Report on Horner Fellowship

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This is a report on “Horner Fellowship” I participated in at Arizona from October 31 to November 16, 2012.

These five years, I have attended IFLA (International Federation of Library Association), and I visited several libraries in those chances every year. So I had some images and knowledge of libraries in other countries. However, this program gave me completely different ones. This was a good opportunity to know what really happened or were planned in libraries in the U.S.

The library visit schedule this year was mainly organized on university libraries, but also including other kind of libraries; community college or school libraries, and public libraries. Before I visited these libraries as Horner Fellowship, I imagined that libraries in the U.S. were changing toward digital libraries much farther than those in Japan. As I visit and see the libraries in the U.S., I found the reality is far more digitized than I had imagined. In Japan, as far as I know, there is a qualitative gap among universities, public and private, or places although internet or digital systems are growing rapidly. On the other hand, I realized that there were not any gaps among universities in the U.S. Through this library visit as Horner Fellowship. I recognized that university libraries in Japan need much more effort and we need to reconsider university education from the view of students.

During the program of “Horner Fellowship”, I fortunately got a chance to report “The effects of the tsunami on the situation of librarianship in Japan today” at the business meeting of IIG (International Interested Group). Even in Japan, the fact is getting to be forgotten and the news is fading away as the time goes by. After this earthquake and tsunami, many libraries are recovering from suffer or damage of the earthquake, but it was just a piece of beginning. Time makes people forget what to support or to reconstruct for the population in the area. It is necessary to help them, to think what to do for protecting from such a disaster and how to adapt this experience to similar occasions.

Arizona Library Association's International Interest Group



Yuka Sugimoto presenting on the effects of the tsunami on the librarianship in Japan at South Mountain Community College.

Finally, this program was a truly good opportunity for me. Recently, it has become much easier to get information about what happened in other countries at any time and in any place. Through the experience as “Horner Fellowship”, I knew the real situation of libraries in the U.S., and felt by myself the atmosphere there. This experience reminded me of a proverb, “Seeing is believing.”

I want to make this experience more useful in my future studies.

Note: In collaboration with Professor Taro Miura (Mieji University), presented a poster session at the 79th IFLA General Conference in Singapore (08/18/2013). The presentation was entitled: “Horner Fellowship Program between Japan Library Association and Arizona Library Association: for the Success of international Exchange.”