

The Future of the National Archives of Japan

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27-30 October 2025
CCIB, Barcelona
icabarcelona2025.cat



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2025

1. Introduction



NAJ Outline

The mission of the National Archives of Japan (NAJ) is managing and preserving important public records and archives and providing them for the public.

NAJ preserves **a total of 1.75 million volumes.**

The staff number of NAJ is **about 200.**





Main Building, Tokyo

Established in **1971**

Site area : 4,000m²

Building area : 11,550m²

Stack area : 7,000m²

Shelves : 34,012m/34,850m



Annex, Tsukuba

Established in **1998**

Site area : 25,000m²

Building area : 11,250m²

Stack area : 7,300m²

Shelves : 34,939m/37,446m



JACAR (online)

Established in **2001**

Compiling and offering a database with Asia-related historical digital records offered by

- 1) National Archives of Japan
- 2) Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- 3) National Institute for Defense Studies of the Ministry of Defense

NAJ's Slogan

Archives : Evidence from the Past, Beacon for the Future

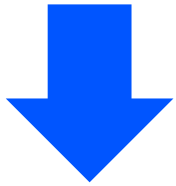
Reflecting on the current role of archives
with a **future-oriented perspective**



2. Overview of the New Center



Public Records and Archives Management Act took effect in **2011**



Problems:

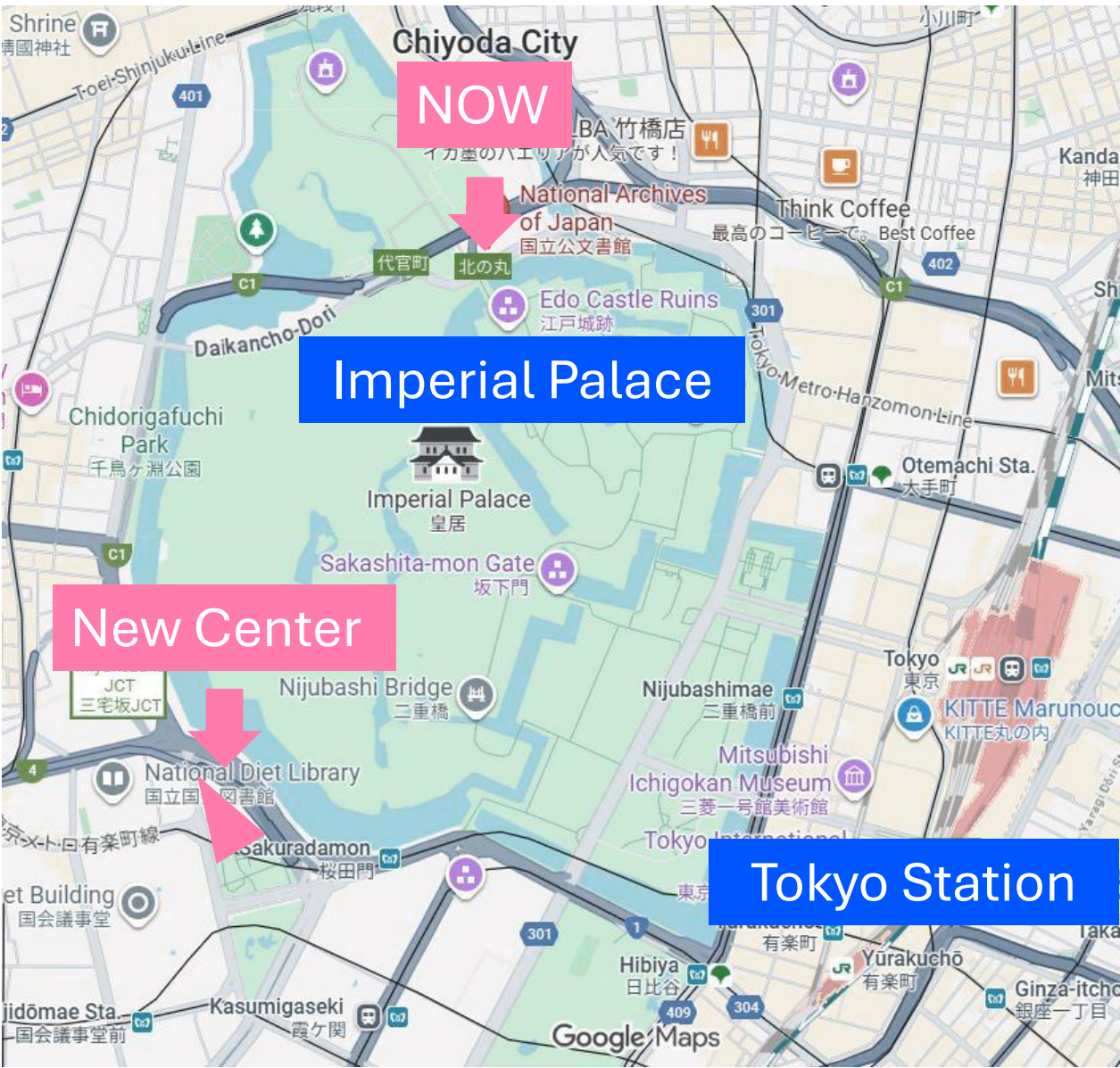
The facilities and functions are insufficient.

The storage capacity could be full in the near future

Discussions started in **2014** with the establishment of
The Investigation and Review Conference on the Functions
and Facilities of the National Archives of under the Cabinet Office

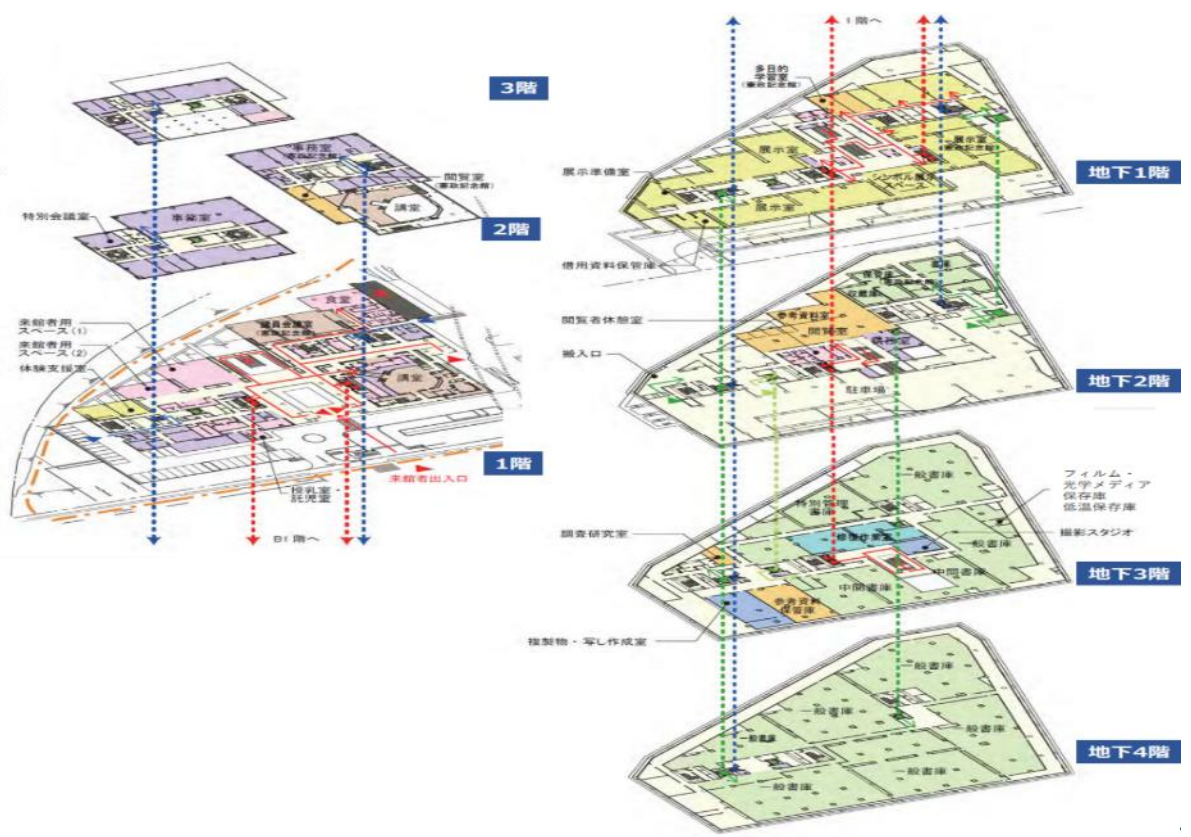


MAP



29/10/2025

FLOOR MAP



International Archives Congress ICA Barcelona 2025

Points of the Design of the New Center

- **Exhibition space** about five times larger than the current one, featuring interactive experiences
- **Hands-on learning support room** for users
- **Comprehensive service room for users** to assist visitors with research



Permanent Exhibition (Image)



Visitors' Space (Image)



3. Vision for the New National Archives

Towards *Center for Archives*: Three approaches



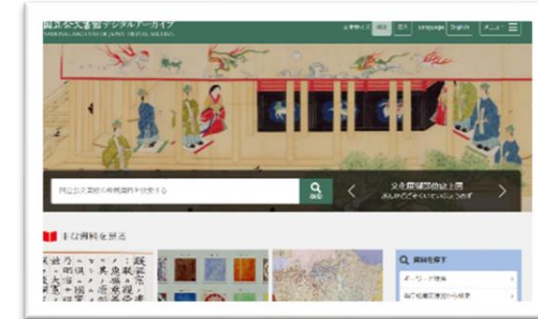
a. Present and future citizens

Developing a user-friendly infrastructure that allows the public to examine, analyze, and validate public records.

- A digital archive accessible at anytime from anywhere, by anyone
- Educational support in formal and informal learning settings



- NAJ supports government agencies in maintaining accountability to both current and future citizens
- NAJ inspires individuals to participate in efforts that bridge history and contemporary life.



NAJ Digital Archive



Learning resources



b. Government agencies

Principle :

- Entities must ensure appropriate document management

Current Situation:

- Not all the government agencies follow the principles of the 2011 Act



NAJ approaches to government agencies at each stage of the creation, organization, preservation, transfer, and disposal of public records to improve the quality of governance.



c. Archival Institutions

Collaboration with Local Public Archives

- There are no uniform standards for records management in local public archives in Japan



- NAJ establishes de facto standards that support local governments and improve the management of public archives in Japan



Annual Meeting

Collaboration with Archives overseas



- NAJ hosts online seminars to share information on issues related to the preservation of archives in various countries
- NAJ strengthens collaboration with international networks including ICA



Online seminar

4. Creation of Value through the Utilization of Archives



Until now

Records on decisions made by government agencies and the processes that lead to such decisions are mainly transferred.



Recent Changes

The transfer of records related to the rights and obligations of individuals is being promoted.

- **Original records on judgments in civil cases** are transferred to NAJ
- **Records on criminal cases** have begun to be transferred.
- **Records related to lawsuits of all types of incidents including civil, domestic, and juvenile cases.**



Preservation of Records

the collection of records primarily for the examination of government policies



Share and utilization of records

preservation of more comprehensive records



In the age of Social Media

The spread of inaccurate and slanderous information has become a serious social problem

The Role of Archives

- Enhancing information literacy among every citizen
- Providing information that is authentic, complete, reliable, and available
- Supporting activities to allow citizen to judge the authenticity and accuracy of uncertain information

Through this role, NAJ believes we can sustain sound democracy.



5. Conclusion

Archives: Evidence from the Past, Beacon for the Future



1. Function as a platform that enables each citizen to take part in the initiative to connect the past, present, and future.

2. Collaboration and Corporation

