Uchinanchu Diaspora Library Symposium

“The Library is the Heart of Okinawa”

The Library is the Heart of Okinawa” is attributed to Iha Fuyū, known as the “Father of Okinawan Studies” and the first director of the Okinawa Prefectural Library (OPL). To “internationalize” the new Okinawa Prefectural Library (scheduled to open in early 2019), OPL will be identifying and gathering historical material through partnerships with other libraries and Uchinanchu communities around the world. This is an effort to preserve and protect Uchinanchu history, culture, and family histories (genealogy) of Okinawa and the Uchinanchu diaspora.

In today’s symposium, we will discuss the New Okinawa Prefectural Library, their genealogical reference service, and the various collections of the Uchinanchu Diaspora held in libraries in Okinawa, Hawaii, and Brazil.
Moderator — Kyokyo Hijirida — Professor Emeritus Japanese and Uchinaguchi Language, University of Hawai‘i.

Panelists:

Hiroaki HARA - Okinawa Prefectural Library
*New Okinawa Prefectural Library: Collecting material from the Worldwide Uchinanchu diaspora, the new Migration corner and the Genealogical Reference Service.*

Masayuki DANA – Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum
*An overview of the lineage approved by the Ryukyu Kingdom & the current collecting effort of lineage documents.*

Shinji YONAMINE - Associação Okinawa Kenjin Do Brasil and WUB Brazil
*Uchinanchus in Brazil.*

Sumiko OGAWA – Meio University Library
*Meio University Library Diaspora Project – planning for the renovated library.*

Chinatsu TOMITA – University of the Ryukyus Library
*Materials about Uchinanchu Diaspora owned by University of the Ryukyus Library.*

Munehiro MACHIDA – University of the Ryukyus
*Let’s centralize Uchinanchu ancestor data in a "Worldwide Uchinanchu Center"—A place to collect and utilize Uchinanchu ancestor and Immigration records.*

Sachiko IWABUCHI – University of Hawai‘i Library
*Okinawan resources housed at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa*
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<th>Presenters</th>
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| **Mr. Hiroaki Hara (Okinawa)** 原裕昭 (沖縄)  
Supervisory Librarian, Okinawa Prefectural Librarian  
Hiroaki has been dedicated to Okinawa Prefectural Library for more than 7 years. During the period, he has handled a lot of crucial projects, such as planning a concept of new OPL. Regarding migration, he set up a genealogical reference service for Okinawan descendants during the 6th World Uchinanchu Festival. He has still been in charge of migration project, improving this service and hoping to spread network with world Uchinanchu society. |
| **Mr. Masayuki Dana (Okinawa)** 田名真之 (沖縄)  
| **Mr. Shinji Yonamine (Brazil)** 与那嶺 眞次氏 (ブラジル)  
Shinji Yonamine was educated as a civil engineer and became a successful businessman in Brazil. He is also the chairman for both the Okinawa Brazil Kenjikai and Brazil Okinawa Cultural Center. Yonamine has also been the Uchina Goodwill Ambassador since 1990, WUB Network President, and secretary to various political figures in Sao Paulo, Brazil. |
| **Ms. Sumiko Ogawa (Okinawa)** 小川寿美子 (沖縄)  
Sumiko Ogawa teaches Public Health and Epidemiology in Okinawa, Japan as a Director of the University Library and as Professor in Meio University's Faculty of Human Health Sciences. She has a Ph. D. in Human Sciences from Graduate School of Osaka University, Master's degrees in both Public Health (Antwerp, Belgium) and in Medical Science (Osaka), and diplomas in Tropical Medicine (Tokyo University) and Tropical Epidemiology (London, LSHTM). |
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<th>Ms. Chinatsu Tomita (Okinawa) 富田千夏 (沖縄)</th>
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<td>Information Services Section, University of the Ryukyus Library (Okinawan Materials)</td>
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<th>Mr. Munehiro Machida (Okinawa) 町田 宗博氏 (沖縄)</th>
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<td>September, 1953 Born in Okinawa, Chatan. 1977 Graduated from the) University of the Ryukyus (Geography). 1981 Graduated the Masters program (Geography) at the Osaka Kyoiku University. 2005-2009 Director of Center for Migration Studies at Univ. of the Ryukyus. 1999- Professor at Univ. of the Ryukyus (Human Geography)</td>
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<th>Ms. Sachiko Iwabuchi (Hawai‘i) 岩渕 祥子 (ハワイ)</th>
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<td>Sachiko Iwabuchi works as the Okinawa Studies Librarian in the Asia Department of the University of University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Library since 2016. Before relocating to Hawai‘i, she worked as a Japanese acquisitions staff member at the C.V. Starr East Asian Library at the University of California at Berkeley, and Coordinator for the Japanese Text Initiative at the University of Virginia Library. She was born in Japan, and she holds MLIS (Master’s in Library &amp; Information Science) from Drexel University, and M.A. in History from the University of Virginia, and LL.M. (Master’s in Law) from Hokkaido University School of Law.</td>
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