



How Innovation Has Transformed Japanese Public Libraries

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Introduction to Japanese Public Libraries

1.1. Legal Basis of Japanese Public Libraries

1.2. Japanese Local Government System

1.3. Development of Public Libraries in Japan

2. Coping with Recent Social Changes by Innovation

2.1. Recent Social Changes in Japan

2.2. Public Libraries' Response to the New Situation

3. Notable Cases

4. Some Introductory Remarks on the Following Presentations

1. INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1.1. Legal Basis of Japanese Public Libraries



Local governments establish public libraries in accordance with Public Library Law (1950).



Normally a section in Education Department in a local government.



Use of library materials must be free. (Article 17)

1.2. Japanese Local Government System

Two Tiers System:

- Prefectures
- Municipalities
(Cities, Towns, Villages)

Each municipality belongs to any of the 47 prefectures.

Prefectures and municipalities are both local public bodies of equal status and cooperate according to their share of duties.

1.3. Development of Public Libraries in Japan

Year	No. of Libraries	Annual Circulation
1955	773	16m items (0.19 per capita)
2017	3,292	691m items (5.45 per capita)

- ▶ Emphasis on circulation
Which resulted in
- ▶ Growth in no. of libraries and circulation

Now public libraries are:

- ▶ -- One of the most popular places in a community, with
- ▶ -- Abundance of books
- ▶ -- Free and open to all; Comfortable places to visit

Ishikari Public Library,
Hokkaido

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2. COPING WITH RECENT SOCIAL CHANGES BY INNOVATION

2.1. Recent Social Changes in Japan

The most
aged
country in
the world!

- Population aging rate: 27.7% (U.S.: 15.4%)

Declining
number of
working
population;

- Low economic growth; Stagnant government income
- Growing social welfare expenditure

Which leads local governments to



Cooperate with other actors in the community



Demanding their departments and agencies much more contribution to the community



With as less money as possible

2.2. Public Libraries' Response to the New Situation

Shift from circulation to a variety of innovative “Community-oriented” services:

- i. -- Promote reading and books in a unique style;
- ii. -- Become community's memory keeper;
- iii. -- Help people deal with their problems;
- iv. -- Become a meeting hub

3. NOTABLE CASES

i. Promote reading and books in a unique style

Football players recommend their favorite books

▶ Chofu City Library, Tokyo



Books Recommended by Librarians

- ▶ Hirado City Library,
Nagasaki



Biblio-battle



Home
Committee of Bibliobattle
News
Report
Rules for Bibliobattle
Media Listing Information
Sitemap
facebook fan page

Home

[Japanese Original Site](#)

Bibliobattle is a social book review game which was developed in the Graduate School of Informatics at Kyoto University in Japan. You (presenter) can bring your favorite book to the event. You can talk about the book to the audience for 5 minutes as a Bibliobattler :-). The most popular book will be elected as the "Champion Book of the Day" by the audience and presenters.

<http://en.bibliobattle.jp/>

Become Community's Memory Keeper

► Wikipedia Town



高遠ぶらり x WikipediaTown









Habitat map of raccoons made with people

最近、町内でたぬきを目撃したという情報が図書館へ寄せられています。町おねマップを作ったところ多数の情報が寄せられ、町内にきつわがいることが確認されています。たぬきはどれくらい町内にいるのでしょうか？

- 今年タヌキを見たという場所には緑のシールをはってください
- むかしタヌキを見たという場所には青のシールをはってください
- 今年キツネを見たという場所には黄色のシールをはってください
- かわいい目撃情報や、タヌキ、キツネに関する話、思い出などにこしカードに書いてください



Help people deal with their problems

- ▶ Machi-zemi : Turning a shopping district into a community's learning space

“Machizemi”



How does the library engage?



With shop owners:

- Consulting on interesting topic ideas
- Providing background data, relevant history, etc., for each topic
- Introducing books on “how to deliver good presentations”

With local citizens:

- Delve into related books to learn more about topics



Become a meeting Hub

- ▶ Takeo City Library,
Saga

4. Some Introductory Remarks on the Following Presentations

Types of Local Government

Prefecture

- Tottori (Smallest Prefecture)

Municipalities

- Hiroshima (Large City)
- Shiwa (Small Town)

Hope You Will Find
Intriguing Innovations in the
Following Presentations!

Thank you !

