



IFLA 2014 Lyon, Session 70:

Library Services for Persons with Special Needs Section
“The UN Disability Rights Convention: What It Means for
Persons with Disabilities and Library Services Worldwide”

Implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Roles of Libraries and Librarians in Japan

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Who am I?

2009-2011: Member of the Stakeholders Platform, WIPO

2003-2005: WSIS Civil Society Bureau Disability Focal Point

2003-2009: Manager, DAISY for All Project

2003-2006: Member of the United Nations Working Group, World Blind Union

2002-: Member of JICA Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

1999-: Steering Council, W3C Web Accessibility Initiative

1998-2003, 2011-: Chairman, Copyright Committee, Disability Concerned
National Forum on Broadcasting

1996-: Board Member, the DAISY Consortium (President: 2008-2011)

1984-2003, 2007- : Standing Committee, SLB(LPD)/IFLA (Chair: 1990-1995)

1978-: Member, Committee on Library Services for Persons with Disabilities/JLA

Outline of Presentation

1. Historical Background of CRPD from Japanese librarian's point of view
2. Rule Change: from charity to human rights
3. Mindset Change: revisiting mindset of both users with disabilities and librarians
4. Infrastructure Change required to reach all users with disabilities
5. Are libraries ready to provide reasonable accommodations?
6. Conclusions: use of CRPD as an international measures to build alliance for universally accessible library services

1. Historical Background

- 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP)
- 1986 IFLA Tokyo
- 1991 IFLA SLB Asian Seminar on Library Services for the Blind, Tokyo
- 1992 IFLA SLB Asian Seminar on Library Services for the Blind, Deradun
- 1994 IFLA SLB Latin American Seminar on Library Services to the Blind, Habana
- 1996 Foundation of the DAISY Consortium
- 1999-2000 Nation wide implementation of DAISY in Japan
- 2003-2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS); Global Forum on Disability in the Information Society; Disability Focal Point
- 2003-2008 DAISY for All Project
- 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 2010 Revision of Japanese Copyright Law to change the principle of exceptions and limitations: harmonizing the rights: launching of downloading distribution of DAISY multimedia to persons with print disabilities
- 2010 International Symposium Ensuring and Promoting Access to Information through DAISY
- 2011 Release of EPUB3 by IDPF; merger of DAISY and EPUB
- 2014 Japan ratified the CRPD as 143rd country

2. Rule Change

Example 1: Change of guiding principles of copyright exceptions and its social impact

- Before the CRPD: as long as the economic impact is negligible
- After the CRPD: harmonization of conflicting rights between copyright owners and copyrighted materials users with disabilities

Impact of CRPD in Japan: 2010 Revision of the Japanese Copyright Law is an achievement of combination of disability community movement of 10 years, support of concerned librarians and internationally enacted CRPD. It allows for libraries to offer eligible users with print disabilities a nation wide downloading distribution services without DRM. Libraries are now responsible to provide print disabled library users with alternative copies in an accessible format without permission of the copyright owners if the owners do not publish their copyrighted works in an accessible format that is required by the user with disabilities.

Next Steps: Triggered by the DAISY multimedia textbooks, students who has mother thong other than Japanese find the provision of DAISY format textbooks to them which is not allowed in the current Copyright Law. Foreign travelers in Japan increasingly demand understandable emergency information to them.

Example of DAISY multimedia

The screenshot shows the Dolphin EasyReader application window. The title bar reads "The Story of the Three Little Pigs - Dolphin EasyReader". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Navigation", "Tools", and "Help". The interface features a search bar with "Find a word", a speed slider, and a volume control. A left sidebar contains navigation tools: "Headings", "Nav Points", "Bookmarks", "Search", "Highlight", "Style", "Book Voice", "Speak to me", and "Settings". The "Headings" panel is open, showing a list of sections from 01 to 07. The main content area displays the title "The Story of the Three Little Pigs" by Joseph Jacobs, accompanied by a colorful illustration of three pigs in a field. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Once upon a time when pigs spoke rhyme", "And monkeys chewed tobacco,", "And hens took snuff to make them tough,", and "And ducks went quack, quack, quack, O!". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date and time "13:39 2014/08/17".

Downloading of The Story of the Three Little Pigs is kindly offered by the Information Center of the Japanese Society for Persons with Disabilities:

<ftp://ftp.jsrpd.jp/pub/daisy/download/pigsE.zip>

3. Mindset Change

Example 2: “Informed Decision Making” for the Whole Community Disaster Risk Reduction

- Before 3.11: Register for helpers at disasters: did not work
=> After 3.11: Preparedness for timely “Informed Decision Making” for survival

Lessons of 3.11:

- Death rate of persons with disabilities was believed to be two times.
- Those who started evacuation from tsunami hit zone could survive.
- Survival from a mega disaster, such as 11th March 2011 Tsunami, which hit 300 km coastal area, requires community level preparedness for mutual help for survival because no rescue team was available when everybody was struggling for survival.
- As hundreds of community based rescue operators were killed in operation, rescue teams are requested to secure their safety first. => Everybody in the community including persons with disabilities and old aged people in Japan are requested to prepare for survival.
- Libraries in Japan are archiving memories and lessons learned from 3.11 to share now and with future generations across the world but accessibility is not well implemented.

11 March 2011 tsunami



Fig.1 Disaster Prevention HQ of Rikuzen Takata City was hit by Tsunami to become a ruin.

http://f.hatena.ne.jp/youtube_girls/20110411205059

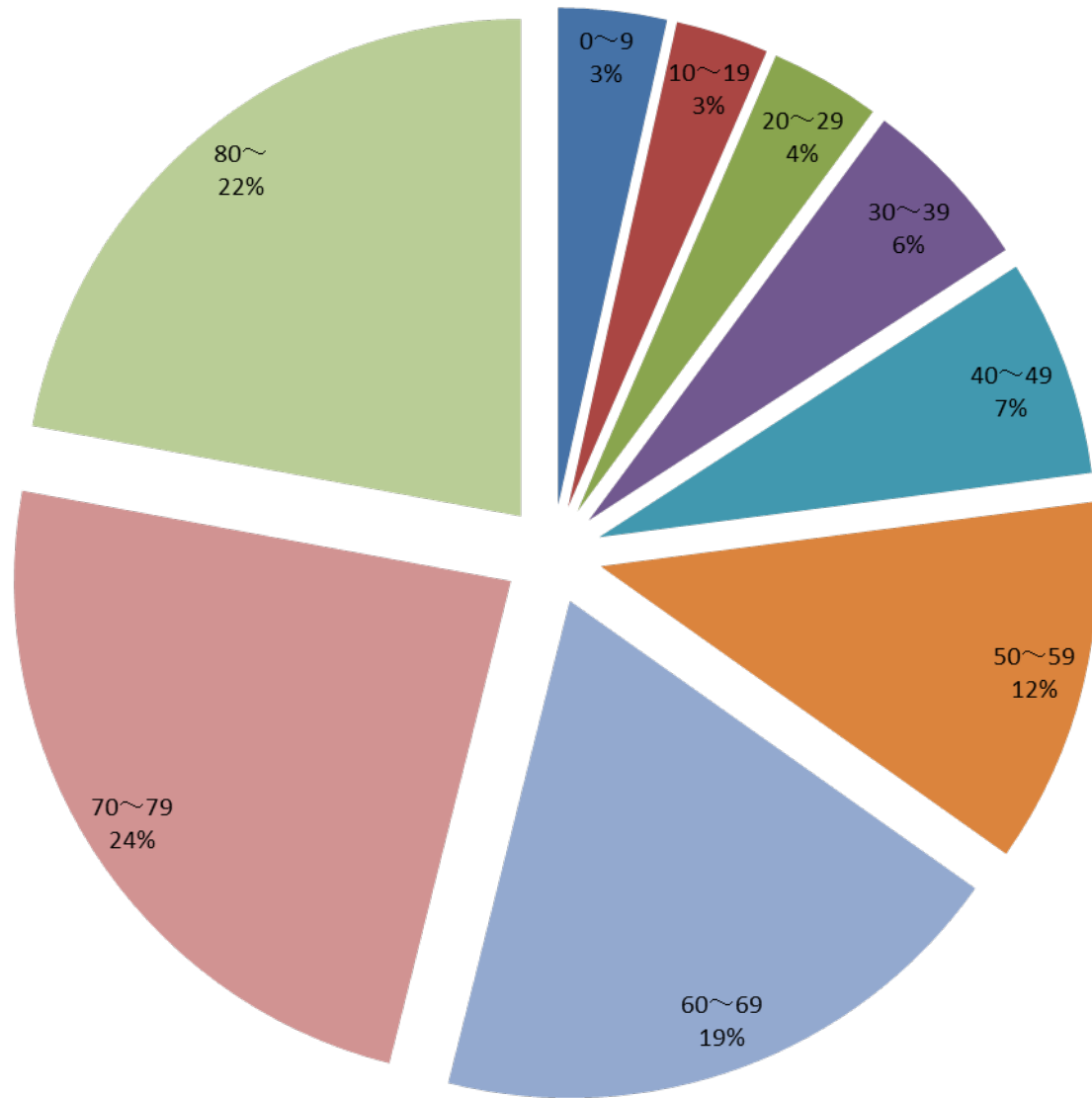
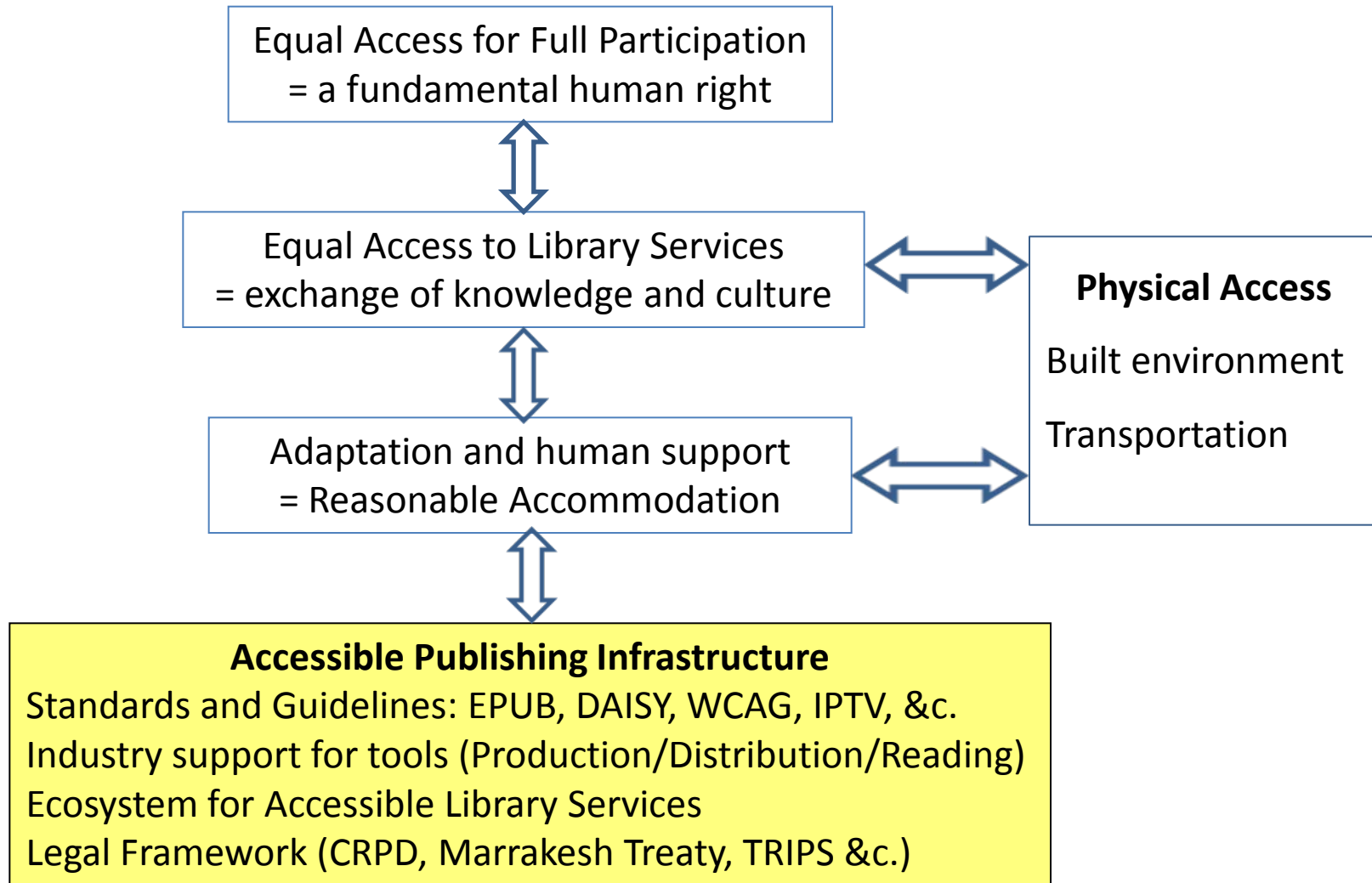


Fig.2 Proportion of death by age: Older than 60 years occupied 65% of the victims of the North East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011.

4. Infrastructure Change



5. Evolving Reasonable Accommodation

Adaptation and human support = Reasonable Accommodation

- Increase of Born Accessible Publishing should result in decrease of reasonable accommodation.
- Libraries and librarians responsibility for equitable library services is to guarantee the equal access today as reasonable accommodations, and support Born Accessible Publishing.
- Libraries **MUST** actively support participation of users with disabilities at community, local, national, regional and international levels by provision of accessible and easy to understand knowledge and information for “informed decision making”.



Accessible Publishing Infrastructure

Standards and Guidelines: EPUB, DAISY, WCAG, IPTV, &c.

Industry support for tools (Production/Distribution/Reading)

Ecosystem for Accessible Library Services

Legal Framework (CRPD, Marrakesh Treaty, TRIPS &c.)

6. Conclusion



Outcome Document of the High Level Meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: "The Way Forward, a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond"

Open Standards for Accessible Multimedia (CRPD Article 2) development best meet the diversity needs of persons with disabilities and the general public. Commitment of Libraries and librarians to support participation of persons with disabilities who address their own needs from grass roots level to policy decision making level through provision of accessible and easy to understand reading experiences will revitalize the library services in the near future.

This HLMDD Outcome Document in accessible multimedia format is available at:
http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/hlmdd/daisy/Sign_Language/index.html

References

- United Nations CRPD Portal Web
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>
- Disability Information Resources (DINF) at Japanese Society for Persons with Disabilities
http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/index_e.html
- DAISY Consortium
<http://www.daisy.org/>
- International Digital Publishing Forum
<http://idpf.org/>
- World Wide Web Consortium
<http://www.w3.org/>