

A Comparison of training course of teacher librarians in France and Japan

Kazuyuki Sunaga

Kokugakuin University

Abstract: In Japan the training courses of teacher librarian have been carried out in summer courses, lectures of universities or junior colleges, and the university of the Air. This programme consists of five subjects with 10 credits (150 hours). In France the position of “documentaliste (teacher librarian in secondary school)” is created in 1989. Since 2013 the training course has been carried out in *les Écoles Supérieures du Professorat et de l'Éducation, ESPE*. These schools are at the level of graduate school. The term of training course lasts two years. They are studying in 700 – 800 hours in the 2 years' training course. The trainees are required to take the national examination, *concours*.

Keywords: training course, teacher librarian, documentaliste professeur, ESPE

1. Introduction

France	International	Japan
BCD in preschool and elementary school CDI in lower secondary school, high schools and vocational high school	School library in elementary school, junior high school and high school	School library in elementary school, junior high school and senior high school
No staff in BCD Professeur Documentaliste in CDI	Teacher librarian or school librarian School library media specialist in U.S.A	Teacher librarian should be in more- than-12-classes school, and school librarian
Master course in ESPE or CNED	Training course in graduate school or university	Training course in university, two-year college, summer course or the university of the Air

National examination (<i>Concour</i>) for teachers, including especially, <i>Professeur documentaliste</i> In public and private school		Local examination for teachers but not for teacher librarian. Appointment of teacher librarian after the employment in public school
Internship The first grade: one week and two week The second grade: 36 weeks		No internship

Figure 1 Comparative study of teacher librarian in France and Japan

This paper will discuss the training of teacher librarians in France and Japan. In France the teacher librarians named *Professeurs documentalistes* work in school library in secondary school after they are studying and being trained in graduate school of teacher training; *Écoles Supérieures du Professorat et de l'Éducation (ESPE)* since it was established 2013. The qualification of *Professeur documentaliste* was created in 1989 and they have been trained in *Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres (IUFM)* since it was established 1991. In addition, the *Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (CNED)* provides the programmes of the training course for the *Professeurs documentalistes*.

The teacher librarians in Japan are in charge of school library in the elementary school, the junior high school and the senior high school by the appointment of the principal in school or the local board of education after passing the employment examination for teachers.

Since the school library law was established in 1953, in spite of the obligation that teacher librarian should be assigned in school library in the Article 5, schools had rarely been a post of teacher librarian. Because they suffered from a lack of the qualified school librarian in those days. The Supplementary Provision 2 said that for a while they could not necessarily arrange a teacher librarian. They assumed the number of qualified teacher librarians would be increasing for several years. But a few school had the post of trained teacher librarian.

The turning point of teacher librarians in Japan arrived in 1997. According to the revision of the school library law, the school with more than twelve classes should have a post of teacher librarian after the first of April 2003 but for a while the small schools could not necessarily appoint a teacher librarian. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), 66% of schools in Japan have a post of teacher

librarian in these days. Unfortunately, teacher librarians scarcely work in school library. Because teacher librarians teach the subject in class room above all and cannot afford to work in their school library. Some schools hire school librarians to do the lending service and the activities for students. The school librarian means basically a non-educational staff. Sometimes the services of school library involve volunteers.

Universities and junior colleges provide the training course for teacher librarian. In the case some of teachers miss the qualification of teacher librarian, they are able to obtain it by summer course or by the university of the Air in Japan. The university of the Air in Japan broadcast the television programme and the radio programme for the training course of teacher librarian during summer.

2. The systems of school and school library

We can find a school library in preschool in France. The school libraries in preschool and elementary school are called the *Bibliothèque Centre Documentaire, BCD*. They have generally short budget and no staff in the BCD but the head of the school manages the library.

The school libraries in secondary schools are called the *Centre de Documentation et d'Information, CDI*. They have professional staffs in the CDI. The professional staffs are Professeurs documentalistes.

The first of half of secondary education is *Collège* for four years and the latter is *Lycée* for three years. The kinds of high school *Lycée* in France are *lycée générale*, *lycée technique*, *lycée professionnelle*, *lycée agricole* and *lycée maritime*. *Lycée générale*, *lycée technique* and *lycée professionnelle* are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education National in France. *Lycée agricole* is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and *lycée maritime* under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

We can find a school library from elementary school to senior high school in Japan. Even though a preschool or a kindergarten have a kind of school library, the school library law does not admit that.

3. A comparative study of training course for teacher librarians

In France, the ESPE and the CNED provide the training course for teacher librarians or *documentalistes professeurs*. The graduates from university for three years are admitted to the ESPE. The 20 of 29 ESPE have the training course for teacher librarian. In the ESPE de Bretagne, for example, the training course for teacher librarians consists of 40 subjects in 5 areas. These areas include the special knowledge of the subject, the knowledge of pedagogy, the methods of research, the context of school and the training practices. This course requires 120 credits with 790 hours for two years in master course.

Students need to take a national examination (*concours*) for acquiring the qualification of teacher in secondary school (*CAPES*) at the end of the first year. They will take the external examination (*concours externe*). The external examination includes the writing tests and the oral tests. Students take the writing tests for each five hours during two days between March and April. After the pass of the writing tests, they take the oral tests for each three hours during two days in June. The successful applicants would acquire the qualification of teacher in secondary school. At the beginning of the second year they start to do an internship practice in school library for 36 weeks while they are studying in the ESPE. Concurrently they need to complete their thesis until the end of the second year.

The other two examinations are the internal examination (*concours interne*) for teachers who teach the different subject and government workers, and the third examination (*troisième concours*) for the company employees working for more than five years.

In Japan, the training course for school librarians consists of five subjects with ten credits according to the regulation concerning school library. Roughly 170 universities for four years and 36 colleges for two years provide the training course for teacher librarians. Forty-four universities, one college and the University of the Air give the training course for teacher librarian during summer as well. Seven universities provide the training course for teacher librarian as correspondence course. All these courses are the level of under graduate.

The five subjects for teacher librarians are (1) the management of school and school library, (2) the organization of media in school library, (3) the instruction in school library, (4) the reading activity and (5) the utilization of information technology. In the management of school library, we teach a fundamental knowledge of school librarianship. In the organization of media in school library, we teach the collection and classification of educational resources, indexing and cataloguing. In the instruction in school library, we teach the information skills in school and the models; ISPA, Big6 and PLUS. In the reading activities, we teach books for children and the methods of reading activity. In the utilization of information technology, we teach a fundamental knowledge of ICT and the copyright.

We argue that 10 credits with 150 hours (2 credits with 30 hours per subject) in training course are less than the programmes for the *documentaliste professeur* in France.

The internship in school library is not required to acquire the qualification of teacher librarian but the training program for several weeks is required to obtain

the qualification of teacher.

4. Conclusion

In France the training course for teacher librarian is under the level of master program in graduate school called *ESPE*. Students are required to take the national examination (*concours*) and to draw up their these.

In Japan the training course of teacher librarian needs for the development of subjects for the educational quality and competence of teacher librarian, information literacy and digital resource. The trainees of teacher librarian should practice in school and school library in method of internship.

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