

Japanese Studies Librarians' Tour of Libraries in Japan

This is the report of the Japanese Librarians' Tour of Libraries in Japan, sponsored by the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials of the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) of the Association for Asian Studies with a grant from the Japan Foundation. On behalf of all the participants and the Japanese studies librarians in North America, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Japan Foundation and its U.S. Advisory Committee which made this project possible by awarding the grant. Without their support this project would not have materialized. We are pleased to report to CEAL members that the tour was extremely meaningful and successful. This project was the first of its kind for Japanese studies librarians in North America and, for each and every librarian chosen to be a participant in the tour, it provided a wonderful opportunity to learn, observe, and exchange ideas with our Japanese counterparts, Japanese educators in library science, and specialists related to the library field and the publishing world.

The major objectives were: a) to acquire essential information and knowledge of new technology, and better understanding of the field of Japanese librarianship as it is applicable to Japanese studies libraries in North America; b) to meet and exchange information with librarians, library administrators, and specialists who share similar concerns and problems in Japan and to build stronger ties with them for the future; c) to meet the representatives of the publishing world and book dealers to enhance communication and mutual understanding.

Upon final notification of the 1988-1989 Institutional Support Program grant from the Japan Foundation in the middle of May, our Subcommittee notified the member libraries of the Committee on East Asian Libraries about the project, and sent out application forms. We required a minimum of five years of experience as a Japanese studies librarian and current employment in the same capacity to qualify. Applicants were asked to write a short statement of intent and to include a resume. Since our grant proposal to obtain a matching grant from another funding agency failed, we had to ask each applicant to find other means of making up the difference of the costs of the tour. In August, ten participants and two substitutes were selected by the members of the Subcommittee. The names of the participants were as follows: Frederick Ray Brady, Senior Cataloger at the Genealogical Society of Utah, East Asian Section; Eugene Carvalho, East Asian Librarian and Japanese Studies Bibliographer, University of Kansas; Mitsuko Ichinose, Japanese Reference/Catalog Librarian, East Asian Collection, Yale University; Soowon Kim, Japanese and Korean Bibliographer, Gest Memorial Library, Princeton University; Kevin F. Lin, Head Librarian, Asian Collection, University of Texas at Austin; Yasuko Makino, Japanese Librarian, Asian Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Masato Matsui, Scholar-Curator, Japanese Collection, University of Hawaii; Mihoko Miki, Head, Japanese Division, Oriental Library, University of California at Los Angeles; Kenji Niki, Japanese Collection Development and Reference, C. V. Starr East Asian Library, Columbia University; and Eizaburo Okuizumi, Japanese Librarian, East Asian Library, University of Chicago.

The Subcommittee made selections of information centers, academic, special, public, and national libraries and major institutions with library science departments and arranged visits with the help of the International Cooperation Division of the National Diet Library, Nihon Shuppan Gakkai, Japan Library Association, Japan Publications Trading Company, and other individual librarians and researchers. The news concerning the tour was posted in the October issue of *Japan Library Journal*. All of the places we contacted replied positively, and many of them extended warm welcomes and volunteered further assistance, for which we are grateful. We could not possibly have covered so many places in such a limited amount of time without such thoughtful help from our hosts.

The tour took place from October 17 through the 27th, with Eizaburo Okuizumi as the tour leader. To minimize travel expenses, we decided to meet and end the tour in Japan. Although the official tour started on October 17th and ended on October 27th, all the participants either started the trip to Japan earlier or remained in Japan after the official closing of the tour to tend to business or to visit more libraries which could not be included in the formal tour because of the time limitation.

The details of the tour were as follows:

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| October 17, 1988 (Monday) | Left the United States. |
| October 18 (Tuesday) | Arrived in Tokyo. |
| October 19 (Wednesday) | Morning: Keiō Gijuku Daigaku, Kyōiku Jōhō Sentā. Discussion, lecture by Professor Masaya Takayama on the education of librarians in Japan. Observation of library activities.
Discussion continued over lunch.
2:30 Visited the Japan Foundation Headquarters, discussion held.
3:30 Visited the Japan Publications Trading Company. Discussion and inspection.
Dinner invitation, continuing the discussions. |
| October 20 (Thursday) | Group 1: Tenri Daigaku Fuzoku Toshokan. Observation, lecture, and discussion.
Group 2: Ōsaka Daigaku Toshokan and Shakai Kagaku Kenkyūjo. |
| October 21 (Friday) | Morning: Kyōto Daigaku Fuzoku Toshokan. Lecture, discussion, and observation. Jinbun Kagaku Kenkyūjo. Lecture, discussion, and tour of library.
Afternoon: Kokusai Nihon Bunka Kenkyū Sentā. Discussion.
Evening: Reception sponsored by Library Automation Research Group, and small group discussions by the librarians and library educators in the Kansai Region. |
| October 22-23 | Weekend of individual activities. |

October 24 (Monday)

Morning: Tsukuba Daigaku Toshokan. Observation only. Toshokan Jōhō Daigaku. Lecture by President Masanobu Fujikawa on the education of librarians in Japan and its problems.

3:00: Kodansha and Kodansha International. Discussions with the representatives of Nihon Shuppan Gakkai and executives and editors of Kodansha and Kokusai Bunka. Forum, observation of operations, and a tour of the library.

October 25 (Tuesday)

Morning: Gakujutsu Jōhō Sentā (NACSIS). Lecture and observation of operations.

Lunch reception and discussion.

Afternoon:

Group 1: Tōkyō Daigaku Fuzoku Toshokan, Shiryō Hensanjo, Shakai Kagaku Kenkyūjo, Shinbun Kenkyūjo, Tōyō Bunka Kenkyūjo.

Group 2: Nihon Kagaku Gijutsu Jōhō Sentā (JICST).

6:00: Reception at the Kokusai Bunka Kaikan by the librarians in the Tokyo Region.

October 26 (Wednesday)

Morning: Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan. Discussion and observation.

Lunch reception.

Afternoon:

Group 1: Kokuritsu Kobunshokan and Naikaku Bunko. Lecture, discussion, and observation.

Group 2: Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryōkan and Kokuritsu Shiryōkan. Discussion and observation.

Dinner meeting with the librarians of the Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan.

October 27 (Thursday)

Morning: Tour officially ended. Kino Dial at Kinokuniya Shoten. Observation and discussion by some of the members of the tour with the Kinokuniya online catalog staff.

Afternoon: Second visit to the Japan Foundation Library.

We accomplished all of our goals, and much more. All together, over one hundred librarians, researchers, and library educators gathered together to honor our group and discuss various topics of mutual interest with us. We acquired much valuable information and materials, and came to know many wonderful Japanese librarians and individuals related to the library and information fields. We visited and gained much useful information and knowledge about academic libraries, special collections, research centers, information centers, publishing houses, and book dealers, as well as new technological developments. We gained valuable information about rare book specialists and archivists. We are happy to report that we were able to supply information to our Japanese counterparts also. We discussed the most desirable format for mutually beneficial exchanges of personnel as well as materials. We addressed our needs, and we also learned about their needs. All in all, we were given ample opportunity to learn and see, at first hand, what is happening in Japanese libraries, information centers, and publishing. We regret that we could not include with this

report brief reports of the individual institutions we visited during the tour, but they will be published in the next *CEAL Bulletin*.

(Yasuko Makino)