

# Cancer Information: A Survey of Health and Medical Information Services offered by Public Libraries in Japan

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## Introduction

- Japan is facing an aging society and expected to provide appropriate health information to citizens.
- Our aim is to discuss the results of a survey of Japanese public libraries which offer health and medical information service by focusing on Cancer Information.

## Method

- Evaluate Websites of 47 prefectural libraries and 20 cabinet designated city libraries
- Using a web-based survey with **100% response rate** (n=67).



## Result

1. libraries offer health information services



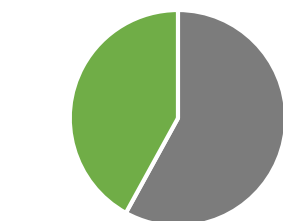
■ Yes

2. libraries set up a specialized corner for health and medical information.



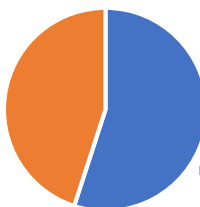
■ Yes ■ No

- 1. All responded libraries offer health information services.
- 2. 45% of libraries set up a specialized corner for health and medical information.
- 3. Major services provided by these libraries include preparation of pathfinders for different topics (58%) and holding lectures and seminars (48%).
- 4. About half of them receive professional advices from local health and medical organizations.
- 5. Librarians get training of health medical information services at 55% of surveyed libraries.



3. Major services provided

■ Pathfinder ■ Other



4. receive professional advices from local health and medical organizations

## Discussion

In Japan, in order to improve the well established medical information services, subject knowledge and retrieval technique of librarians, as well as the reinforcement of collaboration with relevant organization are key issues.