

The Development of Multicultural Library Services in Japan

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1 Impact of the IFLA Recommendation (1986)

The 52nd IFLA General Conference held in Tokyo in 1986 approved professional resolutions for the promotion of library services to multicultural populations in Japan. It had a great impact upon Japanese librarians.

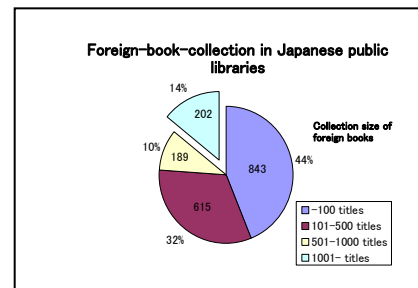
2 The first actualization of Multicultural Library Services in Japan

In 1988 a Korean Book Corner was opened in the Ikuno Library, a Branch of Osaka City Library where about 25% of the population of the community is Korean.



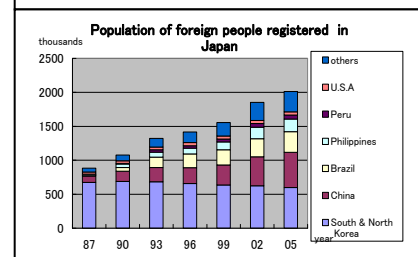
3 Action plan of the Japanese Library

"A Survey on Multicultural Library Services" was carried out in 1988, 1998 and 2002 by the Japan Library Association. 2002 survey shows we have 272 libraries which have over one thousand foreign books (14%). And 334 libraries have a corner for multicultural library services (12%).



4 Influx of immigrants

Amendment to the Immigration Control Law (1990) and labor-shortage among Japanese industry boosted Japan's immigration intake and changed Japanese society. Librarians are becoming aware of the importance of providing services to minorities in their communities.



5 Turning Point

In 2002, the Research Committee on Multicultural Librarianship was organized by the Japan Library Association. In 2004, the committee published a book *A Guide to Multicultural Librarianship*. The book aims to encourage libraries to provide services to multicultural populations. More over, the voluntary group Musubime-no-Kai (1991-) has made a major contribution toward the improvement of multicultural library services.

Musubime-no-Kai <http://www.musubime.net/>



6 Future Story

Amount of foreign people registered in Japan has grown more and more in the past two decades. Then, we think that the multicultural library services will become more and more important in the world of "globalization". But, we Japanese library community has following issues for the multicultural services: foreign language competency, acquisition of materials, making and delivering bibliographic record, multicultural computing. We try to resolve those issues through cooperation with world library community.

감사합니다 !

Thank you very much!