

Lifelong Learning Communities through Extensive Reading at a Local Library and Online



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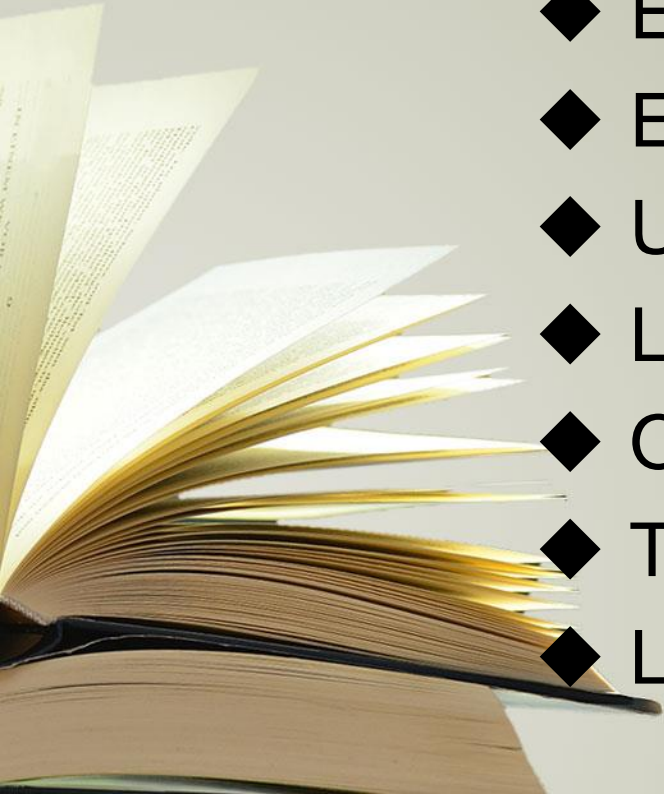
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In the Future

Who we are...

- ◆ ER since 2010
- ◆ ERWC (Kyoto, Korea, Dubai, Taiwan)
- ◆ University
- ◆ Local Library
- ◆ One million words per year
- ◆ Two years or more
- ◆ Life long ER







You must have dignity.







ER in Japan

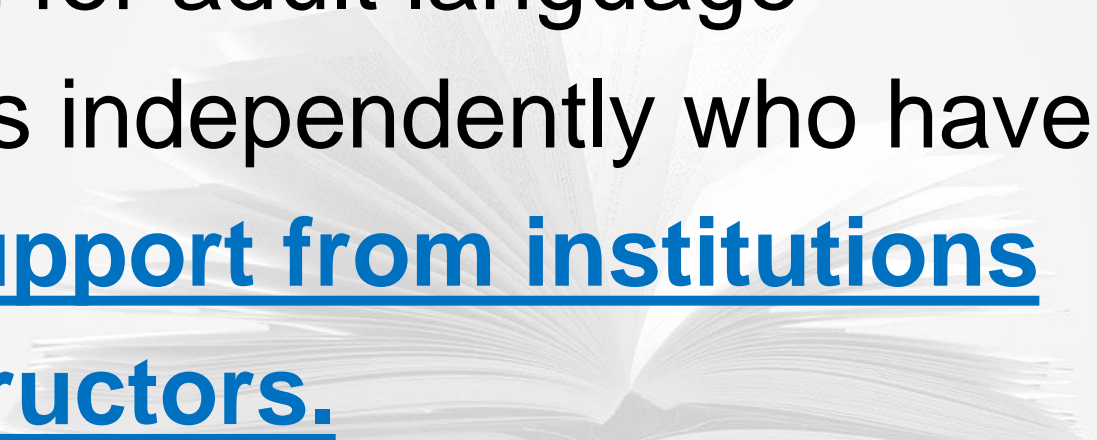
In Japan, since Furukawa (2003) promoted extensive reading with an attractive key phrase

“one million words extensive reading,”

many schools have started extensive reading programs.


Difficulties

It is not very easy to continue reading for adult language learners independently who have less support from institutions or instructors.



The present study

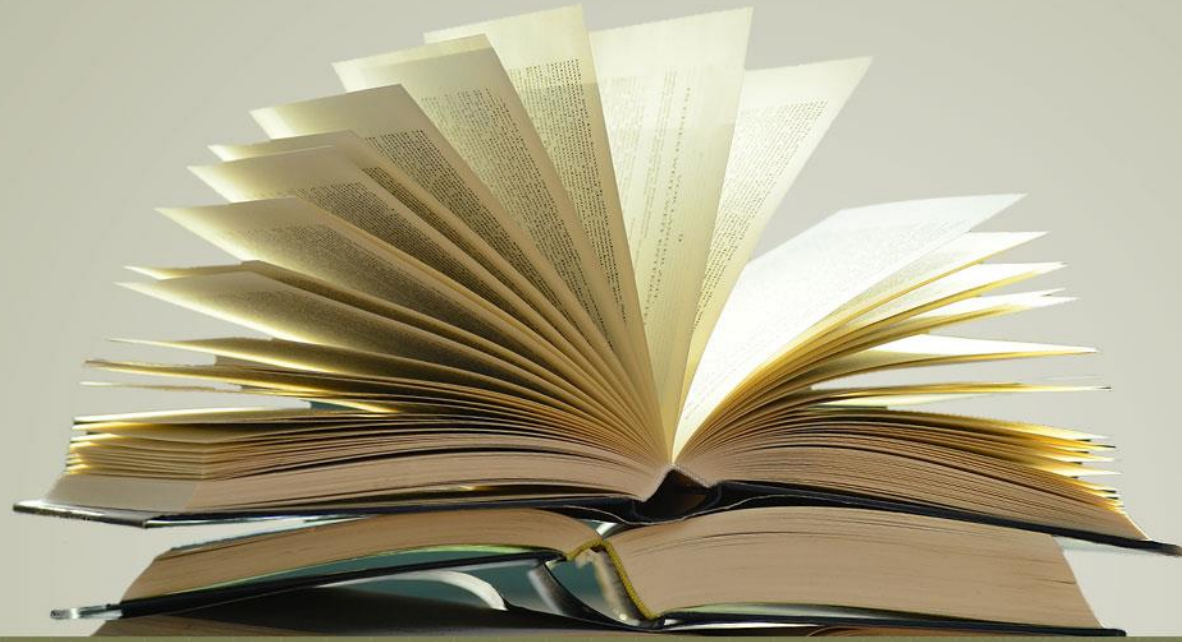
This qualitative study examines how a local library and an online learners' community can support adult learners to practice extensive reading in English continuously.



Two ER Communities


1. At a local library
2. Online community





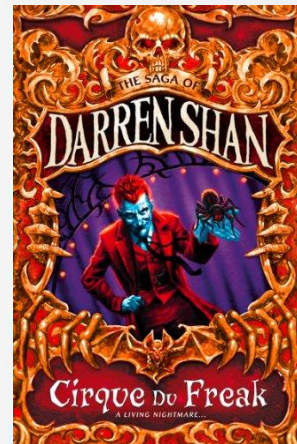
Community 1

The Data from Community 1

- semi-structured interviews
 - observation notes
 - reading logs
 - social services of each community
- 

Why can we say our local library community is successful?

- We have been working together **for 8 years!**
- **70% of the members** have been attending the meeting.
- One of the members has improved reading proficiency significantly:
from Oxford Reading Tree (ORT)
to Cirque Du Freak
(The Saga of Darren Shan, Book 1).



A Success Story of our ER Circle

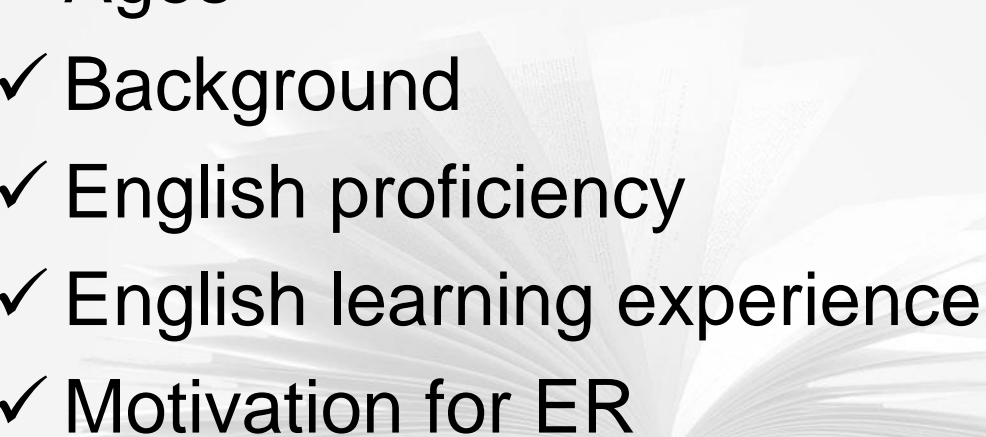
- We have been having a monthly meeting **for 8 years!**
- We have continued to cooperate with the local librarians.
- Good librarians and director's approach also have a significant impact on the continuity of the meeting.
- Despite periods of stagnation, continuation is what produces results. (Once there were only 3 attendees.)
- Libraries in Japan: Directors are often replaced.
 - The key to the success of ER circles depends on **cooperation with librarians**

Factors causing failures

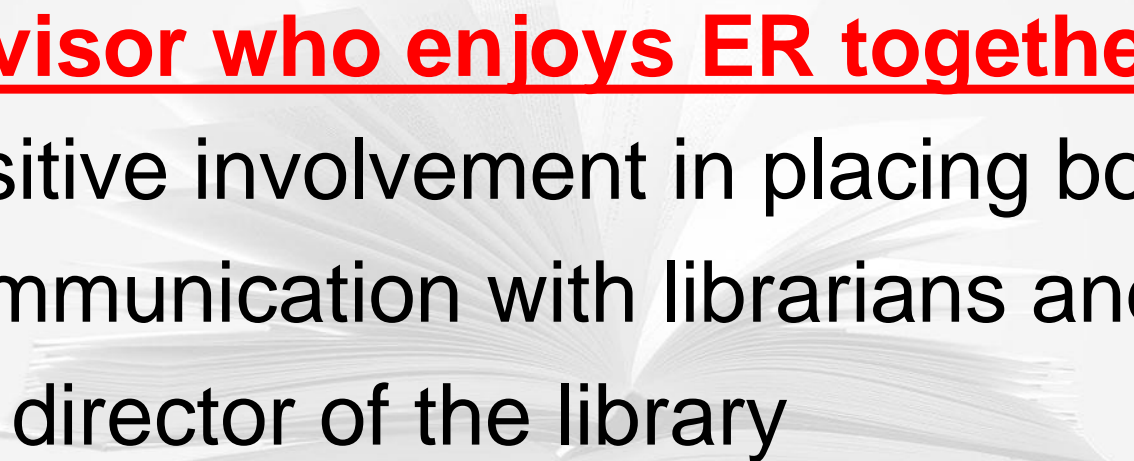
- We need books for successful ER but having books doesn't always guarantee successful ER.
- Simply distributing books in the library is not enough to keep people reading extensively.
- We **need a community of ER in** the library and **hold meetings on an ongoing basis** for life-long learning.

Findings

- **Diversity:**

- ✓ Ages
 - ✓ Background
 - ✓ English proficiency
 - ✓ English learning experience
 - ✓ Motivation for ER
- 

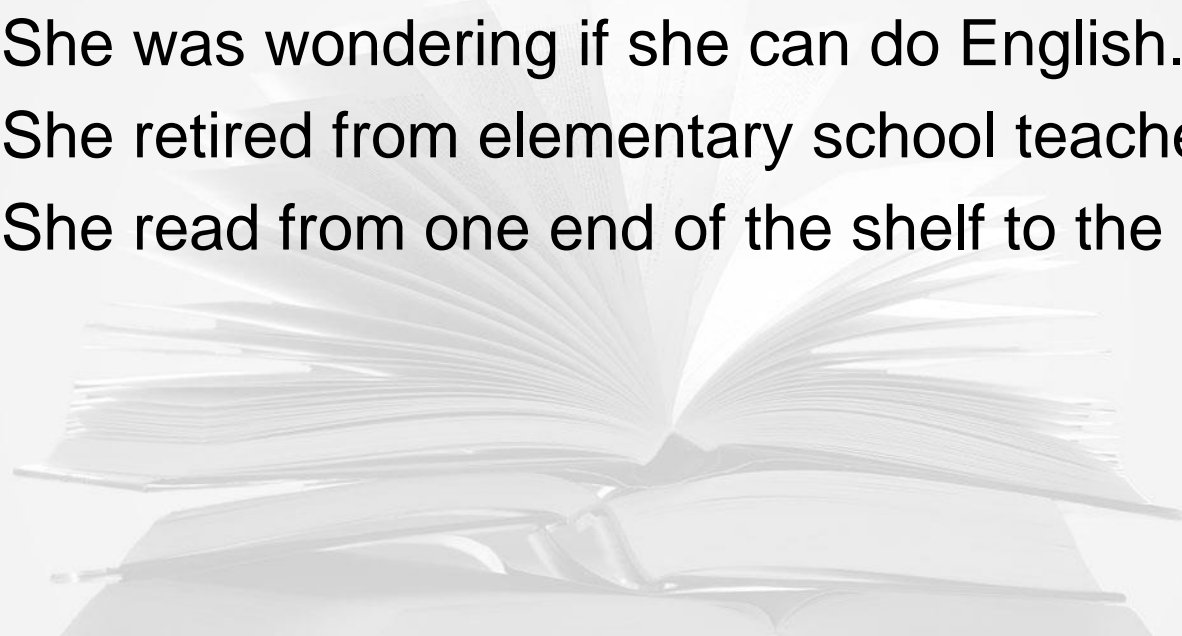
Findings

- Who is in charge:
 - ✓ No leader, no hierarchy
 - Advisor who enjoys ER together
 - Positive involvement in placing books
 - Communication with librarians and the director of the library
- 

Case A

Apple started in 2016:

- She loves reading books in L1.
- She was wondering if she can do English.
- She retired from elementary school teacher.
- She read from one end of the shelf to the other.



Case A

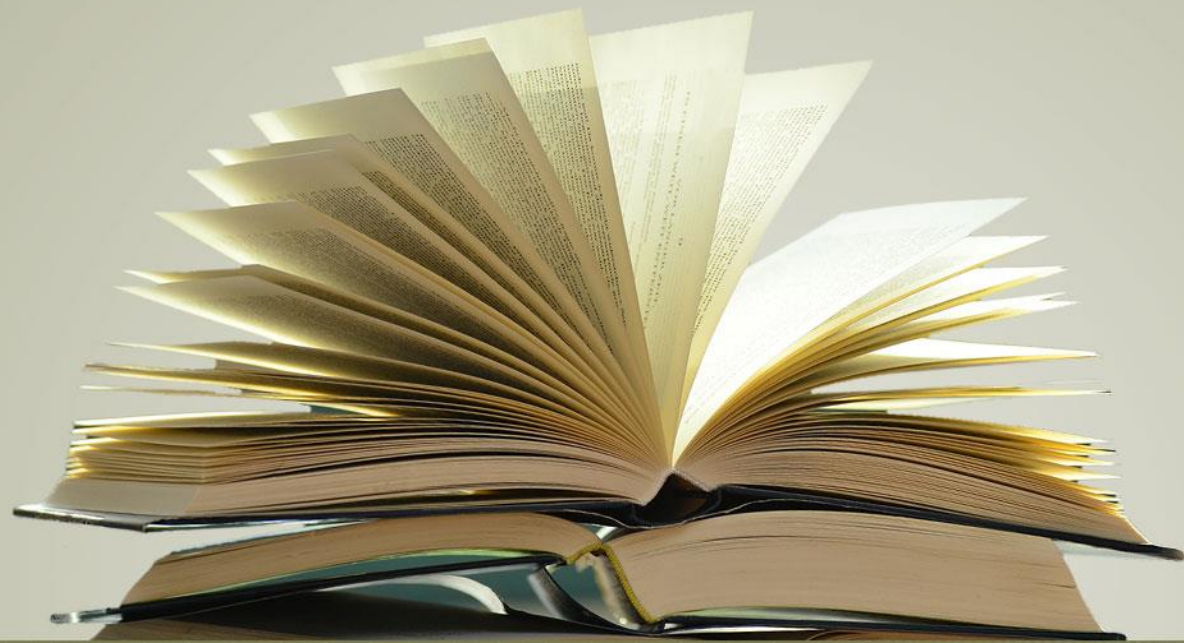
From the interview with Apple-san

“I like reading books, but I was not confident in my English. Rachi sensei (presenter 2) accepted and understood my English level, so I can feel comfortable attending the meeting. Rachi sensei (presenter 2) said I should read enough books of the same level , so I did. After that, when I tried to read a little higher level books to see if I could read them, I was able to read them without any problem!”

Case A

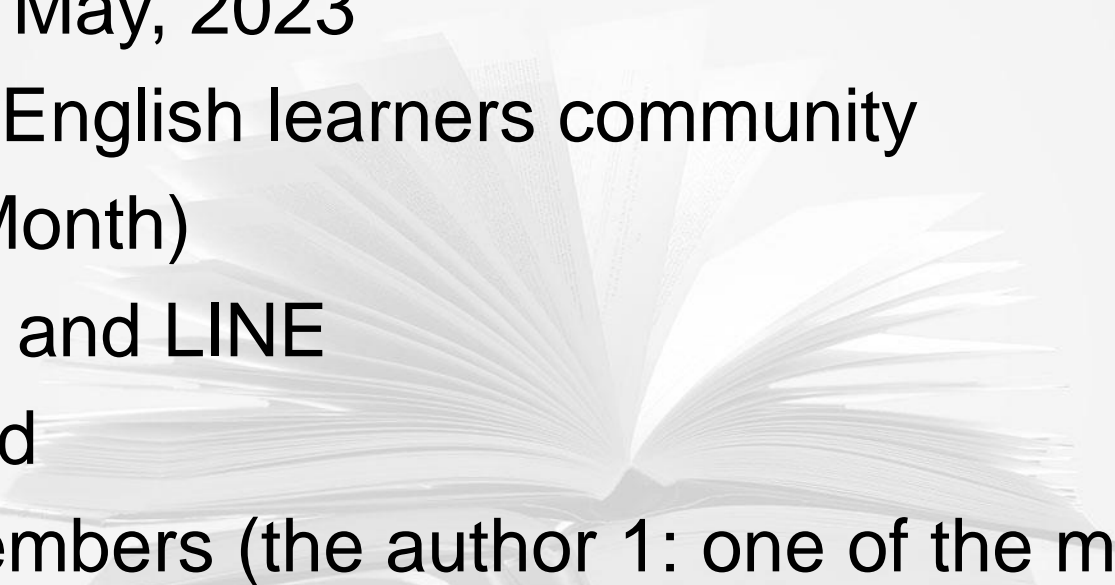
Account name : Apple-san

- Like reading books but not confident in English ability
- Advisor accepted and understood my English ability
- Feel comfortable attending the meeting
- Raised the reading level quickly but tried to read enough books of appropriate level following advisor's suggestion → later good result



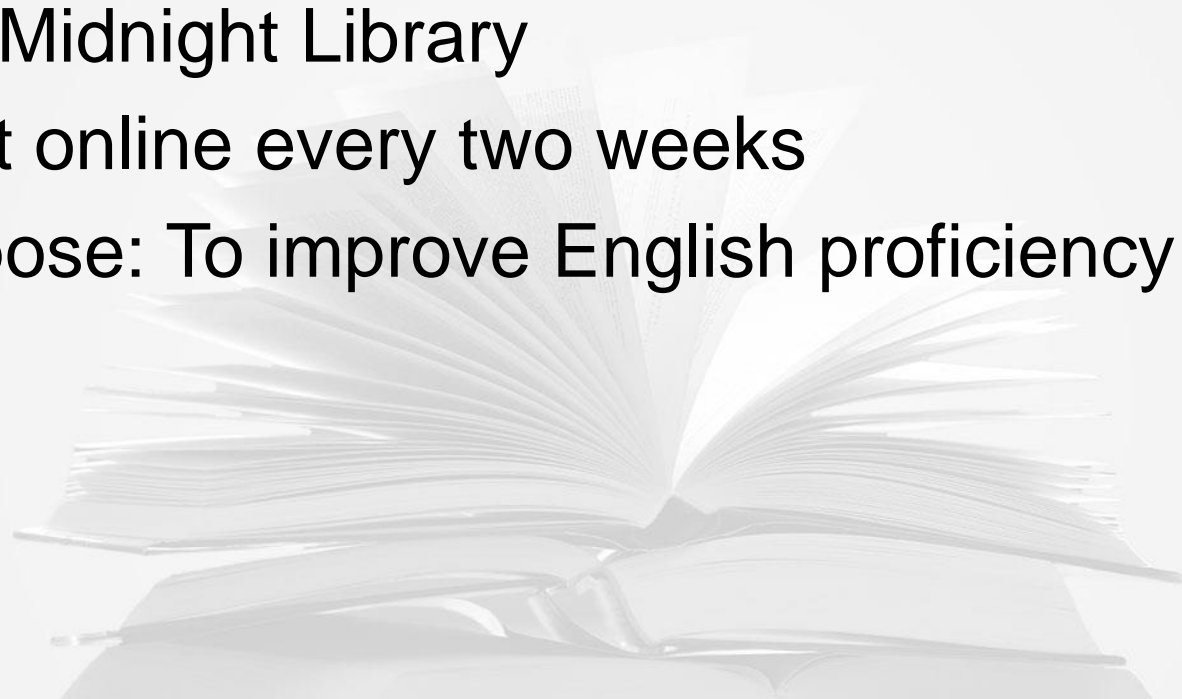
Community 2

ER Community 2

- Online
 - Since May, 2023
 - From English learners community
(\$10/ Month)
 - Zoom and LINE
 - Closed
 - 11 members (the author 1: one of the members)
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ER Community 2

- Reading the same book
- The Midnight Library
- Meet online every two weeks
- Purpose: To improve English proficiency

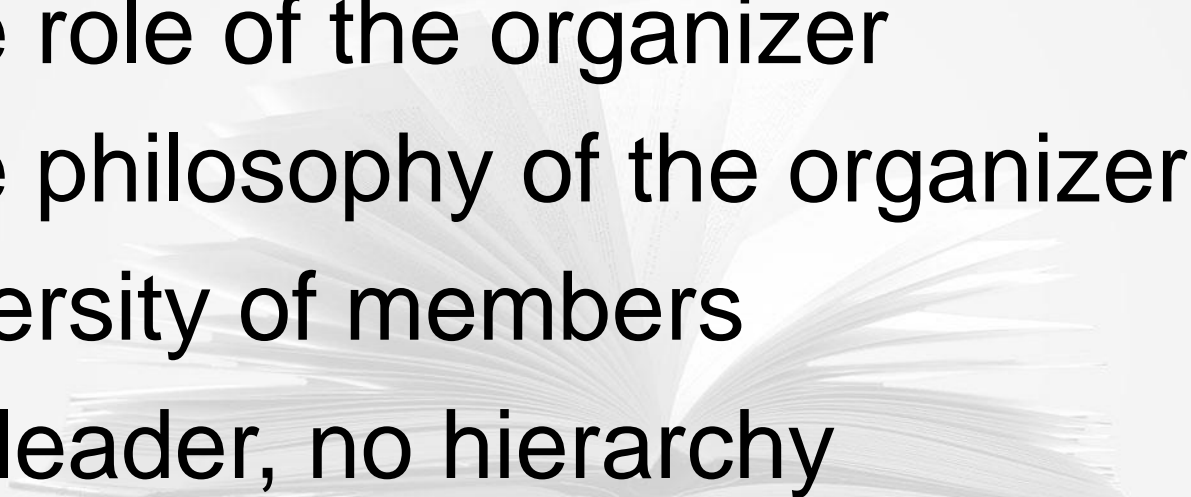


Interpretations

- Reducing anxiety
- Having fun
- Sharing feelings

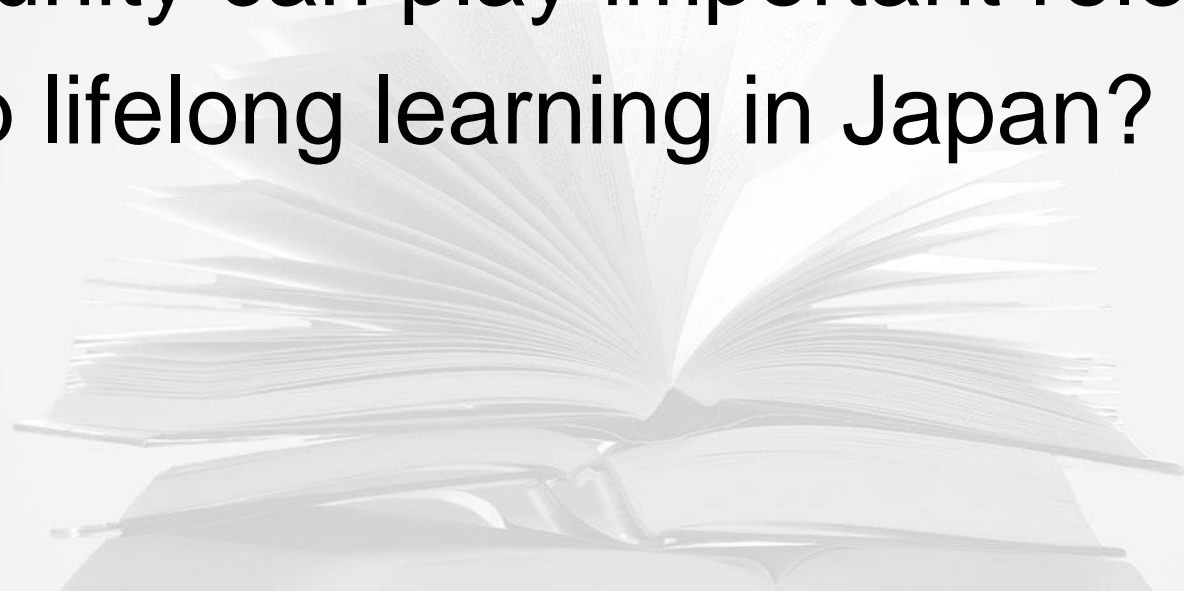


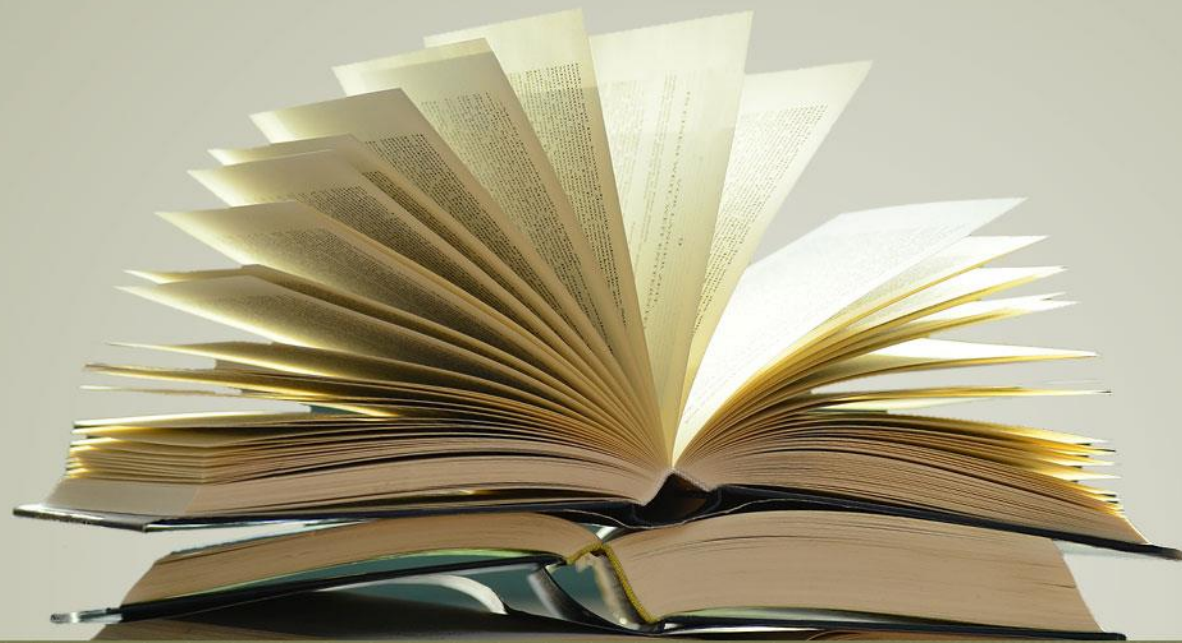
Interpretation

- “Culture” of each community
 - The role of the organizer
 - The philosophy of the organizer
 - Diversity of members
 - No leader, no hierarchy
- 

For the future

How can libraries and online learners' community can play important roles to help lifelong learning in Japan?





Thank you !

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