

Library Study Tour to Arizona by Horner Japan Exchange Fellowship
by Noriko Motoyama, school librarian, Keisen Junior High School, Tokyo

I was a visiting librarian to Arizona State from Japan during November of 2000. It was my first experience to travel abroad by myself, but I greatly appreciate the hospitality and friendship that all Arizonan librarians showed me at every place. I visited 15 school libraries, 5 public libraries, and 5 bookstores while home staying at five librarian's homes. They took me to libraries and explained everything I was interested in, besides working full routines.



In Arizona, libraries, bookstores, and residents are so scattered, therefore, children almost can not get books by themselves unlike in Japan. In spite of that, large space and one-storied housing were enviable from Japanese eyes. It is difficult to simply compare libraries between different cultures. But I learned that also in Arizona it is often difficult to prepare school librarians for every school, even in well-computer-facilitated libraries.

I was especially admired the unique beauty of nature in Arizona. Unlike the image of desert I had had, there were many kinds of plants and hills those were very different from Japan's. The air was fresh, dry, and comfortable like in the highlands in Japan. And I enjoyed so much joyful arrangements of the Grand Canyon tour, visiting Heard Museum, and Desert Museum. I was invited to Japanese restaurants a couple of times, where I was surprised at such big size of Sushi I had never seen. I learned Mexican foods are very popular and the Arizona State is influenced by Mexican culture very much.



All the friends and things I met in Arizona are really pleasant memory and treasure of my life. My report of **this study tour** will be published in **Japan Library Journal (toshokan zasshi)** June issue of 2001 in Japanese.