

The Art Research Center (ARC)



Digitally Archiving and Visualizing Japan's Cultural Resources — A Center Promoting Digital Public Humanities through Art & Technology —

Since its establishment in 1998, the Art Research Center has strived to promote Digital Humanities using digital archiving techniques. Through digitizing and amassing archives of tangible and intangible cultural resources related to arts, culture, techniques, and technology, the Center has built a vast "data lake," making new forms of interdisciplinary research possible, joining the sciences and humanities. Further, in collaboration with world-renowned museums such as the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum, and overseas universities such as the University of California, Berkeley and UCLA, the Center continues to actively produce cutting-edge international collaborative research. Having received funding from the Ministry of Education, Japan (MEXT) through programs such as the 21st Century Center of Excellence

(COE) Program and Global Center of Excellence Program, the Art Research Center has advanced the field of Japanese cultural studies, linking traditional humanities research and information science. In addition to being Japan's premier center for Digital Humanities (DH), the Art Research Center is devoted to the cultivation of young DH researchers. The Center has been designated the International Joint Digital Archiving Center for Japanese Arts and Culture (ARC-iJAC) since 2019, and is the only research center based at a private university to be recognized by MEXT as an International Joint Usage / Research Center. Today, the Center provides the general public access to a massive data archive, aiming to bring about a digital public humanities that activates lively engagement in intellectual production.

【Main Academic Exchange and Research Cooperation Institutions】

Japan: Katayama Noh and Kyomai Preservation Foundation; Tsubouchi Memorial Theatre Museum, Waseda University; Kunitachi College of Music Library; International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken); National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL)
Overseas: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Art Institute of Chicago; School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London; Victoria and Albert Museum; The British Museum; Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC); University of California, Berkeley, Los Angeles; National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia; National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden

Research Structure for Integrating the Humanities and Sciences

Historical Geographic Information Research

- Kyoto historical GIS, Kyoto VR/AR
- Gion Festival Digital Museum
- GIS conversion of digital-archived photos
- Georeferencing

International Research on Japanese Culture

- Digital archiving of 2D/3D cultural resources and research on their international contribution and sustainability
- Building intellectual circles for sharing cultural information
- Development of a Transcription Support and mentoring system for kuzushiji (cursive script)

Kyoto Culture Research

- Kyoto traditional performing arts research
- Kyoto (production-related) film culture archive
- Kyoto street culture archive
- Research related to the Shuten-doji picture scrolls

Digital Archiving Technology Research

- Digital sound reconstruction of traditional instruments and support for digital performances
- VR technology development and application: Gion Festival, Borobudur Temple Compounds, and psychology
- Ukiyo-e image matching using deep-learning models
- Multilingual cross-search

Web-based Research Technology

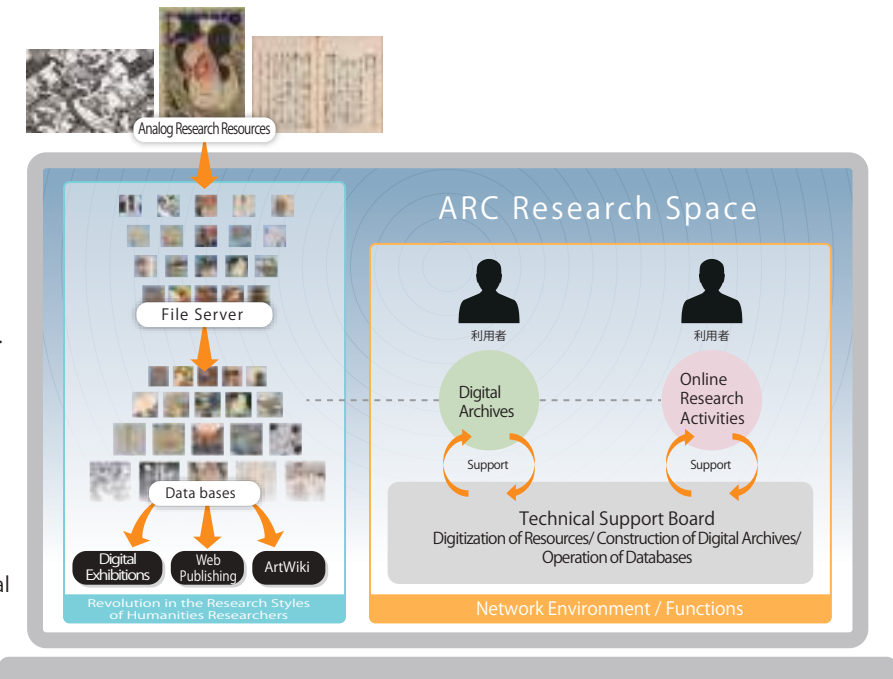
- Game Studies and research on play
- Media art research
- Research in utilizing the metaverse
- Development of next-generation regional archiving methods
- Research on "Gen Z" web contents



MEXT International Joint Usage / Research Center:
International Joint Digital Archiving Center for Japanese Art and Culture (ARC-iJAC)

- The ARC is one of nine International Joint Usage / Research Centers nationwide and the only one accredited as such at a private university.
- The ARC provides an online research environment, the "ARC Research Space," to support efficient research based on digital archives.

- Besides access to the Center's facilities and equipment, the ARC-iJAC provides a Technical Support Board for researchers so that even those new to digital archiving can work in the digital research environment with ease.
- 1) "Cultural Resource Databases" for highly specialized research fields
 - 2) "Reference Databases" that can be constructed for each project
 - 3) "Virtual Institute / Digital Museum" to easily disseminate research achievements of various research groups
 - 4) "ArtWiki" that can be constructed by each research group
 - 5) "ARC Cloud" with functions comparable to commercial cloud computing



Restoration work



Digital archiving



Digital-archived Fune-hoko float of the Gion Festival



Ukiyo-e Portal Database



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