



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

National Institutes for the Humanities

GUIDE BOOK
2021 - 2022



NIHU

<https://www.nihu.jp/en>

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Message from the President



Subject about how humans can survive and coexist is critical issues humankind faces in the 21st century. In the face of many difficulties such as environmental problems, resource depletion and infectious diseases, and how humans will survive on earth and coexist with others against war, violence, discrimination and poverty.

We believe that humanities potentially hold answers that will help solve these issues. The study of humanities covers humans, culture, society, and nature. The humanities studies defined as “the academic field that comprehensively explores humans and its cultures,” and integration is the original way of humanities. Nowadays, with the remarkable fragmentation of the humanities, there is a strong demand for humanities based on the integration of research with depth and breadth that comprehensively understand “humans and its cultures “. That is “humanities” as a whole of knowledge that transcends humanities and sciences. We must correctly position our expertise in

science and technology within humans and its culture to have a wider view by humanities.

In the Third Mid-Term, the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) makes full use of the accumulated cultural resources and personal networks the six institutes that constitute NIHU have built in their own academic fields. While expanding the research base, we have promoted state-of-the-art research and pursued a high degree of specialization to enhance its function as the core organizations in their respective fields in Japan and overseas. “NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects” collaborates with universities, research facilities, local communities and industries, and contributes to the understanding of contemporary issues. It has created new value systems for human cultures.

In the final year of the Third Mid-Term, I would like to emphasize that the most meaningful concepts for critical issues humankind faces in the 21st century that Japanese humanities research, including NIHU, can convey to the rest of the world are “the meaning of true prosperity,” “the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature” and “the creation of peace.”

Thank you for your interest and cooperation.

President **Hirakawa Minami**

National Institutes for the Humanities
Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

★ Inter-University Research Institutes

Inter-university research institutes are research centers run by a community of researchers. Its unique structure was developed in Japan. In contrast to conducting research within the confines of individual universities, they are joint use facilities that function as hubs for information exchange and brain circulation between researchers from Japanese and international institutions. They are also focal points where academic disciplines converge and new ones emerge.

Vision and Mission

We believe that humanities research potentially holds answers that will help solve critical issues humankind faces in the 21st century. Questions about how humans can coexist with nature and how they should interact with each other in the global context cannot be answered by science and technology alone. We need to examine and assess our approaches to human cultures and, in doing so, we believe we will find paths toward healthier and wealthier societies. NIHU strives to play a leading role in that process.

Our goals are to innovatively rebuild knowledge and traditions that transcend boundaries between academic fields, societies and customs. We endeavor to create new paradigms in humanities research that genuinely enrich lives through solving problems together.

NIHU's six institutes share these four missions: Integration; Excellence in research and education; Advancement of joint use and collaborative research; Social collaboration and contribution.

Integration

We shall recognize a diverse range of values, apply methodologies that allow for comprehensive understanding of humanity and its cultures, and contribute toward social progress and creative development.

Excellence in Research and Education

We shall be a central global facility and contribute toward the creation of educational and research organizations that are responsive to social and cultural changes.

Advancement of Joint Use and Collaborative Research

We shall endeavor to strengthen international research capabilities of universities and improve research environments that will facilitate academic mobility for its faculty.

Social Collaboration and Contribution

We shall strengthen our information and promotional capabilities and disseminate the results of our humanities research. We shall make our information accessible to the world, collaborate with industries and other entities on projects, and contribute to society.

Organizational Structure

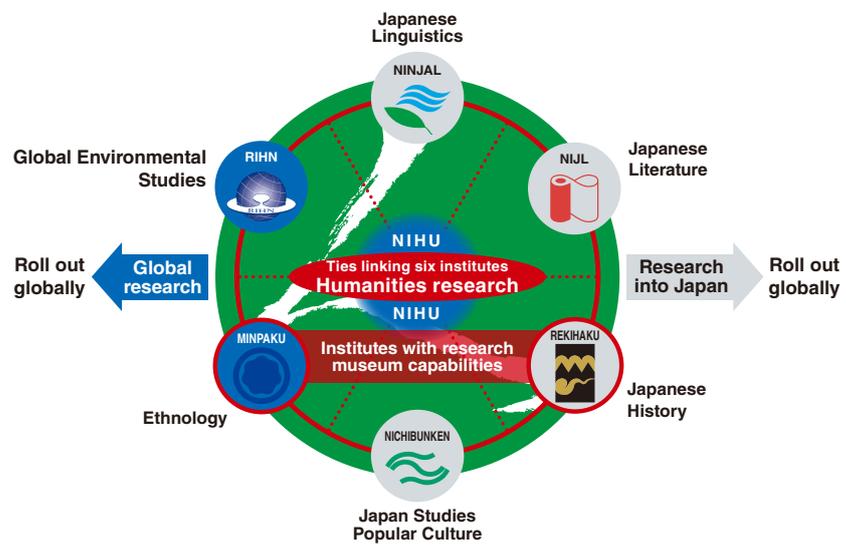
NIHU is one of the four inter-university research institute corporations in Japan, along with the National Institutes of Natural Sciences, the Research Organization for Information and Systems and the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization.

The chief executive is the president who is selected by a committee of experts in the humanities and related disciplines. Several executive directors are appointed by the president to assist the leadership. Three committees, the Strategic Planning Committee, Administrative Council and Education and Research Council, discuss important matters concerning the operation of the organization. The Advisory Board, consisting of the president, NIHU's executive directors and the heads of NIHU's six institutes, discuss matters relating to cooperation between NIHU headquarters and its institutes.

In 2016, two new centers, the Center for Transdisciplinary Innovation (CTI) and the Center for Information and Public Relations (CIP) were established to improve governance at NIHU.

CTI strengthens mutual cooperation between the six institutes and leads NIHU's Transdisciplinary Projects that collaborate with universities and research institutions in Japan and overseas.

CIP consolidates data related to human cultures by gathering information and research results from researchers affiliated with NIHU, important documents and materials from the archives of the six institutes. The materials are made available to the public.



Coordination between six institutes

Center for Transdisciplinary Innovation (CTI)

The NIHU Transdisciplinary projects, run by the Center for Transdisciplinary Innovation (CTI), is a six-year ongoing program launched in 2016. It collaborates with universities, research facilities, and communities in Japan and overseas to examine and analyze modern-day issues to create new value systems for human cultures. Research results from this project are provided to the academic communities as well as to the general public through publications, databases, images and exhibitions. The fruits of research are also used to develop new educational programs in universities.

There are three types of NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects: (I) Institute-based Projects, (II) Multidisciplinary Collaboration Projects, and (III) Network-based Projects (NIHU Area Studies, and Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas: NIHU International Collaborative Research and Utilization).

In addition, in collaboration with the Center for Information and Public Relations, CTI manages two programs, the NIHU Interactive Communication Initiative and the Inter-University Research Institute Network Project to Preserve and Succeed Historical and Cultural Resources (launched in the 2018 academic year).

Center for Transdisciplinary Innovation



NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects

I. Institute-based Projects

III. Network-based Projects

II. Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects



Inter-University Research Institute Network Project to Preserve and Succeed Historical and Cultural Resources

NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects

I. Institute-based Projects

NIHU's six institutes have established priority research themes in accordance to their respective missions. They collaborate with Japanese and overseas institutions and researchers to conduct research that advances each institute's specialist areas.

Constructing Integrated Studies of Cultural and Research Resources, and Renovating Sharing Infrastructures of Research Resources in Japanese History and Cultures

National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku)

This project offers unique insights into a variety of studies and Japanese historical resources, through multidisciplinary collaboration with universities, museums, and other institutions. "Integrated Studies of Cultural and Research Resources" approaches Japanese historical resources through interdisciplinary studies using information infrastructure. Classifying various cultural and research materials with an interdisciplinary scope can lead to more advanced sharing infrastructure and further cooperative studies. The project contributes to the advancement of a new academic discipline of Japanese history.

A New Integration of Japanese Language Studies based on Diverse Language Resources

National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL)

This project builds large-scale corpora that serve as basic data for Japanese language research, by collaborating with universities and research institutions in Japan and overseas. The data, which are provided to universities and research communities, include language resources derived from written and conversational Japanese, classics, dialects, and learners' Japanese.

The vast array of language resources is analyzed from linguistic and other angles. Different fields of research are brought together to develop new models for comprehensive research on the Japanese language. Research results are published through print and electronic media for worldwide use.

Project to Build an International Collaborative Research Network for Pre-modern Japanese Texts (NIJL-NW project)

National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL)

This project makes use of various historical Japanese texts as resources for research. In collaboration with universities and research institutions worldwide, the project carries out interdisciplinary research that extends beyond humanities research and that incorporates other fields such as the natural sciences. To create a research infrastructure, approximately 300,000 Japanese pre-modern texts are being scanned into a database that combine the resulting data with existing bibliographic information.

Historical and International Research into Popular Culture to Pursue New Images of Japan

International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken)

The purpose of this project is understanding diverse Japanese cultural traditions and the foundations underlying them through historical and international studies of popular culture. It endeavors to contribute to the creation of new images of Japan and to re-examine Japanese culture as a whole.

A mixed media audio-visual archive is being formed by collecting and digitizing a wide range of materials related to Japanese popular culture. In addition, the fruits of the research will be distributed as research resources and educational materials, for use by universities and institutions in Japan and overseas.

Transformation Towards Sustainable Futures in Complex Human-Nature Systems in Asia

 **Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)**

This project consists of three practical research programs that propose models of future societies based on the complex human-nature histories of Asia and other continents. The Asian continent consists of diverse natural environments, cultures, values and perspectives; it is also a hot spot area of global environmental issues and economic change.

The three programs are: 1) Societal Transformation under Environmental Change; 2) Fair Use and Management of Diverse Resources; 3) Designing Lifeworlds for Sustainability and Wellbeing.

Info-Forum Museum for Cultural Resources of the World

 **National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku)**

This project is carried out in collaboration with researchers from universities, museums and research institutions in Japan and overseas, as well as with source communities, to analyze cultural resources collected by Minpaku. The results are provided multilingually, made available worldwide, and collected in a database with forum capabilities. The database will allow participants around the world to exchange ideas about the cultural resources. Relevant materials from Central and North Asia, Southeast Asia are included into the database.

II. Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects

NIHU's six institutes contribute their specialist expertise (history, literature, language, regional research and the environment) to develop new methodologies for human culture research and to grow new disciplines. The project is carried out in cooperation with universities, research institutions and local communities in Japan and overseas.

Change of Local Communities and Reconstruction of Community Cultures after Disasters in the Japanese Archipelago

Representatives: Koike Junichi (Rekihaku) [lead institution], Kibe Nobuko (NINJAL) [lead institution], Kawamura Kiyoshi (Rekihaku), Hidaka Shingo (Minpaku), Watanabe Koichi (NIJL), Yoshida Takehito (RIHN)

Changes in local communities and disasters threaten the diversity of community cultures in the Japanese Archipelago. This project examines the impact of such challenges through multiple viewpoints including language, resource preservation, symbolic representational system and environmental protection. By engaging in practical discussions with members of local communities, insights on their perspectives can be gained and collected, and then integrated into efforts that assist communities in reconstructing their cultures.



Rethinking Eco-health in Asia

Representatives: Hein Mallee (RIHN) [lead institution], Iriguchi Atsushi (NIJL), Nobayashi Atsushi (Minpaku)

Currently our ideas about health focus mainly on biomedical interventions rooted in research on disease rather than on positive health concepts. "Ecohealth" is an emerging research field that explores health concepts in daily life as they relate to ecology, lifestyles, livelihoods, and food culture, against a backdrop of rapid social and environmental change in Asia. This project combines interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to incorporate humanities and human culture to help us understand evolving approaches to health. We examine historical concepts of health and contemporary case studies of social and environmental changes in East and Southeast Asia. One of our objectives is to establish a research network on Ecohealth in Asia.



Development of a Field of Comprehensive Bibliographical Studies from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Representatives: Fujizane Kumiko (NIJL) [lead institution], Ogura Shigeji (Rekihaku), Takada Tomokazu (NINJAL), Yamada Shoji (Nichibunken)

Texts passed down from ancient times (Japanese pre-modern texts) contain a wealth of information that extends beyond actual content. These include details about paper, ink and binding. In addition to studying the texts through reading, deeper knowledge about Japanese literature can be attained by incorporating perspectives of other disciplines. We are able to reexamine meanings and unearth knowledge held by our ancestors and understand further the impact of the writings. As the lead institution, NIJL coordinates the overall project. It works in conjunction with NIJL's Institute-based Project. Research results are consolidated into general educational programs as well as "Comprehensive Bibliographical Studies," a new academic discipline.



III. Network-based Projects

Network-based projects examine critical issues about Japan from a global context by exploring societies and cultures. A wide network of universities and research institutions in Japan and overseas collaborate on comprehensive research programs that incorporate a vast array of fields. Network-based Projects consist of two themes; “Area Studies” and “Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas.”

NIHU Area Studies

This project focuses on three regions that are significant to Japan from cultural, social, political, economic and environmental perspectives but that are currently lacking in comprehensive research. The program aims to advance mutual understanding between Japan and each of the relevant regions.

Northeast Asia

Main theme: **Regional Structure and Its Change in Northeast Asia: in Search of the Way to Coexist from the Point of View of Transborderism**

Representatives: Ikeya Kazunobu (Minpaku), Iwashita Akihiro (Hokkaido University), Satoshi Chiba (Tohoku University), Jun Ma (University of Toyama), Xiao Dong Li (The University of Shimane), Aoyama Rumi (Waseda University)

“Northeast Asia” comprises of Japan, China, Russia, Mongolia, South Korea, and North Korea and this concept is important in tackling issues confronted by each country. This project maps out a vision for coexistence within Northeast Asia through understanding various phenomena surrounding crossing borders. It examines causes of social and economic conflicts and searches for meaningful solutions to issues occurring among these nations.



Modern Middle East

Main theme: **Towards a Pluralistic and Multi-Valued Society: People and Cultures of the Middle East in the Age of Global Change**

Representatives: Nishio Tetsuo (Minpaku), Kondo Nobuaki (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), Akahori Masayuki (Sophia University), Tonaga Yasushi (Kyoto University), Fujii Hikari (Akita University)

This project examines how individuals in the Middle East obtain information, accumulate knowledge and utilize them as resources in an age of global transformations of the environment, society, and media. We study how individuals relate to the world, at the ways social spaces are created, and at the manners in which individuals relate to them, inclusively or exclusively, based on their diverse values.



South Asia

Main theme: **Structural Transformation in Globalizing South Asia: Integrated Area Studies for Sustainable, Inclusive and Peaceful Development**

Directors: [Convener] Fujita Koichi (Kyoto University), [Directors] Fujikura Tatsuro (Kyoto University), Mio Minoru (Minpaku), Tanabe Akio (The University of Tokyo), Tomozawa Kazuo (Hiroshima University), Awaya Toshie (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), Dake Mitsuya (Ryukoku University)

This project fosters an in-depth understanding of contemporary South Asia and its future prospects by focusing on society, culture, politics, economy, and the environment through interdisciplinary and long-term approaches. By incorporating insights of area specialists we aim to work on real-world problems in this region and find solutions for a sustainable, inclusive and peaceful development of the region.



Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas: NIHU International Collaborative Research and Utilization

Countless invaluable resources relating to Japan in Europe and the Americas exist, however, due to the small number of researchers specializing in Japanese culture, and because many resources are held in private collections, information on whereabouts of these resources are not easily accessible. In many cases, detailed research to determine the value of the relevant resources is yet to be carried out. This project conducts research on a wide range of resources such as documents, audio and artifacts. We encourage and support overseas researchers who wish to specialize in Japan and who will endeavor to promote better understanding of Japanese culture by making our results available across the globe.

Insights into Japan-related Overseas Artifacts and Documents from 19th-century Europe, Research and Use: Developing the Foundation for International Collaboration in Transmitting Japanese Culture

Representative: Hidaka Kaori (Rekihaku)

This project investigates resources in Europe collected in nineteenth century Japan and makes the resources with the results of the investigations available to the public through our databases, exhibitions, symposiums and educational programs. The investigations are conducted in three locations, Austria, the UK and Switzerland, through collaboration with their museums and universities. Each location has a different focus. In Vienna, Austria, the focus is on the traditional approach to surveying resources; in the UK, the interactive approach to exhibition development is the focus; in Switzerland, human resource development is highlighted. Based on these three investigations, our objective is to propose an international research scheme for exploring Japan-related resources overseas.



Prince Charles (center) visiting an exhibition based on the results of NIHU collaborative research, held in Wales, U.K.

Research, Conservation and Utilization of the Marega Collection Preserved in the Vatican Library

Representative: Ota Naohiro (NIJL)

In 2011, over 10,000 documents relating to Christians in the Japanese province of Bungo (now Oita prefecture) that were collected by Father Mario Marega were discovered at the Vatican Library. This project raises awareness about the existence of these documents, their historical significance, and their potential as resources for research. The project also assists researchers worldwide by providing guidance on methodologies for studying resources on Japan. It also provides support to the Vatican Library in establishing an archive management system and in making the collected documents available online.



The Workshop for the preservation and conservation of the Marega Collection

Survey, Study and Use of the Japan-related Documents and Artifacts in North America: Socio-historical Approach to 'Modern Overseas Material Informatics'

Representative: Asahi Yoshiyuki (NINJAL)

This project salvages and evaluates materials related to Japanese society focusing primarily on modern Japanese immigrants in North America. These materials that are in audio and video format have been increasingly at risk of degradation and disposal. We will propose new theories and methodologies for investigating immigration by looking at the language, social and life records of Japanese ancestry.



Barbara Kawakami Collection

Coordination between Projects to Make Effective Use of Research Results

Representative: Takii Kazuhiro (Nichibunken)

In collaboration with three projects, this project aims to plan academic meetings, exhibits, and other events concerning Japan-related resources that combine different disciplines, and to promote their implementation in Japan and overseas. Providing information utilizing the results of these researches will encourage the next generation of young scholars overseas specializing in Japan, further comparative research based on international cooperation, and facilitate mutual understanding of Japanese culture on an international level.



International symposium in session



Inter-University Research Institute Network Project to Preserve and Succeed Historical and Cultural Resources

The historical and cultural resources of a regional community are milestones for learning about the formation of the region and thinking about the future, and are indispensable for long-term, continuous development. Especially in Japan, efforts toward saving and preserving the resources of regional communities from significant disasters are gaining momentum across the country, with the "Shiryō-net (Historical Resources Network)" at Kobe as a forerunner established to apply the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

However, methods for preserving the resources of regional communities have not yet been established on an institutional or technical level. Further, as the number of disasters increases, the conservation of resources affected by disasters (resource rescue) becomes increasingly important.

The present Inter-university Network Project, implemented under the initiative of NIHU (led by the National Museum of Japanese History), Tohoku University, and Kobe University, and with the cooperation of "Shiryō Net" organized mainly by universities around the country, aims to obtaining information on the location of resources, implementing digitization, establishing a mutual rescue support system. The project also aims at preservation and creative development of local history and culture through resource utilization research, development of educational programs, and communicating the fruits of our research within and outside Japan.



Rescue Activities for Materials after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake

Center for Information and Public Relations (CIP)

CIP digitizes a wide array of academic research resources relating to human culture and facilitates their access to universities and researchers worldwide. NIHU's materials, including information about its researchers and research results, are now easily accessible. CIP strengthens interactive communication with the public and aims to help society with its research results.

Public Relations Division

In addition to aggregating information on trends and results from humanities research and NIHU's extensive collection of research resources, CIP aims to give back to society in ways that benefit researchers as well as the global community. To facilitate broader access to its information, CIP organizes public relations activities by publishing research data, organizing public symposiums, holding regular press conferences, and promoting industry-academic collaboration.

These activities aim to convey the significance and benefits of humanities study and the ways in which greater understanding of human cultures enrich everyday lives. CIP also organizes international seminars and symposiums in Japan and overseas that share information on Japanese culture and the latest trends in research on Japan.

NIHU Symposiums

We organize symposiums for the general public in order to share the comprehensive human culture related research resources and results NIHU has accumulated.

Online Resources

▶ NIHU Magazine

A bilingual (Japanese and English-language) publication that covers topics such as the latest research trends and results and activities at NIHU. It is published on a regular basis on the NIHU website.
https://www.nihu.jp/en/publication/nihu_magazine

▶ Social Media

Our activities can also be found on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/NIHUofficial>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NIHU.official>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/NihuJP>

Liberal Arts Communicator Training Program

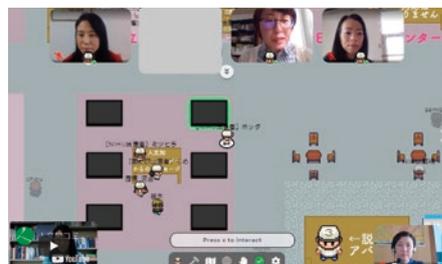
We offer a training program for humanities researchers that fosters their skills to communicate humanities research to a lay audience and become specialists that will be able to incorporate and address societal needs in their research.

Industry-Academia Collaborations

We collaborate with industry and other partners to give back the fruits of research to society. In the 2020 academic year, we jointly organized an online lecture with YOMIURI RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (recording is available from NIHU's YouTube), an online symposium with the Japan Forum for the Cultivation of Insight from the Humanities and a symposium with Ajinomoto Foundation for Dietary Culture titled "Food sustainability: Exploring the nature of diet geared to the future" (recorded and available from NIHU's YouTube).



"Food sustainability: Exploring the nature of diet geared to the future" (recorded and available from NIHU's YouTube), jointly organized with Ajinomoto Foundation for Dietary Culture.



Liberal Arts Communicators participating in the online annual symposium held by inter-university research institutes (October 18, 2020).



Joint lecture with YOMIURI RESEARCH ORGANIZATION.

Information Division

CIP operates an ever-expanding shared access platform, a researcher database, and a research results database (NIHU repository). Extensive searches are possible through databases that provide access to a wide range of humanities-related research data that NIHU has amassed. CIP continues to develop, operate, introduce, and promote the use of search systems and analytical tools that facilitate sharing of research resources relating to human culture and advance collaboration within Japan and internationally.

Research Resource Databases

Name of database	Description
NIHU repository	Cloud-based NIHU repository giving users comprehensive access to research papers from the six NIHU institutes (operated via the National Institute of Informatics' JAIRO Cloud system).
Researchers' profiles	Comprehensive database containing information on researchers throughout NIHU
Advanced collaboration systems (formerly resource-sharing systems)	Comprehensive systems aimed at promoting collaboration between institutions and universities.

Advanced Collaboration on Research Resources

Since the 2005 academic year, NIHU has been promoting shared access to the institute's accumulated research resources for the academic community. In the 2008 academic year, it began operating a range of research resource sharing systems.

In the 2016 academic year, the research resource sharing systems were renamed "advanced collaboration systems." These systems are geared toward developing mechanisms in line with public demand with the aim of expanding its activities, promoting shared access, and enabling advanced collaboration on resources beyond the confines of individual institutes. NIHU operates these advanced collaboration systems through a three-way integrated process alongside a repository of information on research results and data about researchers. This advanced system has enabled resources, including human resources, papers and documents, to be effectively shared.

Advanced Collaboration Systems

Name of project	Description
Integrated retrieval system nihulNT	Comprehensive search engine for databases operated by the six NIHU institutes as well as organizations such as the National Diet Library and the Center for Integrated Area Studies, Kyoto University (more than 5.5 million records across over 170 databases, as of the end of March 2021).
Time-space analysis system GT-map, GT-time	GIS analysis-compatible basic tool for simple analysis of data on time and space.
Historical Gazetteer	Data to obtain information of the latitude and longitude from the place name existing in historical sources.
Portal site for Japanese Studies	English Resource Guide for Japanese Studies and Humanities in Japan. Portal site designed to provide English-language information on humanities research in Japan, and details of Japanese humanities resources.

NIHU Interactive Communication Initiative

CIP operates an ever-expanding shared access platform, a researcher database, and a research results database (NIHU repository). Extensive searches are possible through databases that provide access to a wide range of humanities-related research data that NIHU has amassed. CIP continues to develop, operate, introduce, and promote the use of search systems and analytical tools that facilitate sharing of research resources relating to human culture and advance collaboration within Japan and internationally.

This program, run by NIHU's six institutes in collaboration with universities and research institutions around the country, aims to build a model for visualization (visual display and exhibition) of the latest research on human culture utilizing museums and exhibition and for opening up new fields of study through advancement of research based on cross-disciplinary collaboration and communication with society.



The NIHU institutes exhibit their research activities using a portable, mobile display unit at MIRAikan.

International Collaboration

NIHU has cooperative ties with many overseas institutions engaged in humanities research. NIHU hosts international researchers in Japan, sends Japanese researchers abroad, and actively organizes and provides speakers for international symposiums held outside of Japan.

In the academic year 2020, through its agreement with the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), NIHU planned to provide placement and guidance to two graduate students based in the UK, but the placements were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NIHU continues to contribute to the development of overseas researchers through these types of activities.



International Symposium “Japan-Vietnam Cooperation in the Humanities in the Global Era” held in November, 2019 in Vietnam

Overseas Research Facilities

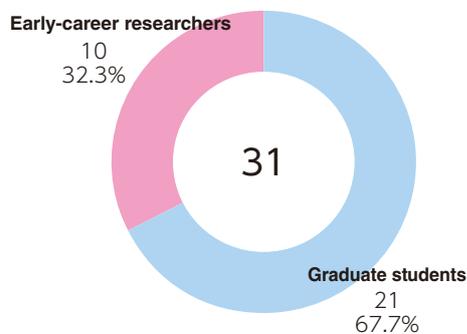
NIHU opened overseas research facilities (liaison offices) to promote international collaborative research with overseas institutions. It provides information on research on Japan and Japanese culture to people in other countries.

In July 2016, NIHU established liaison offices at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in Ulan Bator, in October 2016 at the EHESS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales) in Paris, and in July 2018 at Northeast Normal University in China.



Opening the liaison office at the Northeast Normal University

Profile of UK AHRC International Placement Scheme (IPS) Fellows (2009-2020)



Universities that have sent IPS Fellows to NIHU through the NIHU-AHRC Partnership

University of Kent, University College London, University of the Arts of London, The University of Manchester, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Royal College of Art, University of Nottingham, The University of Sunderland, University of Reading, University of East Anglia, SOAS University of London, Queen Mary University of London, Queen's University of Belfast, Tate, Keele University, University of Birmingham, University of Sheffield, Cardiff University, Falmouth University, Durham University, University of Dundee

(Total 23 universities)

NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies

The NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies was established in January 2019 with the support of the Kuraray Foundation, with the aim of promoting the international development of Japanese studies and a greater understanding of Japanese culture. The prize recognizes the outstanding scholastic achievements of overseas researchers in the fields of Japanese literature, language, history, ethnology, folklore studies, the environment, and other areas related to the humanities and the researchers' significant contributions to the international development of Japanese studies. The second NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies was awarded to Dr. Andrew Gordon, the Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History at Harvard University. The award ceremony was held online on June 10, 2021. At the award ceremony, Dr. Gordon gave a talk entitled “The Excitement of History and Responsibility of Historical Studies.”



An image from the second NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies award ceremony. Dr. Gordon attended online from the United States.

Graduate Education, Joint Use and Collaborative Research

Graduate University for Advanced Studies

NIHU's four humanities research institutes offer courses at the Graduate University of Advanced Studies ,SOKENDAI. The five graduate (doctoral) courses are designed to take advantage of the institutes' resources and provide an array of specialized training for researchers.

	School	Department	Name of Institute	Number of students (as of May 1, 2020)	Number of degrees awarded (FY2019)
Three-year doctoral program	Cultural and Social Studies	Regional Studies	National Museum of Ethnology	17 (7)	1
		Comparative Studies	National Museum of Ethnology	15 (6)	2
		Japanese Studies	International Research Center for Japanese Studies	21 (9)	3
		Japanese History	National Museum of Japanese History	10 (0)	2
		Japanese Literature	National Institute of Japanese Literature	9 (0)	0
		Total		72 (22)	8

(Unit: People) (Numbers in brackets: Overseas students)

Contributing to Universities and Graduate Education

Through agreements with universities, we contribute to the advancement of graduate education by providing placements for graduate students, research guidance, coordinating lecture subjects, and taking part in committees for awarding degrees (collaborative graduate programs). The National Museum of Ethnology and the National Museum of Japanese History make their collections and exhibit materials available to universities for use in lectures and training. The National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL) provides university faculty and graduate schools opportunities to hold "NIJL Seminars" at the institute. As part of the seminar, they are also given access to the institute's extensive collection as lecture materials.

Graduate Programs offered in collaboration with Japanese Universities

- National Museum of Japanese History Chiba University
- National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature Nagoya University, Tohoku University

Joint Use and Collaborative Research

The vast libraries of NIHU's institutes house a plethora of research resources and databases in their respective specialist fields. They contain information obtained from universities and other institutions nationwide, and from their own facilities. The materials are provided to Japanese and overseas research institutions for joint use and collaborative research. Through its lending program, universities and institutions can use these materials for seminars and researchers for their studies.



A seminar using museum collections

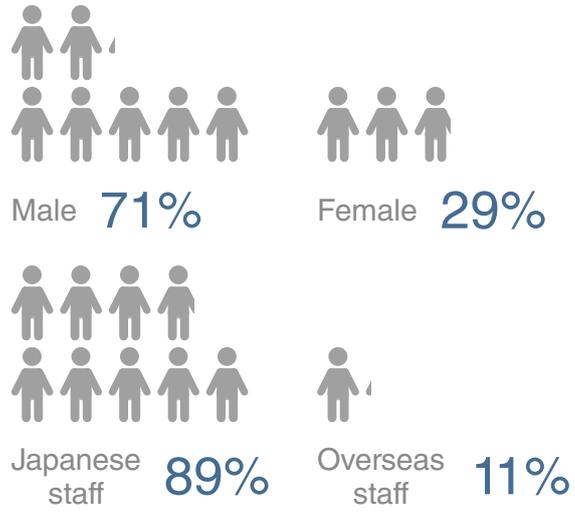


Vacuum line to prepare sample for radiocarbon dating (Rekihaku)

NIHU at a Glance

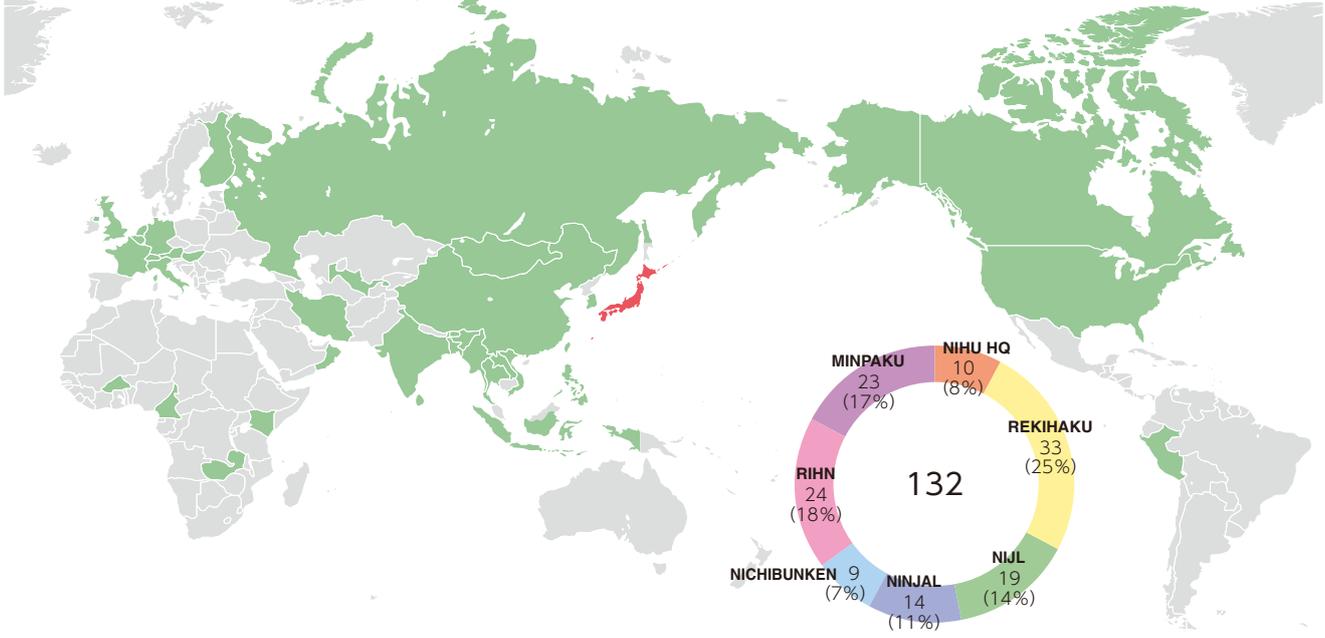
Profile of Academic and Administrative Staff (2020) ...10

Organization	Academic staff	Administrative staff
NIHU HQ	 42	 32
REKIHAKU	 41	 46
NIJL	 29	 42
NINJAL	 31	 27
NICHIBUNKEN	 33	 37
RIHN	 28	 27
MINPAKU	 55	 51

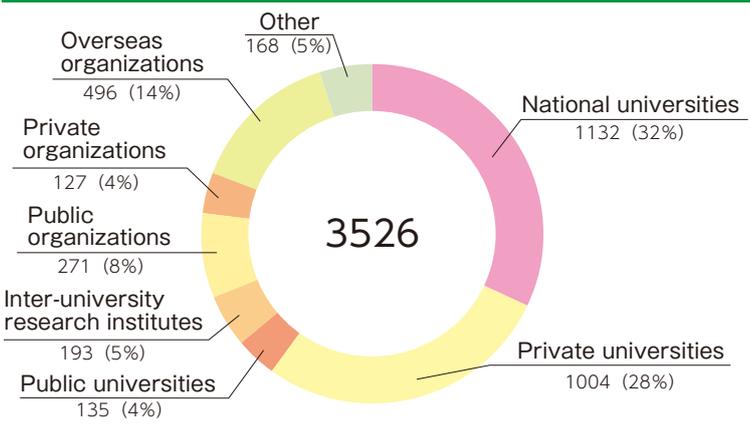


*Percentages calculated from the numbers of academic staff.

Map of Agreements with Overseas Research Institutions (2021)



Diversity of Researchers Collaborating with NIHU (2020)



In the 2019 academic year, NIHU researchers travelled to **30** countries and regions to give **139** invited lectures.

Research Projects

Research projects at Rekihaku are organized and conducted with researchers in Japan and overseas. "Collaborative research" consists of "principal research" aiming for interdisciplinary collaboration on core research themes based on Rekihaku's mission (4 projects), "fundamental research" addressing the development of methodological foundations for historical studies (11 projects), "developmental research" aimed at breaking ground for new areas of study and developing human resources (1 project), and "Collaborative access type joint research" to train early career researchers such as students enrolled in doctoral programs and postdoctoral researchers (8 projects). In addition, "research projects on Rekihaku's collections" designed for making effective use of the museum's holdings (1 project) and "exhibition projects" in exhibition development of special and featured exhibitions (17 projects) are conducted. (The number of projects conducted in FY 2020)

Scholarly Exchange

Rekihaku has signed 61 international and domestic cooperation agreements to date (as of May 1, 2020), with the aim of promoting scholarly exchange with universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas.

Exhibitions

Permanent exhibitions at Rekihaku present key themes in Japanese history and culture, from prehistoric and ancient times to modern times, with an emphasis on the history of daily life of the people. Special exhibitions and featured exhibitions are held to publicize the achievements of collaborative research and collecting activities. Seasonal exhibitions of traditional plants are offered at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life as well.

Collections / Databases

Rekihaku is committed to collecting authentic materials, reproductions, audio-visual materials, and other resources. As of May 1, 2020, Rekihaku has 270,938 items in its collection (including 5 national treasures, 87 important cultural properties and 27 art treasures). It also has a library of 357,684 titles. For research use, Rekihaku provides extensive access to several databases, including those containing its collections, bibliographical information and the full text of historical records, as well as those containing the achievements of collaborative research (57 databases as of May 1, 2020).

A research institute promoting research on Japanese history and culture

The National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku) is a museum-based inter-university research institute established to advance research on Japanese history and culture. Its vision is to offer historical perspective that will open the way to the future, and to enhance mutual understanding among people with divergent perceptions of history. In pursuing the vision above, Rekihaku values its research style (museum-based research integration) in which resources, research, and exhibitions are organically linked and presented through sharing and public access. Rekihaku will promote interdisciplinary collaborative research with researchers in Japan and overseas as well as initiatives involving multidisciplinary cooperation towards developing a new field of Japanese history.



Development of permanent exhibition based on the results of collaborative research. Renovation of Gallery 1, noted as a practical model for the [Rekihaku] "museum-based research integration" approach.



国立歴史民俗博物館

National Museum
of Japanese History



Press conference, October 18th, 2017.



Making the most of ancient Japanese texts as a rich intellectual resource

The National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL) is a comprehensive scientific research institution specializing in Japanese literature. That includes collecting literature and related documents on a large scale from all over Japan, and providing materials for use by researchers working across a range of fields relating to Japanese Literature, as well as promoting advanced collaborative research. Building on its track record in documentary research in the field of ancient Japanese texts, built up over 40 years since the institute was founded, NIJL works with research institutions and researchers in Japan and overseas to make the most of ancient Japanese texts as a rich intellectual resource, and is committed to paving the way for research spanning different fields.



国文学研究資料館

National Institute
of Japanese Literature



Collecting and Using Resources

NIJL collects primarily Japanese literature and related source texts (manuscripts, printed editions, and other historical documents, etc.) in digital and other formats, offers reading and copying services, and provides reproductions via the inter-library loan system. The Database of Pre-Modern Japanese Works may be freely accessed through the NIJL website. Selected materials are also accessible as ancient text datasets, in which each individual work may be downloaded as a single file, via the NIJL website or the Dataset of Pre-modern Japanese Texts made available through the Research Organization of Information and Systems, the Joint Support-Center for Data Science Research, the Center for Open Data in the Humanities.

Database Access

NIJL provides access to academic information via a range of databases (32 databases as of April 1, 2021).

Exhibition Spaces

NIJL exhibits results achieved through its documentary research and collaborative research projects. It also organizes regularly changing temporary exhibitions, showcasing a variety of different themes.

NIJL Arts Initiative

NIJL will strive to bring our abundant store of pre-modern materials into the light of the modern world, in hopes of engaging with these materials in a number of original ways. We will actively utilize these rich cultural resources as a means of responding to the current needs of society, as well as assisting with the spread of Japanese culture and learning throughout the world.

Corpora and Databases

A corpus is a language database that contains large volumes of electronic text that can be searched and analyzed in detail. NINJAL designs and builds corpora, such as the Corpus of Spontaneous Japanese, the Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese, and the NINJAL Web Japanese Corpus, and provides shared access for language research and a wide range of other purposes, including in the information processing industry. NINJAL is currently in the processes of building a diverse array of corpora, from dialects and historical Japanese to everyday conversation and Japanese as a second language.

NINJAL also publishes a number of databases and datasets via its website, including the Bibliographic Database of Japanese Language Research.

Research Library

As Japan's only library devoted exclusively to the Japanese language, NINJAL's research library archives research materials and linguistic resources concerning Japanese language studies as well as related fields such as Japanese language education and linguistics.

Conducting comprehensive research into the Japanese language

The National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL) is a core international research facility engaged in research into Japanese language, linguistics and Japanese language education. Its aim is to maintain an overview of the characteristics of Japanese in the context of world languages, and its universal nature and linguistic diversity. In addition to staying involved in large-scale collaborative research with universities and research institutions in Japan and overseas, NINJAL provides the results of its research for joint use as a resource for language research, in an effort to advance and internationalize Japanese language research, and promote the development of new areas of research.

NINJAL

国立国語研究所



National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics

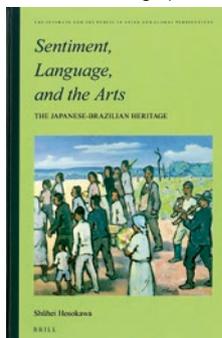


"Handbooks of Japanese Language and Linguistics" Series

Japan Review



Nichibunken Monograph Series



国際日本文化研究センター

International Research Center for Japanese Studies



Library

The Nichibunken Library collects a wide range of materials that are essential to research into Japan and makes the relevant materials available to researchers. It also provides access to various kinds of information relating to Japanese studies. The library's 580,000 titles can be searched online, and are available for other universities and institutions to copy or borrow on request via the inter-library loan system. One of the key points when it comes to collecting materials is to ensure comprehensive coverage of books about Japan written in different languages, and translated texts. As well as books and other such publications, the library is also active in collecting colored photographs from the late Edo and Meiji periods, old maps, and audio visual materials such as videos, DVDs and CDs.

Databases

Nichibunken maintains databases of the materials in its collection, in-house research results, and Japan-related materials held by other institutions. It currently provides online access to 43* different databases. (*As of April 1, 2021)

NICHIBUNKEN

An international research facility focused on studying Japanese culture and providing support to Japan scholars around the world

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) is an institution whose aim is to conduct comprehensive research, both scholarly and international in nature, on Japanese culture and to assist researchers specializing in Japanese studies around the world. As part of its core team research activities, the center sets out themes that span different disciplines and approach Japanese culture from an international perspective, and involves researchers from a wide range of specialist fields in Japan and overseas. In addition to hosting a large number of overseas research scholars every year, Nichibunken acts as an international hub for research on Japanese culture, through activities such as organizing international symposiums and forums, facilitating academic exchange, and gathering and disseminating research data.

Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary research

To achieve our mission, RIHN has been conducting interdisciplinary research spanning the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, and in recent years, has developed towards transdisciplinary research that involves collaboration with various stakeholders in society. RIHN research is increasingly transdisciplinary in that it seeks to redefine the role of science in society, improve dialogue between different traditions of knowledge, and stimulate new multiactor local, national and international collaborations.

Facilities and Equipment

RIHN places particular importance on developing technologies to measure relationships between humanity and nature, and on using those technologies to perform environmental diagnoses.

To this end, RIHN maintains a world-class laboratory for stable isotope analysis. It is also working with universities and research institutions around the world to stimulate the use of stable isotope analysis within environmental studies.

Science Communication

As a national research institute, RIHN is expected to conduct exemplary science. It also must communicate its research agenda and results to the public and contribute to public awareness and discussion of contemporary environmentalism.

A number of public symposia, seminar series, and publications are designed to reach specialist and general audiences.

A research facility working with the public to explore the future of humanity and nature

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) examines global environmental issues in the context of the relationship between humanity and nature. In this perspective, environmental problems are always linked to human culture. The institute conducts comprehensive research with the aim of resolving these issues. RIHN research is conducted through international research projects, each of which identifies appropriate themes, methods and other research resources that can be developed within a given time frame. RIHN also emphasizes working with local residents and other stakeholders, as well as the wider research community. Such qualities distinguish RIHN from other environmental research institutions in Japan.



Workshop in Zambia: Collecting samples and processing (photo by Kataoka)



総合地球環境学研究所 Research Institute for Humanity and Nature



国立民族学博物館 National Museum of Ethnology



Collection

Minpaku encourages shared use of its collection, which contains some 340,000 items and 70,000 audio-visual materials. As well as making items available for use in research and university education, it also lends items to other museums and touring exhibitions.

Library

The Minpaku Library specializes in cultural anthropology and other related fields, and houses a collection of some 270,000 titles in Japanese and 420,000 titles in other languages. The library also provides document copying and lending services through the inter-library loan system.

Databases

In addition to online catalogs detailing artifacts, audio-visual materials, books and other documents in its collection, Minpaku provides online access to databases such as the "The World of Swidden Agriculture" and "Cultural Heritage Recording Memories of Tsunami: Database of Temples, Shrines and Stone Monuments".

Exhibitions

○ Main Exhibitions

The museum's permanent exhibition is divided between nine regional galleries and two cross-cultural galleries showcasing music and language. The exhibition is updated as the research progresses. The museum also has thematic exhibition gallery that showcases contemporary issues or the latest research. "UMESAO Tadao's 100th Anniversary: The Front-runner of Intellectual Production" (Sep. 3 to Dec. 1) was held in FY2020.

○ Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions are large-scale events designed to comprehensively and systematically showcase the latest research on specific themes. The museum organized an exhibition entitled "Treasure of Indigenous Peoples" (Oct. 1 to Dec. 15) in the fall of 2020.

○ Cooperative Exhibitions

The museum also collaborates with universities and other institutions to hold Cooperative Exhibitions.

Two exhibitions were held in FY2020: "UMESAO Tadao's 100th Anniversary: The Front of Intellectual Production" (Jan. 13 to Mar. 14) in The Kyoto University Museum and "Shifting Cultivation from the perspective of Komei Sasaki: from Itsuki-mura to the world" (Oct. 3 to Dec. 13) at Historia Terrace in Itsuki Village, Kumamoto Prefecture.

A "forum" sharing and creating knowledge of the world

The National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) is an inter-university research institute of cultural anthropology equipped with one of the world's largest museum facilities as well as post-graduate educational facilities. As a focal point for international research and shared access, it conducts research and studies on peoples, societies and cultures the world over, accumulates cultural resources and disseminates the information there of through exhibitions based on international collaboration. Minpaku has been constructing an online "Info-Forum Museum" which enables both researchers and source communities where the resources were originally made to exchange and share information related to cultural resources of the world, and thus creates new knowledge of the humanity.

MINPAKU

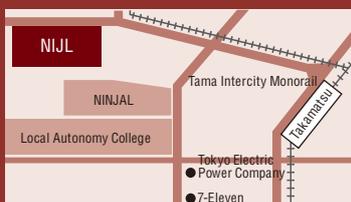
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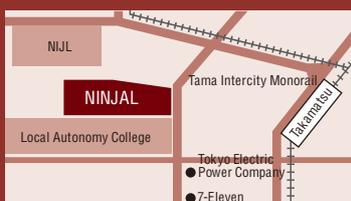
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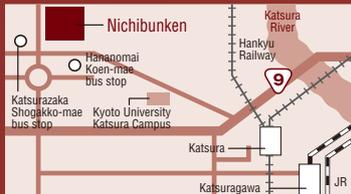
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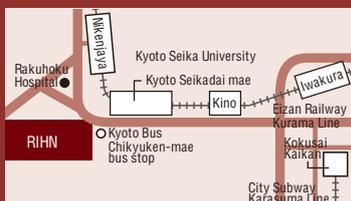
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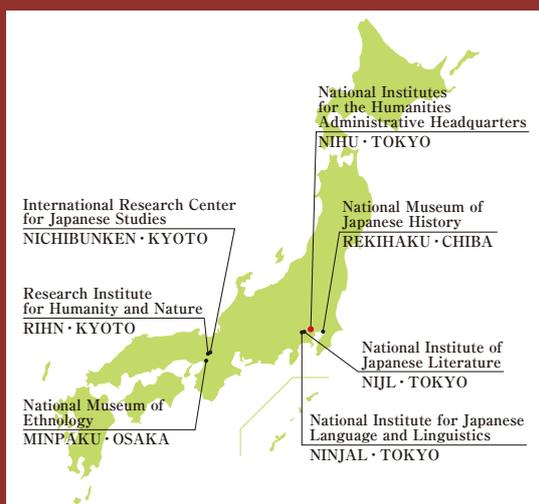
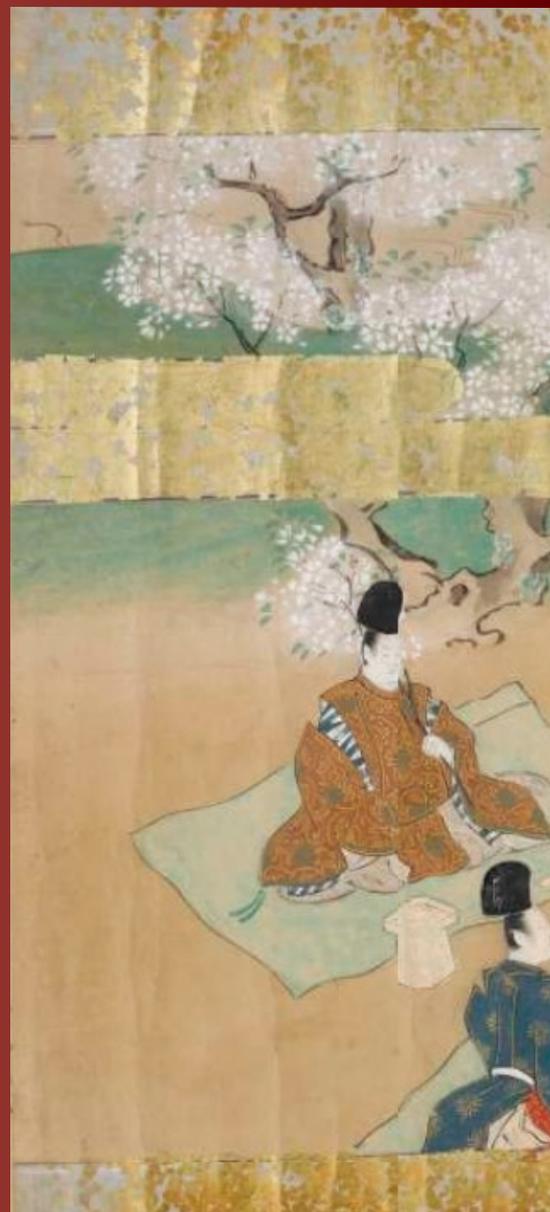
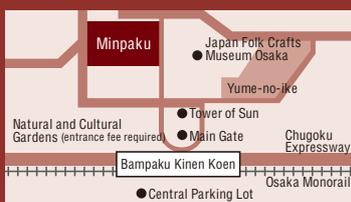
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