

Order of Priority of National Library Services

ナショナル・ライブラリーの サービスの優先順位

私の報告に対する鈴木平八郎氏の批判は、国立国会図書館について私が得た情報が妥当ではないということである。私は自分の集めた事実は妥当で正確だと信じているが、一步譲ってその解釈の仕方が特異だったとしてもよい。それはそれとして、例えば、IFLA で意見の一致を見た、ナショナル・ライブラリーの各種の機能を、国立国会図書館が遂行し得ないなどという気は毛頭なかった。参考のために、1965年のIFLAの会合で論議の上承認されたナショナル・ライブラリーの機能についての勧告を挙げておく。

私のポイントは、何に重点をおくべきかということであった。国立国会図書館のサービスは、記述の順序に従って優先順位が与えられている、というのが私の印象である。国会図書館である以上、国会に対するサービスに優先権が与えられてしかるべきである。しかし、ナショナル・ライブラリーとしての国会図書館に多くのサービスを委ねている図書館人がその施策決定に参加しなければ、ナショナル・ライブラリーとしての機能が満足に遂行されないとするのなら、この図書館の二重任務は満足なものとはいえない。私は国立国会図書館およびそのサービスを全国的な図書館システムの中にもっと密接に関係づけようと努力したつもりである。

私の提案は、この国のあらゆる図書館サービスを発展させるために、財政および施策の決定に責任を持つなんらかの機構が必要であるということであった。国立国会図書館はこの機構組織の中において、大学、公共、その他の図書館と同等の席につく。私は、文部省が国立国会図書館も含めてあらゆる種類の図書館について、総合的な観点をもつことができるのではないかと考えた。

(T. S.)

I am very grateful to the Editor for the opportunity of replying to the criticisms of Mr. Heihachiro Suzuki on my report. Its main point is that I have been provided with inadequate information about the National

Diet Library. Since the sources of my information were the National Diet Library itself and the Ministry of Education the facts I collected about the Library were, I believe, adequate and correct, but I am prepared to accept that I have interpreted them in a particular way. I certainly did not wish to suggest that the various functions of a national library as had been agreed for example by IFLA were not able to be undertaken by the National Diet Library.

A paper was presented to the National and University Libraries Section of IFLA at Rome in 1964 giving some preliminary proposals on the role of the national library. Unfortunately no discussion was possible at Rome, so the paper was published in the hope of receiving comments and suggestions.

A further paper was then discussed at the IFLA meeting in Helsinki in 1965 and approved for publication, incorporating the contributions made by the members present of the National and University Libraries Section.

I can only list here the recommendations made by the Section:

- A *Fundamental functions of a national library*
 - 1 The outstanding and central collection of a nation's literature.
 - 2 Dépôt légal.
 - 3 Coverage of foreign literature.
 - 4 Publication of the national bibliography.
 - 5 National bibliographical information centre.
 - 6 Publication of catalogues.
- B *Desirable functions of a national library*
 - 1 Inter-library lending.
 - 2 Central collection of the nation's manuscripts.
 - 3 Research on library techniques.
- C *Functions of the national library services which are not necessarily functions of the national library*
 - 1 International exchange services.
 - 2 Distribution of duplicates.
 - 3 Books for the blind.
 - 4 Professional training of librarians—particularly in developing countries.
 - 5 Assistance in library techniques.

Also the national librarian should play a central role in all systematic planning of the country's library services.¹⁾

The question I wished to raise was more concerned with emphasis. It would appear to

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me that the order in which the services of the Library are described follows that of the precedence given to the various services. It is not surprising that as it is the *Diet* library the services to the Diet are pre-eminent. However, if the national library functions are to be carried out satisfactorily with effective participation in policy-making by librarians who will rely on the National Diet Library for many of these services, the dual role of the Library is not satisfactory. I was anxious to try to bring the National Diet Library and its services more closely into relationship with the total national library system.

I proposed therefore that there should be some kind of body responsible for finance and policy-making for the development of all library services in the country. The National Diet Library would take an equal place with university libraries, public libraries and others in the organisation of this body. The problem of the responsibilities for different kinds of

library is not itself impossible to solve. I have proposed that the Ministry of Education could have an overall view of all types of library, including the National Diet Library, as it could provide the necessary finance as well as a channel to the Minister for support.

I conclude by conveying my good wishes to the library profession of Japan, including the staff of the National Diet Library which has attempted to develop national services of a high standard. The profession has an exciting future as there are many problems, both local and national, to be considered and solved. In my view some kind of national organisation of the type I have proposed would provide not only a forum for discussion but could lead to action taken by the Ministry.

- 1) Humphreys, K.W. "The British library," *Journal of librarianship*, vol. 4, Jan. 1972, p. 5.

K. W. Humphreys