

Securing Access to the Records held by the National Archives of Japan

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Outline of the National Archives of Japan

The National Archives of Japan, an incorporated administrative agency, serves to ensure preservation and management of the country's historically important records to make them available for public use.



Main Building (at the Kitanomaru Koen, Chiyoda-ku)

Constructed: 1971



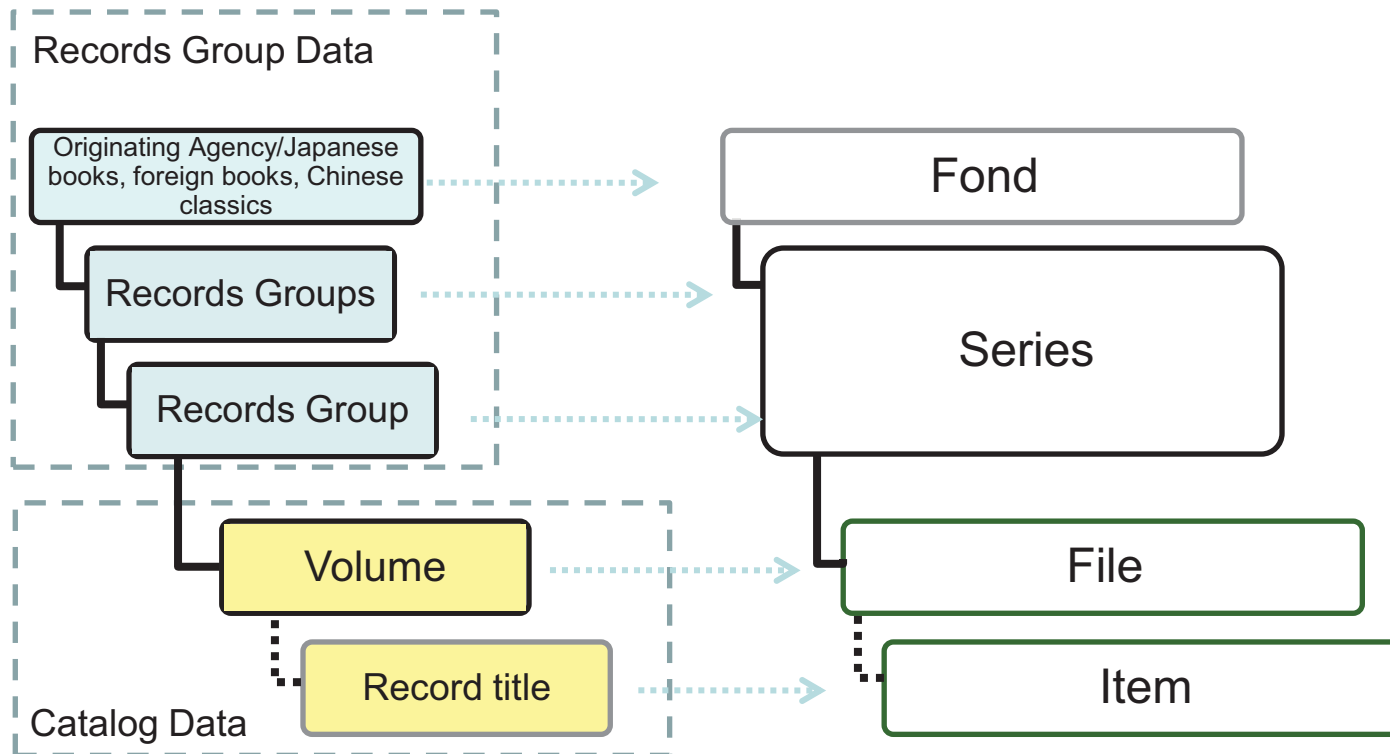
Tsukuba Annex (in the Tsukuba Science City)

Constructed: 1998

Applicable Law: Public Records and Archives Management Act (2009)

Cataloging and Ensuring its Access at the National Archives of Japan

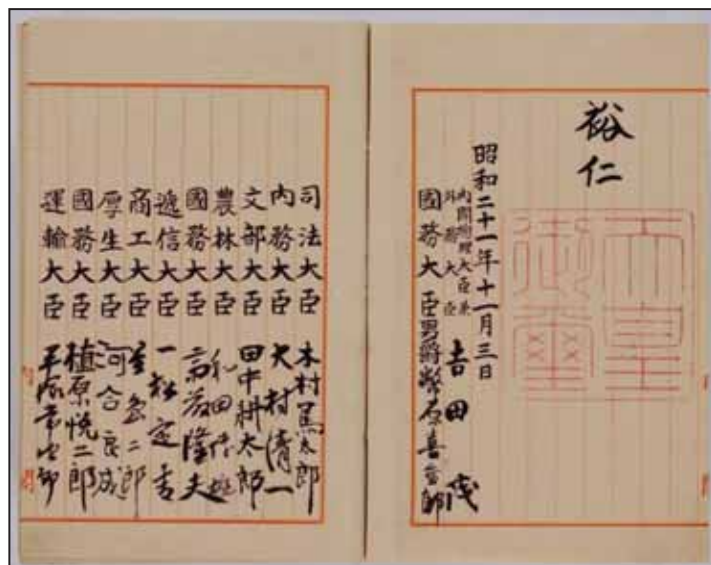
- Create catalog data and open to public within a 1 year, in accordance with the Public Records and Archives Management Act
- Catalog descriptions at item level



Digitization of Records and the Digital Archives as a Tool for Remote Access

Features of Collections

- **The National Archives of Japan holds about 1.42 million volumes of records**
- Public records related to the state's important decision making, including original copies of the constitution, laws, and treaties etc. from the establishment of the modern state (1868) to the present time: 940,000 volumes
- Antique documents held by the Tokugawa Shogun etc. prior to 1868: 480,000 volumes



The Constitution of Japan



Map of Edo (Tokyo) depicted in 300 years ago
(Size: 201cmx261cm)



力有為之說
 小禮一書
 自及一書來
 悅思良之
 三書
 招平



招平 招平
 能伊實源家信之和
 與關六代陸路岩港
 力主之小寶板郡形
 招平上意中少の家境
 乃夫在比長女重壽と
 名流門數此此海
 名流門數此此海
 素子也之事一國海
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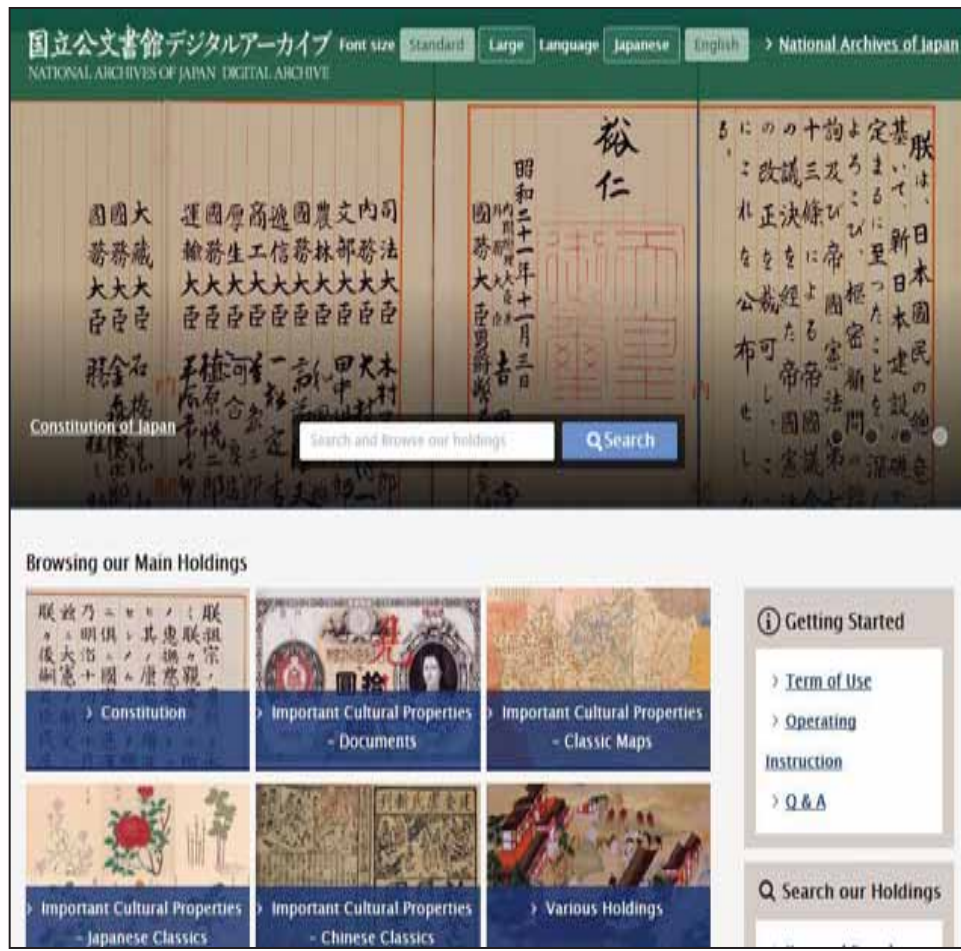
Outline of the National Archives of Japan Digital Archive

Launched in 2005

Providing access to catalog database and digital images of its holdings

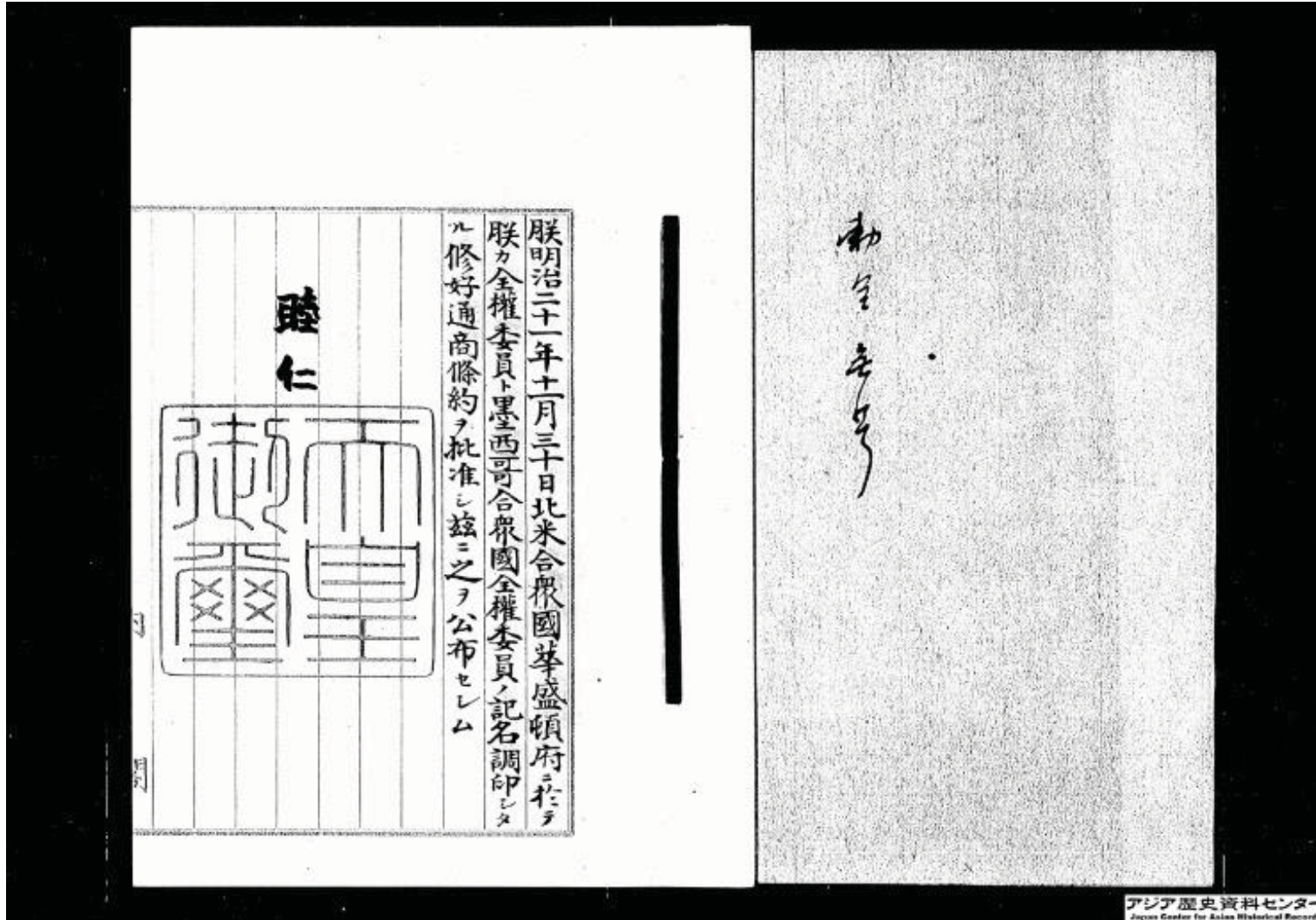
Renewed in 2016

Catalog Database:
about 1.42 million volumes
Digital Images of Records:
about 22.35 million
(Digitization rate of the holdings: 15%)
(as of April 2017)



www.digital.archives.go.jp

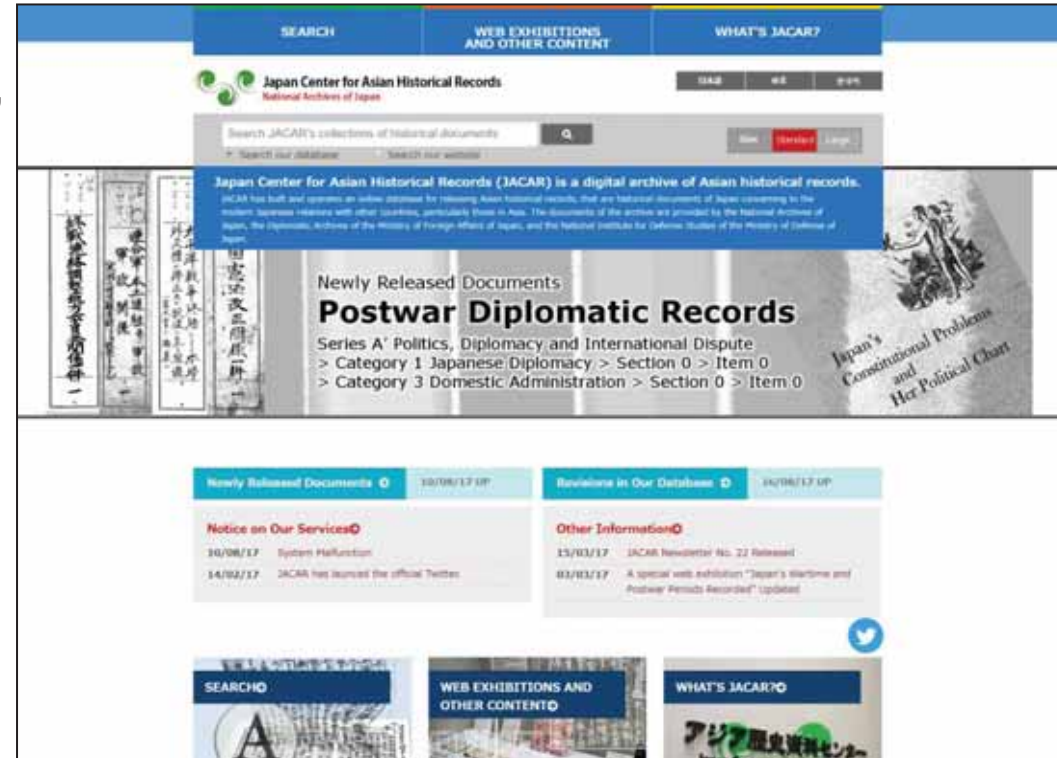
Original Script Signed and sealed by the Emperor on the Promulgation of Treaty of Amity and Commerce with Mexico (1889)



Providing materials offered by three agencies (National Archives of Japan, Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, National Institute for Defense Studies of Ministry of Defense)

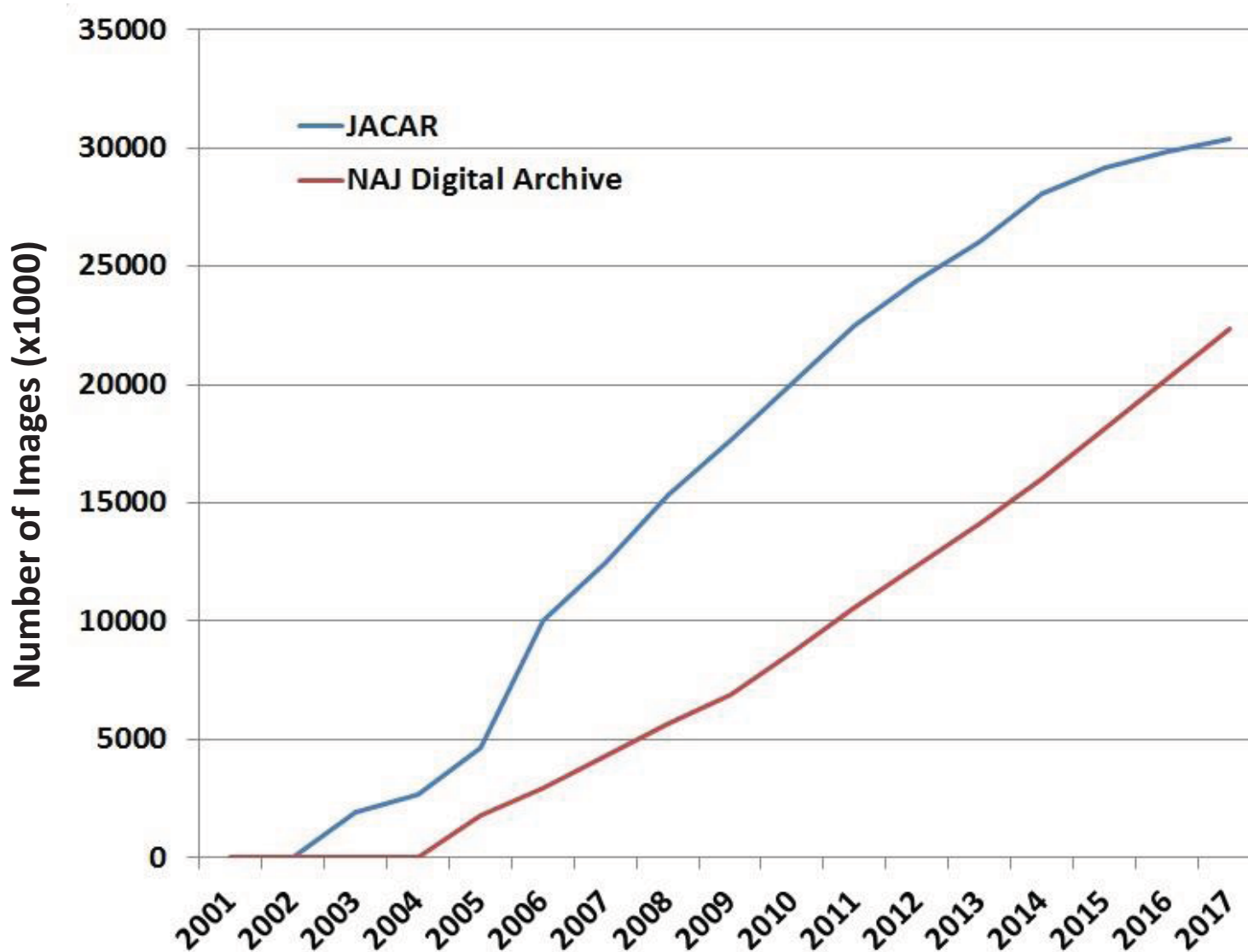
Launched in 2001

Files: about 2.09 million
Digital Images: about 30.36 million
(as of April 2017)



www.jacar.go.jp

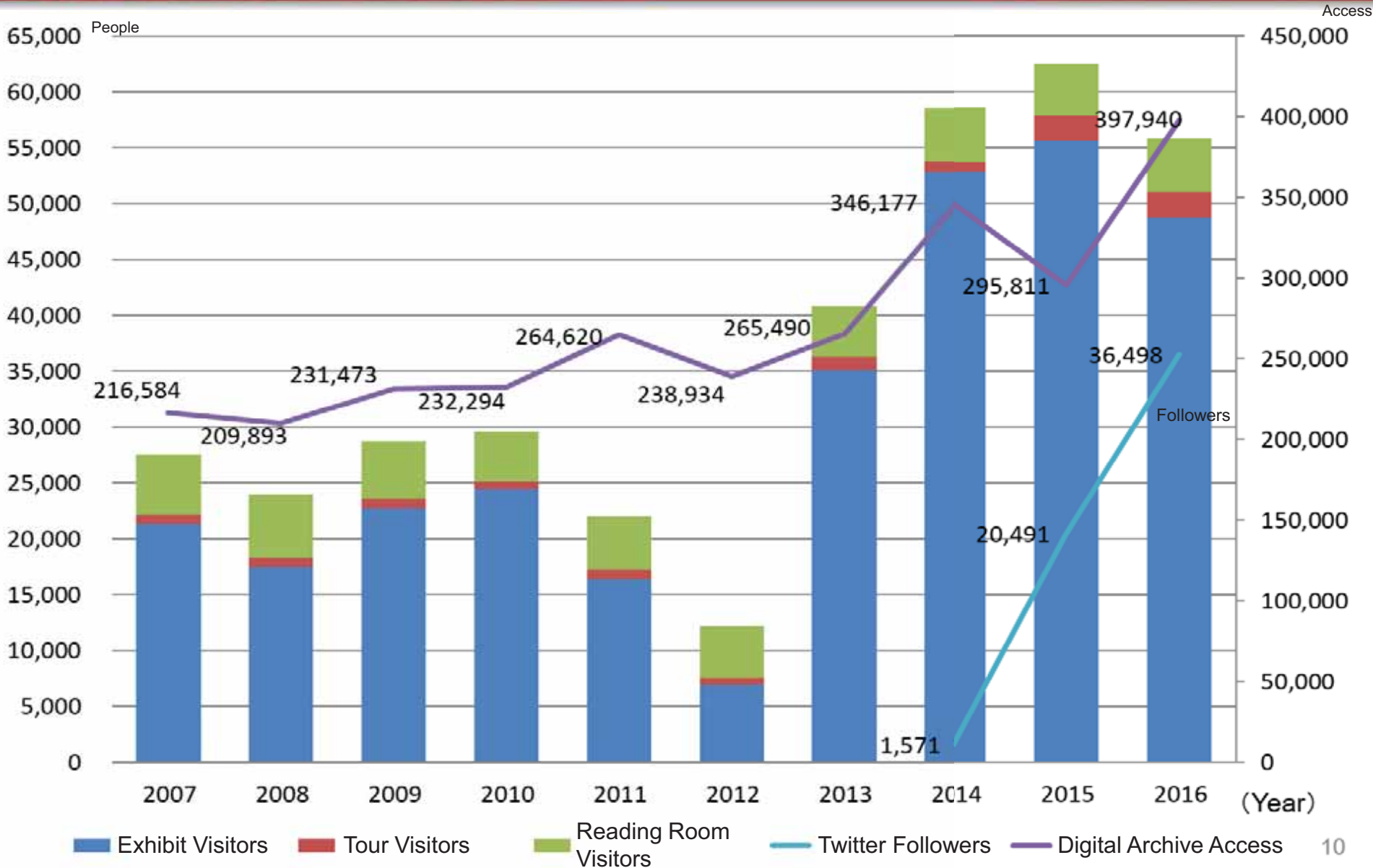
Trends in the No. of Digitized Image Offered



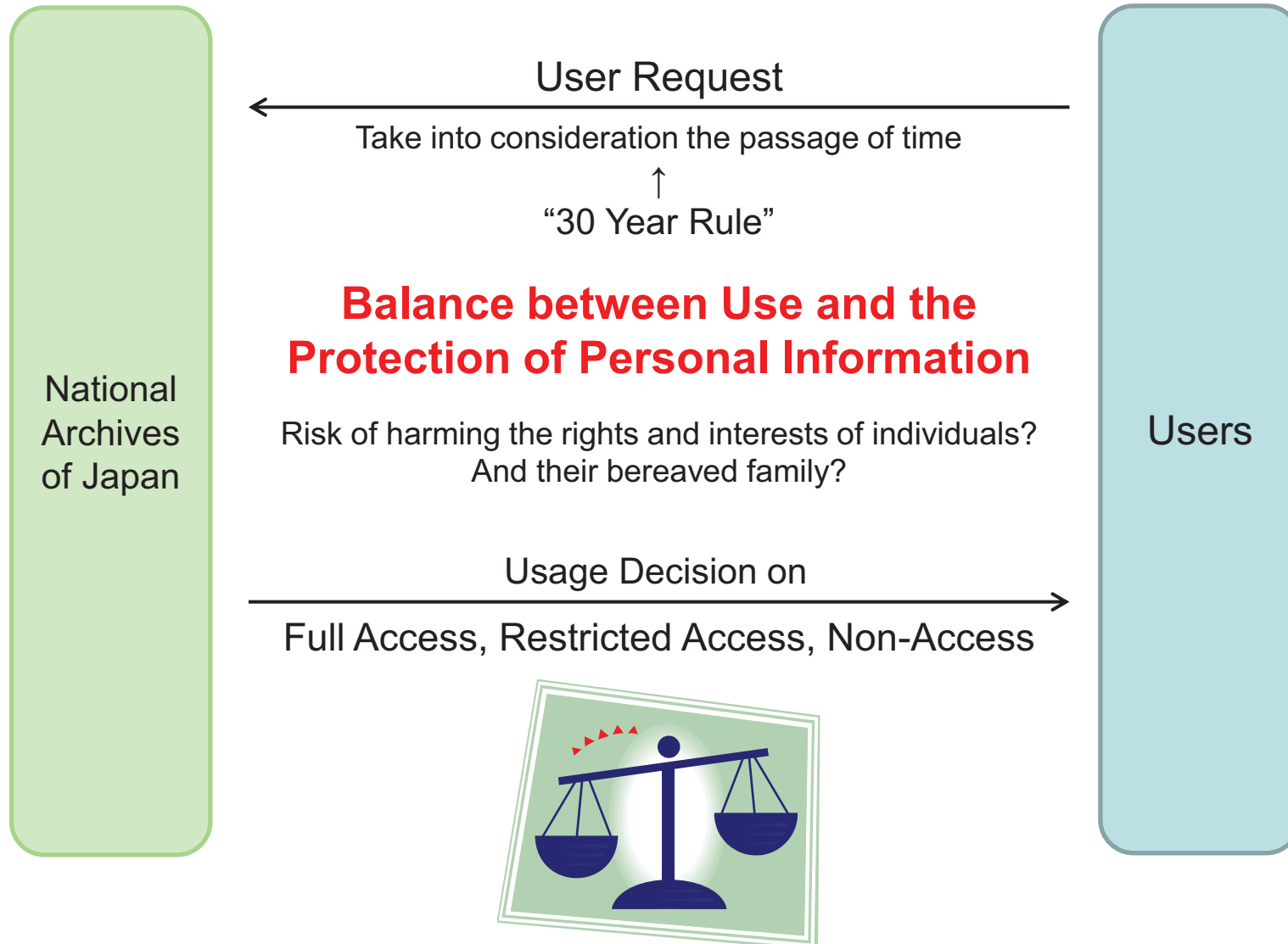


National Archives of Japan Reading Room (Tokyo Main Building)

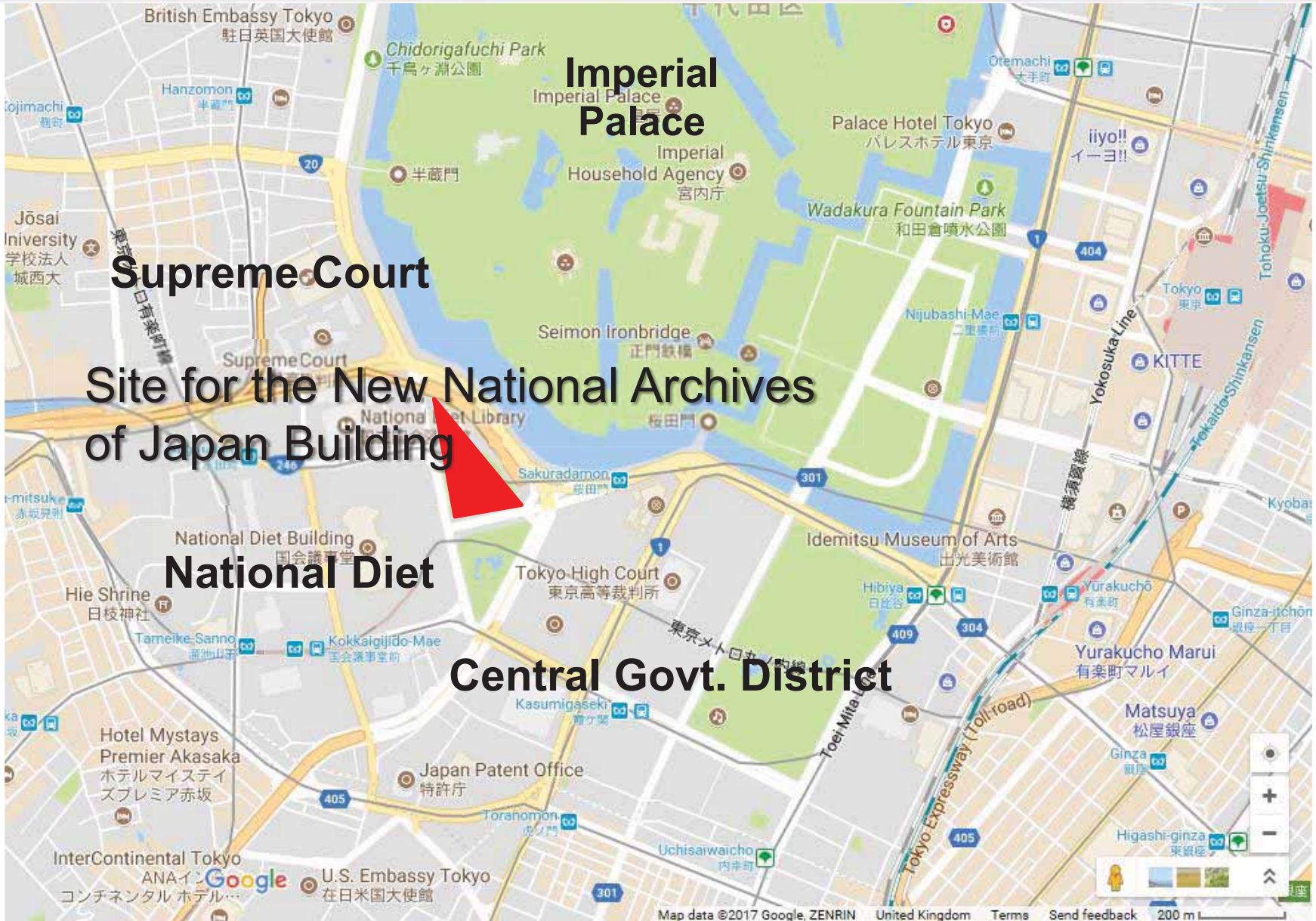
Trends in No. of Users in Recent Years



The Protection of Personal Information in Access to Holdings



Toward the Construction of a New National Archives of Japan Building



Vision towards a New National Archives of Japan

- (1) Exercise its role as the “place” to pass down the form of the country and the memory of the state to the future
- (2) Strengthen its role as the base for promoting the presentation and use of the whole countries’ historical public records
- (3) Develop facilities and expand services responding to the change of times, including enhancement of digitization

Functions Required for the National Archives of Japan

Collection Enhancement and Provision of Information

Exhibition and Learning

Preservation and Conservation

Research Assistance

Digital Archive

HR Development

Information Exchange

From the National Archives of Japan Function and Facilities Investigative Review Committee
“Investigative Review Committee for Functions and Facility of the National Archives of Japan”

Thank you very much