

# University Libraries in Japan: A presentation to PA Trade Mission

Syun Tutiya  
Chiba University

November 14, 2008 at the British Embassy in Tokyo

# Outline

1. Historical backgrounds and its “reforms” today
2. Statistical characterization
3. Decision making process in purchasing materials
4. Current issues
  - a. electronic scholarly journals
  - b. agents and bookstores
  - c. multilinguality and language barriers
  - d. digitization and “print-mania”
  - e. change in students’ attitudes

# Backgrounds

- Meiji Restoration -> modern universities in Japan
  - focus on agriculture, medicine, engineering and jurisprudence toward Japan as modern country: Imperial universities and “hochschulen”
- Losing WWII, postwar restoration in focus
- Babyboomers and growth of universities in the 1970s
- Reforms began in 1990s in liberal “general” education and graduate schools

# Higher Education Geography

(2004)

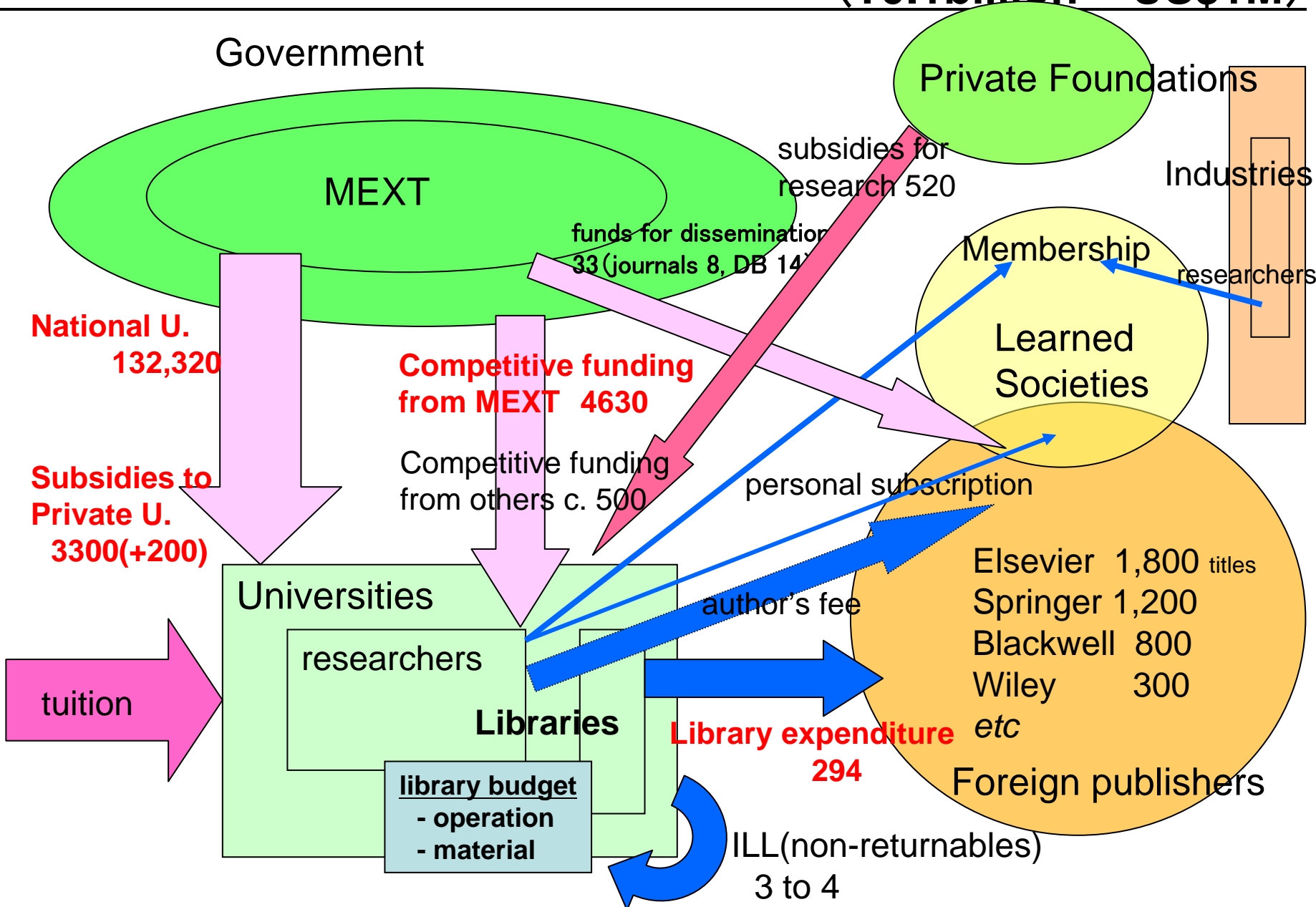
	# of U	# of Undergrad	# of Grad	# of Faculty
National	87	459,496	146,913	60,897
Local Gov	80	105,176	13,575	11,188
Private	542	1,941,251	83,536	86,685
Total	709	2,505,923	244,024	158,770

# In short

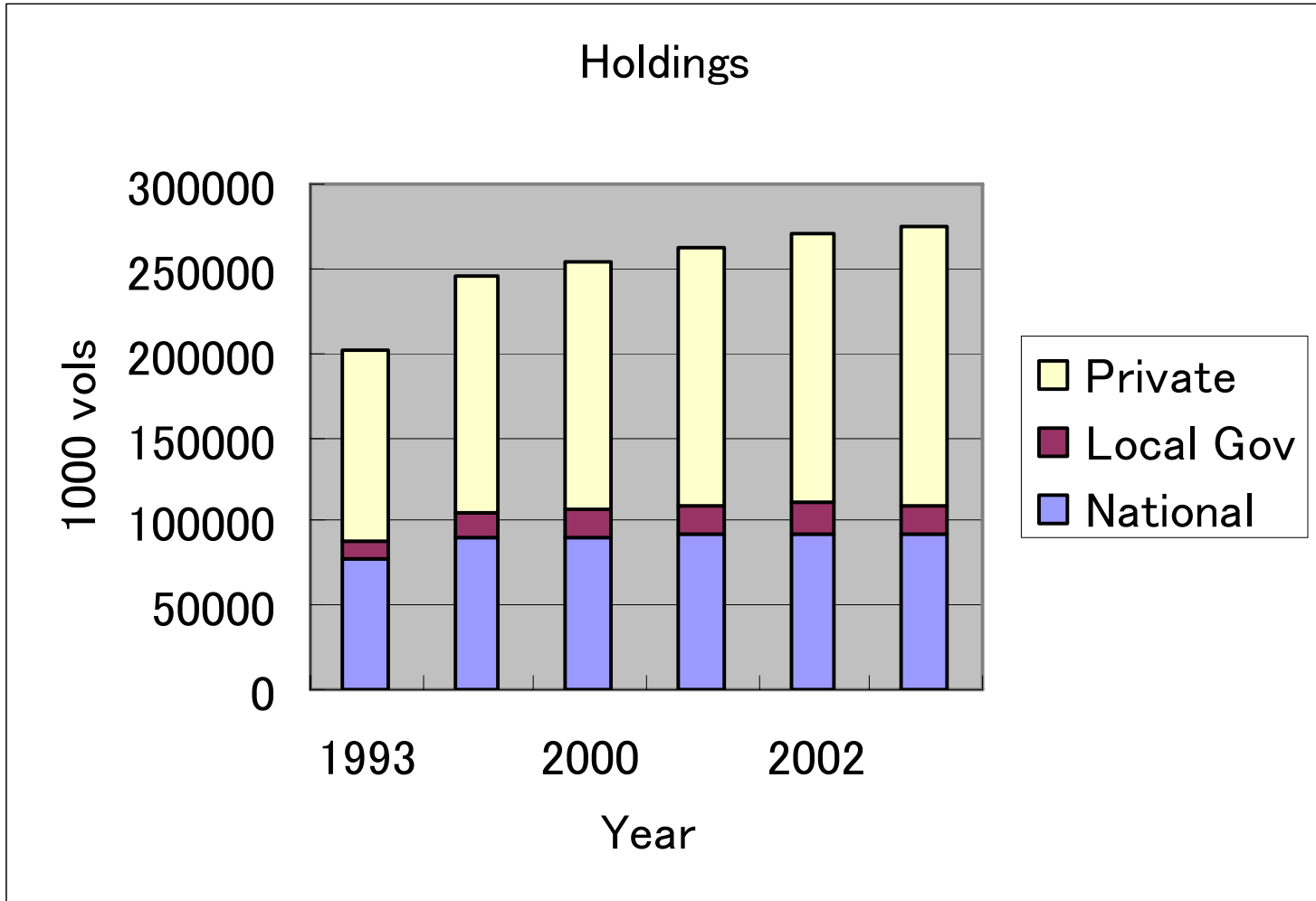
- More research in national than in private universities
- More education in private than in national universities
- Science, engineering medicine in national universities
  - flat tuition system
  - policy decision for 1970s bulge for private to take in students

# Money flow for higher education and research in Japan

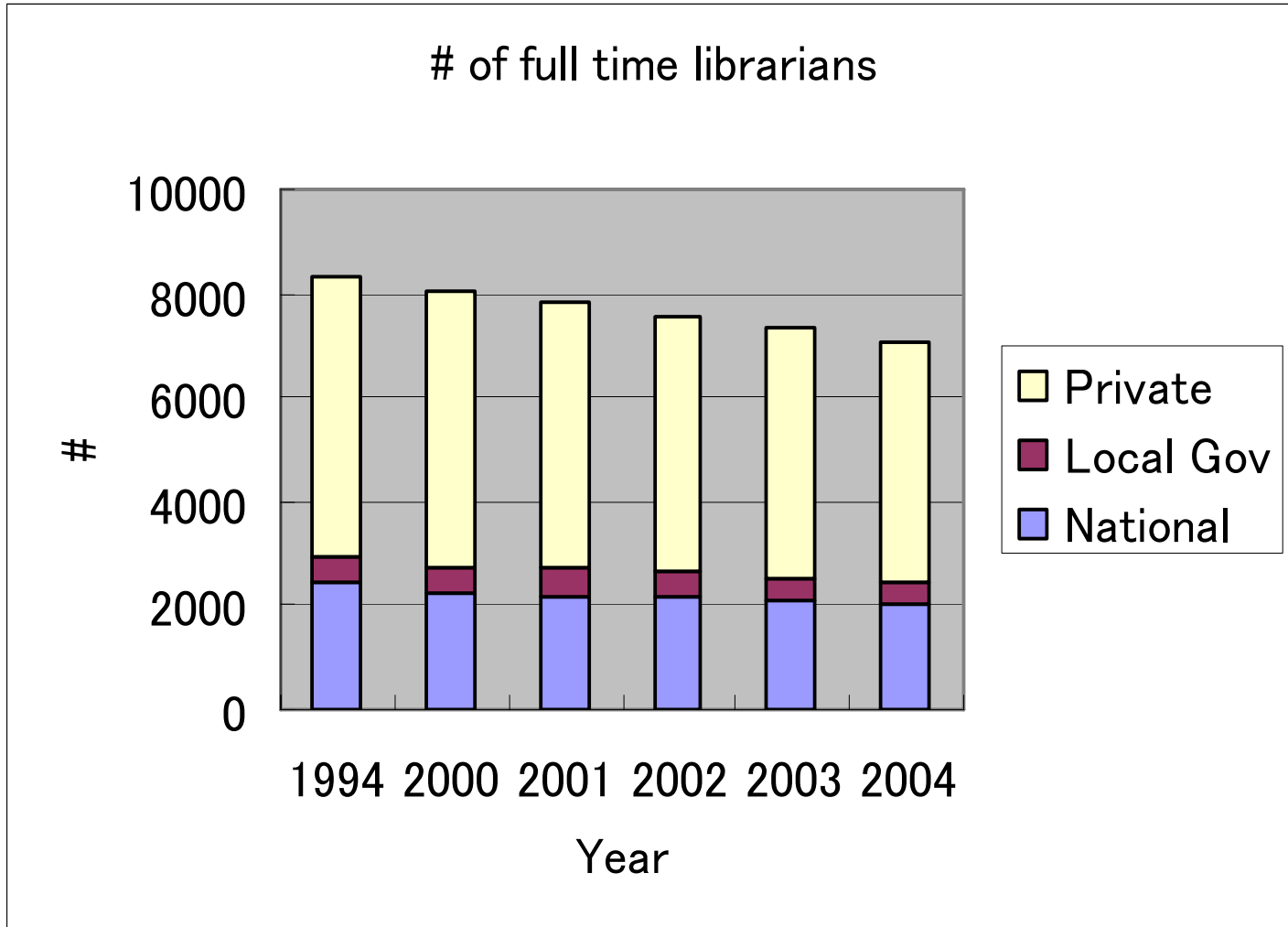
(¥0.1billion = US\$1M)



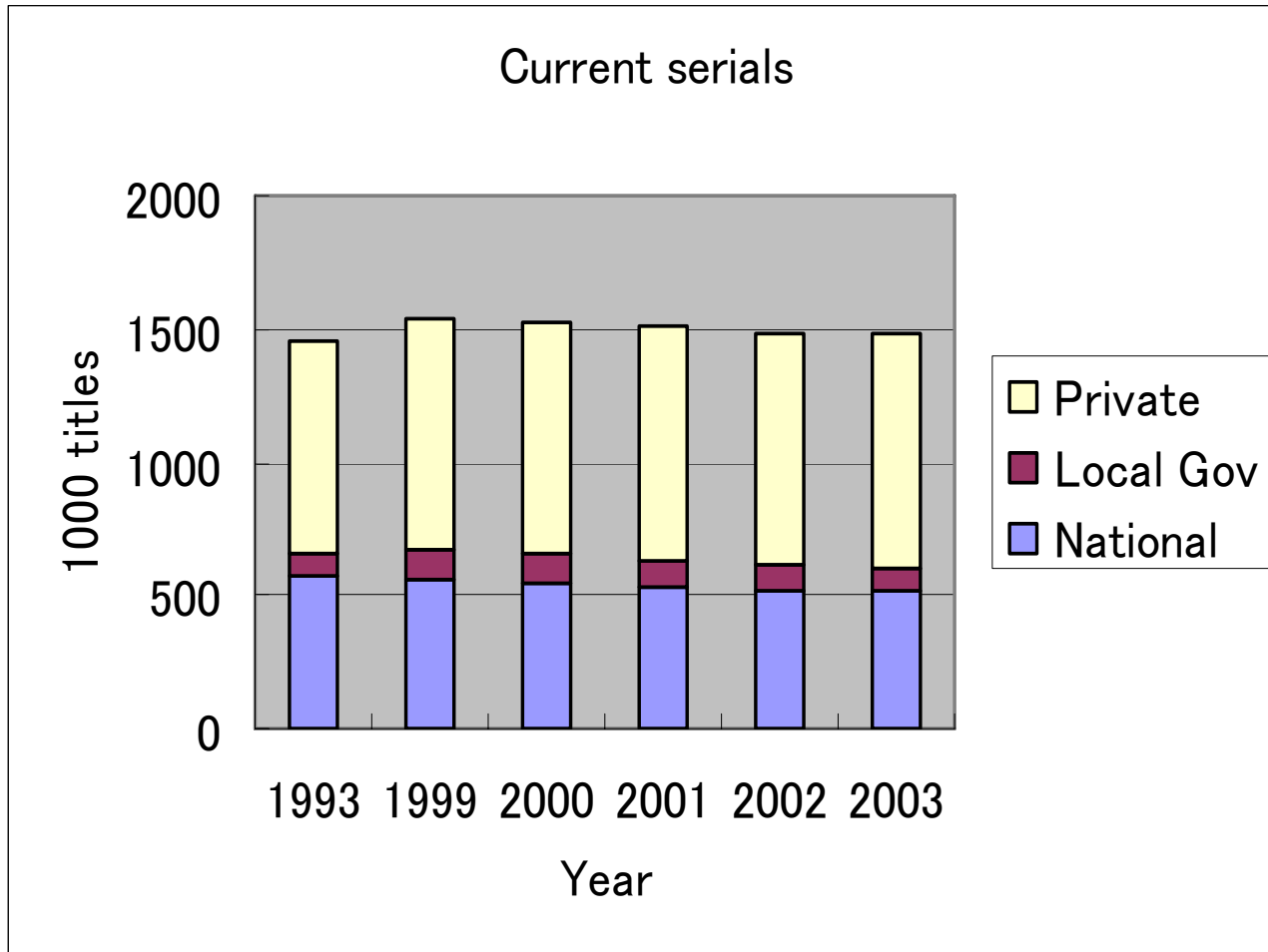
# Library statistics



# Library statistics



# Library statistics

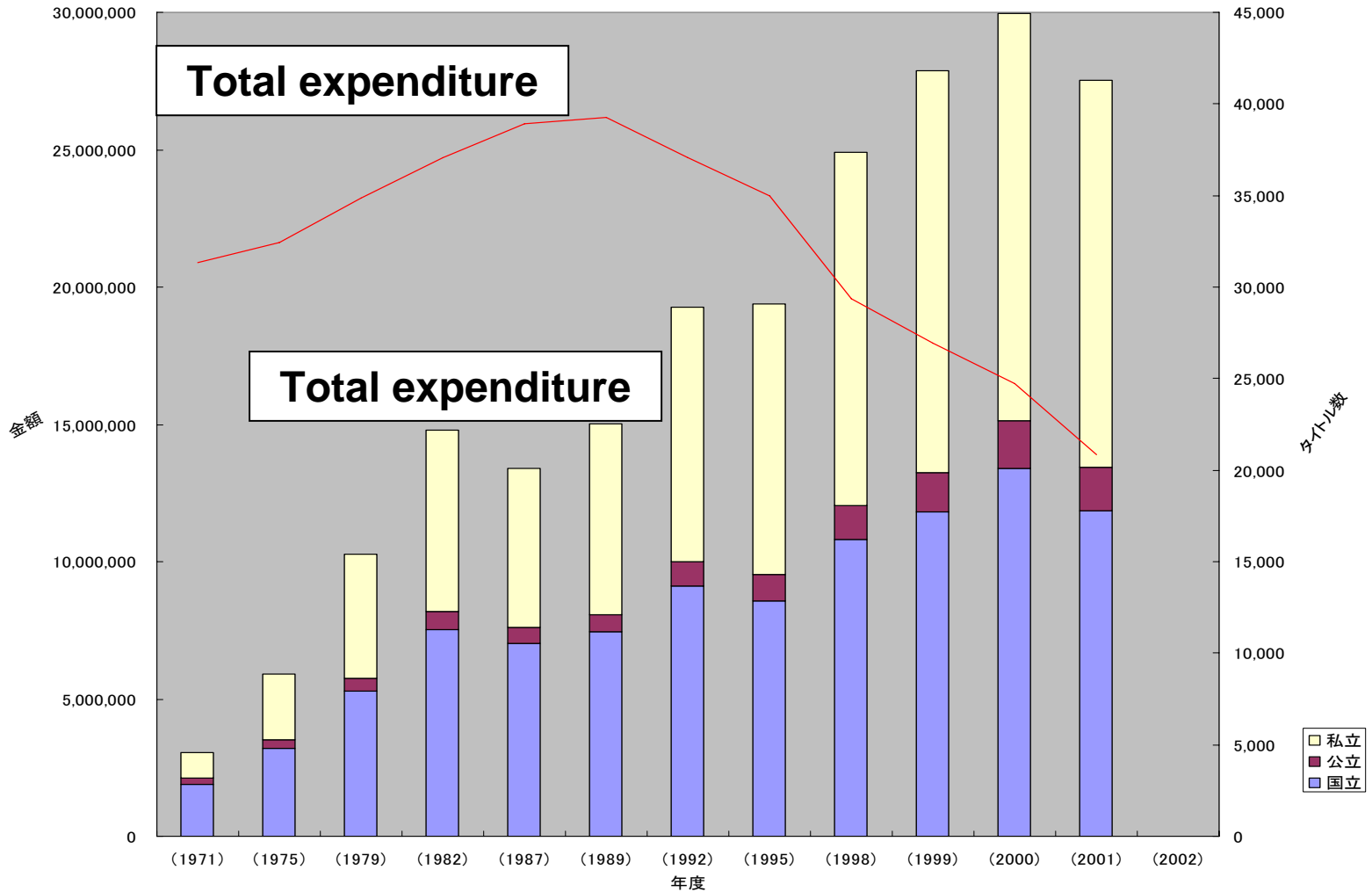


# Library statistics

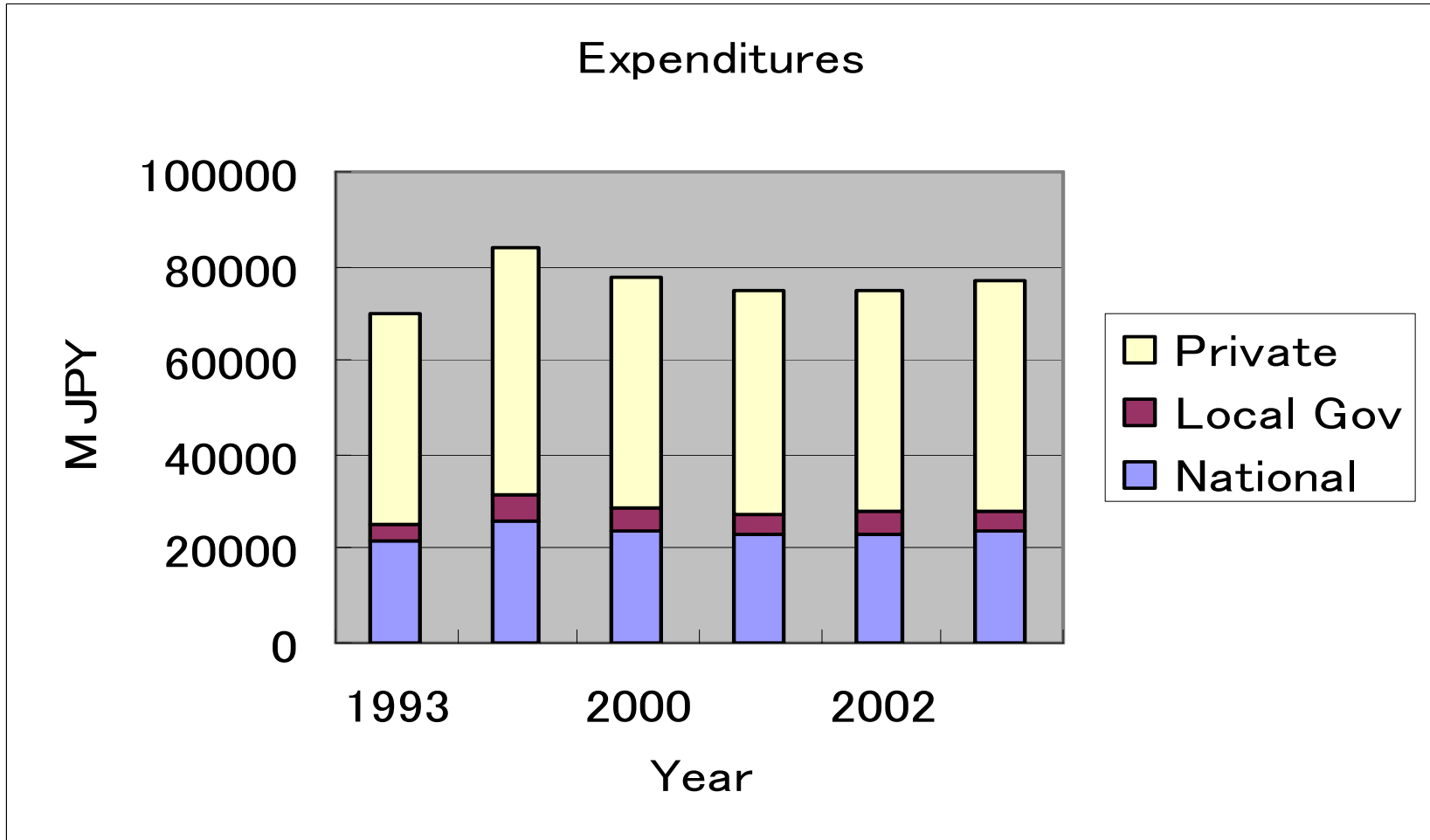
単位:千円

日本国内図書館の外国雑誌購入費および受入れタイトル数

但し1982年度までは和雑誌も含む



# Library statistics



# Library statistics

	Books		Serials			Others	Total
	Japanese	Foreign	Japanese	Foreign Current	F Back issues		
National univ.	4,074,669	3,056,204	1,760,221	11,901,186	98,469	2,835,113	23,725,862
Loc Gov	1,184,717	525,729	335,164	1,665,584	41,129	242,793	3,995,116
Private	14,484,176	9,141,558	3,956,284	16,082,589	394,045	5,357,020	49,415,672
	19,743,562	12,723,491	6,051,669	29,649,359	533,643	8,434,926	

# Decision making on campus

- Libraries do not have or control budgets
- Faculty alone decides both on serials and books. Books for students learning are selected by libraries but the portion is small. In those cases, libraries normally selects Japanese books.
- Faculty selects as they like. As a result, lots of duplicates, no principled collection etc

# Electronic scholarly journals

- Japanese version of “serials crisis”
- formation of consortia
  - successful to some extent– we are wise buyers
  - initiatives in archiving
  - user instruction in digital age
- More in national than in private universities
- Decentralized budget system again gets in the way

# Agents and bookstores

- Agents know but libraries don't
  - “Markup” by agents determines library expenditure, more expensive than overseas
  - Japanese market dominated by a small number of wholesale dealers and TRC
  - Libraries don't talk to publishers even domestically
- => difficult market to understand, maybe

# Multilinguality and language barriers

- Japanese language is “different”
  - “Chinese” characters
    - UTF-8, JIS, Shift-JIS, EUC , .....
  - vertical always liked in popular reading
- No publishing in English, except a small amount of scientific publishing
- Undergraduate students do read English, much less write it.

# Digitization and “print-mania”

- Japanese publishing is a small market, hence no investment possible, hence no electronic publishing started or starting
- People think people who like books like print
- Discussions just starting
- Libraries are interested, but what they can do ?

# Change in students' attitudes

- Undergrads are already in google age
- Only 30% go to (print) library frequently
- Grad students have no trouble using network resources
- English is becoming a smaller barrier, but still mainly in Japanese
- More interested in studying than before, for qualification and for employment