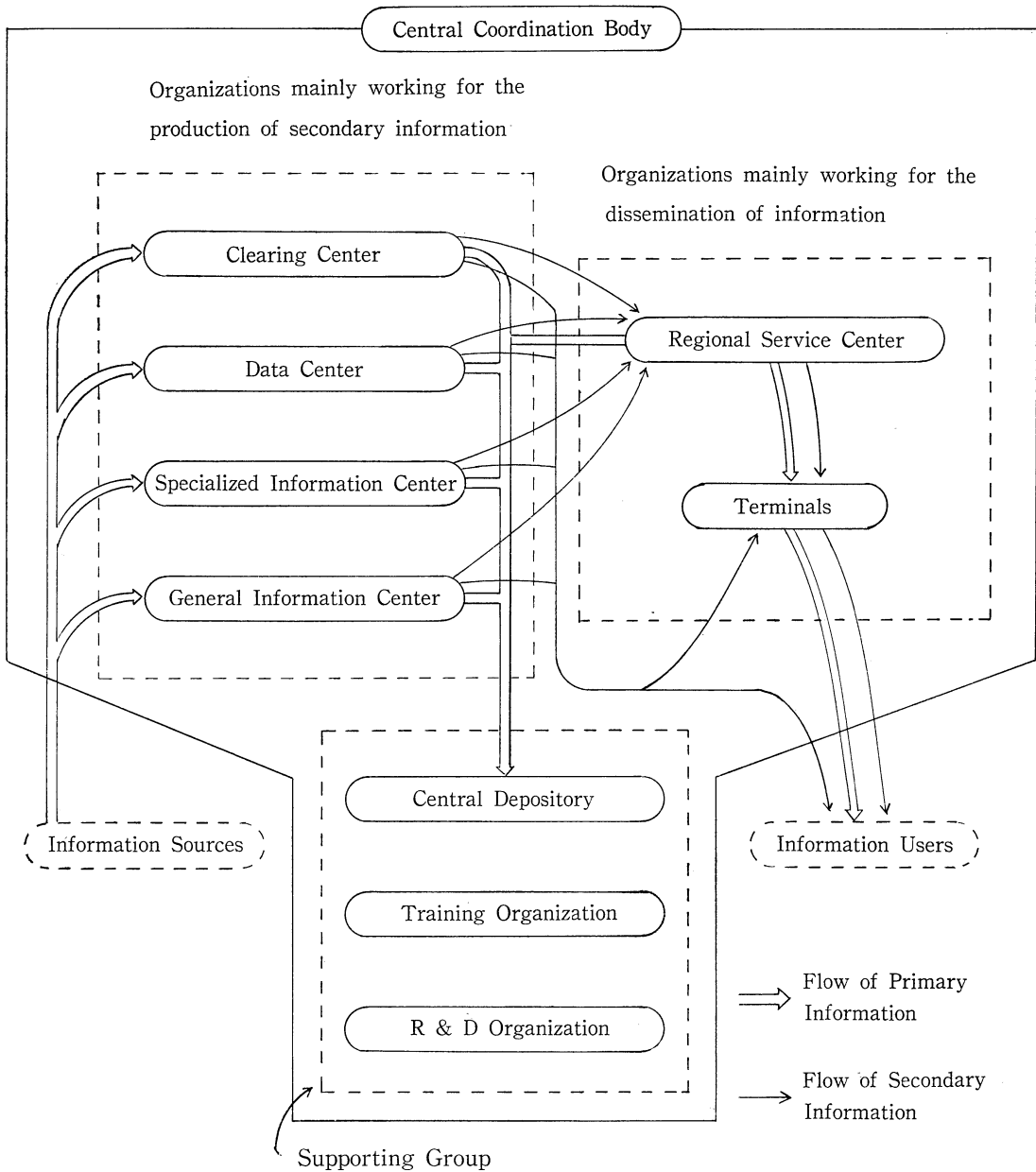


Figure 1: NIST organization chart

The activities concerning information services in the private sector are also very important. Such activities in the learned societies

and the industrial associations should be further encouraged to tie in with the specialized information centers. The government financial aids should be considered for this purpose.

The discussion of a comprehensive policy of information system for science and technology is still premature. The improvement of information services is rather slow, and an establishment of a balanced information system is difficult. Therefore, this report is just a guideline for the consolidation of NIST, and further steps should be taken to achieve practical results.

Large Scale System Over Broad Area

The Science Council of Japan has not yet presented the final report, but according to the interim report prepared by the Long-term Study Planning Committee of the Council on *Advanced Information Processing of Large Scale Data over a Broad Area*, the outline of the research in this connection is understood as explained below. This is a concept of a gigantic information system including all branches of science. The rapidly increasing output of scientific information and the recent trend towards interdisciplinary studies are causing problems for the conventional flow of scientific information. A new information system is needed to solve these problems.

The new system is based on the effective organization of information and the creation of efficient channels for the flow of information. The information needed or generated at every stage of a given study varies significantly. To make such information usable to the researchers in other fields, the information must be organized. For this purpose those who generate scientific information are asked to cooperate by resetting the results of their studies into a form of input data designed for better interflow. The accessibility of information is not necessarily attained by merely organizing the information, but the organized information must flow through a unified national system before the users can have an easy access.

This system is now being studied by the basic study project group, the development project group (22 study units altogether), and by the development practice group (4 units).

Each study unit is represented by the members of the Science Council of Japan who are mostly university professors.

The basic study project group is mainly in charge of such objectives as network organization, reliability, data transmission control, data base planning, natural language, image, CAD, terminal and central processing hardware arrangement. The objectives of the development project group are the local and inhouse networks, the researcher file, and the formula processing. The development practice group is concerned with the nationwide network, data bank and large capacity file access. As for the nationwide network, the interconnection between Tokyo University and Kyoto University will be studied as the first step in joining the large scale computer centers in seven universities. The interface message processors and mini-hosts are to be installed in Tokyo and Kyoto, and the data transmission test between the two large scale computer centers will be tried by the high-speed circuits. The practical test for the broad area will be also examined with the data base of large capacity discs (Chemical Abstracts Condensates, etc.) and with many fixed and removable terminals. Consequently the final report will be highly technical and closely connected with computer procedures.

From the first stage of this study, an importance has been placed on the idea that resources belong to all. The word "resources" is a comprehensive concept including the hardware, software, and "the brainware", and they are the common properties of those who engage in the intellectual activities. The brainware, in other words, intellectual resources, means not only the books and materials collected in the libraries, and the experiment data and research materials continuously accumulating in the laboratories, but also all information of high quality produced from and by the above materials. Such thinking leads to the recognition of the need for an advanced information system which can process large scale data over a broad subject area.

The question arises here is the connection

between this system and NIST. The Science Council expresses its continued support of NIST, and although the final report has not been issued yet, the only difference between the two is the point on which the main emphasis is placed. It seems this system strongly emphasizes the organizing of scientific information and there should not be any opposition to that.

What Comes Next ?

As you have already noticed, there are several patterns in planning the national information services. In the United States, very wide and intensive discussions have been held in connection with the library and information services ranging from the public library up to the national library. Some grass-roots discussions with the rural users of library services were also recorded. The 1975 document of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science concludes as follows:

“The Commission believes that the country’s library and information services are not yet organized to meet the needs of the nation as a whole. Different libraries and information services are, indeed, performing important services for their respective clienteles, but, as a group, they are developing haphazardly. The Commission believes the time has come for the nation to change direction by henceforth treating recorded information and knowledge as a national resource and making the benefits of library and information services available for all the people. If we continue traditional practices much longer, the Commission fears that, within the span of only a few years, America will be faced with information chaos that will work against the country’s best interests.”¹³⁾

“The proposed National Program implies changes in jurisdictional arrangements, in forms of bibliographic processing, in patterns of service, and in funding practices. These changes will come about gradually, and it will take considerable time to achieve substantial results. Strong resources must, therefore, continue to be built at the local, state, and re-

gional levels with Federal assistance while the new basis for a nationwide network is being prepared.”¹⁴⁾ The Commission “urges the American people, through Federal, state, and local governments, and public and private institutions to support a nationwide program of library and information service as a high-priority national goal.”¹⁵⁾

In the United Kingdom, several major national institutions of library related services were amalgamated into a huge institution called the British Library. Organizationally, the system is a result of the national planning, and institutionally it is a great experiment on the development of the library services in the United Kingdom. The effect depends on the people who are connected with the institutions belonging to the British Library system, and it is believed that the experiences and the knowledge of the British librarians who have so far supported the library activities will certainly lead the system to success.

Then, what is happening in Japan? The improvement of the plan of the Scientific Research Council announced in 1973 has not yet been informed. The guidelines for NIST has just been announced, but the Central Coordination Body of NIST has not been established. The linkage of the existing information services with NIST is not clear, except for the activities of the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology. It is sometimes said that NIST could not be effective as long as the various information services function independently of the objectives of NIST. But the linkage of the individual services with NIST is complicated by their respective background in their original establishments.

NIST plan has been criticized on several points. Its coverage is limited only to the fields of science and technology. It is asked, why should not the plan cover all fields of knowledge? Much of the information requested today are interdisciplinary in nature. Can the national information system with limited fields of coverage satisfy the needs of all information users? Moreover, the role of the existing libraries is not distinctly mentioned in NIST.

The flow of information has been discussed in detail but the problems of storage of national resources are not discussed seriously. Library reference and bibliographic service are not evaluated. It is also criticized that NIST is favourable only to those institutions having pressing needs for higher researches.

However, in view of such criticisms, some inclinations to make up the deficiencies of coverage and to realize the need of a comprehensive national plan have been felt recently. For example, an informal, but regular meeting has been held under the sponsorship of Japan Information Center of Science and Technology to discuss and study the information problems in Japan. The meeting is composed of the directors of the Atomic Energy Research Institute, the International Medical Information Center, the Pharmaceutical Information Center, the Patent Information Center, the Small Business Information Center, the Documentation Center, the Japan Science Foundation, the Medical Information System Development Center, the Association of International Chemical Information, the Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation, the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology, and the National Diet Library. Another meeting has been sponsored by the National Diet Library to discuss the bibliographical problems in Japan. The participants of the meeting represent universities, special and public libraries, the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education, the National Diet Library, and others such as the faculty members of library schools. Similar meetings have been organized by those in the fields of medical information and the Science Council of Japan. These meetings mostly aim at a thorough understanding of services in their respective fields and to establish mutual cooperation among information service agencies with the firm conviction that no single service is self-sufficient. The meetings, though they are voluntary, seem to have the potential to create a nationwide information system. In the meantime, the existing information services including all types of libraries and information

centers should continue to fulfill their regular functions. They will become important segments of the proposed system when it is realized, and without these infrastructures, no national plan will be successful.

The Role of the National Diet Library

What are the national information infrastructures? In the paper presented to the Intergovernmental Conference on the Planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures held in 1974, it is explained that such infrastructures consist of;

- (1) users, who are the *raison d'être* of the infrastructures;
- (2) physical information resources (documentation centres, information analysis centres, data banks, libraries, archives, and so on), making use of the latest technological developments and established within an organizational structure which, based on appropriate legislation, is designed to permit the effective transfer of information to the users;
- (3) qualified manpower to operate the elements of the infrastructure.

In other words, the infrastructure is concerned with those who want information, with where it can be found, with those who organize it and the manner in which it should be organized.¹⁶⁾

In a sense, the National Diet Library, although it is completely independent institution, would be one of the major infrastructures of the national information system.

If so, how should the National Diet Library behave within such a system? Before discussing the role of the National Diet Library, a recommendation discussed at the 2nd Meeting of Directors of National Libraries held at Oslo, 1975 and confirmed at the 3rd Meeting held at Lausanne, August 1976, should be considered first.¹⁷⁾ It is about the role of national libraries in national and international information systems, and it identifies the main roles as:

- (1) The provision of necessary central library

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services. It is basic to the functions of the national library to act as central and directing nodes in the country. Some of the most important central services are;

Bibliographic services

to assist libraries in the nation to acquire, process and make information materials available, for instance by supplying catalogue data in card and/or computer readable form.

to act as the centre for the national contribution to Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and related programmes. Examples of the latter programmes include the International Serials Data System, international MARC exchange schemes, and materials numbering schemes such as the International Standard Book Number scheme.

to provide other necessary central national bibliographic services to bring bibliographic information to organizations and persons requiring it, for example Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services.

Lending services

to act as a national centre for foreign lending and borrowing and to provide necessary central national lending services.

Information, reference and referral services

to act as a library of last resort for reference information, and to provide necessary central reference and referral services.

Collections

to acquire and maintain the collections necessary to support the services noted above, to provide arrangements for exchange of material between libraries within the nation, and to enter into and arrange exchanges of material with

foreign libraries and agencies.

Standards

to promote library, bibliographic and communication standards needed to further the above programmes.

International representation

to provide or arrange adequate representation of the nation's library interests at the international level, for instance, representation on international committees and working groups.

to negotiate, or play a leading role in the negotiation, of international agreements needed to further all the above programmes.

(2) Leadership of the library component of NATIS

The leadership and planning roles of national libraries are as important as their role of providing central services. The emphasis has shifted in recent years from thinking mainly in terms of individual libraries to thinking in terms of complete national and international networks or systems. In practical terms the two principal planning and leadership challenges within the library component of NATIS are:

To monitor the nation's library services, provisions, and resources in order to promptly identify the existing and expected problems and opportunities for improving library services. To assist planning, this monitoring should take trends and projections into account.

To initiate appropriate action to solve problems and grasp opportunities as they are identified.

(3) Active participation in NATIS planning and development.

It is important that the national government should have one overall policy and plan for a comprehensive, national information system rather than two or

more separate policies and plans. Where there is a need for coordination of national government information policies and plans, the national library is, in most nations, the organization best situated to initiate liaison and plan to achieve the necessary degree of coordination. A number of factors combine to give the national library its key position in relation to Documentation, Library and Archive (DLA) area and NATIS planning. Where a greater coordination of policies and plans is required, the national library should consult closely with other main national government DLA agencies.

The National Diet Library has two main functions: one is to serve as a parliamentary library, and the other is to serve as a national library in Japan. The Library is responsible for acquiring at least one copy of all publications issued in Japan as it is the only deposit library regulated by law. The Library assists other libraries in the nation by supplying them with the national bibliography and various kinds of catalogs in book form as well as in printed card form. Internationally, the Library serves not only as the official center of contribution to the Universal Bibliographic Control, but also as the Japanese national center for International Serials Data System.

For the dissemination of information, the Library has so far placed emphasis for more than twenty years on compiling and publishing the periodical index which covers nearly 3,000 titles of Japanese scientific journals. It is conscious of being the final resort for information resources and the reference services.

The remarkable recent progress in the Library's activities is the mechanization of bibliographic service. The Japanese language is quite unique in its construction and uses thousands of characters in its composition. Therefore, computerization of the Japanese language requires us to face the difficulty which is not felt in processing the western languages. Despite the difficulty, the Library has had a success in processing nearly 5,000 characters of

Japanese expression and with this process, the catalog of the Japanese serial publications held at the National Diet Library, the general index to the debates at the National Diet, and the periodical index have been compiled in Japanese words by the electronic computer. The national bibliography will be computerized early in the next year. Japan MARC project will be also launched along with the progress of the mechanized national bibliography.

In this sense, the National Diet Library does and will play the first of the 3 roles mentioned earlier in connection with the Lausanne Meeting as the national library in the national information network. Furthermore, this Library should be encouraged to take wider and progressive steps to enrich the national services.

However, there is a problem in connection with leadership and active participation in the planning and over-all development of NATIS because the National Diet Library belongs to the legislature. It has no administrative right and legally is not in a position to lead and/or to control other libraries which are under the supervision of the ministerial agencies. The circumstance is different from that of the national libraries in most other countries. However, there are many cases in which the Library assumes significant leadership in library services. Consequently, within the legislative limitations, the National Diet Library should continue to provide the necessary leadership and encouragements for the development of a nationwide information system.

- 1) U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. *Toward a national program for library and information services: goals for action*. Washington, U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1975. p. 89.
- 2) *Ibid.*, xi.
- 3) *Ibid.*, p. 67-70.
- 4) British Library. *Second annual report 1974-75*. London, British Library Board. p. 3.
- 5) Unesco. *National information systems (NATIS), objectives for national and international action*. Paper for intergovernmental conference on the planning of national documentation, library and archives infrastructures. Paris, 1974, p. 2.

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- 6) *Ibid.*,
- 7) *Ibid.*, p. 1.
- 8) *Ibid.*, p. 10.
- 9) *Ibid.*, p. 11-32.
- 10) Japan. Ministry of Education. Scientific Research Council. *A report on the improvement of the science information system*. Tokyo. 1973. 80 p. (mimeographed)
- 11) Japan. Science and Technology Agency. *Program of the national information system for science and technology (NIST)*. 1974. 14 p. (mimeographed)
- 12) Science Council of Japan. Long-term Study Planning Committee. *Advanced information processing of large scale data over a broad area. 3rd report*. Tokyo, 1975. 69 p. (in Japanese)
- 13) U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, *op. cit.*, p. 77.
- 14) *Ibid.*, p. 78.
- 15) *Ibid.*,
- 16) Unesco, *op. cit.*, p. 2-3.
- 17) *The role of national libraries in national and international information systems*. Working paper for the meeting of Directors of National Libraries. Oslo, Aug. 1975. p. 32. (mimeographed)