

JMLA Best Paper Award - List of Winners (2001-)

Year	Recipients	Title	Bibliographic Data	Abstract
2023	No Recipient	-	-	-
2022	Noriko SHINOZAKI Hiroaki YOSHIARA	Introduction of a Virtual Learning Commons at the Dokkyo Medical University Library	Igaku Toshokan. 2022;69(4):232-237.	From April 2022, the Dokkyo Medical University Library began operation of "D-Commons", a virtual learning commons. Its introduction helps solve users' long-requested demands for an extension of library opening hours and an increase in capacity of its group study rooms. A cloud-based workspace platform was prepared before introducing "D-Commons", and a trial was conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2021. From the results of the trial, we learned that the system was an effective means of communication between librarian offices in different campuses, and it also showed how users used it. From the results of a user questionnaire, we found that there were many positive comments about the system and users' expectations for its future introduction were also voiced. It was then decided to officially provide the platform from April 2022. A current challenge is to increase the number of users. "D-Commons" is a system that lives by having multiple people stationed there, and providing virtual meet-ups maybe a key factor in revitalizing the system. Our goal is to create opportunities to accelerate innovation for gathering and learning among users, just like a library in the real world.
2021	Satoshi HASHIMOTO	Introduction of a Help Desk for the Use of Statistical Analysis Software at the Toho University Medical Media Center	Igaku Toshokan. 2021;68(3):184-189.	At the Toho University Medical Media Center, librarians with knowledge of statistical analysis started a user support service in June 2020 to explain how to operate statistical analysis software programs such as SPSS, EZR (a kind of Japanese GUI version of R) and others. The service was very well received, with 58 consultations received by the end of March 2021. Consultations from physicians accounted for nearly 60% of the total. In the preliminary questionnaire, the most common request was for support using SPSS. However, most of the actual consultations were for EZR (about 60%), followed by SPSS (about 20%). This is probably due to the fact that SPSS is extremely expensive whereas EZR is free. To the extent necessary to explain the operations of the statistical analysis software, general information regarding statistical analysis itself was also explained. However, explanations about medical interpretations of the analysis results were not included in the service. In addition to direct correspondence, 11 videos explaining the operation of SPSS were posted on YouTube, and 23 blog posts introducing information related to statistical analysis were written as part of the activities.
2020	Takuya HORIMAI Tomihisa TAKAHASHI	Revision of the Classification for Dental Literature at The Library, School of Dentistry, Nihon University	Igaku Toshokan. 2020;67(1):28-33.	This paper describes the revision of the classification for dental literature used at The Library, School of Dentistry, Nihon University. The last update was in 1993. Some specific areas did not have an appropriate classification. As a result, some books were not being classified properly. In addition, dental classification is very important for students to be able to find appropriate books. Therefore, an updated classification was urgently needed. Rearranging the bookshelves prior to revising the classification was also important. Unnecessary books, such as foreign books and duplicate copies that had few or no lending records and had been published quite some time ago were removed. Through this work, new and appropriate classifications were gradually conceptualized. On the other hand, dentistry is a specialty subject, and the library staff did not have sufficient knowledge of dentistry. Therefore, a member of the library staff communicated with dentistry faculty members, who stopped by the library and provided advice. Eventually, a new classification for dental literature was completed, and all the book labels were changed and the bookshelves were restacked. The common library classification plays a major role in the functionality of the library, but there are no specific rules. If librarians advance classifications properly and flexibly, greater usage can be expected. One of the major roles for librarians is to create attractive bookshelves with a wide range of periods and freshness.
2019	Yuko MITSUOKA	Literature Search Guidance for Senior Nurses through Literature Review Seminar Conducted	Kango to Jyoho. 2018;25:41-48.	No Abstract
2018	Chikako SHIMIZU	Mini Exhibition in University of Fukui Medical Library - Toward Proactive Exhibition	Igaku Toshokan. 2018;65(1):19-23.	No Abstract
2017	Hiroko ISHIDATE	Tendencies and Changes in Articles on the Rehabilitation in Japan	Igaku Toshokan. 2017;64(2):79-86.	The purpose of this study was to demonstrate trends and changes in articles on rehabilitation in Japan. This study investigated the number of articles on rehabilitation published in the last two decades using "Ichushi-Web," which is supplied by the Japan Medical Abstracts Society (JAMAS). As a result, the number of articles on rehabilitation was found to have increased by 5.3 times during the past 20 years. Moreover, the proportion of articles on rehabilitation among all the articles listed according to year also increased by about 16 times over the last 20 years. The number of journals increased by 3.9 times, and the number of articles published per journal also increased slightly. Articles on rehabilitation are now being published more often in non-specialized journals. There are 3 "Core" journals that have been in the top 10 for 20 years: "The Japanese Journal of Occupational Therapy," the "Journal of Clinical Rehabilitation" and "Sogo Rehabilitation." The "Core" journals are all published by well-known medical publishers belonging to the Japan Medical Publishers Association (JMPA). "Original papers" and "Commentaries" have been the majority of article types published over the last 20 years.

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	Yoko SATO	Making of Introduce Databases Site for Beginners: "Here Comes the Database Rangers: Database Tutorials for Members of Shimane University"	Igaku Toshokan, 2017;64(4):219-223.	This paper shows the process used to create a site to explain database use and clarifies several points of improvement. Shimane University Library has a project team to educate library users. This team created and released a site for beginners called, "Here Comes the Database Rangers: Database Tutorials for Members of Shimane University" in May 2017. The site contains some comics that introduce how to use the most commonly used databases in the library. Those databases have been anthropomorphized by the illustrator. The process used to create this site had four stages. First, a proposal was made and its contents were explained to the team members. Second, the databases used by the institute were requested to permit the creation of images that anthropomorphized and illustrated them. Third, the images were produced. And fourth, copyright agreements were signed by the illustrator and TOEI COMPANY, LTD. However, the process used to create this site had some problems. The first problem was that an initial agreement was not made with the illustrator. The second problem was that the library staff did not notice the possibility of copyright infringement until just before the site was completed. It is necessary to prevent the recurrence of these problems.
	Yumi KUNIMI	Library Exhibitions in Collaboration with Teachers and the Provision of Information	Igaku Toshokan, 2016;63(2):151-156.	At the Tokushima University Life Sciences Library, we perform two exhibitions in collaboration with teachers. One is a planned exhibition that began in November 2012 and as of February 2016 has been performed 45 times. The teachers provide advice on which books should be selected for the exhibition. The second is a recommended book exhibition. This exhibition began in March 2014, and as of February 2016, 70 books have been recommended. The teachers introduce books that have impressed them. We provide information on these exhibitions through the library's webpage and blog. A list of displays is placed on the webpage, and the display contents are archived. On the other hand, a real-time article is placed in the blog. The web pages are linked to each other. This article introduces these actions.
2016	Masae SATO	1) Embedded Librarians in Hospital Libraries: Toward a Magnet Library.	Yakugaku Toshokan, 2016;61(4):208-215	No Abstract
		2) The Case for Embedded Hospital Librarianship in Japan.	Kango to Joho, 2016;23:32-36	This article describes a variety of roles of embedded hospital librarians in Japan. Librarian support for the rookie nurses and management nurses. I introduce the efforts to 'magnet library'
		3) An Embedded Librarian: Utilizing a Business Framework for Managing Hospital Libraries' Issues	Byoin Toshokan, 2014;34(1):73-80.	No Abstract
		4) Current Status and Future of Scholarly Information Distribution. (Participation In the 2016 JSLA Annual Conference)	Senmon Toshokan, 2016;(279):104-106.	No Abstract
		5) Results of the Value Study in Japan: Library and Information Services in Clinical Settings, Phase I (Feb/Mar 2016)	Igaku Toshokan, 2016;63(2):197-200.	No Abstract
2015	Satoko SAYAMA	Literature Searches for Systematic Reviews: Analysis of Cochrane Reviews	Igaku Toshokan, 2015;62(2):145-150.	The number of systematic reviews has continued to increase in the field of health sciences. Systematic reviews require exhaustive searches for relevant articles or research. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the literature search methods used for systematic reviews, focusing on search tools and resources. All search tools and resources were analyzed, including databases used in the literature searches performed for the 2014 published 143 CDSRs(Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews). It was found that about half of those surveyed searched not only the "Group Specialized Register," which was built by each Cochrane review group but also various databases directly. The results showed that in total, 148 kinds of databases were searched through the "Group Specialized Register," and 106 databases were directly searched. The databases ranged from literature databases and citation indexes to clinical trial registries and full-text article repositories. In addition to searching databases, reference lists, hand-searching methods, and conference proceedings were used as well. Combining the databases searched through the "Group Specialized Register" and the directly searched databases, the top three most frequently used databases were EMBASE (94.4%), MEDLINE(93.7%), and CENTRAL(91.6%). These findings suggest that CDSR literature searches are conducted on the basis of the "Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions." Although search tools and resources such as databases vary depending on the topic or area, these results may provide some perspective on searching strategies employed for systematic reviews.

Year	Recipients	Title	Bibliographic Data	Abstract
2014	Kozo TAKAGI Atsutake NOZOE	Are the Words "Randomized Controlled Trial" Identified Accurately in the Titles of Articles?	Igaku Toshokan. 2014;61(2):138-144..	Introduction: The Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials(CONSORT)2010 Statement demands that randomized controlled trials(RCTs)be initially identified as randomized trials in the title of the article. A comparative study between Japan and the United States investigated whether the words "randomized controlled trial" were identified accurately in the titles of articles. Methods: Literature published in Japan and the United States between 1983 and 2012 was searched using Ichushi-Web ver.5 (Japanese medical bibliographic database), and PubMed, respectively. First, the total number of articles tagged as an RCT according to publication type or study design was investigated. Second, the number of articles that contained "random," etc., in their titles was determined. Results: The literature sample consisted of 13,847 articles published in Japan and tagged as an RCT study design and 158,152 articles published in the United States and tagged as an RCT publication type. There were 1,364 articles published in Japan with RCT study design tags and titles that contained RCT-related terms, whereas there were 33,469 articles published in the United States with RCT publication type tags and titles that contained RCT-related terms. Conclusions: The ratios of articles with titles containing RCT-related terms for articles with an RCT study design or publication type tag have increased in Japan and the United States. However, the number of articles initially identified as RCTs remains somewhat small. Thus, the reporting of RCTs does not fully comply with the CONSORT 2010 statements and requires further improvement.
2013	Yumi YAMASHITA	Information Literacy Classes for Medical Students: a Survey of Japanese Libraries in Medical Universities	Igaku Toshokan. 2013;60(1):12-21.	[Objectives]: To identify and analyze classes for librarians at Japanese medical universities. [Methods]: A questionnaire was sent to the libraries of all 80 medical universities in Japan. Responses were received from all the libraries. [Results]: In Japan, medical school usually requires up to six years to complete, while nursing school requires up to four years. Classes were conducted at 64 libraries. Eighty percent of the classes were conducted in the libraries. The largest number of classes was held during the third year of nursing school (43), followed by the first year of medical school (37) and the first year of nursing school (28). The lowest number of classes was conducted during the sixth year of medical school (1 library). The most frequent contents of the classes were "Information Retrieval Methods" (136 classes; 87%), followed by "Method of information retrieval" (127 classes), "Library guide", "How to write and read papers", "Evidence-based medicine", and "Presentation and information dissemination". The most frequently used database was the online public access catalog (OPAC) followed by Ichushi-Web (115), PubMed (67), CiNii (55), and NACSIS Webcat/Webcat Plus (43). The following six issues were of concern to library classes: 1 Establishment of a curriculum 2 Development of where classes should be held 3 Attendance rate 4 Lack of time 5 Enhancement of the contents of the classes 6 Training of librarians. [Conclusions]: The classes which were conducted in the libraries were increased for five years. But half of the libraries didn't hold classes in medical school. We should conduct classes for students should be conducted at least twice.
	Yui OTANI	Interlibrary Loan Requests for Locally and Electronically Available Items: From the Results of a Study of the Nippon Medical School Library	Igaku Toshokan. 2013;60(3):296-303.	In recent years, at the Nippon Medical School library, the number of ILL requests that have been canceled because the users were able to obtain the information by themselves has been increasing. This paper examines this factor. The investigation period consisted of a five-year period from fiscal year 2007 to 2011. The number of requests that can be met by the users themselves using electronic resources has been increasing. In particular, the number of requests that can be met using free electronic resources has been increasing.
2012	Keiko OHNO Haruko KOBAYASHI	Research on Utilization Trends for Library Web Services at Aichi Medical University and Asahi University	Igaku Toshokan. 2012;59(2):104-110.	Although the web services that a library provides are convenient for users, librarians often have difficulty grasping the actual conditions, since users can access services from outside of the library. Joint research between the Medical Information Center and Library, Aichi Medical University, and the Asahi University Library on the following web services had the advantage of introducing the same library system and link resolver system. 1. Library system: regarding OPAC and a library portal website. OPAC surveyed not only the number of searches but also the frequency of each search item. For the library portal website, the use of each menu was counted. 2. Link resolver system: regarding the routes used to obtain articles, and the results. Investigated the user action by link resolver system. The survey results were analyzed statistically. As a result, the actual conditions of utilization were identified; by comparing the results, the two universities were able to recognize future agenda topics, such as the services that reflect the characteristics of each facility and that were required at the two libraries.
2011	Sayaka NISHI	Historical transformation of ILL situation examined using an analysis of the Tokyo Medical University Library's ILL statistics	Igaku Toshokan. 2011;58(2):119-123.	The ILL statistics for the Tokyo Medical University Library for about 50 years from 1958 to 2009 were analyzed, and the recent historical transformation was clarified. The number of cases that had been increasing began to decrease once online journals were introduced. At the same time, the types of libraries to which the users belonged changed. The use of electronic journals should simplify ILL. Moreover, the organization of the collection and training methods should be reviewed.

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2010	Takako HOSOYA Mitsuko KOSEKI	Information-retrieval instruction to medical students	Igaku Toshokan. 2010;57(2):165-170.	This paper reports on information-retrieval instruction to medical students at The Jikei University School of Medicine. Librarians are in charge of these instructions as part of the official curriculum(required subjects)for medical students in the first through fourth years. Giving instruction for several years has numerous advantages. For example, a large amount of material can be divided and taught step by step. Information literacy education is an important role of librarians, but librarians are rarely put in charge of the curriculum for 4 years in Japan.
2009	Emiko NAKAYAMA	The Future Library Consider from Overseas Libraries: Especially from a User's Viewpoint	Igaku Toshokan. 2009;56(1):45-52.	About 400 libraries in the United States of America, Northern Europe, South Korea, Canada, and Japan were investigated from a user's viewpoint. Now we are alive in an intense time of change and evolution. We want to know how to survive, what is the most important, and what can be done. The author learned these from overseas libraries. Now the author reports the example that observes equipment and homepages. These will become the most important than now. In the future, the equipment will be one of the most important for users. And the other side library's homepage will be one of the most important for all users too. Near future, information and libraries will be one world than now. When it comes, comfortable equipment and useful homepages will save our library.
	Mari SONOHARA	Process and techniques for performing article searches when creating medical guidelines : Based on a project of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Igaku Toshokan. 2009;56(4):301-307.	This report suggests some methods for performing article searches when constructing medical guidelines. All the methods have been tested and compiled by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare's Elderly Care Guidelines (MHLW project), and have been advocated by experienced professionals and a previous study. In this project, a comprehensive search method using PubMed was performed because researchers can look through almost all the key previous studies. When establishing a search strategy, careful selection of the search terms is very important, and this report offers three methods for identifying appropriate search terms. Many terms are often used by researchers and can be also adopted as search terms. As other possible approaches, this report also explains methods by which searchers may suggest search terms that they are seeking in the MeSH database and other reference materials. PubMed contains an enormous number of articles, so searchers often limit their article search to a specific MeSH field (MeSH search). Some suggestions for these cases are also described in this report. In addition, for beginner readers, this report overviews the process of making guidelines and discusses matters that should be studied prior to performing an article search.
2008	Toshiyuni, SWA	1) Consulting Service on Review Coverage, Finding and Evaluating Scales, and Journal Selection for Publication of an Article: a Report from the Osaka University Life Sciences Library, Part 1	Igaku Toshokan. 2008;55(3):246-250.	Application of bibliographic databases enhances the reference service in a medical library. In this report, three subjects about which clients often consult the librarian in the Osaka University Life Sciences Library are presented: 1) determining the depth of years to be covered while writing a review, 2) finding and evaluating suitable scales for ongoing studies, especially in the field of nursing sciences, and 3) choosing the best journal to submit an article. For each issue, a solution process is illustrated and its effectiveness is shown.
		2) Consulting Service: a Report from the Osaka University Life Science Library, 2, Interview and Dialogue in Providing IR Consulting Service	Igaku Toshokan. 2008;55(4):357-361.	Information retrieval (IR) consulting service is widely provided to clients at the Osaka University Life Sciences Library (OULSL), who need critical help in bibliographic searches. The author reports his experience with the IR consulting service at OULSL, showing a fictitious case of consultation for an undergraduate nursing student. It illustrates the process between a librarian and a client as practiced at OULSL, which stimulates the client into reconsideration and further thought on the subject. In conclusion, the importance of interviews and dialogue is emphasized. The librarian should realize the client's needs, have a sympathetic manner, and build effective collaboration under a professional-client relationship throughout.
	Shuichi SUGA Naoko TATSUNO Saeda FUJIMURA Yufuki TERAMAS	1) Statistics on Hygienic Conditions in the Arithmetic Textbook "JinjoShogakuSanjutsu (MidoriByoshi) : Hygienic Conditions in Japanese Elementary School Textbooks in Pre-WW2 Japan, Part1.	Igaku Toshokan. 2008;55(1):50-55.	No Abstract
		2) Teaching Materials on Hygiene in State Textbooks for the Senior Primary School (The First Part): Hygienic Conditions in Japanese Elementary School Textbooks in Pre-WW2 Japan, Part2.	Igaku Toshokan. 2008;55(3):251-256.	No Abstract
		3) Teaching Materials of Hygiene in State Textbooks for the Senior Primary School (The Latter Part): Hygienic Conditions in Japanese Elementary School Textbooks in Pre-WW2 Japan, Part3.	Igaku Toshokan. 2008;55(4):366-370.	No Abstract

Year	Recipients	Title	Bibliographic Data	Abstract
2007	Michiko ICHIKAWA	Health Promotion by Collaboration with Regional Public Libraries	Igaku Toshokan. 2007;54(3):253-259.	The Medical Information Center and Library of Aichi Medical University put in place a system whereby local inhabitants were able to make practical use of the library resources on their own, and in addition, started collaboration with the neighboring public libraries. This report surveys the library image that the government and the library industry demand, the idea of the regional alliances that we are challenging, the results, and the future prospects. Five libraries are working in close cooperation, for instance, making library pathfinders or putting together checklists for book selection. Our purpose is to collect high-quality medical information materials and then make them available, thus supporting the promotion of the health of regional library users. There are innumerable problems to solve. It is important to struggle for the capacity in our daily routine to put our plan on track, keep it going, and maintain its growth. To this end, an exchange of knowledge and skills between public libraries and our medical library is essential.
		The Library Pathfinder, Making and Feasibility	Igaku Toshokan. 2006;53(1):55-59.	Library Pathfinder is a reference tool. It was devised at MIT and many libraries in the USA are using it at present. This report describes the methods of use and impression at Aichi Medical University and suggests the possibility of its use to Consumer Health Information Services by cooperation with various libraries in Japan.
2006	Makiko MIYASHITA Yuki TAKEYAMA Shinichi ABE	Study of Feature Articles in Japanese Journal	Igaku Toshokan. 2006;53(2):126-132.	Background: There are many feature articles in Japanese journals; these articles are frequently used by busy clinicians and trainee doctors. However, the characteristics of these feature articles have not been investigated. Objective: To investigate the characteristics of evidence-based medicine of feature articles. Method: Eight typical monthly journals of internal medicine issued by different publishers from July through September or October 2004 were investigated in terms of the references cited, the year of publication, reference errors, and the first author. These monthly journals were compared with one weekly journal. To determine the type of article, the PubMed publication type, and the Ichushi-web article type were investigated. In particular, the PubMed publication type of clinical studies was investigated as evidence of evidence-based medicine. The first author's affiliation and position were examined with up-to-date data. Result: Seventy-five percent of articles cited were from foreign journals, Ninety-five percent of these articles were journal articles. Twenty percent of these journal articles were clinical studies, including randomized controlled trials and meta-analyses. Approximately 5.5% of all references contained errors. The official position of half of the authors could not be confirmed. Conclusion: Feature articles do not necessarily contain a sufficient quantity of evidence, although they cite many articles from foreign journals and quote many current articles. We can suggest feature articles to clinicians if they can't find good evidence with evidence-based medicine tools or they don't have enough time to read English articles.
2005	Hidetaka OKADA	Correction of Articles in Electronic Journals	Igaku Toshokan. 2005;52(2):138-144.	The correction of articles in electronic journals published in 2003 and included in the Tokyo Medical University Library holdings was examined. The policies of publishers differed as to whether they included corrected articles in the electronic journals and whether they linked the corrected article to the original article. While a standard format for linking the original and corrected articles and publishing the corrected article as an HTML or PDF document tended to be used, the differences in publishers' policies deeply affect the treatment of corrected articles. While differences in publishing policies are unavoidable, corrected articles should be included in electronic journals and should be linked to the original article. Moreover, free access to the corrected articles should be given to journal readers. Some original articles are corrected based on the contents of the corrected article; whether the original article should actually be altered is an important issue and should be discussed among researchers, publishers, and librarians.
	Naoko SUWABE	1) Analysis and Evaluation of Japanese Medical Books Which Contain the Words "Evidence-based Medicine" in Their Titles	Igaku Toshokan. 2004;51(4):363-367.	Background and objectives: A lot of books on Evidence-based medicine (EBM) and medical books that are supposed to be evidence-based have been published around the world since EBM was first introduced in 1992. In Japan, such EBM-related books began to be published in the late 1990s, with the numbers growing since then. This study was undertaken to obtain the basic facts regarding EBM books written by Japanese authors and to determine if those books are more "evidence-based" than other clinical books. Method: Citations from 10 books with the term "EBM" in their titles were extracted and the PubMed publication types of each citation were analyzed. The author defined citations that were Meta-analyses, Randomized Controlled Trials, Controlled Clinical Trials, and Academic Reviews as citations with strong evidence. Results: While 31.05% of the citations in books without the term "EBM" in their titles were based on strong evidence, the rate was only 23.77% in the EBM books. Conclusion: EBM books cited fewer articles with a high level of evidence than other clinical medicine books.

Year	Recipients	Title	Bibliographic Data	Abstract
		2) Clinical Papers Writing and Required Information Literacy	Igaku Toshokan. 2005;52(1):53-58.	Information literacy is defined as the individual's ability to collect information from appropriate sources, evaluate the quality of information obtained, and organize and use the information effectively for specific purposes. Today's researchers should be information-literate not only in their areas of expertise but also in changing circumstances surrounding their research environment This article provides information that researchers must know to conduct clinical research and write papers. Recent changes in prevalent contribution rules for academic articles called "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals," implementation of the personal information protection law in Japan, Evidence-based Medicine (EBM), and guidelines for writing structured abstracts and clinical research papers would directly affect the research process. Researchers must be aware of the changes and comply with the new rules or their papers will not be accepted by major medical journals. They must be more information-literate in a broader sense than ever.
2004	No Recipient	-	-	-
2003	No Recipient	-	-	-
2002	No Recipient	-	-	-
2001	No Recipient	-	-	-