

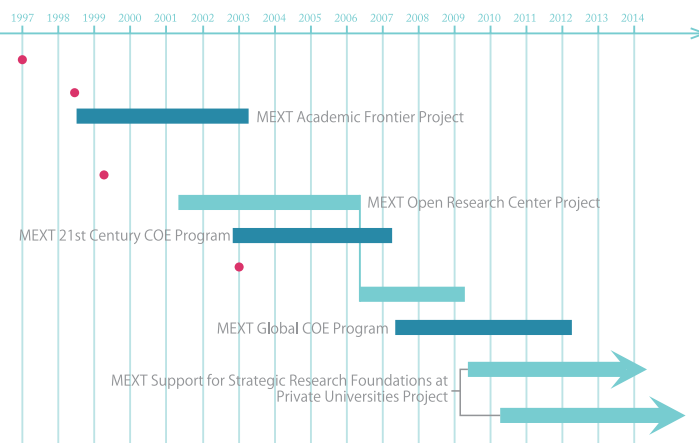


ART RESEARCH CENTER

Ritsumeikan University



1997	Establishment of the Preparatory Committee for the Art Research Center
June, 1998	Establishment of the Art Research Center
	Designated as a center for the Academic Frontier Project of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
April, 1999	Completion of the Art Research Center building
April, 2001	Project selected as a MEXT Open Research Center Project
October, 2002	Designated for the MEXT 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program
January, 2003	Awarded the 4th Digital Archives Award
April, 2006	Project selected as a MEXT Open Research Center Project
April, 2007	Designated for the MEXT Global COE Program
April, 2009	Project selected as a MEXT Support for Strategic Research Foundations at Private Universities Project
April, 2010	Project selected as a MEXT Support for Strategic Research Foundations at Private Universities Project



A Message from the Director of the Art Research Center

The Art Research Center (ARC) at Ritsumeikan University was established in 1998. Since then, the ARC's mission has been not only to conduct historical and social research and analyses of both tangible and intangible cultural properties such as visual and performing arts and craftsmanship, but also to record, organize, preserve and disseminate the research outcomes.

Intended to be run with funds from outside of the university, the ARC has received many large competitive funds and applied them to promote the research and education of Japanese culture. The representative funds awarded include: the Academic Frontier Project (FY 1998-2002), the Open Research Center Project (FY 2001-2008), the 21st Century COE Program (FY 2002-2006), the Global COE Program (FY 2007-2011), and the Support for Strategic Research Foundations at Private Universities Project in FY 2009 and 2010—all provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

At the ARC we have been putting a great deal of effort into preserving and utilizing temporal arts such as performing arts and plays, supporting artistic creations, disseminating art to share it with the general public for their appreciation, as well as developing educational programs to promote the understanding of art. All of these are made possible by

the ARC, using cutting-edge information technology and based on the comprehensive research competence in humanities and social sciences built by the University. The ARC is well known for its distinctive research methods to combine and/or integrate humanities and information science, as well as its project-based research that is expected to fully involve young researchers, namely graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The digital archives of *ukiyo-e* (Japanese woodblock prints), paintings and woodblock-printed books that the ARC has been compiling since its establishment are now regarded as indispensable research materials to Japanese studies both in and outside of Japan.

Despite starting as a research center for only a limited period, the ARC grew to become a permanent establishment in April 2011, being permanently supported by the University's ongoing budget. The ARC has been helping to stimulate Japanese cultural studies with Ritsumeikan University through encouraging researchers at the University to propose research projects.

As an international research center for Japanese cultural studies in Kyoto and a representative center for digital humanities, the Art Research Center will continue to vigorously promote its research and educational activities.

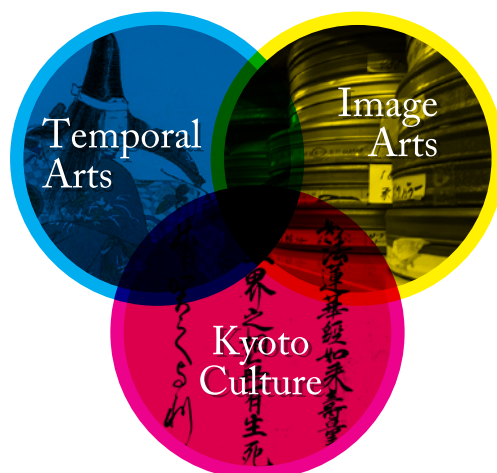
We look forward to your continued support and kind cooperation.

ARC CONCEPT

As a research center of a Kyoto-based university, the Art Research Center focuses on researching the following by adopting methods to combine and/or integrate humanities and sciences:

- 1 Kyoto-based Japanese arts and culture
- 2 Digital archives of intangible culture and temporal arts
- 3 New interactive image culture

At the ARC, we aim to form a new community based on information culture by reflecting the findings of information science in our research of art.





Activities at the Art Research Center

With its main focus on various research projects, the ARC has been actively fostering and supporting young researchers, while promoting the dissemination and education of Japan's arts and culture.

Besides research activities, the ARC also provides public access to knowledge we have acquired, as well as the collections of research materials here at the center. In addition, we also promote Japanese arts and culture by holding various seminars, exhibitions, symposiums, and events to the public.

The Art Research Center's Major Collections

Kyoto-related Collection Since the Edo period, Kyoto has established itself as a major tourist destination. The ARC has been collecting a large number of Kyoto-related research materials, since the center was selected for the 'Kyoto Art Entertainment Innovation Research' project under the MEXT 21st Century COE Program. The collection includes paintings, tourist guidebooks, and maps from the Edo period onwards, all of which feature famous places and landscapes in Kyoto. We use these as research materials for the 'Kyoto Virtual Time Space' system whose multiple layers of time axes and geographical information allows us to freely study the transformations and different phases of Kyoto.

Ukiyo-e Collection Before motion picture and audio recording became available, visual media served as a major media to record intangible culture such as entertainment and folk rituals. Among the many visual media, *ukiyo-e* (woodblock printing technique with extreme precision, extensive color variation, and ability to mass-produce) can be regarded as one of the best recording media in the world in those days. The ARC owns over 10,000 *ukiyo-e* works, now regarded as one of the major *ukiyo-e* collections in Japan. Our collection is known for its large sample of *yakusha-e* (*kabuki* actor prints), *nob-ga* (prints of *nob* performances, stages and props), and landscape paintings of Kyoto. Many of our *kabuki*-related prints depict scenes of the Ichiriki-jaya teahouse and the Yamashina villa in *Kanatehon chūshingura* (*The Forty-Seven Ronin*). Our collection also includes the oldest known *Uchi'iri-zu* (*A Scene of the Ronin's Raid*).

Fujii Eikan Bunko The Fujii Eikan Bunko Collection comprises an impressive collection of fine art works collected by Fujii Taka'aki (1913-83) over his lifetime. He was a graduate of the College of Letters at Ritsumeikan University. The collection includes five Important Cultural Properties and two Important Art Objects. Fearing that these magnificent works might be dispersed and ultimately lost forever, Mr. Fujii's family established a foundation after his death in 1984, keeping his collection intact. When the foundation was dissolved, his family donated the collection to Ritsumeikan University. The collection comprises over 420 various artworks, such as calligraphic inscriptions by emperors, historical calligraphy works, sutra scrolls, paintings, antiquarian books, and costume remnants. The imperial inscriptions are by 20 emperors, ranging from the earliest example by Emperor Go-Fukakusa in the late Kamakura period to the latest one by Emperor Koumei at the end of Edo period. Most of the calligraphic works date back to the Kamakura and the Muromachi period, including those executed by court nobles, monks, warlords, and the literati from the Heian to the Meiji period. Most of the sutra scrolls also are from the Heian to the Kamakura period, some of which are illustrated. The paintings range from Buddhist images of the Kamakura period to genre paintings of the Edo period. The antiquarian books contain many esoteric Buddhism-related materials, while the costume remnants in the collection include representative Edo-period works, such as fabrics dyed in the Tsujigahana technique.

The Hayashi Yoshikazu Collection Hayashi Yoshikazu was a prominent scholar of Edo-period popular literature. The collection comprises documents he collected while working for the Kyoto Studio of Daiei Motion Picture Company. As a large number of the documents are from Kyoto, we are privileged to have the collection come home here at the ARC. This exceptional collection of over 2,200 books is best known for its collection of late-Edo-period literature. The collection contains many works that connect the gap between classic and modern literature, including *ninjabon* (human-interest stories), as well as Kyokutei Bakin's *yomihon* (reading books) and *gōkan* (multi-volume novels of revenge stories). In addition, the collection constitutes resources necessary for studying the literal styles of present-day illustrated books and *manga* to appreciate both the texts and illustrations at the same time. The collection also contains an unrivalled number of volumes of *shunpon* (erotic illustrated books) whose research Hayashi put most of his efforts into.

Sakurai Bunko The Sakurai Bunko Collection was established by the late Sakurai Takejirō (1940-2007) who had made considerable achievements in the research of *haiku* poetry, especially regarding the works by Bashō. The collection contains not only poetry books but also related documents necessary for research on poetry and early modern literature. Ritsumeikan University boasts a variety of collections including the Hakuyōsō Bunko and the early modern *waka* research materials in the Saionji Bunko Collection at the University Library and the Wada Shigejirō Bunko at the College of Letters. Together with the ARC's Sakurai Bunko, Ritsumeikan is home to a treasure of classic verse literature from the classic to the modern period.

The Namiki Kyōtarō Collection The Namiki Kyōtarō Collection, named after the film director (né Kaneda Torao, 1902-2001), has over 80 documents previously owned by him. The collection includes referential materials used when he wrote his semi-autobiographical novel *Kyoto Hanazono Tenjugaoka: The Tale of Makino Production Studio*, as well as his *haiku* poetry collection, and his "Best-Ten" award plaque. These items were donated to the ARC by Director Yamagiwa Eizō who worked as Namiki's assistant director. The many donated documents contain numerous memos and notes inscribed by Namiki, which are being conserved in this collection and utilized as research material.

Kyoto Meisho-e Database

<http://www.dh-jac.net/meisho/>



Shida's Revenge by Night Attack: A New Version
(*Shinban Shida kaiki no youchi*)

Painting and Ukiyo-e Database

<http://www.dh-jac.net/db/arcnishikie/default.htm>

Fujii Eikan Bunko Database

<http://www.dh-jac.net/db11/eikan/search.htm>



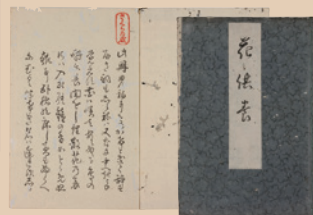
Playing at Cards (Karuta asobi zu)

Book Viewing System

<http://www.dh-jac.net/db1/books/search.html>



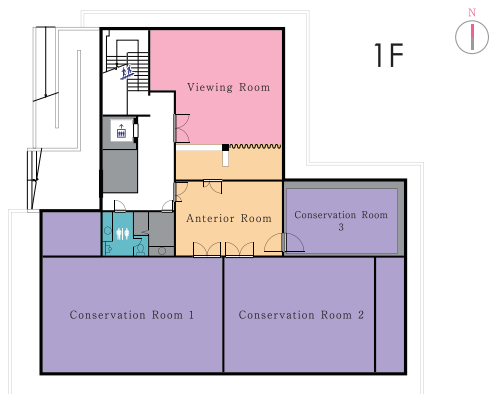
Shunran sekko



Hana kuyō

Facility Guide

The Art Research Center is equipped with the latest digital camcorders, a 3D camera, as well as a motion capture system and a digital image/video archiving system for recording and preserving intangible culture and temporal arts. The ARC also has three different climate-controlled storage rooms used to keep archived materials to ensure they are stored in the most suitable environment for their preservation, in order that they be passed down to future generations.



Viewing Room, 1F



Conservation Room, 1F



Multipurpose Studio, 2F



Project Room, 3F

Facilities Overview

Name: Art Research Center
Structure: 3 stories with entrance on the second floor.
Total area: 1257.6 m²
Date of completion: April 21, 1999

Main facilities

1st Floor

Viewing Room

- 10 mobile display cases
- Display cases fixed to the wall
- 5 acrylic display cases

3 Conservation Rooms with climate control

- Room1: 22°C / 55% RH
- Room2: 18°C / 45% RH
- Room3: 10°C / 30% RH

2nd Floor

Multipurpose Studio

- 3 projection screens
- 5 projectors
- Multi-angle video capturing system
- Optical motion capture system
- Cypress floor

Studio

- Cameras (including 21 professional cameras)
- HD video editing system
- Professional audio recording platform

3rd Floor

9 Project Rooms

2 Meeting Rooms

The ARC is a three-story building. The first floor has conservation rooms for various materials, and digitalization is conducted in the anterior room. On the second floor, ARC researchers work on archiving materials such as adding bibliographic information to the digitalized materials, which are then used by researchers working on their research on the third floor. The second floor also

has a multipurpose studio equipped with motion capture and other digitalizing devices. The studio is also suitable for various lectures, symposiums, and dance performances. There is also a viewing room on the first floor where items in the ARC collections are displayed. These rooms are regularly used to hold public lectures, seminars and exhibitions to promote Japanese arts and culture.



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