A Mexican Library's Integration of the National Diet Library's DCTL Service: A First-Year Overview

Benito Castro Pérez, *Academic Librarian at the Daniel Cosío Villegas Library; Bibliographer assigned to the Center for Asian and African Studies*

Questions? Connect with me! bcastro@colmex.mx

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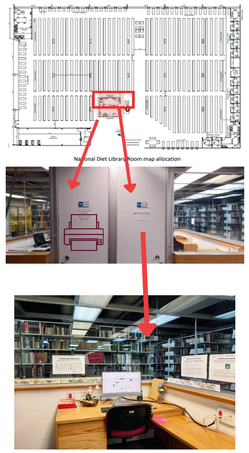
Background

- Since the 1960s, the Daniel Cosío Villegas Library (DCVL), part of El Colegio de México—an institution of higher education and research—has developed one of the most important Asia-related collections in Latin America.
- Institutional links with the NDL date back to 1968, when DCVL established publication exchange agreements*. This collaboration was later strengthened through on-site support provided by a former NDL librarian.
- In 2022, a strategic delegation from El Colegio de México visited the NDL to further reinforce institutional ties.
- Currently, DCVL is the only library in Latin America with access to the DCTL.

Process and facilities

- A rigorous two-year evaluation was conducted, including an assessment of the Library's infrastructure, technical capacity, and user services, as well as a legal review of the agreement.
- To comply with monitoring requirements without being intrusive, the selected room is located next to the service and circulation supervisors' area, allowing continuous yet discreet oversight **(a)**.
- The printing terminal is located in an adjacent room and is operated exclusively by library staff.
- We develop a service use procedure outlining policies, responsibilities, and step-by-step workflows.
- Functionality testing through simulations of real-time user support.

(a)

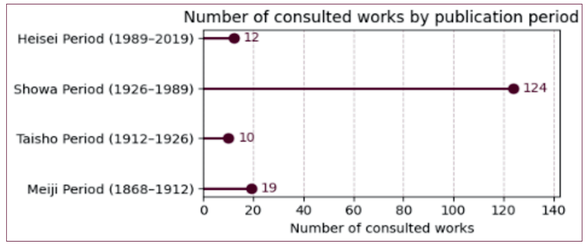


Conclusions

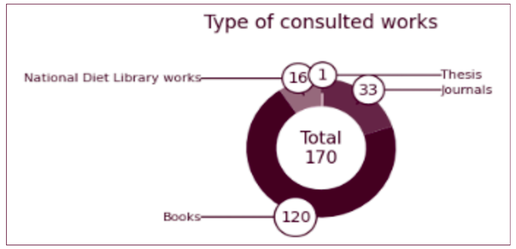
- Access to the DCTL represents an invaluable resource for Japanese Studies in Mexico and Latin America.
- Its implementation posed significant challenges, particularly due to National Diet Library policies; however, these efforts have strengthened access to specialized research materials.
- Planned activities throughout 2026 and beyond aim to expand the use and visibility of the DCTL, benefiting students and faculty working in the field of Japan-related studies.

Data collection period: February 1, 2025-January 31, 2026

Data were obtained from NDL reports and internal statistics

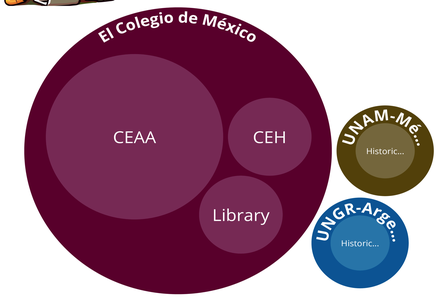


Most of the consulted works date from the Shōwa period.

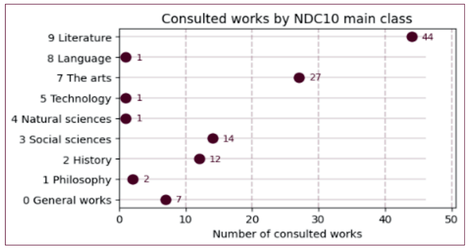


Books are the most consulted type ok work, but this may change.

15 users from three different institutions



A total of 1,320 frames from 44 works were printed, representing an approximate cost of USD 30.



The main areas of interest include literature, the arts, and the social sciences.

*金中利和 (Toshikazu Kanaka). (1972, septiembre). メキシコにおける日本研究と日本語資料/金中 利和. びぶろす : 支部図書館・専門図書館連絡誌, 23(9), 6-11. DOI: 10.11501/9664262

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