

Education for national-level certification of library personnel in Japan

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Today, I (Yuriko Nakamura) will provide an overview of education for national-level certification of library personnel in Japan. I hope my presentation will also serve as an introduction to today's event.

As you know, Japan is a very centralized country in terms of national policies for education. Public libraries and school libraries are regarded as education-related organizations under Japanese law.

Two laws were promulgated just after WWII that defined two kinds of national certificates for library personnel. One is the *shisho*; the strict meaning of *shisho* is “librarians for public libraries,” but librarians in other libraries, such as academic libraries and special libraries, are also usually referred to as *shisho*. Two hundred universities, including two-year colleges and seven summer schools in universities, offer the certification program for *shisho*.

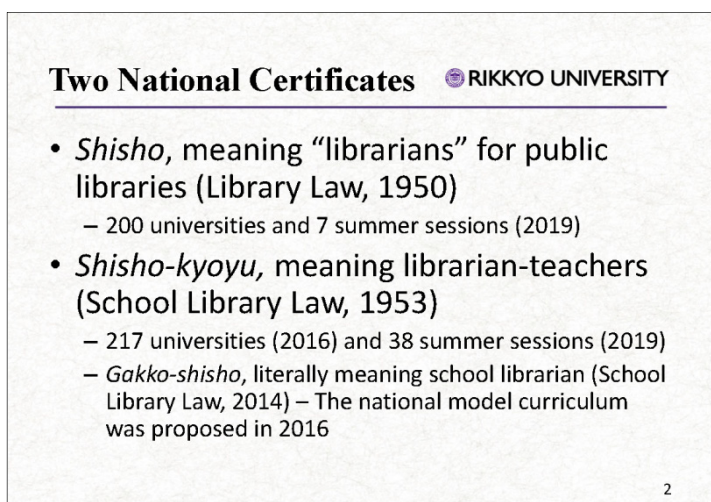
The other national certificate is for the *shisho-kyoyu*, literally meaning “librarian-teachers.” I could only find somewhat older data for universities offering this certificate program. The data showed 217 universities in 2016. This year, 38 summer sessions are going to be held in universities. For school library personnel, *gakko-shisho*, meaning “school librarian,” was enshrined in the School Library Law in 2014 and a national model curriculum was proposed in 2016 by the Ministry of



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Two National Certificates **RIKKYO UNIVERSITY**

- *Shisho*, meaning “librarians” for public libraries (Library Law, 1950)
 - 200 universities and 7 summer sessions (2019)
- *Shisho-kyoyu*, meaning librarian-teachers (School Library Law, 1953)
 - 217 universities (2016) and 38 summer sessions (2019)
 - *Gakko-shisho*, literally meaning school librarian (School Library Law, 2014) – The national model curriculum was proposed in 2016

2

Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. (Hereafter, I will call the ministry MEXT.) The *gakko-shisho* certification itself is not regulated by any law. MEXT supervises all of the above certification systems.

As you can imagine, thousands of students are awarded one of these certificates every year. We have about 3,300 public libraries and over 36,000 schools in Japan, but I would say that too many people are awarded certificates.

The Librarian Course at Rikkyo University has certified students as librarians for over 50 years. Rikkyo University was founded in 1874 by a missionary of the Episcopal Church, Channing Moore Williams. The first University Librarian, Harold Charles Spackman, devised a farsighted plan to establish an academic department for Library Education at Rikkyo and invite experts from


the United States to serve as professors. While Spackman had some support from the university, the plan was ultimately unsuccessful. But we are still proud of this tradition.

The present staff are only the two of us here, Yuriko Nakamura – Professor studying School Librarianship and Ellen Hammond – Specially Appointed Professor studying Japanese history and academic librarianship. Our Librarian Course consists of the two programs for national certification, *shisho* and *shisho-kyoyu*. We do not have a program for *gakko-shisho*, school librarians.

Any Rikkyo student is allowed to register for a librarian certification program. Students enrolling in the Librarian Course still study for a major in their home academic departments. They have to finish the bachelor's program to be awarded the Certificate of Completion of either program of the Librarian Course. To complete the Librarian-teacher Certificate Program, students also need to qualify for a national teaching license.

We have two campuses. One is in Tokyo and the other one is in Saitama

Librarian Course at Rikkyo

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- The Librarian Course was established in 1967.
- Rikkyo University - founded in 1874 by a missionary of the Episcopal Church, Channing Moore Williams
 - The first University Librarian, Harold Charles Spackman devised a farsighted plan to establish an academic department for Library Education at Rikkyo U.
 - ultimately unsuccessful
- The present staff:
 - Yuriko Nakamura – Professor (2011-)
 - Ellen Hammond – Specially appointed professor (2018-)
- The Librarian Course consists of two programs.
 - Certificate for *shisho*, librarians
 - Certificate program for *shisho kyoyu*, librarian-teachers

3

Enrollment System

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- Any Rikkyo University student may enroll.
 - Students in the Librarian Course still study for a major.
 - 35,000 yen for the Librarian Certificate Program; 15,000 yen for the Librarian-teacher Certificate Program, in addition to 35,000 yen for the Teacher Training Courses
 - 20,000 yen for registration and 25,000 yen per credit for non-Rikkyo students, who have to pass an essay exam and interview.
 - No other cost besides textbooks
- The Certificate of Completion of each program is awarded by Rikkyo University.
 - Students who just finish all courses specified in the Library Law or School Library Law do not receive a certificate from Rikkyo, but they are nationally certified as a librarian or a librarian-teacher.

4

prefecture. The Librarian Course is located in Tokyo, but if students belonging to departments on the Saitama campus are willing to travel to Tokyo for classes, they can register for the Librarian Course. Through enrollment in either the Librarian or Librarian-teacher program, they study for their professional certification. At Rikkyo, the course of study is also designed to introduce students to the academic field of library and information science.

When students of Rikkyo University apply for a program in the Librarian Course, they have to pay a registration fee. It is 35,000 yen, about 320 US dollars, for the Librarian Certificate Program and 15,000 yen, about 140 US dollars, for the Librarian-teacher Certificate Program. There is no other cost besides textbooks. Textbooks are not expensive and probably will not be over 10,000 yen, meaning about 90 US dollars for either course. They can even avoid buying the textbooks if they can borrow them from their neighborhood libraries.

If a person who is not a student of Rikkyo University wants to register for the Librarian Course, an examination is held in early February. To apply, they must have a bachelor's degree and need to pay 20,000 yen, about 180 US dollars. The selection is based on an essay and an interview. The cost of study amounts to about 800,000 yen or 7,000 US dollars to complete the entire curriculum of the Librarian Program and 400,000 yen or 3,500 US dollars for the Librarian-teacher Program. This is probably four or five times more expensive than studying in a summer school. Actually, all summer schools for the Librarian-teacher certificate are free of charge, since the national government provides the funding, so there is little reason for anyone who is NOT a Rikkyo student to apply for the librarian-teacher program.

Once a student finishes all courses for the program, the Certificate of Completion from Rikkyo University is conferred. This is not a degree. One who just finishes all courses as specified in the Library Law or the School Library Law does not receive a certificate from Rikkyo, but they are certified as a librarian or a librarian-teacher. Since our curriculum requires students to complete more courses than required by law, students may be nationally certified as a librarian or a librarian-teacher before they finish our program. They can choose not to complete the entire curriculum at Rikkyo, but they do not receive a certificate of completion from Rikkyo University.

The Rikkyo Librarian Course has two major goals: 1) Training of Information Specialists. The curriculum is geared not only to current issues in librarianship, but also to emerging trends in the world of information in the 21st century.

2) Promoting an International Perspective. Rikkyo University was chosen by MEXT to participate in its Top Global University program. We at Rikkyo are deemed to be international. Students in the Librarian Course have opportunities in the curriculum to think about information use in different societies and cultural contexts. They can also take advantage of programs for Rikkyo's international practicums in libraries outside Japan.

The minimum length of enrollment in the Librarian Certificate Program is 3 years, including the library practicum in the third year.

The learning management systems used at Rikkyo University are Blackboard, Google Suites, and Rikkyo JIKAN. The last one is a software originally developed at Rikkyo University. Rikkyo JIKAN is more of an e-portfolio system than an e-learning system, but it can be used in classes as well.

At Rikkyo University, for lectures and seminars, two credits shall consist of 14 classes of 100 minutes, meeting once a week, plus students' self-study hours. For the library practicum, students are required to spend a minimum of 10 days on duty at a practicum site and attend three half-day seminars held by professors on campus.

Next, I would like to introduce the curriculum of the Librarian Program. First, here is the list of required classes. Courses with an asterisk are provided in small classes, about 20-30 students in each class. The class size of the other courses is up to 80. Most of the classes have an enrollment of around 50 to 60 students. Major changes from the MEXT curriculum are indicated in a red font.

The practice classes in the curriculum are original to Rikkyo. Probably not so many people in Japan are familiar with the titles of these classes. The class on "Information architecture" is especially unique. We invited an adjunct lecturer from an IT company to teach this class. He publishes books on information architecture and user experience.

Another interesting adjunct lecturer was invited for the Introduction to Library Services. She used to work in an American pharmaceutical corporation as a director of information services. So, she is lecturing not only about library services, but also about developing information services.

The library practicum is not a required course in the MEXT curriculum, but it has been a required course for years in the Librarian Course of Rikkyo University.

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Basic policies

- The Rikkyo Librarian Course has two major goals:
 - Training of Information Specialists
 - Promoting an International Perspective
- The minimum length of enrollment in the Librarian Certificate Program is 3 years, including library practicum in the third year.
- Available learning management systems (LMS) are Blackboard, Google Suites, and Rikkyo JIKAN.
- At Rikkyo University, for lectures and seminars, one course of two credits consists of 14 classes of 100 minutes each, meeting once a week, plus students' self study hours.
- For the library practicum, students are required to spend a minimum of 10 days of full-time work and attend three half-day seminars held by professors on campus.

5

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Librarian Program – Required Courses

Required courses	Credits
Introduction to Lifelong Learning	2
Introduction to the Library	2
Library Management and Systems	2
Library Information Technology	2
Introduction to Library Services	2
Study of Library Services	2
Study of Children's Services *	2
Practice of information Retrieval *	2
Practice of information Service *	2
Introduction to Library Information Resources	2
Study of Organization of Information Resources	2
Practice on Metadata *	2
Practice on Information Architecture *	2
Library Practicum (Librarian Course)	2
Required number of credit	28

- Courses with an asterisk are provided in small classes (20-30 students each).
- Major changes from the MEXT curriculum are made in courses in Red.

6

These are the compulsory elective courses offered in the Librarian Program. Students are required to take two such electives. Most of them are offered as small classes, which number about 10 students, but the course, “History of Books and Libraries,” is very popular and sometimes it turns out to be a big class. One of the courses, Seminar on Library Basics, has recently been dedi-

cated to Archival Studies, which is unique to Rikkyo’s program. The seminar on Library Services is taught in English by Professor Hammond. It must be intensive and challenging for Japanese undergraduate students. The students doing their practicum abroad are preparing in this class. The Comprehensive Seminar on Libraries is for self-directed research. Students who proceed to a master’s course or plan to pursue a career in libraries or related fields register for this class.

The number of required courses is 14, with 2 compulsory elective courses required in addition, so students need to get 32 credits, that is, complete 16 courses, to receive the certificate of completion from Rikkyo for its Librarian Course.

If students do not do a library practicum, but complete all other courses, the students still qualify for the national librarian certificate. So, the biggest difference between our university’s certificate and the national certificate is whether or not the student does the library practicum.

This is the curriculum of the Librarian-teacher Program at Rikkyo University. Courses in orange color are shared with the Librarian Program. Courses with a pound sign (#) are not courses required by MEXT. Actually, MEXT only stipulates 10 credits or 5 courses, but the Rikkyo University Librarian-teacher Course requires students to complete 16 credits or 8 courses as the minimum to receive the certificate of completion from Rikkyo University.

Librarian Program – Elective Courses		RIKKYO UNIVERSITY
Compulsory elective courses	Credits	
Seminar on Library Basics - The Basics of Archives	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most classes are offered in a small class format, with about 10 students • Major changes from the MEXT curriculum are made in courses in Red.
Seminar on Library Services	2	
Seminar on Library Information Resources	2	
History of Books and Libraries	2	
Library Building and Facilities	2	
Comprehensive Seminar on Libraries	2	
Required number of credit	4	
Sum of the 14 Required courses plus the 2 Compulsory elective courses = 16 courses, 32 credits		7

Librarian-teacher Program Curriculum		RIKKYO UNIVERSITY	
	Course titles	Credit	
Required courses	Introduction to the Library #	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses in Orange are shared with the Librarian Program. • Courses with a pound sign (#) are not required by MEXT or changed from the MEXT curriculum.
	Study of Library Services #	2	
	School Management and School Libraries	2	
	Instruction and the School Library	2	
	Reading for Well-rounded individual	2	
	Utilization of Information Media	2	
	Introduction to Library Information Resources #	2	
	Introduction to Organization of Information Resources #	2	
	Required credit	16	
	Elective courses	Seminar on Library Services	
	History of Books and Libraries	2	
	Comprehensive Seminar on Libraries	2	
	Library Practicum (Librarian-teacher Course)	2	
		8	

Here is the syllabus of the “Study of Children’s Services” class taught by Ms. Keiko Aoyagi. She has been working as a librarian in Yamanashi prefecture for 8 years. She publishes books and articles about picture books and children’s literature.

【Course Objectives】 Demonstrate understanding of various services for children provided in public libraries and express opinions from own point of view. Acquire techniques to connect children and books.

【Course Contents】 Learning by doing in the following three areas by studying examples of library services for children: (1) Characteristics of children; (2) Various kinds of materials for children; (3) Techniques to connect children with books. For area (3), students engage in practical workshops of all methods of reading aloud, *Animación a la lectura*, and book talks to practice the techniques, so that they can apply the methods in library settings. *Animación a la lectura* was developed by a Spanish journalist, Ms. Montserrat Sarto, in the 1970s. She developed a series of creative activities for children to experience the fun of reading and develop their reading comprehension skills.

I am teaching a class in the Librarian-teacher Program titled “School Administration and School Libraries.” At Rikkyo University, this class is regarded as the introductory class for School Librarianship.

【Course Objectives】 Exercise intelligence to reach a deep understanding of the school library and the librarian-teacher, considering education, school education and school management. Understand the basic philosophy and theory of school libraries.

【Course Contents】 Students are required to read one or two chapters of the textbook that I wrote with a scholar of Philosophy, Dr. Tetsuya Kono, and express their thoughts on the readings. An assigned student facilitator leads each class. All classes are conducted in the style of philosophical dialogue.

The class size is small; only about 10 students register every year, so I give a lot

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Examples of Class Syllabus – Children’s Services

- “Study of Children’s Services” by Ms. Keiko Aoyagi, a librarian in a public library in Yamanashi prefecture.
- **【Course Objectives】** Demonstrate understanding of various services for children provided in public libraries and express opinions from own point of view. Acquire techniques to connect children and books.
- **【Course Contents】** Learning by doing in the following three areas by studying examples of library services for children:
 - (1) Characteristics of children; (2) Various kinds of materials for children; (3) Techniques to connect children with books. For the area of (3), students engage in practical workshops of all methods of reading aloud, *Animación a la lectura*, and book talks to practice the techniques, so that they can apply the methods in library settings.

9

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Examples of Class Syllabus – School Administration

- “School Management and the School Library” by Yuriko Nakamura
- **【Course Objectives】** Exercise intelligence to reach the deep understanding on the school library and the librarian-teacher, considering education, school education and school management. Understand the basic philosophy and theory of school libraries.
- **【Course Contents】** Students are required to read assigned one or two chapters of the textbook which Nakamura wrote with a scholar of Philosophy, Dr. Tetsuya Kono and express their thoughts. An assigned student facilitator leads each class. All classes are conducted in the style of philosophical dialogue.

10

of autonomy to the students in the class. In the first class, we assign each student as a facilitator or note-taker for the remaining 13 classes in the semester. The goal is to learn how to learn from each other in the style of a philosophical dialogue. My aim for this class is to convert the classroom into a community of inquiry.

I assigned a textbook for the course that I wrote with Dr. Kono. He studied Philosophy for Children, a field pioneered by Dr. Matthew Lipman, who was a professor of philosophy at Columbia University in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Library Practicum is one of the most distinctive characteristics of the Rikkyo Librarian Course. Since we have a long tradition of sending our students for the library practicum, we have a long list of libraries that we have contacted to find a practicum site for our students. Every year, we ask our students about their preference for the practicum site and place them in libraries. We have never failed to place our students. This is as it should be.

Library Practicum		RIKKYO UNIVERSITY				
	Summer 2015	Summer 2016	Summer 2017	Summer 2018	Summer 2019	
Librarian Program	11	7	9	26	21	
Library type:	10	5	8	20	17	
Public/academic/ /school/other	(7; 2; 1; 0)	(3; 1; 0; 1)	(6; 1; 1; 0)	(15; 3; 0; 2)	(11; 2; 1; 3)	

International Practicum started in the summer of 2016.
This elective course opportunity became available in 2018 for students who are registered only for the Librarian-teacher Program.

11

This slide shows the number of students registered for the practicum over the past five years and the number of practicum sites by library type. Note that the total number of sites is less than the number of students because at times two Rikkyo students go to the same site. Most of the students choose to do a practicum in a public library, which is actually what MEXT recommends. The International Practicum started in the summer of 2016. I am going to talk about this later.

A school library practicum opportunity became available in 2018 for students who registered for the Librarian-teacher Course only. But most of the students who want to do a practicum in a school library are studying in both of the programs, so no student registered only in the librarian-teacher track has done a library practicum.

At Rikkyo University, we have about 20,000 students and 10 Colleges. Most of the colleges have graduate schools and we also have 3 independent graduate schools. Here is the number of enrolled students in the Librarian Program and the Librarian-teacher Program at Rikkyo University. The first number outside of the parentheses is the number of all enrolled students. So, about 1% or 1.5% of all Rikkyo students enroll in our Librarian Course. Every year, about 70 to 80 new students enroll. Most of them are freshmen. The numbers in parentheses are the numbers of graduate students in the total.

More than half of the students belong to the College of Arts, like the De-

partment of Letters and the Department of History. About 10% of the students belong to the College of Sociology and 7% are students of the College of Law and Politics. Although the percentage is not high, the students from the College of Law and Politics are the ones who usually study very hard and are successful in finding library jobs.

Enrollments RIKKYO UNIVERSITY

	April 2015	April 2016	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019
Librarian Program	309 (9)	308 (6)	309 (6)	309 (6)	286 (5)
Librarian-teacher Program	43 (5)	39 (2)	43 (2)	47 (4)	53 (4)

All enrolled students.
 Parentheses: the number of graduate students in the total enrollment.

Colleges that many students belongs to
 65% – College of Arts
 10% – College of Sociology
 7% – College of Law and Politics

12

Here is data showing the number of students who received a certificate of completion for the Librarian Program or the Librarian-teacher Program at Rikkyo University during the past five years. For the Librarian Program, the numbers in the middle row indicate the number of students who just finished the coursework required in the Library Law, but did not finish all courses required in the Librarian Course of Rikkyo University. Many graduate students choose this option. For the Librarian-teacher Program, the number outside of the parentheses is the number of all students who received a certificate.

Certificates Conferred (2014-2019) RIKKYO UNIVERSITY

	March 2014	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019
Librarian Program	14	18	3	7	13
National Librarian Certificate only	16	18	14	21	34
Librarian-teacher Program	10	4	4	11	2

This table shows the number of students who received a certificate upon graduation in March.

- Librarian Program: the first row indicates the number of students who received a certificate for both completion of the Rikkyo program and national certification. The second row indicates the number of students who completed only the courses required for national certification.

13

In comparing the number of students who register every year, which is about 70 to 80, about 10 to 20% of students are awarded the certificate of completion annually. The option to complete only the courses required by MEXT and receive just the national certificate has gotten more and more popular in recent years. The overall completion rate depends on the school year because many students' priority is the coursework for their major and sometimes students are challenged by conflicts in their class schedules.

Only full-time librarian jobs with lifetime employment are listed in the next slide. As you see, only one or two students every year choose a career in the field of libraries. On the other hand, not shown in this table are the many students who pass civil service exams or get jobs as staff in information technology companies. They might be working as information specialists or even as librarians. Some students move on to study Library Science in a master's program in Library and Information Science, such as at Keio University and the University of Tsukuba.

I am a tenured faculty member in the Department of Education of the Graduate School of Arts at Rikkyo University. If students want to study Library Science, they can do so as part of the Science of Education degree.

At least once a year, the Librarian Course sponsors events that are open to the public. The themes of these lectures and symposia usually include an international aspect. While not part of the Librarian Course, as a professor belonging to the Graduate School of Arts, I can accept international scholars and students as well as invite international scholars for lectures. In 2017, we invited Dr. Sandy Hirsh from San José State to our university. A master's student from the Catholic University of Leuven is studying library history under my guidance this year.

The International Practicum started in the summer of 2016. The first site was a library attached to the Anglican theological college in Hong Kong. Last year, we sent students to the National Taiwan University Library. This year, two are going to Germany and one is going to Australia. The official communication language is English. However, some students choose to do their library practicum abroad because they expect to have opportunities to use another language they are studying, such as Chinese.

Osaka Kyoiku University is a national university in Osaka, which has a single department, the Faculty of Education. We all know that this is one of the leading producers of qualified teachers in Japan. The number of undergraduate and graduate students totals approximately 4,700. All students belong to the Faculty of Education. There is a Librarian certificate program, but the more popular program is the librarian-teacher certificate program. It offers the program for undergraduate and graduate students. More than 2 classes of each of these 5 courses are offered on both of the university's two campuses in Osaka prefecture. In 2018, 20 classes were offered for the librarian-teacher certificate on the two campuses. The size of the classes ranges from four to over 100. Over 100 students registered for each course in the last two years.

Job Hunting Results

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	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019
Librarian	Utsunomiya City Library	None	Yokohama City Library	None	Research Organization of Information and Systems
Graduate School majoring LS		Keio University University of Tsukuba		Rikkyo University	

Only full-time librarian jobs with lifetime employment are listed.

Many students passed civil service exams, not included in this table.

Many students find jobs in information technology companies, not in this table.

14

International Aspects

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- Sponsoring events that are open to the public
The themes of these lectures and symposia usually include the international aspect.
- Accepting international scholars and students
 - Dr. Joan Portell Rifà from Autonomous University of Barcelona
 - Dr. Sandra Hirsh from San Jose State University
 - Dr. Gao Bo from South China Normal University
- International Library Practicum
The number of students (the number of practicum sites)

	Summer 2016	Summer 2017	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
International practicum	3 (1)	0 (0)	4 (2)	3 (2)

15

In addition, a summer school session for the librarian-teacher certificate is held every year, mainly for teachers and prospective teachers. Similar summer schools are held all over Japan. As mentioned earlier, they are funded by MEXT, so students do not need to pay fees. In the case of Osaka Kyoiku University, two courses are offered every summer, as you see in the table. The numbers in parentheses are the number of practicing teachers in the total enrollment.

Summer School in Osaka Kyoiku University RIKKYO UNIVERSITY

- A national university in Osaka which is a single-department college of the Faculty of Education
 - One of the leading producers of qualified teachers in Japan
- Summer school for the Librarian-teacher certificate is held mainly for teachers and prospective teachers; funded by MEXT, free of charge.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
School Management and the School Library			102(94)		118(92)	
Instruction and the School Library	87(83)			92(77)		
Reading for Well-rounded Individual	91(86)		94(81)			82(76)
Utilization of Information Media		86(77)			47(45)	
Organization of School Library Media		105(97)		136(86)		48(46)

The table above show the number of attendees in summer sessions.
The number in parentheses is the number of practicing teachers in the total number of attendees.

16

Now I would like to introduce the case of Fuji Women’s University, a Catholic school based in Sapporo with 2,000 students, which means about one-tenth of the number of students of Rikkyo University. Interestingly, a very similar number of students register for the librarian certification programs at this university and at Rikkyo.

Fuji Women’s University RIKKYO UNIVERSITY

- A Catholic school based in Sapporo, with about 2,000 students in two faculties: Humanities; and Human Life Sciences
- Course for Library and Information Studies established in 2001. Any FWU student may enroll.
- School Librarian Program created in April 2018, based on the model curriculum by MEXT is very popular among students.
 - The numbers of new enrollment in Librarian Program; Librarian-teacher Program; School Librarian Program (along with Librarian Program/School Librarian Program)

	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019
Librarian Program	69	72	51
Librarian-teacher Program	4	3	5
School Librarian Program	-	43(42/1)	35(30/5)

17

I am introducing their program because Professor Shimoda is a member of the planning committee for this event. Also, their Course for Library and Information Studies just started to offer a program for School Librarians in 2018. All of the students in the new program are also registered either for the Librarian Program or the Librarian-teacher Program so that they can receive one of the two national certificates. Thirty students out of 35 registered for both the Librarian Program and the School Librarian Program this year, and all the students who registered for the Librarian-teacher Program registered for the School Librarian model curriculum at the same time. We cannot yet see how many of them will receive a certificate or finish all of the required courses for the School Librarian Program, but it seems like the newly founded School Librarian Program is very popular among students even though it is not a program for a national certificate.

This paper is based on a presentation given in the symposium, “Road to the Future: School and Children’s Librarianship 子どものための図書館サービス専門職養成の国際動向” held on August 4, 2019 in Sapporo, Japan.

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