

## **The Current Activities of the Working Group in IAML Japanese Branch: An Attempt to Create a Network for Musicologists, Music Librarians and Libraries**

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Although the IAML Japanese Branch has a 40 year-long history, our country has almost no educational institutions for music librarians. As a result, most music materials are hoarded in libraries, archives, and universities, making it difficult to continue progressing in the field. Therefore, our branch's goal is to stimulate demand to create a new system to train music librarians in Japan. Establishing educational institutions for music librarians may be the best long-term resolution for this fundamental issue, even if it seems like a distant goal. As the branch report in 2016 stated<sup>i</sup>, our branch organized a working group for researchers and librarians in 2015, and the author has been working as a researcher there for the past two years.

The working group has proposed and discussed several ongoing projects in the past two years, including advertising IAML's activities using social media such as Facebook<sup>ii</sup> and Twitter, providing "current awareness services" through a Facebook group "*Ongaku-Toshokan*" [音楽図書館; Music Library]<sup>iii</sup> and connecting music librarians with libraries by sharing information online for the first time in Japan<sup>iv</sup>. Evidently, this working group has been trying to create a discussion network of venues for people and institutions that are interested in music and music materials in Japan. Additionally, as we know, the lack of education systems for music librarians is common in East Asian countries. If these countries could create a shared network, we may be able to develop approaches to better achieve our goals.

Another ongoing project that will help provide necessary information is making an index list of our newsletters. Studying past newsletters would help deepen understanding and provide background about our branch and the lack of centralized materials and education. Since the IAML Japanese Branch is the only association that includes both researchers and librarians in Japan thus far, the information that has been provided and shared in the newsletters is highly valuable. Based on this source, the working group may be able to organize an online study meeting with branch members and non-members, even internationally.

However, the working group has few members that are currently active. One of the possible causes for the lack of participation is financial reasons. Along with IAML Japanese Branch's task, our activity is completely voluntary, and our expenses are not covered by any institution. Hopefully this conference will provide an opportunity for open dialogue and the exchange of opinions.

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<sup>i</sup> The Japanese Branch's Report of 2016 [http://www.iaml.info/sites/default/files/pdf/japan\\_-\\_report\\_2017.pdf](http://www.iaml.info/sites/default/files/pdf/japan_-_report_2017.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Japanese Branch's official Facebook page will be launched if the proposal is approved at a general assembly on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2018.

<sup>iii</sup> Our Facebook group 音楽図書館[Music Library] URL (closed):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/189503438227510/>

(This group will be a "public group", if the project proposal is approved at a general assembly on June 16<sup>th</sup>)

2018.)

iv The working group delivered a report on the project “current awareness services on music” at IAML Japanese Branch’s regular meeting, November 25<sup>th</sup> 2017: <http://www.iaml.jp/newsletter63.pdf>