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.

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.

For more information visit: azla.org/hornerfellowship

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