



Educational Activities: Fostering Young Researchers

Entrance Examination

This examination of the Digital Humanities Center for Japanese Arts and Cultures is designed for those who have a research plan for a doctoral dissertation whose theme shall be relevant to the Center's research fields. Enrolled graduate students will belong to one of the following Graduate Schools: Graduate School of Letters; Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Graduate School of Policy Science; or Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences. They are entitled to write a doctoral dissertation while participating in the Center's research projects. They can also apply for various scholarships and grants to support their research activities, including the ones overseas.

Digital Humanities for Japanese Arts and Cultures Education Program

At the Center, we have been offering the 'Digital Humanities for Japanese Arts and Cultures Education Program,' an education program at the graduate level. While this two-year program with the curriculum centering on Digital Humanities focuses on mastering practical applications of advanced information technologies to the fields of the humanities, this interdisciplinary educational program also expects young researchers to take classes that explore academic trends in Japanese Studies overseas, to present their research at GCOE seminars, to participate in basic courses and symposia, to present their papers at domestic and international academic meetings, and to conduct internships abroad. Upon completion of the Program, a certificate of completion in the Digital Humanities for Japanese Arts and Cultures will be conferred. The program is open not only to Ritsumeikan graduate students, but also to adult students outside of the university.

GCOE Seminar

The Center holds a regular seminar every Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 pm. Run by the Center's young researchers for the most part, this seminar provides them with good opportunities to present their research findings. Besides that, it exposes them to a wide range of events, including lectures given by guest speakers of outstanding scholars in the fields of Digital Humanities within and out of the country. Through a distance learning system, furthermore, the seminar is available to people not only at the Kinugasa and Biwako-Kusatsu Campuses but also those who are unable to participate in person. Anyone is welcome to interactively participate in the GCOE seminar, the Center's main venue to communicate and share the outcomes of its research activities.

Open Recruitment of Young Researchers

Offering postdoctoral fellowships (PD) and research assistantships (RA), the Center's well-developed system provides excellent young researchers in the fields of digital humanities with educational and financial supports.

- Postdoctoral fellowships (Awarded in April and October)
- Research assistantships (Awarded to doctoral students only, in April and October)

In addition, the Center's young researchers have a chance to apply for the 'International Training Program' for their mid- to long-term research abroad, and the 'Center Grants for Young Researchers to Support Their Research Activities Abroad,' among others.

For more details, please refer to: <http://www.arc.ritsumeikai.ac.jp/lib/GCOE/>



Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
Global COE (Center of Excellence) Program
Digital Humanities Center for Japanese Arts and Cultures,
Ritsumeikan University

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Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
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Digital Humanities Center for Japanese Arts and Cultures
Ritsumeikan University

Toward Creation of New Japanese Studies: On the Digital Humanities Center for Japanese Arts and Cultures

What should the scholarship in the 21st century be?

Development of the Internet and other information technologies has increasingly freed scholarship and research from spatiotemporal constraints, inviting various senses of values from all over the world. That leads people to question not only the university as an academic institution but also its scholarship as an intellectual framework. Research in the humanities in the 21st century is not an exception, finding itself standing at an important crossroad.

A case in point in this danger is Japanese Studies. The reason why it is considered in critical condition lies in its twistedness. That is, while researchers abroad have been making considerable progress in Japanese Studies through network-based research, the Japanese counterparts, because of where they are, limit their research activities within the country, resulting in secluding their research from the academic world outside. Without overcoming this difference between Japan and the world outside, it seems inevitable that Japanese Studies will soon come to have two separate sets of standards, which will certainly obstruct its path as an academic discipline severely.

In our former organization of the 21st Century COE Program 'Kyoto Art and Entertainment Innovation Research (2002-06),' we could establish the nation's top-level digital archives for tangible and intangible cultural properties related to the cultures of Kyoto and Japan, which consequently proved not only that information technologies could greatly improve the humanities' research environment and methods, but also that this type of digital archives was remarkably effective as a hub, i.e., portal site, for information transmission worldwide.

Succeeding these achievements, we at the Digital Humanities Center for Japanese Arts and Cultures today are

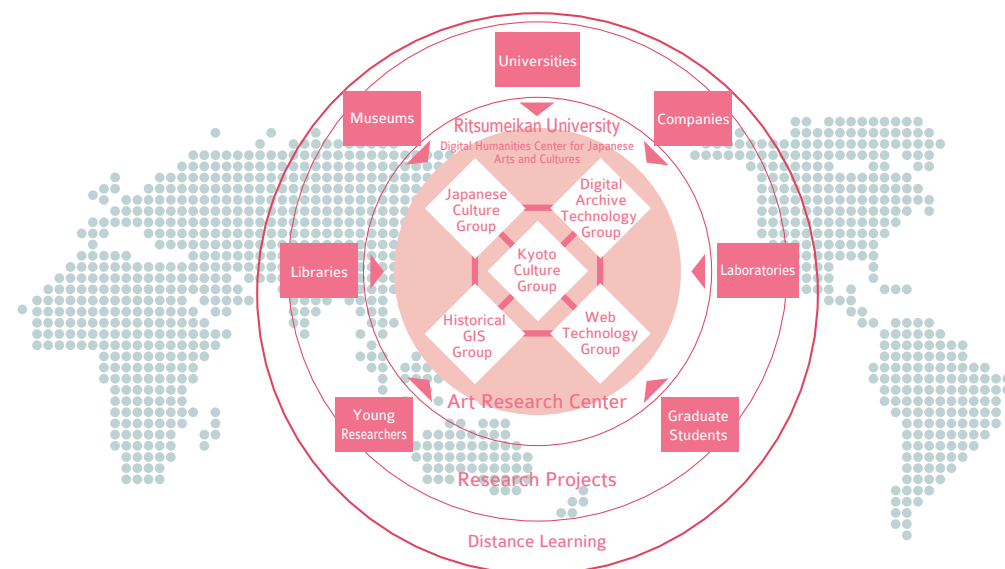
making efforts to advance the research further still by organizing research projects, reflecting upon cutting-edge research trends throughout the world, in which researchers in various fields of the humanities and information technologies can participate in and collaborate with each other in this historical city of Kyoto. By doing so, we are well on our way to producing unprecedented research outcomes.

Furthermore, as a center for education, we maintain a global perspective, aiming at fostering a new type of researchers in Japanese Studies who can conduct research in Japan and abroad. For that purpose, we not only carry out a new interdisciplinary 'Japanese Culture and Digital Humanities Education Program,' but also actively support our young researchers to conduct research in collaboration with the ones overseas and to present and/or publish their research outcomes. Such Center's education has gradually proven fruitful.

Our research and educational activities can be linked to the academic field known as 'digital humanities,' which has recently been gaining momentum in humanities research in Western countries. To make mutually effective collaboration possible, therefore, our Center has been moving steadily toward forming close educational and academic networks with universities, research institutions, and academic associations concerned with digital humanities in Japan and abroad.

It may be impossible to innovate the entire academic field of the humanities in a short time. Yet, we believe we can find a clue for this through a new type of humanities research, that is, Digital Humanities for Japanese Arts and Cultures, with the historical city of Kyoto as a stage.

We hope you follow our activities.



Research Activities and Network-type Research Projects

The Center comprises five research groups. Collaborating with research institutes in Japan and overseas, these groups are conducting about thirty major network-type research projects right now.

○ For more details of the research projects, please refer to the following website: http://www.arc.ritsumeikai.ac.jp/lib/GCOE/info_e/project2009.html

Research Groups and Major Research Members

alphabetical order *group leader

Kyoto Culture Group

Kidachi, Masaaki*: Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Japanese Archaeology
Matsumoto, Ikuyo: Associate Professor, Kinugasa Research Organization; Associate Professor, Yokohama City University; Japanese Cultural History
Sugihashi, Takao: Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Japanese History
Tomita, Mika: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Japanese Film History

Japanese Culture Group

Akama, Ryo*: Center Director; Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Japanese Cultural History
John Carpenter: Professor, Kinugasa Research Organization; Reader, SOAS, University of London; Japanese Art and Cultural History
Furukawa, Kohei: Lecturer, College of Image Arts and Sciences; Electric Systems and Information Engineering
Kimura, Kazunobu: Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Japanese Literature
Wada, Seigo: Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Japanese Archaeology

Historical Geographic Information Systems Group

Kawasumi, Tatsunori: Associate Professor, College of Letters; Environmental Archaeology
Kinda, Akihiro: Professor, Kinugasa Research Organization; Director, National Institutes for the Humanities, Inter-University Research Institute Cooperation; Cultural Geography
Nakaya, Tomoki: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Geographic Information Science
Tanaka, Satoshi: Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Computer Science
Yano, Keiji*: Professor, Graduate School of Letters; Geographic Information Science

Digital Archiving Technology Group

Hachimura, Kozaburo*: Vice-Director of the Center; Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Image Analysis & Computer Graphics
Maeda, Akira: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Multilingual Data Processing
Tanaka, Hiromi: Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Virtual Reality
Ruck Thawonmas: Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Artificial Intelligence
Yamashita, Yoichi: Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering; Voice Information Processing

Web Technology Group

Hosoi, Koichi: Professor, Graduate School of Policy Science; Industrial History of Content Production
Inaba, Mitsuyuki*: Professor, Graduate School of Policy Science; Software Engineering
Nakamura, Akinori: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Policy Science; Game Industry
Jemura, Masayuki: Professor, Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences; Electrical Engineering

Research Manager

Nishikawa, Yoshikazu: Associate Professor, Kinugasa Research Organization; Cultural Studies
Suzuki, Keiko: Associate Professor, Kinugasa Research Organization; Cultural Anthropology

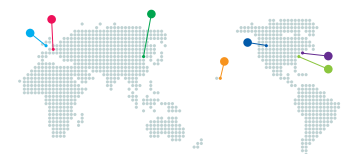
Collaborating Research Institutes in Japan and Overseas

■ Representative Institutes in Japan include:

- Katayama Noh and Kyomai Conservational Foundation
- Yasaka Nyokoba Women's School (Gion Kobu Song and Dance Academy)
- Tsubouchi Memorial Theatre Museum, Waseda University
- Shochiku Otani Library Foundation

■ Representative Institutes Overseas include:

- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
- Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
- British Museum
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Honolulu Academy of Arts
- Centre Européen d'Études Japonaises d'Alsace (CEEJA)
- Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies, Columbia University
- New York University
- University of Alberta
- Beijing Center for Japanese Studies



Publications



Since 2008, some of the Center's research outcomes have been published under the title of Series: Digital Humanities for Japanese Arts and Cultures (bilingual publication in Japanese and English, Nakanishiya Shuppan).

Art Research Center

Built in June 1998, the Center has conservation rooms and a viewing room on the 1st floor; an archiving room, a studio, and a multipurpose room on the 2nd floor; and research project rooms as well as conference rooms on the 3rd floor. The Center building serves as the base for all of our research activities, including meetings, and seminars.