



The Situation of Nordic Special Libraries: Japanese Studies Support

Naomi Yabe Magnussen
Library of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Oslo Library
naomi.magnussen@ub.uio.no



The number of libraries questionnaires were sendt

- Questionnaires were mainly sent to libraries attached to institutions registered at NIAS. In addition, they were send to academic libraries in the 5 Nordic countries which offer Japan studies, or where there are known to be Japanese / East Asian collections.
- Iceland – 2 institutions, send to 3 pers. 2 replies received
- Denmark- 4 institutions, send to 4 pers. 4 replies received
- Sweden – 11 institutions, send to 14 pers. 5 replies received
- Finland – 7 institutions, send to 8 pers. 1 replies received
- Norway – 4 institutions, send to 5 pers. 2 replies received + 1



Questions

- **About collection**
 - Material on Japanese language
 - Material about Japan on western language
 - Section for East Asia or Japanese

- **About personals**
 - Library staff with Japanese competence
 - About the task



Questions - continue

- **About training courses**
 - Basic reference information about Japan in Japanese
 - Basic reference information about Japan in English
 - Basic reference information about East Asia in Japanese
 - Basic reference information about East Asia in English



Libraries with Japanese collection

- **9** libraries answered they have Japanese collection
 - Iceland **1** (The National and University Library of Iceland)
 - Denmark **3** (Ringgadebiblioteket, University of Aarhus 、 Copenhagen Business School Library 、 Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Asian Studies Section Library 、 Copenhagen University)
 - Sweden **2** (Stockholm University Library, *The International Library)



- Finland **1** (Arts Faculty Library, Topelia, University of Helsinki)
- Norway **2** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology Library, Library of Humanities and Social Sciences, University Library of Oslo)
- Purpul colour shows library staff with Japanese competence 7libraries have librarian with Japanese competence. Aarhus(Denmark) answered they have student assistant.



About training course

- Basic reference information about East Asia in English 6
- Basic reference information about Japan in English 4
- Basic reference information about Japan in Japanese 3
- Basic reference information about East Asia in Japanese 2



Situation today

- Although the main institution offers Japanese Studies in some kind of form, the library has not managed to cope with this situation
- Although there exist Japan related sources outside the main library which are still owned by the university, for instance in research labs or study rooms, it happens occasionally that the library does not have a direct share in these sources
- If the library, who maintains administration of materials, does not have access to some sources, the situation limits the range of use
- At such academic institutions, there may be difficulties to sufficiently spread digitally-based information in addition to paper-based administration



Future issues

- Also at institutions which did not answer the questionnaires, or libraries which answered no Japanese related materials, Asian Studies and Japanese Studies are offered in various forms
- Due to insufficient communication between main institution and its library, if there is not a strong and active support system for promoting Asian and Japanese Studies, necessary information may not reach relevant users
- In order to cope with these challenges:
 - Academic scholars positioned at the specific academic institution have to show a strong interest in the institutional library
 - Libraries has to create a situation in which library service information can be spread beyond the frameworks of the respective institutions
 - Libraries has to strengthen the contact with the scholarly networks, and in this way make the spread of information possible