**[ 論文]（査読）**

**The Development of Adult Education through Practices**

**of Public Library Program**

**Shoko Nagata（永田　祥子）**

**Hiroshima University, Graduate School of Education**

**Abstract**

The objective of this research is to explore practices of adult education in public library. Due to the rapid growth of immigrant population, the role of libraries in providing learning environment for adult immigrants and the underserved has expanded drastically. In this study, the historical overview of adult education in libraries is examined. The importance of adult education in libraries has been emphasized since the time of public library expansion, and libraries have constantly provided programs that were needed for immigrants to thrive in the American society.

Through the education programs, libraries demonstrate ways for adults to learn not only language but to facilitate dialogue among the community. From these adult education programs, it is evident that libraries play an active role in encouraging immigrants to participate in the society. Since education programs in libraries reflect the changes in society, the development of approaches of adult education in libraries is examined in this paper.