

Librarians as Ambassadors: The Horner Fellowship Exchange Program for Arizona and Japan Library Personnel

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The Horner Fellowship



Arizona Library Association Horner Committee representative Alexandra Humphreys at the 100th All Japan Library Conference, Tokyo, 2014

The Horner Fellowship is administered through the AzLA's Horner Committee in cooperation with the Japan Library Association (JLA) International Relations Committee. Fellowships are typically awarded annually, with the Arizona and Japanese committees selecting Fellows in alternating years.

Since 1989, sixteen AzLA members have traveled to Japan and ten Japan Library Association (JLA) members have traveled to Arizona for short-term exchange visits.

Citizen Diplomats

Now more than ever, citizen diplomacy on a personal, face-to-face level is essential to facilitating understanding between people of different nations.

Many librarians are natural ambassadors, with high levels of cultural awareness and sensitivity, innate curiosity and openness to new experiences and knowledge.



Arizona Library Association Horner Committee representative Jeanne Pfander at the 100th All Japan Library Conference, Tokyo, 2014

Japan Horner Fellows

Types of Japan Library Association Horner Fellows who have visited Arizona:

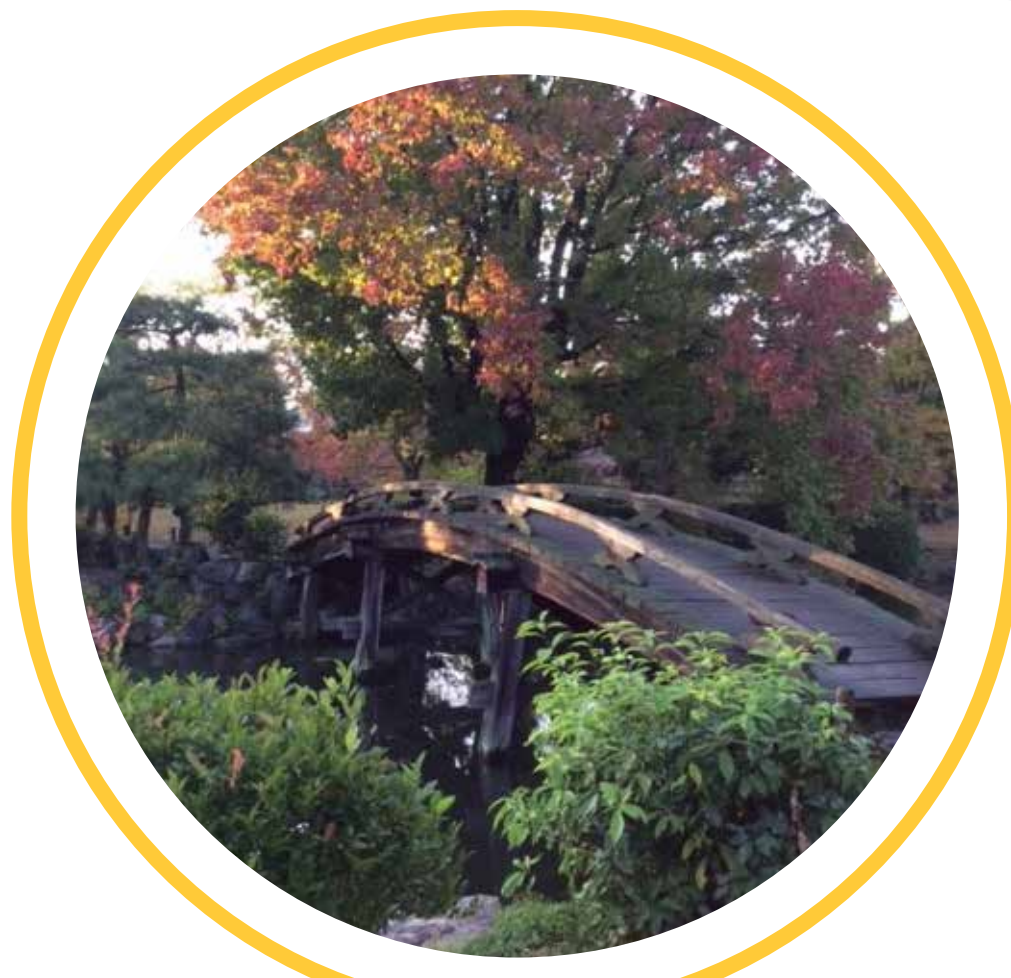
- 3 public librarians
- 5 academic librarians
- 1 school librarian
- 1 special librarian

The most recent Horner Fellow from Japan was Masako Iwashita, a librarian and professor at Shigakukan University in Kagoshima who traveled to Arizona in 2016. She visited a wide range of libraries in Arizona and attended the AzLA Annual Conference, where she gave two brief presentations.

Building Bridges

The Horner Fellowship has offered rewarding learning experiences for many librarians in Arizona and Japan. These librarians have applied their newly acquired knowledge on the job to benefit their students and other patrons. New expertise in manga books, graphic novels, comics, haiku poetry, puppet theatre, e-books, digitization, preservation, and teaching literacy skills are some of the outcomes resulting from the visits.

As citizen diplomats, Arizona and Japanese Horner Fellows have established professional relationships and friendships that bring their respective worlds together, building bridges based on knowledge, understanding, and respect for our different library practices and cultural heritages.



Bridge in Kyoto garden, Pfander, 2015

The Horner Endowment



Jack and Marian Horner

Layton (Jack) Horner (1914-1990) had life-long ties to Japan, beginning with his time at Yale Divinity School (M.A.1938) where he roomed with Saburo Matsuyama from Kyoto, Japan. Horner served during WWII on the east coast of the United States, in Alaska and East Asia.

While stationed in Japan after the war ended, he was assigned to the Shizuoka Military Government Team as a Civil Education and Information Officer, where he helped implement a decentralized, reformed education system and made further friendships with Japanese educators. Following his military career, Horner completed a doctorate in Oriental Studies at the University of Arizona in 1973. He became a professor of oriental studies with a focus on Japanese history and culture. Jack and his wife Marian Horner made more than twenty trips to Japan during their life together, maintaining connections with Japanese friends and colleagues.

Recognizing the important role that librarians and libraries have in an open and educated society, and with the goal of fostering cultural understanding and informational exchanges between Arizona and Japanese librarians, in 1989 Dr. Layton "Jack" Horner and Mrs. Marian Horner established the Arizona-Japan Horner Fellowship program through an endowment to the Arizona Library Association (AzLA).



David Brown (and unknown tour guide), International Library of Children's Literature, Tokyo, 2015



Masako Iwashita, Main Library, Pima County Public Library, Tucson, Arizona, 2016

Arizona Horner Fellows

Types of Arizona Horner Fellows who have visited Japan:

- 8 public librarians
- 6 academic librarians
- 1 school librarian
- 1 special librarian

David Brown, Youth Services Librarian at Casa Grande Public Library, was the 2015 Arizona Horner Fellow. His visit focused on library services and spaces for children in Japan, particularly the use of puppetry and storytelling.

In January 2016, Sarah Kortemeier, Library Specialist at the University of Arizona (UA) Poetry Center visited Japan for her Horner Special Project. She studied Japanese collections of traditional and contemporary poetry, including their preservation standards and techniques, and investigate how Japanese libraries participate in the work of disseminating and promoting poetry.