

Libraries

1. Outline (Library Act, Article 2, 7-2)

Libraries are social education facilities that have a base in law.

Libraries mean the facilities that aim to collect, arrange and preserve books, archives and other necessary data and materials for the purpose of offering them for public use, so as to serve people’s cultural attainments and contribute to research, surveys, recreation, etc.

Desirable standards for the establishment and operation of libraries are provided by the Minister and shown to the public, with a view to promoting the sound development of libraries.

2. Number of Libraries and Number of Books Borrowed

The number of libraries and the number of books are increasing annually.

	FY1999	FY2002	FY2005
Number of Libraries	2,592	2,742	2,979
Number of Books borrowed (during the previous year)	479,970	520,822	580,726

3. Librarians

Outline of the Librarian System (Library Act, Article 4)

A librarian is a specialist-employee placed in a library, in accordance with the Library Act, who engages in the specialized work of the library.

Number of Librarians and Employees

The number of librarians and other employees are increasing annually.

	FY1999	FY2002	FY2005
Number of Librarians	9,783	10,977	12,781
(average per facility)	(3.8)	(4.0)	(4.3)
Number of Library staff	24,844	27,276	30,660
(average per facility)	(9.6)	(9.9)	(10.3)

Qualifications System (Library Act, Article 5)

- (1) University (junior college) training course (provided by 218 universities (FY2007))
Graduates of universities and completion of university training course (24 credits over 13 courses (starting from 2012))
- (2) Training course (provided at 13 universities (FY2008))
Graduation of universities (or 3 years of work experience) and completion of training course (24 credits over 13 courses (starting from 2012))

Museums

1. Outline (Museum Act, Article 2.8)

Museums are social education facilities that have a base in law.

The purpose of these facilities is to collect, to keep in custody (inclusive of to foster), to exhibit and offer materials on history, art, folks, industries and natural science for public use in an educational perspective, and to conduct necessary business to serve people's cultural attainments, research, surveys, recreation, etc., and to conduct re-search and surveys concerning these materials.

Desirable standards for the establishment and management of museums are provided by the Minister and shown to the public, to develop the museums soundly.

2. Outline of the Museum System

Type	Founding Body	Requisites of Establishment	Number (as of Oct., 2005)
Registered museum	Local government General incorporated associations General incorporated foundations etc.	A Director and a curator are required Must be open at least 150 days annually In the case of local government, the museum will be under the board of education's jurisdiction, etc	865
Facility equivalent to museum	No restrictions	Staff equivalent to a curator are absolutely required Must be open at least 100 days annually, etc	331

3. Number of Museums and Number of Users

The number of museums is increasing annually in recent years.

	FY1999	FY2002	FY2005
No. of Museums	5,003	5,261	5,527
No. of Users (1000s)	280,649	269,503	272,682

(Note) 1. The number of museums for 2004, excludes the (87) museums that had yet opened by the end of FY2005 and which newly opened in FY 2006 (the same applies for the numbers in other years, too).

4. Curators

Outline of the Curator System (Museum Act, Article 5)

A curator is a specialist-employee placed in a museum, in accordance with the Museum Act, who engages in the specialized work of the museum.

Number of Curators and Employees

The number of Curators and other employees are increasing annually.

	FY1999	FY2002	FY2005
No. of Curators	5,328	5,636	6,224
(average per facility)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)
No. of Museum employees	40,462	43,054	44,619
(average per facility)	(8.1)	(8.2)	(8.1)

Qualifications System (Museum Act, Article 5)

- (1) University (junior college) training course (provided by 317 universities (FY2007))
 - ① A Bachelor' s degree and completion of university training course (comprising of 19 credits over 9 courses (starting from 2012))
 - ② Attendance of universities (junior colleges) for two years or more, acquirement of 62 credits or more and completion of university training course (19 credits over 9 courses (starting from 2012)) and 3 years of work experience
- (2) Certification exams (262 persons applied (FY2008))
 - ① The exam certification
It is administered once a year around November
 - ② The screen certification (until 2012 "non- exam" certification)
It is granted by the Minister based on experience and knowledge relating to museums.

Further Information about Social Education

Booklets

1. Basic Act on Education, Social Education Act, Library Act, Museum Act
2. Kominkan: Community Learning Centers (CLCs) of Japan
3. Present Status of Museum in Japan
4. The Kominkan (produced by the National Kominkan Association)

(Note) All booklets can be downloaded at the Website of MEXT

(Japanese) http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/01_1.htm

Web

1. Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
(English) <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/>
(Japanese) http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/01_1.htm
2. Practical Social Education Research Center
National Institute for Educational Policy Research of Japan
(English) <http://www.nier.go.jp/English/index.html>
(Japanese) <http://www.nier.go.jp/jissen/index.htm>
3. National Kominkan Association
(Japanese) http://www.kominkan.or.jp/index_f.html
4. Japan Library Association
(English) <http://www.jla.or.jp/index-e.html>
5. Japanese Association of Museum
(Japanese) <http://www.j-muse.jp/>
6. National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan
(English) <http://www.unesco.jp/en/index.html>
7. Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
(English) <http://www.accu.or.jp/en/>