

IDE Library

It has been almost four years since the IDE Library moved to Makuhari, Chiba in December 1999. The number of visitors decreased at one time, but has turned upward again since FY2002, when a decision was made to open the library on the first and third Saturdays of every month. In FY2003, the library served 6,142 outside visitors and began to issue user's cards in order to simplify the admission process. The fixed number of visitors indicates that the IDE Library has taken solid root in Makuhari's local community.

Library Collection

IDE Library specializes in collecting research materials required for studies related to economic, political, and social problems in developing countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and Eastern Europe. In the acquisition of materials, the library emphasizes academic research materials as well as materials published by governments and public organizations in developing countries. The number of materials acquired during FY2003 was 15,435 volumes, including 4,989 volumes of statistical materials.

To understand the current local situation of publications in the original languages, library staff members seek opportunities to visit developing countries in their field. In FY2003, one librarian visited Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt; and another visited Korea. They gathered and selected local publications, and strengthened the relationships with local organizations. Taking advantage of cooperation with the research members of IDE, the library staff also strives to collect local publications that are generally difficult to obtain in Japan. In FY2003, the library focused on gathering Southeast Asian publications in Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia, the Arabic publications in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, and Ethiopian statistical materials. In addition, the library acquired microfilms of government gazettes in Indonesia and Chile, and of newspapers in Palestine, which had been difficult to acquire in the past. Consequently, as of April 2004, the total number of volumes in the library collection is 545,455. The breakdown of the collection is as follows:

Books	
Western	227,598
Japanese	67,943
Chinese	35,610
Korean	18,060
Bound journals	58,606
Statistical materials	137,638
Newspapers	297 titles
Periodicals	3,396 titles
Microfilms	80,080 reels
Videotapes	368

Public Service

IDE Library's OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) has been available through the Internet (<http://opac.ide.go.jp>) since February 1997. At present, approximately 430,000 books, statistical materials, journals, and article indexes can be retrieved on the OPAC system. Bibliographic data in vernacular languages (including Thai, Arabic, Chinese, and Korean), which have been processed since June 2003, are also available on the OPAC system. With the merger with JETRO Business Library, cross-searches of IDE Library holdings and JETRO Business Library holdings have also become available on JOINTOPAC through the Internet.

The IDE Library subscribes to about 145 newspaper titles from developing countries. As a depository of specialized collections in the field, we also preserve almost all the back issues of newspapers in the form of microfilms. In FY2003, the library produced 2,736 reels of 35mm film and 624 reels of 16mm film.

In order to disseminate specialized information, the IDE Library makes active use of various means and channels. In July 2003, the library started the SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) Service as a specialized information service. Bibliographic data retrieved by registered terms are sent to the user's e-mail address on a regular basis. Three hundred seventy-six entries are registered as of March 2004. Moreover, in order to attract potential visitors, the library has held the "Forum for Understanding Developing Countries" twice in FY2003, and promoted interest in the community. The library also occasionally publishes various catalogs as useful search tools. In FY2003, the following title was published:

- "Developing Countries in Japanese Writings, 2002: An Annual Bibliography"