

Japanese Public Library Development  
in the Meiji Period

明治期に於ける公共図書館

*Shigeo Watanabe*

渡 辺 茂 男

要 旨

明治期に於ける公共図書館の発展については、竹林熊彦「近世日本文庫史」、小野則秋「日本図書館史」、武居権内「日本図書館学史序説」等の我国の図書館史に関する基本的な著作にくわしく紹介され、また、近くは、小倉親雄“パブリック・ライブラリーの思想とわが国の公共図書館”の論文などがある。更に、個々の図書館の研究調査による夫々の図書館史は、必ずといってもよいほど、明治期における創設の経緯に触れている。また、当時における館報や図書館案内、或いは、文部省の調査報告等研究資料として有用なものも少なくない。

このような資料によって、明治期に於ける公共図書館の発展の推移を探求することは、国内に於ては、それ程困難な作業ではなく、また、今後の研究課題としても尚多くの興味ある問題を含んでいる。

然しながら、海外の図書館人及び図書館学研究者にとっては、日本の図書館史は、依然として、その大部分が未知の領域であり、直接手にしうる文献は稀少である。また、時期的にも、明治開国百年を迎えて、日本文化の再評価が、国外に於て盛んになりつつある折から、明治期に於ける日本の公共図書館事情を紹介することも一つの意義あることと考えてこの論文をまとめた次第である。

内容は I. 明治文化の先駆者による外国図書館事情の紹介, II. 明治初期の教育的背景, III. 京都の集書院, IV. 書籍館より東京図書館, V. 地方に於ける公共図書館の発展, VI. 図書館令の6章である。

わが国の図書館事情に不案内の外国の研究者に理解できるよう、社会的背景、時代感覚などに触れ、また、図書館規則などについても、可能な限り一次資料を参考として、具体例を取上げたつもりである。

(図書館学科)

- I. Enlightenment by Reports on Western Countries
- II. Educational Background prior to Opening of the  
First Public Library
- III. Shūshoin in Kyoto
- IV. Shojakukan to Tokyo Toshokan
- V. Local Public Library Movements
- VI. The Library Ordinance
- Conclusion

## I. Enlightenment by Reports on Western Countries

As in other societies, ancient and modern, the Japanese had to cope with the keeping of books, historical and religious records, and representations for well over 1,200 years. Collections of Buddhist scriptures and literature in famous temples and monasteries in the 7th and the 8th centuries were inherited to aristocratic families of the Heian period (the 8th–the 12th century). The following four centuries—days dominated by feudal lords, which correspond to the Middle Ages in Europe, Japan maintained a high cultural standard. A number of feudal lords owned fine personal libraries, such as Kanazawa Bunko<sup>1)</sup> still existing in the present Yokohama City, and Ashikaga Gakko.<sup>2)</sup>

During the Edo period (the 17th and the 18th centuries) under the Tokugawa Shogunate successive Shoguns and feudal clans encouraged establishment of schools and libraries. Shoheiko<sup>3)</sup> was under the direct control of the Tokugawa government. The core collection of the Naikaku Bunko<sup>4)</sup> was originally a private collection of the first Shogun and was kept under the custody of library keepers for about two hundred and fifty years.

But “it was not until the second half of the 19th century that the Japanese had [our] first exposure to libraries of the West.”<sup>5)</sup> As a member of the mission sent abroad Yukichi Fukuzawa, who later became the founder of Keio University, had visited many Western countries. To enlighten the Japanese people of customs and societies about which we were only then gaining the slightest inkling of awareness he wrote his *Seiyo Jijo* (Things Western) in the second year of Keio (1866), which included a chapter on the libraries he had observed. The libraries introduced in his book were the British Museum Library, the Imperial Library of Russia in St. Petersburg, and La Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

Fukuzawa stated in his *Things Western*:

“There are libraries in cities of Western countries. They are called Bibliothèques. In

those libraries there are large number of books in many languages. The collections contain not only books and pictures for daily use but also old and rare materials. And the people have freedom to visit the libraries to read books there. They are permitted to read books in the libraries but not to take them home. The library in London has 800,000 volumes. The library in St. Petersburg has 900,000 volumes and the library in Paris has 1,500,000 volumes... While some libraries belong to national governments others belong to the public. One copy of every book published within a nation is automatically sent to the national library. The libraries also generally buy foreign books...<sup>6)</sup>

In his article Fukuzawa mentioned the existence of two different types of libraries—governmental and public—and the system of copyright deposit.

But it is more interesting to know that there had been other people who had reported about some of the public libraries in the United States before Fukuzawa did. Among those a person named Okataro Morita, one of the subordinate members of the First Envoy to America in 1860 described rather fully in his diary a large public library in New York City. He states in his diary something like this:

“Envoy Extraordinary and his subordinates were most cordially met by the head of the library. The head explained that the library did not belong to the national government but was run by the citizens. The building was amazingly huge as a library and four storied high. The head also said that when it was needed a book could be taken out, and if requested by a scholar in a foreign country a book could be sent out overseas. ...Then, we were guided to the section of the stackroom where Japanese materials were kept. Those materials had been brought in by Philipp Franz von Siebold...All the books were very neatly arranged on shelves... We appreciated kindness of the head of the library so much that we

invited him for a dinner. But he said that he liked to be excused because of another engagement. So we left his office...<sup>7)</sup>

Since the Lenox Library was built in 1877 and Samuel Jones Tilden left his money for the Tilden Library in 1886, the library mentioned here must have been the Astor Library.

Other emissaries were sent abroad. In the fourth year of Meiji (1871) the embassy headed by Iwakura, junior prime-minister, was dispatched to America and Europe. One of the objects aimed at in this embassy was an investigation of the educational institutions and administration of these countries. One of the ambassadors was especially charged with the duty of studying and reporting upon education. Fujimaro Tanaka accompanied the embassy as a special commissioner on this subject.

They returned to Japan in the sixth year of Meiji (1873). The results were embodied in an extended report *Record of Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary Visits to America and Europe, 5 volumes*, published in the 11th year of Meiji (1878). The report included impressions on their visits to a number of famous libraries in these countries.

They visited Philadelphia on June 24 in 1872.

"The library at the corner of 5th Street and Chestnut Avenue was built in 1731 by a famous scholar, Benjamin Franklin..."<sup>8)</sup> Other libraries they visited in Philadelphia were Loganian Library and a certain Marchantile Library which they described as "here they have books and newspapers specially collected for marchants' use...The Library of this city used to be the largest in this country but now the library in New York has out-grown it..."<sup>9)</sup>

The library built by Benjamin Franklin was, of course, "the oldest and most famous of all subscription libraries that formed by Benjamin Franklin in 1731 and later named the Philadelphia Library Company."<sup>10)</sup> The Loganian Library was "a private collection of classical literature which was taken over by Philadelphia Library Company."<sup>11)</sup> But as for a certain Marchantile Library the author of this article is not able to trace the exact origin and its location.

June 26, they visited the Astor Library in New York City, August 25, the British Museum Library, January 6, 1873, La Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, April 7, the Imperial Library of Russia in St. Petersburg and some others. They seemed to be most impressed by La Bibliothèque Nationale:

"June 6. Fine.

In the afternoon we visited the great library. It was situated near the Royal Palace. In the huge stacks of five floors three million books were stored. They were arranged by titles of books in alphabetical order... The floor between shelves was built by iron pannels with many holes, so that enough light went through those holes to lower level floors... There was a lift at each corner of every floor to move the books... So the users did not have to wait more than a few minutes before they got books they had requested...

The library was operated by tax income of the government so the citizens were eligible to read the books without charge. There was a large reading room near the entrance, where several hundred people could seat... There was a section in the stackroom where they kept foreign books. Those included Chinese, Indian, Burmese, Arabian, and Persian books."<sup>12)</sup>

In that section they were surprised to find a copy of Bible that had been translated into Japanese in the 16th century.

Fujimaro Tanaka returned to America on the occasion of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition (the year of the founding of the American Library Association). Later as the Vice Minister of Education he urged the significance for establishing public libraries in *the Fourth Annual Report of the Ministry of Education*. He said, "The fact that only few public libraries have been built while the system of public schools is rapidly developing is a serious problem in the education as a whole. I urge those who are concerned with education to have a thorough understanding of the merit of public libraries and to make plans for establishing them..."<sup>13)</sup>

In the fourth year of Meiji (1871), Seiryū Ichikawa, the editorial staff of the Department of Education wrote *Memorial on Building the Library*.<sup>14)</sup> In his representation he stressed the importance of the public library function that would greatly contribute to the nation's cultural advancement. In his plan for building a new library he quoted his impression of the British Museum Library he himself had visited a few years before.

His plan stated :

“The library building should be located on an eminence not far from the center of the city. The building must be big enough with a spacious reading room surrounded by shelves, on which books should be properly arranged by classes. The library must be open to the public in order to be used for research, study, editing, and writing purposes...<sup>15)</sup>

His proposal materialized establishment of the Tokyo Shojakukan, the first government library opened for the public in 1872.

Tanetaro Megata, a staff member of the Department of Education, went to America as the supervisor of the students sent abroad from the Tokyo Kaisei Gakko (the predecessor of Tokyo University). Megata, who had studied law at Harvard University, stayed this time in Boston from 1875 to 1879. He introduced many aspects of American education—school systems, social work, education for women, etc.—and published two books; *Copy Right* and *Introduction to Legislation*. He also wrote two important essays about libraries in the United States. The first was *About Libraries* appeared on *Kyoiku Zasshi* (Journal of Education), no. 80, Oct. 23, 1878 published by the Department of Education and the second was *About the Public Library* on no. 97, May 15, 1879 issue of the same journal.

The former, in its introductory paragraphs, quoted the statistics from U. S. Education Bureau: *Special report on public libraries in the U.S., 1876* and viewed development of public libraries in the past one hundred years in America. And the main portion of the article introduced, taking examples from Bos-

ton Public Library, card catalog, circulation system, overdue fine, children's room, branch system, and library display, etc., and the reference service of the Harvard University Library was also mentioned here.

In the latter Megata emphasized the librarians' efforts in America to meet community demands and referred to the significance of circulation, informal attitude of librarians toward patrons and meaning of book selection.

He wrote :

“In 1876, the number of libraries in America was 3,682 and the number of books was 27 million.<sup>16)</sup> In 1877 the number of libraries in Japan is 16 and the number of books is 449,850... We have had schools and libraries in our country's long history. Yet because of our feudalistic tradition they were completely isolated from general public. Today it is an urgent necessity to utilize these schools and libraries to educate general public. Only after people become to recognize the benefit of free education, they cannot appreciate the advantage public libraries can offer them...

The reason why our existing libraries are so little used may be found in the high rate of illiteracy among our people or in that the system of our libraries does not meet needs and demands of our general public... (In American public libraries) they do not regulate or direct their users as they do upon pupils in schools in accordance with the curricula. They select books based upon public demands and advise patrons to use books for individual needs... To beckon as many people as possible they build libraries, both its appearance and atmosphere, are built upon authoritative officialdom. Thus timid public would stay away from the libraries. This must be changed.<sup>17)</sup>

## II. Educational Background prior to Opening of the First Public Library

Right after the Meiji Restoration the new government of Japan started a preliminary survey of school systems in Europe and America. In the fourth year of Meiji (1871),

the feudal clans were abolished and prefectures established. In the same year the Department of Education was formed which immediately started to plan a unified school system throughout the country. The first foundation of Japanese education then was laid by the government by promulgation of Gakusei (Code of Education) in the fifth year of Meiji (1872).

“The deliberations of the Department of Education resulted, in the seventh month of A.D. 1872, in the issue of an important code of education. It was intended to include the principles and regulations necessary for all classes of schools in the empire. In the subsequent years it has been found necessary to alter and amend this code in many particulars, but in the main it has proved a valuable and satisfactory manual for the administration of school affairs.”<sup>18)</sup>

Thereafter all the private schools that had existed from the preceding era came under the supervision of the Department of Education and were reorganized to the new school system of three fundamental levels—primary, secondary, and higher education. In other words modern educational system and philosophy were adopted by the government and the compulsory education was started. Under this system the emphasis was put on the primary education.

In the same year, prior to the proclamation of the Code of Education, the first normal school was established in Tokyo and in the subsequent years a few others were opened in other prefectures for teacher education.

By the eighth year of Meiji (1875), the number of primary schools amounted more than 24,000<sup>19)</sup> throughout the country even though individual schools were very small in size.

The Code of Education adopted by the early Meiji government, however, being a quick adaptation of school systems in Europe and America, had to be revised within a few years' time since its enforcement.

In the twelfth year of Meiji (1879), the government proclaimed Kyoikurei (Education Ordinance) and abolished the Code of Education. Comparing with the former Code the

new Education Ordinance gave more power to local authorities of administering the public schools. “The Ordinance reflects the philosophy of Fujimaro Tanaka and the trait and opinion of the contemporary general public and as a whole it was strongly influenced by American democracy.”<sup>20)</sup> The Ordinance was later amended and revised twice in the thirteenth year of Meiji (1880) and the eighteenth year of Meiji (1885). “The former revision included addition of Regulations of Establishing and Abolishing Prefectural Schools, Kindergartens, Libraries, etc.”<sup>21)</sup>

As this very brief trace shows the Meiji government in early years put much effort to develop education for the public and was flexible enough to meet demands and needs of the people. But it was only natural for the government to put stronger emphasis upon the formal and compulsory education rather than upon the informal and popular education, for which the public library was one of the most important agencies.

Notwithstanding Shojakukan (the Library), the first public library of Japan, had its early start in 1872, the official ordinance for developing public libraries was enacted not until toward the very end of Meiji period; that was the thirty second year of Meiji (1899).

### III. Shūshoin in Kyoto

The first library that was opened for the public since the Meiji Restoration may be Shūsho Gaisha (the Library Company) established in Kyoto. In April of the fifth year of Meiji (1872), four residents of Kyoto including two book sellers started the company with the business of 1) collecting Japanese and Chinese books and foreign books brought in from Western countries and their Japanese translations, magazines and newspapers and 2) commission sales of private collections. And they made books that they had collected available for public reading in the company's reading room. They also had a small rental collection.

In September of the same year the local authority of Kyoto Fu (prefecture) established Shūshoin. At its opening the Kyoto Prefectural

Government issued a special announcement in order to draw public attention. It said:

“By virtue of schools we expect no home in the community is without receiving education and no child of families is without having privilege of being sent to the school. Yet there are the old and the young among people and occupations differ greatly one from the other that there may be those who are not able to receive benefit of the school education... Abundance of new books and valuable materials are being published month after month and it is impossible for schools to acquire all of them. Therefore we establish Shūshoin (the Library) and open its collection for public reading... We suggest you to come to the library at your convenience.”<sup>22)</sup>

In fact, management of the Shūshoin was entrusted to the Library Company since its beginning until the latter ceased its management in the ninth year of Meiji (1876) with its own business because of the lack of financial support. The Shūshoin then was maintained by the Kyoto Prefectural Government for a following few years and closed in the fifteenth year of Meiji (1882).

Around the same period such small enterprises as Shoseki Jūransho (the public reading place of books), Shinbun Jūransho (the public reading place of newspapers), and rental book stores were popular among the public who were eager about absorbing knowledge of new civilization.

#### IV. Shojakukan to Tokyo Toshokan

The Department of Education established the Shojakukan (the Library) in April 1872. It was the first government-supported public library in Japan and was opened on August 1 of that year, using the Shoheiko (the old university lecture hall) at Yushima, Tokyo, as its temporary reading room. It was opened “to educate men of talent and for cultural advancement...”<sup>23)</sup> and permitted “general public to come and read books they want...”<sup>24)</sup> as stated in the announcement made by the Department of Education.

The collection included Chinese books that had belonged to Shoheiko, Japanese and foreign books that had belonged to the medical school and Kaisei School—the schools later unified as the Tokyo Imperial University—and also valuable items donated by the former feudal clans. By the end of the year the library acquired 44,395 Japanese, 63,075 Chinese, 156 English, 6,062 Dutch titles totaling at 110,988 volumes.<sup>25)</sup>

It was legitimate at that time that they did not circulate books because the books had been considered as extremely valuable items. This traditional concept toward books might be the reason for preventing more democratic way of operating the library. They grouped the collection into two classes—high and popular by content—and charged fee on monthly basis for reading these two classes of books accordingly. “The library was open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for both the noble and the poor.”<sup>26)</sup> Smoking, reading aloud, loud talk, dirty clothing, etc. were prohibited by the library regulations.

This library was introduced to foreign countries on the occasion of the Philadelphia International Exhibition in 1876. *An Outline History of Japanese Education* prepared for that exhibition by the Department of Education lists the items used for the display: “1. Photographs of the Tokio Public Library. 2. Historical Account of the Tokio Public Library, 3. Regulations and catalogue of the Tokio Public Library.”<sup>27)</sup>

The following descriptions were quoted from the same book:

“2. *Libraries and Museums.*—From the time of the recent transformation of the Government, the collection of books has become necessary for the use of the departments and the institutions of learning. The first public library, however, under the new régime, has been opened in the capital by the Department of Education. It was first organized in 1872 and then contained only Japanese and Chinese books. In 1875 it was reorganized on a larger basis and now contains a valuable collection of foreign as well as native literature. The leading periodicals,

both in Japanese and foreign languages, are kept on file. It is free to the public, and is designed as a general library, to be annually increased by the expenditure of a stated sum."<sup>28)</sup>

"Tokio Public Library—In the eighth month of this year (1872) the Department of Education opened a public library. It was divided into two sections. In one were placed rare books, which were carefully guarded and preserved, and in the other common works intended for the use of the public. At first this library contained only Japanese and Chinese works, but in the year 1875 a large addition was made of foreign works. It is now kept in the old Temple of Confucius, which belonged to the College of Confucius, established under the shoguns. The library is free to the public, and contains a valuable collection of native and foreign books as well as newspapers and other periodicals."<sup>29)</sup>

The Shojakukan at Yushima, in the sixth year of Meiji (1873), came under supervision of the executive office for Vienna World Fair temporarily for uncertain reasons and its collection was transferred to an old warehouse at Asakusa. This a few month later was opened as the Asakusa Bunko, of which supervision went into the hand of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In February, the eighth year of Meiji (1875), the Department of Education with a new plan decided to form an independent library. The plan was approved by the government and it was named as the Tokyo Shojakukan. For the first time books were classified in 6 classes by a modern scheme of classification—an adaptation of Chinese and Western classification schemes—and catalogued properly. In addition the Tokyo Shojakukan did not charge its users with fee that it may be regarded as the first free public library opened in Japan. "When the library was opened it had 32,970 volumes of books and 74 titles of magazines and newspapers."<sup>30)</sup> Month after month the number of the library users increased and the following year the library extended its opening hours till 10 p.m. and started circulation of duplicate

copies of Japanese and Chinese titles. It is worthy to note that the Tokyo Shojakukan opened a branch in the campus of Kaisei School. The branch library was maintained as a law library, which again may be the first departmentalization by subject of the public library.

A law enacted in 1875 required two copies of all publications to be submitted for censorship, at first to the Department of Education, and later to the Ministry of Home Affairs; in each case, one of the copies was transferred to the Tokyo Shojakukan, and later to the Imperial Library.

The Tokyo Shojakukan showed fast strides toward developing an ideal public library service until it faced with sudden decline due to outbreak of a civil war in the country. The government ordered the retrenchment of national expenditures, by which the Department of Education had to close the Tokyo Shojakukan. In 1877 the Tokyo Metropolitan Office succeeded its operation from the government till the library again passed to the control of the Department of Education in 1880. This time the name was again changed to Tokyo Toshokan (the Tokyo Library).

The Tokyo Library was open free of charge for any resident in the country. However, as a rule, books were not circulated except to those who obtained a special permission from the Minister of Education. "Those who were eligible for the special permission included teaching staff of public institutions, staff of government offices, and those whose capacities would be value for education."<sup>31)</sup> "Those at the same time had to submit proofs of their residences in Tokyo."<sup>32)</sup> The Tokyo Library became very popular among public being known as Yushima Library or Seido Library being named after its location.

In 1885, the Tokyo Library was moved from its old Yushima Seido to Annex of the National Museum in Ueno Park. (This building was later occupied by the Tokyo Fine Arts College). Soon after that, the stackrooms and the reading rooms were built there. As mentioned before the Tokyo Library had become very popular as a free public library open for the grown-ups

and students as well. The number of users increased year after year and the library was crowded with users to the extent that it could hardly maintain an atmosphere of quiet public study. With that reasoning the library again started to charge its users with entrance fee. It also closed the door in the evening with reasoning of its remote and inconvenient location from the city center and put further limitation on circulating the books for the special users.

The library had 162,568 volumes (144,901 Japanese and Chinese, and 17,567 Western books) including the transferred collection from the Museum.<sup>33)</sup>

During this period there were two person-ages of distinction in relation with the development of the Tokyo Library.

Seiichi Tejima, then the director of the library, sent Inaki Tanaka to America and England for library study. Inaki Tanaka, after graduating from the Department of Literature of the Tokyo Imperial University, became an assistant professor of the university. In 1886 he joined the staff of the Department of Education, and the same year entered the Tokyo Library. In 1888 he was dispatched to investigate library work in foreign countries for a year and a half. On his return, he was promoted to a professor of the Tokyo Imperial University and the director of the Tokyo Library. In 1893 he became the full time director of the Library and devoted his whole life to develop Japanese library service. He did everything in his power to meet the demands of the new age, by enlarging both buildings and collections. The establishment of the Imperial Library in later years owes much to his foresight and actual contribution.

Furthermore, he promoted the co-operation of library workers by organizing the Japan Library Association and enlightened them through his book, *Library Management*, published in 1900, and by writing many essays.

The Tokyo Library, with outstanding leadership of Seiichi Tejima and his successor Inaki Tanaka, continued its services for both preservation of the cultural heritage and enlighten-

ment of the public. In other words it carried two functions of archives or research library and of popular public library.

But its moving to Ueno Park gradually resulted, with foregoing reasons, in changing its character to a reference library and off-limited use of younger generation under 15 years of age in 1888.

This change of the library character, however, did not stir the public opinion because another phase of library was developing in the society. That was local public library movements initiated and supported by Dai Nihon Kyōikukai (The Japan Education Association).

But before we see the development of local public libraries, the author of this article likes to conclude this chapter with a brief sketch of further development of the Tokyo Library, quoted from Esdaile:

“In March 1889, the official constitution of the Tokyo Library was instituted by an Imperial ordinance. Then on February 10, 1896, a draft memorial for the establishment of the Imperial Library was submitted and passed by both houses of the Japanese Parliament. In April 1897, the official constitution of the Imperial Library was approved, and the name “The Tokyo Library” changed to “The Imperial Library.” It was decided to enlarge the scope of the library, and during the eight years from 1896–1906, a new building was erected. Thus the national library of Japan was firmly established...”<sup>34)</sup>

#### V. Local Public Library Movements

According to “the Department of Education Annual Report” of the fifteenth year of Meiji (1882) the Tokyo Library “had 20,123 Japanese and Chinese titles and 4,504 Western titles available for public reading...There were 80,850 users in a year, 257 per day, and 5 books per person... There were 17 municipal and private libraries in areas other than Tokyo...the grand total of users of all 17 libraries was 53,807 in a year and 14 per day...”<sup>35)</sup> This comparison shows that the library development outside Tokyo was very slow.

During Meiji 20s rapid improvement and



Japanese Public Library Development in the Meiji Period

reform were observed in the realm of formal education but the government took no active measure for developing local libraries. The number of libraries existed in this decade was as follows:

“ Meiji 19 (1886)	20
” 20	15
” 21	19
” 22	16
” 23	19
” 24	19
” 25	24
” 26	25
” 27	25
” 28 (1895)	25 <sup>36)</sup>

The government was slow to establish public libraries in local areas by its own measure but it encouraged with the official approval to establish the libraries by private donations. The Japan Education Association (later changed its name to the Imperial Education Association) was one of the most eager and strongest organizations who actively initiated establishing private libraries open for public.

In 1887 the Association opened its own library in the Kanda office in Tokyo. Two years later the Tokyo Library officially decided to support it as a branch for popular reading by lending out a part of the collection semi-permanently.<sup>37)</sup>

Thus the Kyōikukai Shojakukan was opened at a new site in the same Kanda area of Tokyo. Seiichi Tejima and Inaki Tanaka of the Tokyo Library gave advices for its operation as the council members of the Education Association Library. Since the main purpose of the library was to meet demands of general public in the community it was open day and evening for any patrons including children. This library many years later became one of Tokyo City libraries known as Hitotsubashi Library.

Success of the Kyōiku Shojakukan in Tokyo stimulated local education associations. Year after year public libraries were donated by the local education associations to various prefectures and cities throughout the country:

Meiji 21 (1888) Kōchi Toshokan

Meiji 23 (1890) Kyoto Kyōikukai Toshokan. Became the Kyoto Prefectural Library in Meiji 31 (1898)

Meiji 25 (1892) Chiba Kyōiku Shojakukan. Became Chiba Prefectural Library in Taishō 13 (1924)<sup>38)</sup>

Meiji 32 (1899) Hokkaidō Kyōikukai Toshokan<sup>39)</sup>

Meiji 35 (1902) Ōita Kyōikukai Toshokan. Became the Ōita Prefectural Library.

Meiji 36 (1903) Yamagata Kyōikukai Toshokan

Meiji 38 (1905) Kagawa Kyōikukai Toshokan

Meiji 40 (1907) Shinano Toshokan. Became the Nagano Prefectural Library in Showa 4 (1929)<sup>40)</sup>

During this period the Library Ordinance was promulgated by the government in 1899. And after the ordinance was enacted a number of foregoing education association libraries were passed to the local government control. Besides, rate-supported public libraries began to appear in various parts of the country.

The Tokyo City Library, it was called Hibiya Library more popularly then, was opened toward the end of 1908 at the present site in Hibiya Park. Immediately it became very popular and an early issue of the library guide was describing the scene.

“In spite of the fact that the library was open only for 35 days in the year of its opening the service was very much appreciated by the public and the statistics showed more than 600 clients came to the library per day that meant 50% over the library capacity. Especially the children’s room was overcrowded on Saturdays and Sundays by so many children as ten times larger than the room could accommodate that the library had to convert the periodical room and the lounge to temporary children’s rooms... The library sponsored a story hour conducted by voluntary teachers and writers of children’s books...”<sup>41)</sup>

“In Osaka, the second largest city of Japan, the Osaka Shojakukan was opened as early as

the ninth year of Meiji (1876) by the local authority of the prefectural government. The Osaka Shojakukan consisted of two small libraries located in two different elementary schools. By the eleventh year of Meiji (1879) it grew to a fairly sizable library of 2,640 titles and 18,000 volumes. Ten years later in 1889 it had to be closed for financial difficulty of Osaka Prefectural Government.<sup>42)</sup>

The Present Osaka Prefectural Library was built originally by single donation of Kichizae-mon Sumitomo in 1903 as the prefectural library. "Although children younger than 12 years of age could not come in, the library was open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. except winter months when it was open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m."<sup>43)</sup>

Some of the other public libraries opened were for example; the Toyama Prefectural Library in 1900,<sup>44)</sup> the Fukushima Prefectural Library in 1907,<sup>45)</sup> the Kobe Municipal Library,<sup>46)</sup> the Toyohashi Municipal Library in 1911,<sup>47)</sup> etc.

## VI. The Library Ordinance

The Library Ordinance enacted in November 1889 was a landmark in the history of Japanese public library development. It, for the first time in the history, was promulgated as an independent law solely meant for the sake of libraries. Previously the libraries had been treated in the school regulations.

The Library Ordinance 1) permits local authorities to establish libraries by the approval of the Minister of Education and private bodies to establish libraries by reporting to the same Minister. It also specified status of library personnel, and the power of appointing them.

Although the Library Ordinance had a drawback, as pointed out by later critics, having permitted libraries to charge entrance fee, it stimulated prefectures and smaller municipalities to establish popular public libraries. Since then the Department of Education kept a policy of developing public libraries and continually issued acts to strengthen them. They published *Toshokan Kanri-hō* (Handbook of library administration) in 1901, issued the *Library Re-*

*gulations* in 1906, sponsored the library workshop in 1908, issued the *Special Announcement about the Library Administration* in 1910, and revised and amended the Library Ordinance in the same year.

The professional library association organized by Inaki Tanaka and some other leading librarians of the time in 1892 grew up to an association of national scale and changed its name to the Nippon Toshokan Kyokai (the Japan Library Association) in 1908.

The Association immediately after its establishment made the cataloging rules, sponsored the first workshop in 1903, national conventions since 1906, and started to publish its organ *Toshokan Zasshi* (Library Journal) since 1907.<sup>48)</sup>

Since the enactment of the Library Ordinance the number of libraries grew year after year and by the end of the Meiji Period (1912) it amounted to 416 according to the Mombusho survey: *Kō-shiritsu Toshokan ni Kansuru Chōsa* (The survey on public and private libraries).

	Number of libraries
Meiji 33 (1900)	43
34 (1901)	50
35 (1902)	67
36 (1903)	86
37 (1904)	100
38 (1905)	101 <sup>49)</sup>
⋮	⋮
45 (1912)	416 <sup>50)</sup>

## Conclusion

Education is a process for the making of men. Men are social beings; and among the problems of education one is not more important than the other. Japan, in endeavor to master the Western World's store of knowledge, caught the significance of libraries that developed in the Western countries. Serious and well intended efforts were made to develop the libraries. The National Library made its sound foundation and the national universities developed their affiliated libraries. But due in part it may have been to the national trait toward education and libraries, it was slow to

## Japanese Public Library Development in the Meiji Period

recognize on the part of the government as well as the public the significance of free public library services. The education had been always regarded as school or formal education where direct instruction was given by teachers. The libraries had been considered as storehouses of important books for scholars and privileged classes.

Even so the development of library facilities in four and a half decades since the Meiji Restoration was conspicuous.

But true recognition of the meaning of free library services for life long education was yet to come.  
(Japan Library School)

- 1) "There was an institution which through the dark ages fostered learning as did the monasteries and their libraries through the Dark Ages of Europe. In connection with Shomyoji, a Buddhist Temple in Musashi Province, Sanetoki Hojo established a library in the later part of the Kamakura Period, about 1270. The institution flourished under three generations of patrons and collected a large mass of valuable literary material. A map of the temple (1323) shows three buildings in the "Library Valley" back of the temple. Though called a library, this was also a school and exercised a wide influence through its collection of writings, both Japanese and Chinese. In 1602 it was moved to Fujimi Tei, south of Edo castle, by Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa; and over four hundred volumes of its books are still extant the Naikaku Bunko or Cabinet Library in Tokyo." (Lombard, Frank Alanson. *Pre-Meiji education in Japan...* Tokyo, Kobunkan, 1914. p. 66)
- 2) "In the Muromachi Period (1335-1573) military influence prevailed; but the members of the Ashikaga family which then held the Shogunate were patrons of a school for the training of its own sons. Its founding is obscure. It may have been a survival of an old Kokugaku or Provincial School, or it may have been originally established by Ashikaga-Yoshikane. In 1439, Uyesugi-Norizane, Governor-General of the Kwanto, wishing to make the school more worthy as it bore the Shogunate name, contributed land, gathered a library and called Kwaigen, the abott of Engakuji at Kamakura, to be master of the school. Kwaigen was an able man and made the school a centre of increasing influence. The son and grandson of Morizane, who succeeded him, continued his educational policy; and the school remained in the control of the priesthood. Of the books belonging to the library of this school those of Sō or Sung dynasty are considered to have been the most precious." (Lombard, *Ibid.*, p. 64-5)
- 3) "In 1630 Shogun Iyemitsu gave a grant of land in Yedo to Doshun Hayashi, the historical counsellor of Shogun, for a school which, though private, was the beginning from which grew the government Shohei School. This was in what is now known as Ueno Park, Tokyo. In 1632 Yoshinao, Lord of Owari, built a Confucian Temple in connection with the school and furnished it with sacred images and ceremonial vessels... In 1633 the Shogun furnished material and ordered Doshun to construct a private study... In the great fire of 1657 the school was burned, and its library of over one thousand books was destroyed. Toward the restoration of the library the government gave sixty sets of books and five hundred pieces of gold. Within a few years books to the number of twenty thousand were catalogued... In 1687 the head of the school was given an official title; and in 1690 the school was moved to Shoheizaka, being made an acknowledged school of the government under the name of the Shohei School. From this time it stood as the orthodox centre of education, teaching the Confucian philosophy... During the middle of the eighteenth century this university school of the Shogunate suffered decline; but toward the close of the century, under Ritsuzan as minister of education, the school was remodelled... In 1792 extensive repairs having been completed, additional scholars were called to its faculty..." (Lombard, *Ibid.*, p. 77-80)
- 4) See 1)
- 5) Gitler, Robert L. "Japan," *Library trends*, vol. 12, no. 2, Oct. 1963, p. 274.
- 6) 福沢諭吉. 西洋事情 <福沢諭吉全集, 第1巻. 東京, 岩波, 1958> (Fukuzawa, Yukichi. *Things Western* <Collection of works of Yukichi Fukuzawa, vol. 1. Tokyo, Iwanami, 1958>), p. 305.
- 7) 小倉親雄. "パブリック・ライブラリーの思想とわが国の公共図書館", *日本図書館学会年報* (Ogura,

- Chikao. "Philosophies on the public library and the public libraries in Japan," *Annals of the Society of Library Science*, vol. 12, no. 2, 1965. 8, p. 3.
- 8) 竹林熊彦. 近世日本文庫史. 大阪, 大雅堂 (Takebayashi, Kumahiko). *History of libraries in modern Japan*. Osaka, Taigado, 1943. p. 44.
  - 9) *Ibid.*, p. 44.
  - 10) Rose, Ernestine. *The public library in American life*. New York, Columbia Univ. Press, 1954. p. 15.
  - 11) *Ibid.*, p. 16.
  - 12) 竹林 (Takebayashi), *op. cit.*, p. 46.
  - 13) 小野則秋. 日本図書館史. 京都, 蘭書房 (Ono, Noriaki). *The history of Japanese libraries*. Kyoto, Ran-Shobo, 1952. p. 227-8.
  - 14) 小倉 (Ogura), *op. cit.*, p. 5.
  - 15) 小野 (Ono), *op. cit.*, p. 225.
  - 16) About this figure Bostwick quoted differently in his *The American public library* as follows: "It is estimated by Messers. Warren and Clark, editors of the volume on "Public Libraries in the United States" issued by the United States Bureau of Education in 1876, that the number of books contained in all the "public" libraries of the country in the year 1800, including book clubs, social libraries, and so on, was yet more than 80,000 or about one volume to seventy inhabitants. The editors elsewhere in the same report state their conclusions that between 1775 and 1800 there were established in the United State 30 libraries, which at the time of writing numbered 242, 171 vols; between 1800 and 1825, 179 libraries, with 2,056,113 volumes; between 1825 and 1850, 551 libraries, with 2,807,218 volumes, and between 1850 and 1875, 22,040 libraries, with 5,481,068..." (Bostwick, Arthur E. *The American public library*. New York, Appleton, 1910. p. 7)
  - 17) 竹林 (Takebayashi), *op. cit.*, p. 61-2.
  - 18) Japanese Department of Education. *An outline history of Japanese education...* New York, Appleton, 1876. p. 124.
  - 19) 文部省. 学制九十年史. 東京 (Ministry of Education). *90 years of Japanese education system*. Tokyo, 1964. p. 12.
  - 20) 武居権内. 日本図書館学史序説. 東京, 理想社 (Takei, Gonnai). *Introduction to history of Japanese library study*. Tokyo, Risosha, 1960. p. 72.
  - 21) 小野 (Ono), *op. cit.*, p. 393.
  - 22) 村上俊亮, 坂田吉雄, 編. 明治文化史, 第3巻, 教育道德篇. 東京, 洋々社 (Murakami, Shunsuke and Sakata, Yoshio, ed. *The cultural history of Meiji*, vol. 3, Education and morality. Tokyo, Yoyosha), 1955. p. 306.
  - 23) 国立国会図書館支部上野図書館. 上野図書館八十年略史. 東京 (National Diet Library. Ueno Branch Library). *An outline history of Ueno Library. Tokyo*, 1953. p. 5.
  - 24) *Ibid.*, p. 5.
  - 25) *Ibid.*, p. 9.
  - 26) *Ibid.*, p. 6.
  - 27) Japanese Department of Education, *op. cit.*, p. 9.
  - 28) *Ibid.*, p. 34.
  - 29) *Ibid.*, p. 126-7.
  - 30) 国立国会図書館支部上野図書館 (National Diet Library. Ueno Branch), *op. cit.*, p. 31.
  - 31) *Ibid.*, p. 58.
  - 32) *Ibid.*, p. 63.
  - 33) *Ibid.*, p. 77.
  - 34) Esdaile, Arundell. *National libraries of the world*. London, Library Association, 1957. p. 386.
  - 35) 村上 (Murakami), *op. cit.*, p. 308.
  - 36) 文部省内教育史編纂会. 明治以降教育制度発達史. 東京 (Ministry of Education). *History of development of Japanese education system since the Meiji period*. Tokyo, 1938. vol. 3, p. 779.
  - 37) 国立国会図書館支部上野図書館 (National Diet Library. Ueno Branch Library), *op. cit.*, p. 78.
  - 38) 千葉県立中央図書館三十年略史 (*An outline history of 30 years of Chiba Prefectural Library*. Chiba), 1956. p. 4-5.
  - 39) 和泉田正宏. "明治期北海道図書館史序説", *図書館学会年報* (Izumida, Masahiro. "Introduction to the history of libraries in Hokkaido in the Meiji period," *Annals of the Society of Library Science*), vol. 11, no. 1, 1964. 6, p. 26-36.
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Japanese Public Library Development in the Meiji Period

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