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, 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 attachments, research, surveys, recreation, etc., and to conduct research and surveys concerning these materials.

2. 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%)

3. Curators in Japan

- Defined in Museum Act, Article 4
  - Art and History museums shall have curators and specialized personnel
  - Article 4-1: 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.

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

5. 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 heritage, and community development, before and after taking this programme.

6. 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 to 2016
- Investigation: Personal attribute (ex, affiliation, after graduation, faculty) motivation for qualification acquisition.
- Comparison of concerns regarding museums before and after acquiring Curator qualification.

7. Research Findings

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

8. Conclusion

- After finishing this programme, significant number of students become interested in the field of museums.
- 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.