

**Agency for Cultural Affairs/eBooks Project**  
**Subject Works to be Distributed Online**

Seven works to be distributed online in the first phase of project from Friday, 1 February 2013

- (1) **“Edo Murasaki Picture Book”** written by Tokusoshi Naniwa in 1765 with illustrations by Toyonobu Ishikawa



The picture book has a high user access rate among National Diet Library digital archives. The work composed in three volumes depicts the lifestyle and culture of women in the mid-Edo Period, including women’s fashion and the moral values of women during 18th century Japan. Valuable illustrations by Toyonobu Ishikawa are also included.

- (2) **”Heiji Monogatari” Picture Scroll (first scroll: Sanjoden yakiuchi no maki)** copied by Naiki Sumiyoshi in 1798

A precious piece among classical works with a high user access rate among the National Diet Library digital archives. Under the project, the digitalized first picture scroll depicts a war story on details from the Heiji Rebellion (Heiji no ran). The electronic version makes full use of the characteristics of picture scrolls, enabling the user to continuously scroll through the entire piece as if he/she were looking at the actual work.



- (3) **Kazutoshi Ueda’s translation of Grimm’s Fairy Tale “Okami” (werewolf), published in 1889** by Yoshikawa Hanshichi Publishers



The first Grimm’s Fairy Tale translated into Japanese in the middle of the Meiji era. The translation is a precious piece showing Japan’s embrace of foreign culture. Picture books in the 19<sup>th</sup> century have a unique sense of humor, written in a blend of Japanese and Western style as seen in animals wearing kimonos. “Wolf and Seven Little Goats” from Aozora Bunko’s online digital library is also included for reference.

- (4) **“Children’s Sketchbook of the Zoo” (kodomo-no sketch-cho doubutsuen nite)** by Yumeji Takehisa written in 1912, published by Rakuyodo

A representative poet and artist during the Taisho era, the still yet popular Yumeji Takehisa wrote this work to be read by children. Under the project, a hybrid version of this work has been created by adding simple texts from Aozora Bunko to the original digitalized piece from the National Diet Library’s digital archives. 25 animal species are displayed on each spread, through combining sketches with additional short compositions



of poems or conversations. The pages are filled with Yumeji's unique world, who continued to understand children's hearts. Even today, adults will find freshness in this work.

**(5) "Rashomon" by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, published by Oranda Shobo in 1917**



This masterpiece is included in many Japanese school texts and is read at least once by every Japanese national. In the first edition to be distributed under this project, the last part of sentence "where the servant went to, nobody knows"(genin no yukue wa daremo shiranai) is written with a different phrase. The revised version of "Rashomon" provided by Aozora Bunko in which the sentence is rewritten with "nobody knows", is also posted alongside the original for comparative purposes. We hope users will experience the difference felt after reading the original vs. the updated version.

(Subject work from the First Japanese Literature Publishing Project from "Ryunosuke Akutagawa's Rashomon and Seventeen Other Stories)

**(6) "Kappa" by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, hand-written original version written in 1927**

The precious version of "Kappa" from the National Diet Library's digital archives was written in the writer's own handwriting. Although the work is already available online, the project has included supplementary texts by Aozora Bunko to help readers better understand Akutagawa's work. The reader will be able to experience the author's voice through his unique handwriting which was rewritten over and over again.



**(7) "Ero Ero Soushi" written by Kiyoshi Sakai, published by Chikusui Shobo in 1930**

In 2012, this work received the top access rate out of all National Diet Library digital archives for five consecutive months. Initially banned from publication before the Second World War, this precious work depicts public customs and manners in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although the material represents "erotic, grotesque and nonsense", people today will find it more amusing than obscene.



Six works to be distributed online in the second phase of project from Friday, 8 February 2013

**(8) “Tono Monogatari”(The legends of Tono) written by Kunio Yanagita in 1910**

Known as the father of Japanese folklore, this year marks the 50th anniversary since Kunio Yanagita’s death. Since 2013 also coincides with the copyright protection expiration for Yanagita, his works are anticipated to be reevaluated this year. “Tono Monogatari”, one of Yanagita’s most famous works is a collection of verbal folklore from Tono Town, Iwate Prefecture. We hope users will experience the feel of this special edition published by the writer himself, in which just 350 limited copies were printed.

**(9) “Garasudo no naka”(Inside my Glass Doors) written by Soseki Natsume in 1915, Iwanami Shoten Publishers**

This is a collection of short essays by Soseki Natsume on his impressions from daily experiences. The title, “Garasudo no naka” refers to his study room. Most publications of this work which have been found up until now are titled “Garasudo no uchi”. This work, however, initially appeared as a newspaper serial publication with the title “Garasudo no naka”. The first edition was also published with the same name, and will be available under this project. Even more than the distinction the writer felt between the two words “uchi” and “naka”, through reading this original published version of Soseki’s work, users will be able to feel the atmosphere from the Taisho Period.

**(10) “Ude-kurabe”(Rivalry: A Geisha’s Tale) written by Kafu Nagai in 1918, Shibashido Publishers**



A representative work of Kafu Nagai, “Ude-kurabe” was chosen as a subject work for the First Japanese Literature Publishing Project along with “Bokuto-kidan”(A Strange Tale from East of the River). The work centers on the Japanese Geisha Komayo living in a most typical town in Tokyo found during the Edo Period. Through this tasteful original version, the reader will be able to experience the writer at his best.

(Subject work from the First Japanese Literature Publishing Project)

**(11) “Haru to Shura”(Spring and Ashura) written by Kenji Miyazawa in 1924, Sekine Shoten Publishers**

This is the only collection of Kenji Miyazawa’s poems published during his lifetime. Just by reading the introduction, “I discover my vision of myself as a flickering blue organic alternating current lamp...”, it gives the reader an overwhelming glimpse into Miyazawa’s world. It is fascinating to find Miyazawa’s characteristic motifs such as the Ihatov and Galaxy Express scattered throughout this piece. The collection of poems prepared and published by the writer himself is the best route into Miyazawa’s world of poetry.

(Subject work from the Second Japanese Literature Publishing Project)

**(12) “Yotsumata no Yuri: Kenji Miyazawa’s fairy tales”, written by Kenji Miyazawa in 1948, Published by Hyakkaen**



A collection of fairy tales published after Kenji Miyazawa’s death. Along with “Yotsumata no yuri”, the collection also includes eight of Miyazawa’s works including “Kari no douji”(The Child of the Wild Geese), “Juriki no kongoseki”(The Diamonds of Ten Powers), “Nijurokuya”(26 Nights). In addition, this version includes an afterword by Miyazawa’s brother Seiroku and magnificent binding made by Shiko Munakata. Munakata who is also from the Tohoku region, created a woodblock print for Miyazawa’s work “Ame nimo makezu”(Strong in the Rain),

which features the inner strength of the people of Tohoku.

(Subject work from the Second Japanese Literature Publishing Project)

**(13) “Kisha Densha” (Steam Locomotive and Train ) , Published in 1953 by Toppan**

The first natural-color photo book published in Japan. The book contains various photos of steam locomotives, trains and transport vehicles. Although it is a photo picture book initially published for children, it is a valuable work of the times with additional explanations of each photo by Toshimichi Takatsukasa from the Transportation Museum. Text has been added to areas difficult to read under the current National Diet Library digital archives.

