Research in Japan: Conducting a Literature Review

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The worldwide English language teaching community devotes considerable ongoing effort to research. Scholarly as well as lay publications are constantly generating new studies across a broad spectrum of topics and fields, complemented by the contributions of any number of websites, blogs, wikis, and other Internet resources. The normal first step of any new project is a literature review, to align new research with what has come before. Sifting through and keeping up with the rapid flow of information can be difficult, in whatever situation. However, the culture of information in Japan, and differing attitudes toward access to information, present a number of further challenges, particularly to the nonJapanese researcher. As a visit to almost any Japanese academic library will reveal, various English-language information sources commonly available in other countries may be unavailable here. This paper will suggest a number of options for circumventing such barriers.

　英語教育に携わる世界中の人々が多くの時間を研究に費やしている。学術誌、一般誌　　に加えて様々なウェブサイト・ブログ・wiki・デジタル誌が幅広いテーマと分野にわたって新たな研究成果を生み出している。研究プロジェクトを始める際の最初のステップは、文献レビューを行い、過去に執筆された論文に基づいて新しい論文を構成することである。高速で提供される情報に追い付き、取捨選択することは、容易なことではない。とりわけ日本語を母語としない者にとっては、日本における情報文化、および情報アクセスに対する姿勢が、研究へのさらなる障壁となり得る。　　たとえば、日本の大学図書館では、他の国では一般的に入手可能な英語の情報が得られないことが多々ある。そのような障壁を解決するさまざまなオプションを提示したい。

THERE ARE a number of good reasons why a literature review should be the first step of most research projects. Knopf (2006) provides a concise list of several of the most obvious:

- It can give you a general overview of a body of research with which you are not familiar.
- It can reveal what has already been done well, so that you do not waste time "reinventing the wheel."
- It can give you new ideas you can use in your own research.
- It can help you determine where there are problems or flaws in existing research.
- It can enable you to place your research in a larger context, so that you can show what new conclusions might result from your research. (p. 127)

Documents offering guidance in the actual process of conducting a literature review are abundant and easily found online (see Appendix A for more on literature reviews). Nonetheless, seemingly without exception, those guides make one important assumption: the broad availability of access to information resources. However, here in Japan, access to online databases, e-journals, dissertations, etc. may be limited, depending on a person's location and/or professional affiliations.

What are reasonable expectations for information access in Japan? What types of resources should be readily accessible to anyone? Should access be limited to those with links to academic institutions? What about anyone *not* affiliated with a university? How well does the Japanese public library system fill the general public's potential research needs?

For anyone in a tenured, full-time teaching position at a top-tier Japanese university, access to essential journals and other resources differs little from what might be available in a similar academic situation in many Western countries. However, a significant number of people work outside the realm of postsecondary academia: owners and staff of private language schools, for example, or the many assistant language teachers on the JET Programme. According to the JET Programme website, there are currently over 4,000 participants working in Japan (CLAIR, 2011). That is a lot of people for whom the challenge of accessing information will be potentially daunting. And yet, at least some of those people are likely to have very legitimate reasons for wanting to conduct research. This paper's purpose is to offer alternatives, in situations when and/or where easy access to the resources of a top-level academic library is limited.

First, Find Anything and Everything

When beginning a literature review and facing limited access, the first step will be to decide upon how broad a net to spread. It may be tempting to only look for articles where access is assured. After all, what is the point of finding citations, when there is no hope of acquiring the actual articles? That line of thinking, however, can be problematic. Keep in mind the two separate concepts of *learning of a document's existence*, versus *actually obtaining that document*. While access may not always be simple or obvious, a literature review will only have limited meaning if important sources are not included.

Specialized Encyclopedias

An often overlooked, timesaving first step in the research process is to refer to specialized encyclopedias. These will offer concise, reliable overviews of the history and current status of research in all areas related to the specialized fields they cover. They also identify landmark studies – papers everyone in the field is likely to be familiar with and cite in their own work. It should be possible to find both print and online encyclopedias of language, linguistics, and/or teaching among the collections of most university libraries of any size in Japan.

Google Scholar

Assuming that a good specialized encyclopedia is available, and that references to relevant publications by prominent scholars have been identified, the next step will be to find some of those documents. That will of course present challenges if library access is limited. Fortunately, Google Scholar goes a long way toward leveling the playing field. As noted in Banks' 2005 study of Google Scholar (as cited in Noruzi, 2005), "The principal rationale and advantage for Google Scholar is that it will democratize access to the intellectual resources of elite institutions" (p. 171). (See Appendix B for further discussion of the pros and cons of using Google Scholar.)

Much like the main Google web search engine, Google Scholar does one thing very well: it finds information. However,

more importantly, Google Scholar's search results also link documents that cite one another. Those citations are invaluable, as they will reveal an extended community of research—much of it potentially directly related to the research topic at hand.

Although Google Scholar does not itself provide content (i.e., the studies, journal articles, and/or dissertations themselves), it will usually provide links to download sites. More often than not, some of those will be for-profit databases and e-journals, which only provide content for a fee. However, there are often additional links that, if followed, lead to free versions of the same documents.

Then again, sometimes there will be no free versions. At that point, the following list of suggestions may be of help.

Pay for Articles

Any article found in a for-profit database will almost certainly be available for direct purchase. If the need is urgent, and price is no hurdle, this may be a reasonable option. Be forewarned, however, that online vendors charge hefty fees for onetime access (in U.S. dollars, $30-40 per document is not unusual).

Further possible options worth considering include:

- Purchasing a yearly subscription to one or several highly relevant journals.
- Searching for free trial memberships, or other open access options (usually only available for a limited range of a journal's content).
- Using pay- or rent-per-view options (which may prohibit downloading).

In most cases, availability and other details will be clarified when a specific journal or journal article is accessed.

A further for-fee option exists in the form of commercial online digital libraries—with the service Questia.com being perhaps the best-known example. Questia (recently acquired by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning) functions much the same as a normal library database, but offers subscription plans for individuals. The breadth of its holdings, however, is not yet comparable to those of the leading library databases.

Confirm What Access is Actually Available

With all the inherent difficulties wrought by language differences and unfamiliar procedures, it is not unusual to feel somewhat lost at first in the Japanese library system. Among a variety of pitfalls, one danger is to mistakenly assume that the library has nothing to offer. In fact, it almost certainly does, although learning the ropes can take time. In a recent issue of *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Levi McLaughlin, a scholar of East Asian religious traditions, outlined a number of research best practices gleaned from his own experiences working in Japan:

All organizations in Japan essentially operate on the assumption that everyone already knows everything about how things work; questions about how to do things or why things work in one particular way are generally greeted with dissembling or incomplete answers, and it almost never pays to ask the person who is nominally in charge about how things should be done. Whatever you do, do NOT express your (inevitable) impatience with Japanese administrative procedures, even if they reach Kafkaesque levels of bureaucratic inscrutability. You will only render things slower and more socially awkward by expressing anger or frustration (McLaughlin, 2010).

Internet access to most universities' OPACs is usually unrestricted, meaning that the catalogues themselves may be searched freely without the need for a login password. However, access to restricted resources (databases and e-journals), from offcampus will not be possible without setting up an account through the library. (Western universities are no different, in

this regard.) Some Japanese universities entirely restrict off-site access, or limit it to just their full-time faculty. Check with the librarians, or speak with colleagues, to understand what options are available. If a library's website clearly shows the existence of databases and e-journals, then at the very least those resources should be accessible from work stations within the library itself.

Note: If Japanese reading ability is a hurdle, translation tools such as *Google Translate* <http://translate.google.com/> can be very helpful. While they might not be sufficient for translating Shakespeare, they will usually be more than up to the task of making a library website more easily navigable.

Interlibrary Loan

Interlibrary loan (ILL) allows library users to borrow materials between one library system and another. In Japan, as in the West, ILL can work between both public and academic libraries, so it is an option available to everyone, regardless of professional affiliation. Because ILL generally only works for print materials, if a citation is linked to an online journal, an immediate assumption might be that ILL cannot help. However, if a citation for a relevant online document can be found, but there appears to be no easy way to obtain it, then ILL could be a very useful option. This is because most online journals also have print versions, so placing a request (and waiting) for a print copy may be a reasonable compromise.

However, almost inevitably there will be some red tape. Often libraries do not permit ILL borrowing of journals published within the previous 12 months, and various materials (such as reference works) are usually restricted. In addition, interlibrary loans generally require that the borrower cover all (sometimes substantial) postage and handling fees.

Your Alma Mater's Library Back Home

Some Western colleges and universities offer extensions of library services to alumni, and those services may continue to be available even after graduation. Alumni access to *online* resources is not common, but it is available in some cases (usually with a fee attached). It is certainly worth checking the library's website to confirm what it offers.

At the very least, reference services of almost any library (either public or academic) should be available as a source of information and guidance. Most major North American library systems now offer both email and/or live chat reference services. Reference staff may be able to point out valuable, less-obvious resources, and not all libraries make a strict policy of limiting services to their immediate user base.

Your Public Library Back Home

The scope of services found in public libraries here in Japan differs from that of public libraries throughout much of North America and other Western countries. One very significant difference is the availability of online resources. Currently, with very few exceptions, Japanese public libraries offer no digital content. That will likely change with time; according to its website, the Tokyo Metropolitan Library is currently piloting a Research Page (リサーチページ) and Portal Service (ポータルサービス) that offer access to digital content to logged-in users (Tokyo Metropolitan Library, 2012). Other library systems are sure to follow eventually.

What about public libraries in one's home country? Being in Japan should not necessarily make those online resources any less accessible. Library cards might need to be renewed occasionally but, otherwise, location should not be an issue. Foreign residents living permanently in Japan, particularly those with no strong ties to an address in another country, may find that

this option raises ethical questions. Public libraries are, after all, funded by and intended to serve members of their specific regions. On the other hand, expatriate populations are rarely considered when public policies are written. If taxes are paid in Japan, but adequate library services are nonetheless unavailable, what is the right and wrong of turning elsewhere? Living in a foreign culture brings a mixture of advantages and disadvantages, sometimes requiring creative workarounds. With that in mind, individuals will need to decide for themselves how they feel about accessing resources from libraries to which no direct affiliations are maintained.

In terms of resources, while a majority of public library databases may not be directly applicable to scholarly research, there are sure to be at least some useful offerings. Among what will likely be a long list, some of the big names to scan for first would be Academic Search Elite/Premiere/Complete (Ebsco), General OneFile (Gale), Ingenta, JStor, and/or ProQuest.

Japanese publicly funded university libraries

Japanese public university facilities are supported by taxes. Regardless of affiliation with postsecondary academic institutions, all tax-paying residents of Japan (Japanese or foreign-born) should be entitled to some access to the resources of those facilities. (This is normal for any publicly supported university in North America.) In a telephone interview with a librarian at Kyoto University's main library, in response to the question of guest access to online databases, it was explained that, depending on the database in question, visitors could probably hope to be allowed to view and read articles online. However, they would not be allowed to print, email, or save articles to a portable storage device (Yamanaka, personal communication, 6 October, 2011). The university's online guide for nonuniversity users did little to clarify this policy (Kyoto University Library Network, 2008).

In practice, there appears to be no standardized policy on access to resources in Japan's public universities. Smith (1995) offered good counsel that still holds true today, "The one practical piece of advice is to obtain an official-looking letter declaring [who you are], and urging assistance in your research. It doesn't necessarily matter who writes it, as long as it looks important."

Research Guides from Leading Western University Libraries

University libraries often support scholarship with subject guides for all fields of study taught on their campuses. Any number of excellent universities around the world offer concise, detailed online guides to conducting research in the field of language learning and teaching. Those resources include print materials that may be available here in Japan, as well as websites and other online resources. While some of the sources listed in those guides will only be available to their own campus communities, often there is an abundance of information that will prove useful to any researcher (see Appendix C for links to ten university research guides).

Embassy & Consulate Resources

Within the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo is a library called the American Center Reference Service. There are four similar facilities located in Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, and Sapporo. The stated goal of these centers is to deliver "information about U.S. policy and society to the Japanese people" (American Center Reference Service Japan, 2011). However, among the services these reference centers offer is computer access to a number of online databases. Those databases cover a large range of subject specialties. Anyone (regardless of nationality) is allowed to make an appointment to visit the centers and access the databases, free of charge. Articles may be printed out, but there are some

restrictions on downloading and copying.

Note: Unfortunately, inquiries made to the Australian, British, and Canadian consular services revealed no similar resources.

Approach Authors Directly and/or Check Their Websites

People who publish academically will often provide contact information, as well as a list of publications, on their own personal websites. Alternatively, university websites usually host profile pages for each faculty member. Those faculty profiles will often include lists of publications, sometimes with live links to downloadable articles. Such will not always be the case, but it is a possibility worth investigating (see Appendix D for some sample authors' web pages). If documents are not immediately available for download, contacting authors directly and explaining the problem of limited access might persuade them to share a document directly.

Co-authorship

An obvious option for increasing access to information resources is to simply ask someone with better connections for help. However, beyond just access, there are a variety of compelling reasons why two (or more) individuals interested in the same research topic might want to collaborate. If it is possible to find such a person to work with, the benefits could go far beyond simply opening doors to otherwise inaccessible resources. The Internet research community provides rich opportunities for collaboration, and links to people seeking potential partners (see Appendix E for a brief list of resources for finding co-authoring opportunities).

Note: There are copyright restrictions which need to be considered when collaborating and sharing database access. It is usu-

ally illegal, for instance, for digital material downloaded from a database to be electronically transferred from one individual to another.

Co-authorship with a Japanese Colleague

Likewise, but opening yet further doors, would be the opportunity to collaborate with Japanese colleagues. Particularly in situations where less-than-fluent language ability creates hurdles, collaborating with a Japanese colleague would potentially open doors to a wealth of material in both languages. The benefits of such relationships could naturally work in both directions, to the mutual advantage of both parties (again, see Appendix E for a brief list of resources for finding co-authoring opportunities).

Japan-Based Information Resources

Research in Japan sometimes functions in coordination with international standards, and sometimes within its own set of rules and procedures (McLaughlin, 2010; Smith, 1995). There are a number of resources worth exploring; most contain at least some content and/or user guidance in English. Several emphasize science- and industry-oriented research. Some, but by no means all, materials listed by these resources are findable by searching Google Scholar (see Appendix 6 for a list of the most prominent Japan-based information resources).

Conclusion

Over the past several decades, the proliferation of online, digitized information access has, in most circumstances, been of truly remarkable assistance to the research process. Nonetheless, barriers of language and culture create challenges. As the Internet continues to evolve, questions regarding the ownership of information and how societies educate and inform themselves

will need to be continually reviewed. Solutions that work for the challenges we face today will likely be replaced by different solutions in the future.

For individuals conducting research in situations where access to library resources is limited, what solutions exist will be unique to each individual, and to each individual's personal affiliations and networks. Success will hinge upon the individual's ability to look beyond familiar information-seeking strategies that might have been adequate in the past. Perfect solutions may not always be possible, but a motivated researcher should be able to come up with reasonable possibilities for moving research forward.

Bio Data

Paul Evans loves libraries, and thoroughly enjoyed the years he spent working in them. However, he likes living and working in Kyoto more.

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Noruzi, A. (2005). Google Scholar: The new generation of citation indexes [Electronic version]. *LIBRI, 55*(4), 170-180.

Smith, H. D. (1995). Doing research in Japan. *Columbia University: Japanese Bibliography.* Available from <http://www.columbia.edu/~hds2/BIB95/intro.htm>.

Tokyo Metropolitan Library (2012). Introduction to services for registered users (登録利用者サービスのご案内). [Electronic version]. <http://www.library.metro.tokyo.jp/guide/registrantservice/tabid/3449/Default.aspx>.

van Dijck, J. (2010). Search engines and the production of academic knowledge. [Electronic version]. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *13*(6), 574-592.

Appendix A. More on Literature Reviews

The intention of this article is not to serve as an actual step-by-step guide to conducting a literature review. For those who would like more detailed information on that important process, there are entire books on the subject. Below is information for locating the Knopf article (2006) mentioned above, as well as several similar readings, which all provide useful overviews

of the literature review process. A quick search with Google Scholar will reveal numerous sources from which each article can be downloaded, free of charge:

- Boote, D., & Beile, P. (2005). Scholars before researchers: On the centrality of the dissertation literature review in research preparation. *Educational Researcher*, *34*(6), 3-15.
- Knopf, J. W. (2006). Doing a literature review. *PS Political Science Politics*, *39*(01), 127-132.
- McMenamin, I. (2006). Process and text: Teaching students to review the literature. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *39*(01), 133-135.
- Randolph, J. (2009). A guide to writing the dissertation literature review. *Practical Assessment Research Evaluation*, *14*, 1-13.
- Webster, J., & Watson, R. (2002). Analyzing the past to prepare for the future: Writing a literature review. *MIS Quarterly, 26*(2), xiii-xxiii.

Appendix B. Google Scholar

From the time Google Scholar was first introduced in 2004, numerous valid concerns have been raised (Jacsó, 2011; van Dijck, 2010), particularly in regard to users' tendency to confuse Google's sheer size with its varying ability to generate accurate and comprehensive results. However, Google Scholar is an evolving tool and many early criticisms have been addressed (Chen, 2010). At the same time, Google now claims a very large and dedicated user base, which appears willing to accept Google's imperfections in return for its numerous benefits (Frandsen & Nicolaisen, 2011). Nonetheless, as Neuhaus, Neuhaus, Asher, & Wrede (2006) advise, "If scholars intend to use Google Scholar, whether due to name recognition, the facile search interface, the freely available 'cited by' feature, or simply the lack of alternatives, they should understand this search engine's strengths and limitations" (p. 140).

Unfortunately, in the case of research in Japan, a lack of alternatives is all too often the reality. Then, for the purpose of conducting a literature review (where nothing less than a comprehensive search will be meaningful), Google Scholar will be of enormous help. For further reading on this important topic, please consult the following:

- Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com>
- The Google Scholar Blog <http://googlescholar.blogspot.com/>
- Google Scholar Inclusion Guidelines <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/inclusion.html>
- Google Scholar Citations Information <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/citations.html>

Google Scholar works with many libraries to determine which journals and papers the libraries have subscribed to, and then automatically links directly to articles from those sources when/ if they are available. Any library offering this feature will be able to instruct its users on how to set up this feature in their Google Scholar preferences. The following links could be shared with any library that does not already offer this feature:

Google Scholar Support for Libraries

- <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/libraries.html> (English)
- <http://scholar.google.com/intl/ja/scholar/libraries.html> (Japanese)

Appendix C. Research Guides from Leading Western University Libraries

- Center for Applied Linguistics: CAL Resource Guides Online
<http://www.cal.org/resources/archive/rgos/methods.html>
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Sources for English as a 2nd Language (ESL)
<http://libraries.mit.edu/help/esl.html>
- Monterey Institute of International Studies: Research Guides: ESL
<http://www.miis.edu/academics/library/find/guides/esl>
- Stanford University: Second Language Learning
<https://www.stanford.edu/group/cubberley/research_guides/Second%2BLanguage%2BLearning>
- Teachers College/Columbia University: TESOL/ESL Resources at Teachers College
<http://library.tc.columbia.edu/kb/idx.php/4/195/article/>
- The New School: An introduction to library research for the MATESOL program
<http://guides.library.newschool.edu/content.php?pid=230133&sid=1903708>
- University of Auckland: MTESOL Distance Programme Library Resources
<http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/subject-guides/linguistics/mtesol.htm>
- University of Birmingham: Centre for English Language Studies - Resources
<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/edacs/departments/cels/research/resources/index.aspx>
- University of Hawai'i at Manoa: Second Language Studies Subject Guide
<http://www.hawaii.edu/emailref/subject_guides/sls/index.html>
- University of Toronto: Department of Second Language Education
<http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/content.php?pid=184632&sid=1551384>

Also worth noting:
- 100 Extensive University Libraries from Around the World that Anyone Can Access
<http://maryandmacdesign.wordpress.com/2009/09/22/100-extensive-university-libraries-from-around-the-world-that-anyone-can-access/>

Appendix D. Sample Authors' Web Pages

Searching individual authors' websites for links to their publications will sometimes prove fruitful. To allow readers to test this option, and observe a mixture of results, the following links lead to web pages of the five plenary speakers from the 2011 JALT National Convention in Tokyo:

- Laurel Kamada, Tohoku University
<http://tohoku.academia.edu/LaurelKamada>
- Phil Benson, The Hong Kong Institute of Education
<http://www.ied.edu.hk/eng/people/academic/academic_pbenson.htm>
- Jack C. Richards, Regional Language Center, University of Singapore
<http://www.professorjackrichards.com/>
- Ken Wilson, Author, Teacher, & Teacher Trainer
<http://kenwilsonelt.wordpress.com/>

- Emiko Yukawa, Ritsumeikan University (湯川笑子、立命館大学) <http://research-db.ritsumei.ac.jp/Profiles/29/0002845/profile.html>

Appendix E. Resources for Finding Co-authoring Opportunities

Academia.edu

<http://www.academia.edu/>

From the website: Academia.edu is a platform for academics to share research papers. The company's mission is to accelerate the world's research. Academics use Academia.edu to share their research, monitor deep analytics around the impact of their research, and track the research of academics they follow.

Mendeley

<http://www.mendeley.com/>

From the website (abbreviated): Generate citations and bibliographies. Connect with colleagues and securely share your papers, notes and annotations. Discover papers, people and public groups.

Researchmap

<http://researchmap.jp/?lang=english>

From the website: Researchmap enables users to create personalized websites, manage their research information, and network and collaborate with other researchers.

Note: A related resource, *READ (Directory Database of Research and Development Activities)* was recently merged with *Researchmap.*

Appendix F: Japan-Based Information Resources

The National Institute of Informatics (NII)

<http://www.nii.ac.jp/en/index.php?action=pages_view_main&page_id=59&lang=english>

As is stated on its website, "The National Institute of Informatics (NII) is in the process of integrating academic content provided under separate services to construct 'GeNii', a system intended to serve as a platform enabling linkages with useful academic information resources both in Japan and overseas."

If that integration is ever completed, it should be very helpful. Currently there are numerous iterations of the website and its various components scattered about the web. It is extremely difficult to ascertain what is related to what, and what may be duplication of something else.

What follows are a number of what for now seem to be most prominent access points:

GeNii

<http://ge.nii.ac.jp/genii/jsp/index-e.jsp>

This website explains that, "GeNii is a general search engine of databases integrating the contents of the services and linking them to scientific information resources in and outside Japan." Searches of GeNii will find content from the following sources:

GeNii Integrated Search System	Availability	Fees
CiNii: for papers, theses, etc. <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/>	Partially charged	In viewing paid content, special rates and other privileges are offered to institutional fixed-price users (registration by institution) or users with an ID (individual registration). It also contains a large number of articles that are available free of charge, and the search function can be used without registration.
Webcat Plus: for books, magazines, etc. <http://webcatplus.nii.ac.jp/>	Free of charge	
KAKEN: for research subjects <http://ge.nii.ac.jp/outline-e.html#kaken_outline>	Free of charge	
NII-DBR: for specialized academic information <http://ge.nii.ac.jp/outline-e.html#dbr_outline>	Free of charge	
JAIRO: for research and educational contents <http://ge.nii.ac.jp/outline-e.html#jairo_outline>	Free of charge	

Table reproduced from <http://ge.nii.ac.jp/outline-e.html>

Academic Research Database Repository

<https://dbr.nii.ac.jp/infolib/meta_pub/OdnCs-vDefault.exe?DEF_XSL=eng&IS_STYLE=eng&DB_ID=G9200001CROSS&GRP_ID=G9200001&IS_TYPE=csv>

This website prominently displays the GeNii logo, and states that, "You can search across the databases in Academic Research Database Repository." However, there is no obvious link to this resource from the GeNii website, so its relationship to GeNii is not clear.

The National Diet Library

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/index.html>

From the website: The National Diet Library (NDL) provides on-site library services including reading and photo duplication services at three facilities: the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan of the NDL, the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL). The NDL also offers remote user services, which are available without visiting the NDL in person, such as online photo duplication requests. Further NDL resources include:

NDL-OPAC

<https://ndlopac.ndl.go.jp/eng/>

From the website: National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog (NDL-OPAC). Books, periodicals, electronic resources, Japanese & Chinese old materials, doctoral dissertations, maps, audiovisual materials & Ashihara Collection can be searched here.

NDL Search

< http://iss.ndl.go.jp/?locale=en&ar=4e1f >

From the website: "NDL Search" is a new search service of [the] National Diet Library.
This service aims to be an access point from which you can use affluent knowledge from public libraries, archives, museums, institutes of academic research and NDL.

NDL's Online Services

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/service/online_service.html>

From the website: A significant archive of Japan-related resources, including information in English. You can have a look at services of NDL, providing Information on [the] Diet, Online Catalogs, Electronic library, resources of various searches etc. on the Internet.

NDL's Collaborative Reference Database

<http://crd.ndl.go.jp/jp/public/index.html> (レファレンス共同 データベース)

From the website: The Collaborative Reference Database is a cooperative effort of the National Diet Library and libraries nationwide, to create a comprehensive, nation-wide profile of academic, public, and special libraries, as well as a list of their holdings, particularly collections of special and/or rare materials. *(This site is Japanese only.)*

J-Stage

From the Japan Science & Technology Agency

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