

Curator (*Gakugei-in*) training programmes in Japanese Universities

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1. Research Backgrounds

- **Definitions of "Museums" in Japan** : Article 2, Museum Act (1951, last amended in 2008)
- "The term 'Museums' as used in this Act shall mean institutions established by local public governments, by general incorporated associations or general incorporated foundations, by religious juridical persons or by other juridical persons prescribed by Cabinet Order (excluding...)(continues)."
- "The purpose of these facilities is to collect, to keep in custody(inclusive of to foster; the same shall apply hereinafter), to exhibit and offer materials on **history, art, folks, industries and natural science** for public use in an educational perspective, and to conduct necessary business to serve people's cultural attainments, research, surveys, recreation, etc., and to conduct research and surveys concerning these materials."

4. Subjects concerning museums (MEXT)

• Lifelong Learning	2 Credits
• Museum Studies	2 Credits
• Museum Management	2 Credits
• Museum Materials	2 Credits
• Museum Conservation	2 Credits
• Museum Exhibition	2 Credits
• Museum Education	2 Credits
• Museum Information & Media	2 Credits
• Museum Practice	3 Credits

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- **Overviews of Museums in Japan** (Social Education Survey, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology(MEXT))
- There are a total of **5690 museums** in Japan (FY 2015).
 - **3302** History museums (58%)
 - **1064** Art museums (19%)
 - **449** Science museums (8%)
- Publicly run museums: **4246**
 - Of which PPP museums: 1211 (26%)

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- **Curators in Japan**: Defined in Museum Act, Article 4
- Article 4-3 : Museums shall have curators and specialized personnel
- Article 4-4 : Curators shall take charge of specialized matters concerning the collection, custody, exhibition, surveys, research, etc. of museums materials, as well as other matters of related business.
- **Qualification of Curator** : Stated in Museum Act Article 5
- Article 5:1 Those who **have a Bachelor's degree and have obtained in university the credits in subjects concerning museums** in accordance with the Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Survey on the course of graduates who acquired the qualifications of Curators in University faculties

	Curator	Social education facility staff	Archiv e staff	Teacher	Public servant		Go on to graduate school	Others	Total
					Archaeological staff	others			
2007 (311 Univ.)	61	36	2	225	16	228	1424	7525	9577
	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	2.3%	0.2%	3.0%	14.9%	78.6%	100.0%
1991 (132 Univ.)	114	—	—	306	—	470	451	4082	5423
	2.1%	—	—	5.6%	—	8.7%	8.3%	75.3%	100.0%

MEXT Lifelong learning Policy Bureau Social Education Division Search, Oct, 2008

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- After acquired concerning museums credits ,many students deepen their understandings of museums' role, obtain skills and knowledge as Curator (*Gakugei-in*) and prepare to tackle with current issues on museums and communities.

7. Research Questions

- We examined **the changes of students' attitudes and understanding towards social issues** such as multicultural society, intercultural understanding, bio-diversity, environment protection, conservation of cultural heritages and community development, **before and after taking this programme.**

8. Research Method

- We conducted a questionnaire survey (**28 universities in total, 590 valid responses**) to clarify the characteristics of learning in the Curator training course after finishing this curriculum courses from 2015 to2016
- Investigation: Personal attribute (ex, affiliation, after graduation, faculty) motivation for qualification acquisition.
- Comparison of concerns regarding museums before and after acquiring Curator qualification.

9. Outcomes

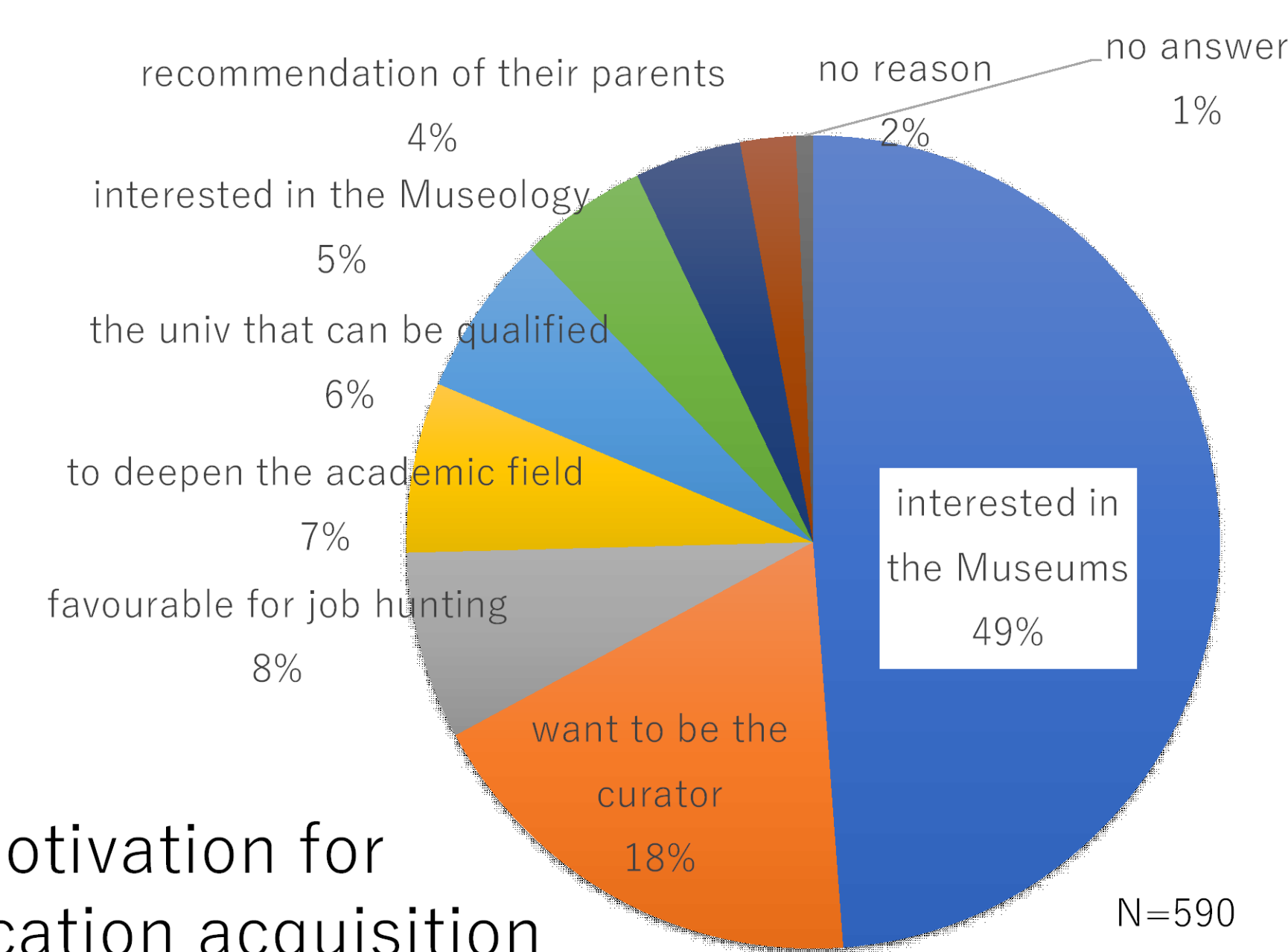


Fig1 Motivation for qualification acquisition

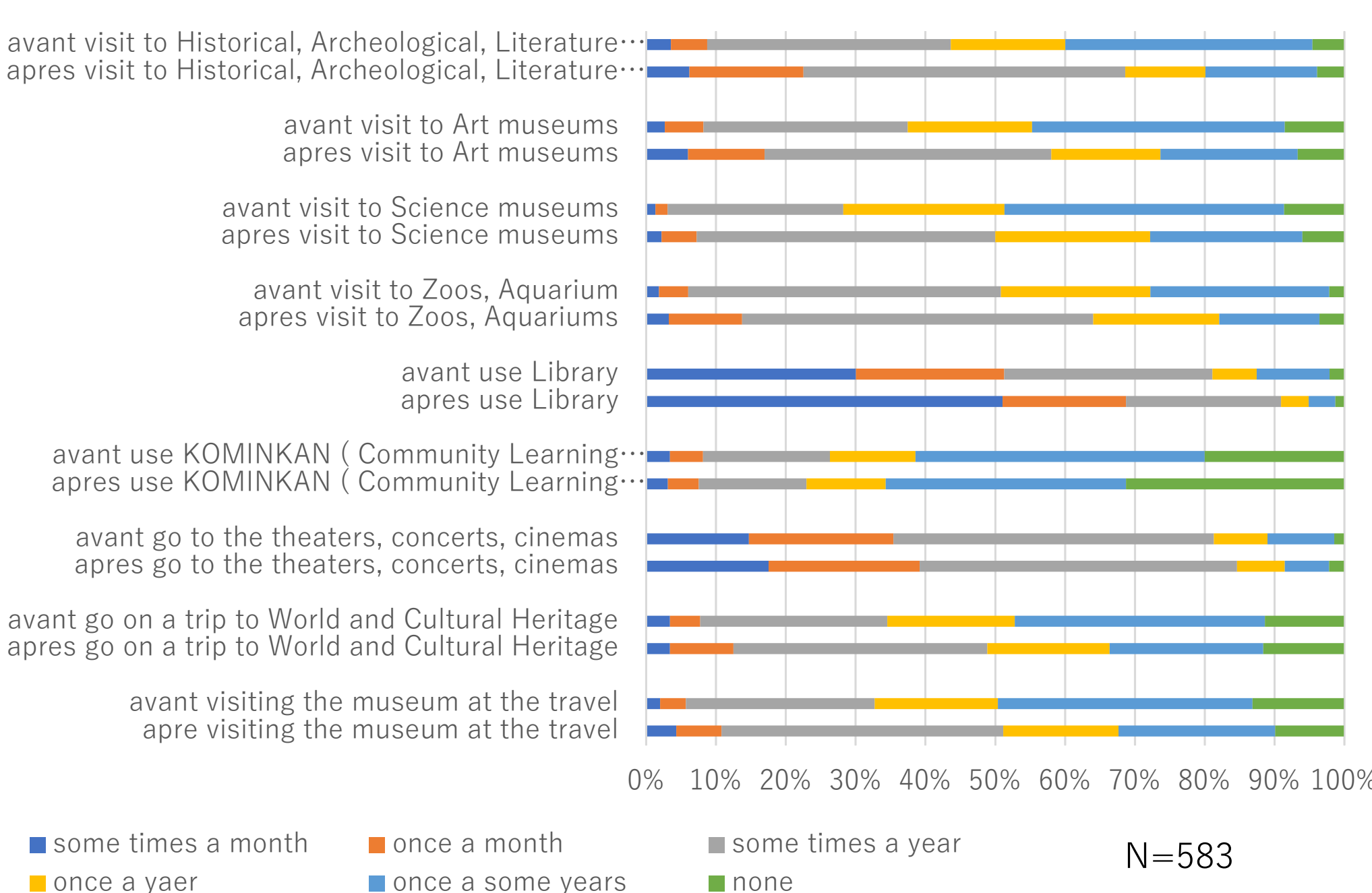


Fig2 Frequency of visits of museums and others before and after the Curator course

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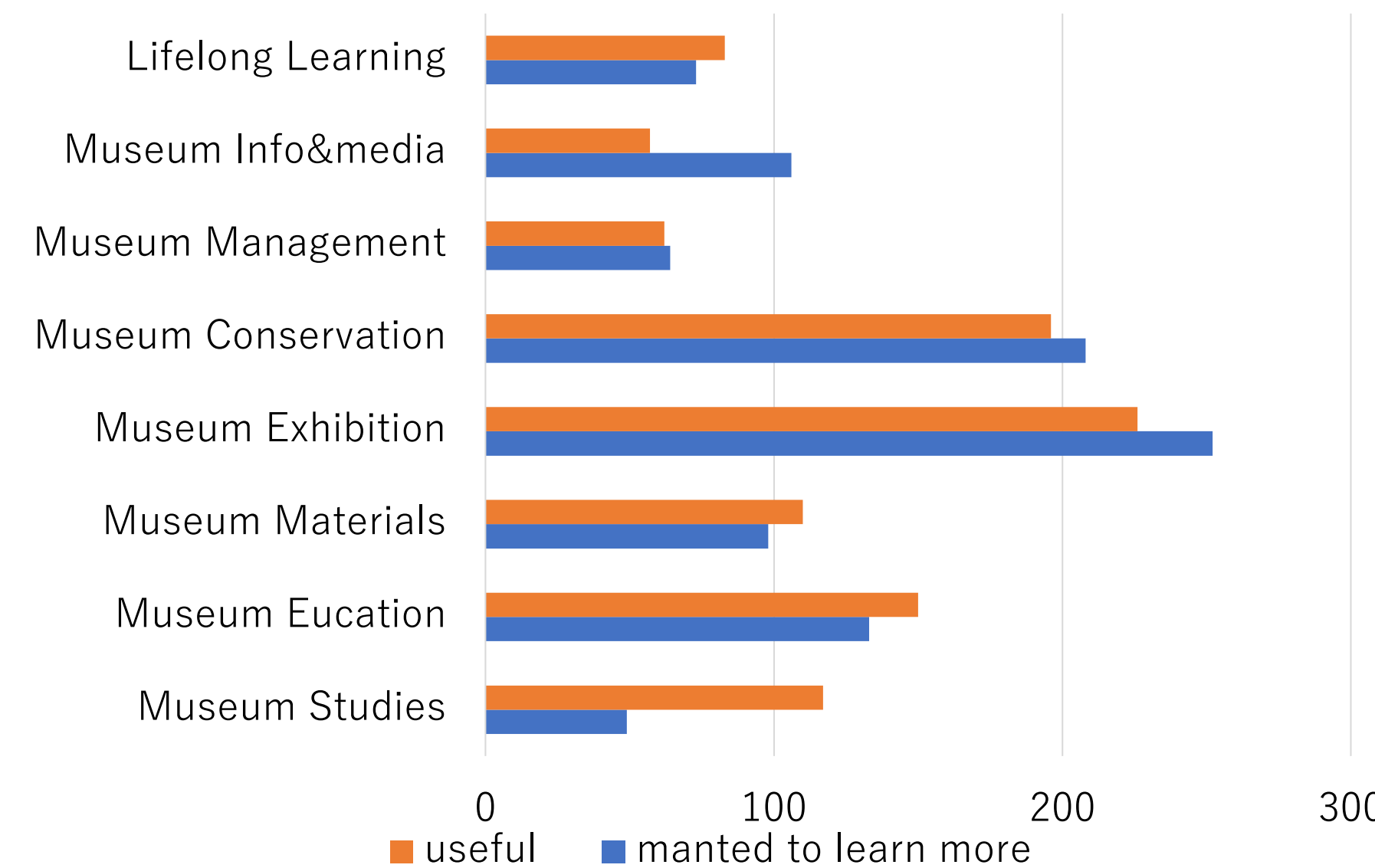


Fig3 Subjects wanted to learn more and subjects found useful for museum practice

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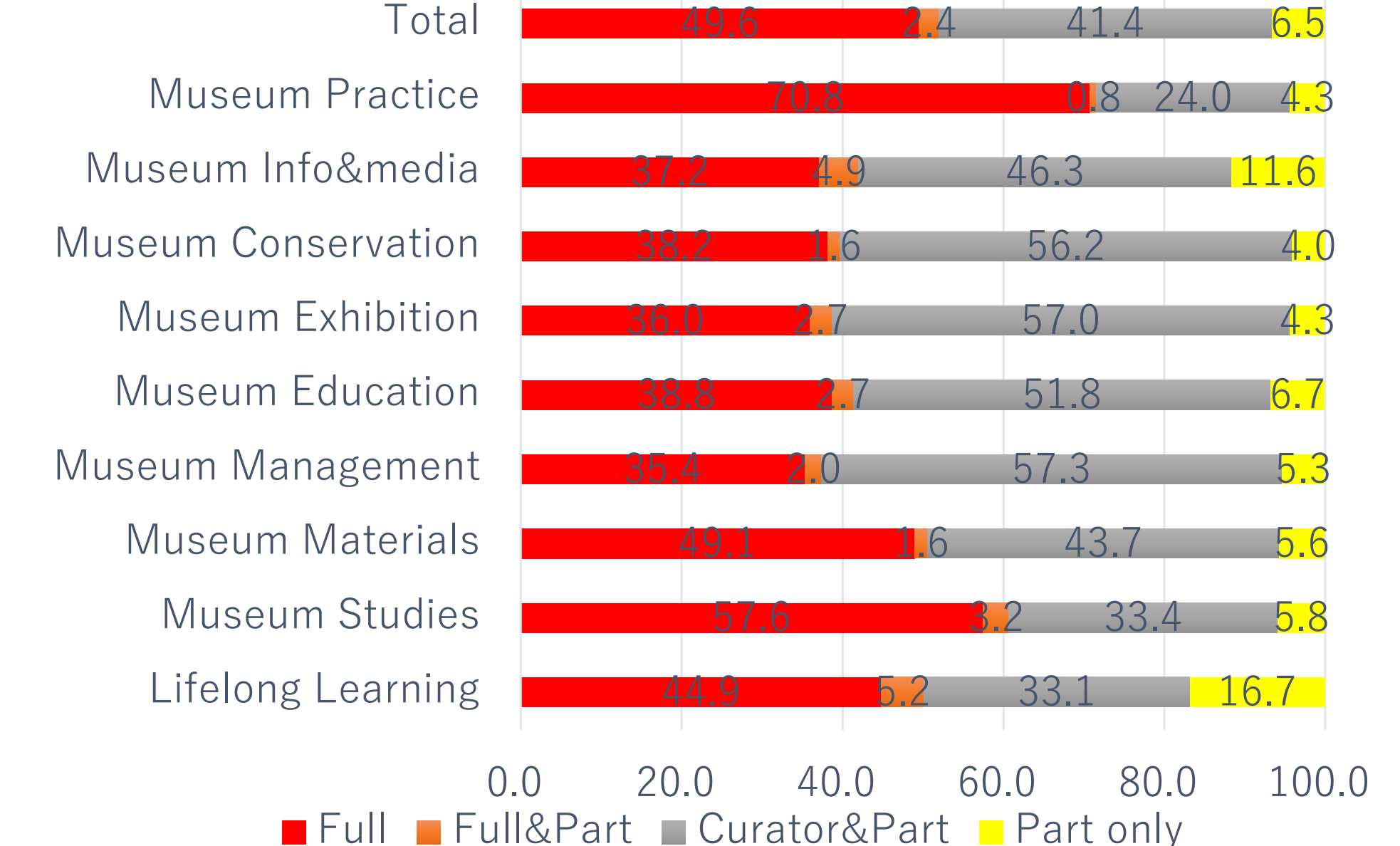


Fig.4 Affiliation of faculty members in curator course

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- Many respondents say they are interested in the museums
- There are few respondents aiming to become a curator
- The number of visits is increasing for most institutions
- Some respondents made no visits to museums
- Many respondents cite both Museum Exhibition and Museum Conservation for subjects that they would like to study deeply and found as useful subjects
- Many faculty members in charge of Museum Exhibition and Museum Conservation are also curators working in museums

14. Conclusion

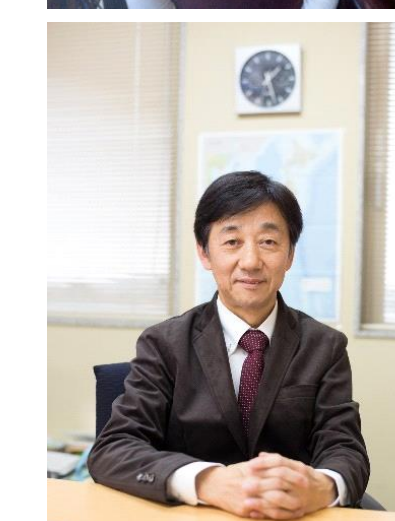
- After finishing this programme, significant number of students become interested in the field of museum studies
- Although the frequency of visits such as museums has increased through learning in this programme, students who have not visited museums, did not change this attitude afterwards.
- Many faculty members in charge of Museum exhibition and Museum conservation are also curators working in museums



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