



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

National Institutes for the Humanities

GUIDE BOOK 2024-2025

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Message from the President



The humanities are the disciplines that study human culture and society. Culture and society widely vary depending on a host of factors, including natural environment, historical context, relations with neighboring groups, and the internal circumstances of groups. Transcending all the differences in time and space, however, we all are human beings. Our cultures and societies therefore exhibit both diversity and universality. That diversity and universality, which are the result of human efforts over the course of time to deal with the factors around them, are the distillation of wisdom. What is distilled there is not just wisdom, but also human folly — war, discrimination, destruction of the environment, and so on. These negative aspects of humanity, too, are part-and-parcel of culture and society. The study of the humanities covers the entirety, including the negative aspects.

For culture and society, there cannot possibly be only “correct” ways of doing things or only “right” answers. Every culture or society has its inherent value. The humanities do not seek a single answer. Their objective is to explore how diversity and universality arise, reveal the cultural and social structures not visible on the surface, and the cultural and social structures

of the past not visible from the perspective of the present, thereby promoting mutual understanding and empathy.

The results of research should be made available not just in a single language like English but in other languages. In the case of research on regional cultures and societies, especially, the most suitable language for their description may be the one used in that region. The use of English is most effective to share research results widely, but this does not mean English is superior to other languages. Description in the local language may assure the higher quality of a document.

Not only research results but also data on culture and society should be made publicly available in various languages. A massive amount of data accumulated through research done so far has regrettably not been placed within easy access to the public. Technological, financial, and other factors have made that difficult, but in the recent years the situation has been improving.

The mission of inter-university research institute corporations like NIHU is to provide researchers at universities and research institutes in Japan and abroad with the large-scale facilities and vast data and information that would be difficult for individual universities to maintain, so that they can efficiently collaborate in research. The six research institutes under the umbrella of NIHU each have accumulated experience in providing public access to their own vast data and conducting collaborative research. NIHU seeks to achieve a broader and deeper understanding of human culture by providing systematic access to databases in the humanities and enhancing research on the diversity and universality of human culture. These achievements should then be made accessible not only to the community of researchers but also to broader public. We look forward to your continued support and goodwill.

KIBE Nobuko
President
National Institutes for the Humanities

About NIHU

The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) was established in 2004 as a corporation to support and further develop inter-university research institutes* that promote research in the humanities.

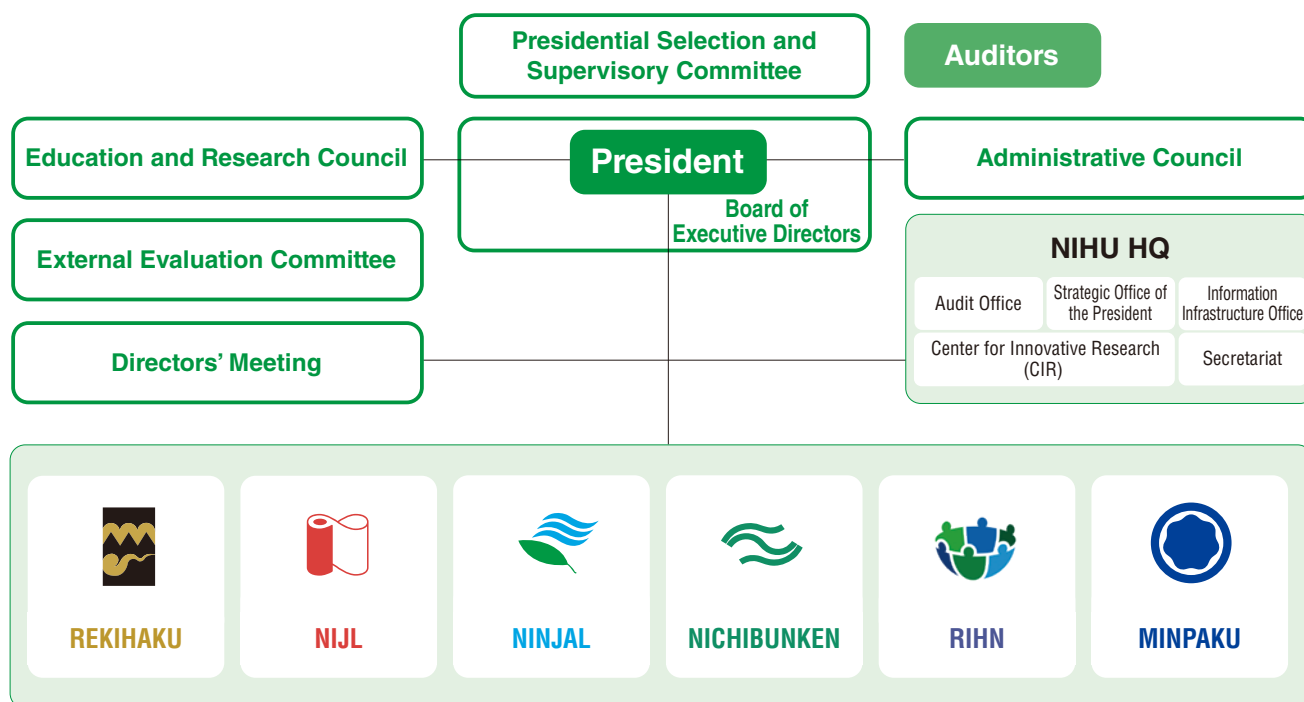
The current constituent organizations are:

- National Museum of Japanese History (REKIHAKU)
- National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL)
- National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL)
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies (NICHIBUNKEN)
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)
- National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU)

As international centers of excellence in their respective research fields, these six institutes aim to promote basic and interdisciplinary research in collaboration with universities and other research institutes and researchers in Japan and overseas. As the only inter-university research institute corporation for humanities research, the NIHU connects institutes within the organization with universities and other external institutes, and is also engaged in comprehensive academic research and dissemination related to human culture with the aim of constructing research resources, promoting empirical and theoretical research, and creating new research areas, including collaboration with the natural sciences.



Organization of NIHU



* Inter-University Research Institutes

As Japanese centers of excellence (COE) in their respective research fields, these institutes provide universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas with large facilities and equipment as well as vast materials and information that are difficult for any individual university to maintain, thereby facilitating effective joint research.

Mission and Vision

The six inter-university research institutes that make up NIHU operate as international centers of excellence in their respective fields as they deepen basic research, in collaboration with universities, other research institutes, and researchers in Japan and overseas, as well as conduct interdisciplinary research transcending the confines of research fields. In addition to supporting the activities of these six institutes, the NIHU headquarters connect institutes inside and outside NIHU, thus promoting the construction of research resources and new researchers that transcend disciplines and organizations.

▷ Mission

As the only inter-university research institute corporation for the humanities, NIHU's mission is to comprehensively explore humanity and its cultures, and through this exploration, to ask what true abundance is, to promote harmony between nature and humanity, and to contribute to the survival and coexistence of humankind.

▷ Vision

To realize its mission, in the NIHU's Fourth Mid-term Plan Period (FY2022-2027), NIHU aims to explore various social issues related to the diversity of human culture and social dynamics, try to solve them, and present new values and humanities knowledge that will serve as guidelines for the formation of a future society in which people and nature live in harmony and where science, technology, and humanity coexist. To achieve this, the Center for Innovative Research was established in April 2022 with the aim of forming new knowledge open to society. Based on the philosophy of open humanities research through co-creation with various people in Japan and overseas, the center continues to build a research platform using digital technology, promote joint research through that platform, and work on the formation of a "Knowledge Forum" as a place for exchange and collaboration with various people in society and the formation of an international network.

Center for Innovative Research (CIR)

Based on the mission and vision above, the Center for Innovative Research promotes "NIHU Research Projects" and "NIHU Co-creation Initiatives."

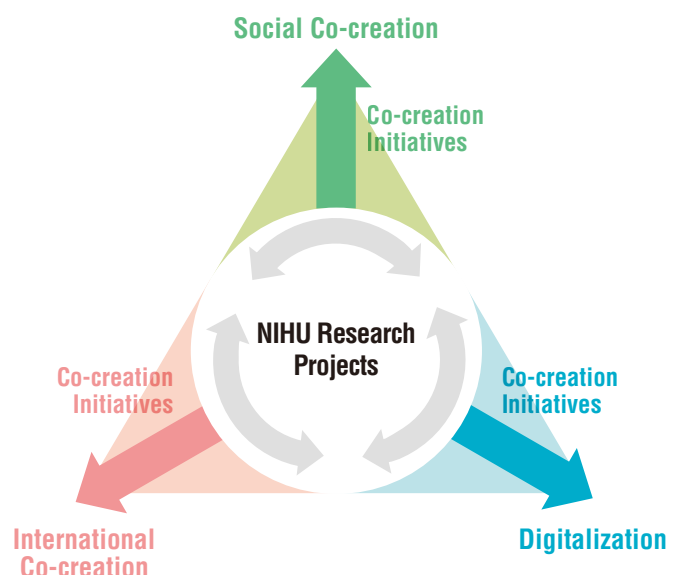
◆ NIHU Research Projects

NIHU Research Projects conduct basic and interdisciplinary researches, and promote three types of projects.

- Institute-based Projects
- Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects
- Network-based Projects

◆ NIHU Co-creation Initiatives







These are projects that promote the sharing of research results and co-creation with local communities and societies, promote "Co-creation Research Projects" and "Co-creation Outreach," whose aim is to develop research in three ways: "Social Co-creation" "Digitalization," and "International Co-creation" as shown on the right figure.



NIHU Research Projects

Institute-based Projects

NIHU's six institutes have established priority research themes in accordance with their respective missions. They collaborate with institutes and researchers both in Japan and overseas to conduct research that deepens knowledge and understanding of their respective specialist areas.

 REKIHAKU Construction of Japanese Historical Knowledge and Open Science Research	 NIJL Model Building in the Humanities through Data-Driven Problem Solving	 NINJAL Empirical and Applied Research on the Japanese Language Based on Open Language Resources
 NICHIBUNKEN New Departures and Consortium for Global Japanese Studies: Pioneering and Cultivating Global Japanese Studies	 RIHN Renewing Modern Civilization through Nature-culture Complex toward Solving Global Environmental Problems	 MINPAKU Sustainable Development Humanities Research Based on the Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects

These are projects in which NIHU's institutes take on a central role while collaborating with other NIHU's institutes as well as universities and other external institutes, working with research themes that cut across different fields. There is a collaboration with Japanese and overseas research institutes and researchers in diverse fields such as the humanities, information science, conservation science, and environmental studies, as well as with local communities, to engage in interdisciplinary research that transcends the boundaries of specializations.

◆ Interdisciplinary and Integrated Studies on Local Cultures: Aiming for the Emergence of Novel Communities

REKIHAKU [lead institute], **MINPAKU** [lead institute], **NIJL**, **NINJAL**, **RIHN**

Many local communities today are in a critical situation due to frequent disasters and changes within and outside the community. While inheriting existing traditional culture, there is a need for social emergence through new bearers and the culture that is renewed there. In this research, the aim is to actively participate in social and cultural emergence by investigating how a society can be truly sustainable and diverse from cross-cutting perspectives such as conservation science, anthropology, folklore, history, ecology, and linguistics, incorporating traditional culture that is replete with local wisdom and history.

◆ Object-based Research of Nature-human Interactions up to the Anthropocene

RIHN [lead institute], **REKIHAKU**

Humanity living in nature have made use of a wide variety of resources from the environment. The goal of this project is to study the relationship between nature and people along temporal and spatial axes by analyzing the concentrations and isotope ratios of elements contained in the human body and substances, and to clarify the changes in human resource usage that lead to modern global environmental problems from the perspective of material culture. In addition to conducting collaborative research with the National Museum of Ethnology on the ancient Andes, the academic collaboration will be done also with universities and research institutes inside and outside NIHU.

◆ Expansion Studies of Synthetic Bibliology

NIJL [lead institute], **REKIHAKU**, **NINJAL**

The main target is the Edo period and earlier books, and each unit has a common flow of "fragmentation of information into units of lexical level and character composition" to "reconstruction as value-added data," with the aim of contributing to society today and graduate school classes through the research results, and at the same time innovate at the meta-level of expanding research methods and areas themselves while incorporating AI technology as appropriate. By allowing open access also to failed attempts, this becomes a kind of testing ground for knowledge in the humanities, which invites future breakthroughs.

NIHU Research Projects

Network-based Projects

These are projects in which NIHU's institutes play a central role in forming a network with universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas as well as implementing issues that are important to Japan and the world. Through the establishment of the NIHU Global Area Studies Program and the Inter-University Research Institute Network Project to Preserve and Succeed Historical and Cultural Resources, efforts are being made in research to solve problems from various research field.



Global Area Studies Program (Steering Unit, MINPAKU)

So far, area studies have mainly focused on elucidation of the unique, essential, and inherent nature of conventionally constructed areas, imagined (created) through a postcolonial knowledge system. In this research program, with collaboration of the following four projects consisting of networks of various research institutes and universities, we are aiming to uncover the mechanisms of the establishment (and failure) and transformation of the global order from a viewpoint of comparison and relevance of various areas, and to explore possibility of new area studies that go beyond the conventional conceptualization of areas.



Global Mediterranean

MINPAKU [Central Hub], Toyo University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Doshisha University

This project examines the movement of people, goods, and knowledge through the modern and contemporary Mediterranean from a supra-regional and interdisciplinary perspective, exploring frameworks in area studies.



Indian Ocean World Studies

MINPAKU [Central Hub], University of Tokyo, Osaka University, Kyoto University

Focusing on the world surrounding the Indian Ocean, this project will elucidate the dynamics by which flows of people, goods, information, values, and so on have been involved in the generation, development, accumulation, and disappearance of relationships inside and outside that world.



Maritime Asian and Pacific Studies (MAPS)

MINPAKU [Central Hub], Kyoto University, Toyo University, Tokyo Metropolitan University

Based on the fundamental cultural commonalities within the "Austronesian" language sphere, this project aims to comprehensively outline cross-border movements of people, goods, and information from maritime Asia to Oceania.



East Eurasian Studies

Tohoku University [Central Hub], MINPAKU, Kobe University, Hokkaido University

This project aims to elucidate the influence of the existence of East Eurasia, home to the large states of China and Russia, on the global world from the perspective of cultural collisions and well-being (sense of happiness).



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

REKIHAKU [lead institute], Tohoku University, Kobe University

This project will contribute to the construction of local history and culture by having the foundations of historical and cultural materials in the area recognized by not only researchers but also the area as a whole, based on the results of activities to preserve historical and cultural materials conducted in the area (preservation, survey, and research activities), building on the "Shiryo Net" established in universities and areas across Japan, centering on NIHU (lead institute: REKIHAKU), Tohoku University, and Kobe University. Moreover, it aims to help researchers and areas share the best ways to preserve materials and the foundations of local culture through collaboration and co-creation between local governments and society.

NIHU Co-creation Initiatives

Co-creation Research Projects

These projects promote joint research through co-creation with various organizations and people inside and outside NIHU as well as develop research in three ways.



Establishing Science for Universal Communication (S_COM)

The goal of this project is to establish a new research field for “universal communication” through which people can participate equally regardless of their attributes. In order for “people with communication difficulties” and “people with disabilities” to be able to participate in social activities to the same extent as other people, it is necessary to elucidate current mechanisms and conduct basic research to balance the differences in needs. This research will be advanced to facilitate changes on the hardware side of infrastructure development and the software side of general public perception. The National Museum of Ethnology and the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics are the main bases for this project.



Building Digital Library for Humanities

This project, with help of digital technologies, intends more effective conservation and utilization of such research materials as photographs, videos, and audio materials accumulated through field surveys conducted by researchers and research institutes in Japan. Through collaboration among the National Museum of Ethnology, the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, and the National Institute of Informatics, the fruits of past scientific expedition in various fields are to be reevaluated for future activities.



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

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.

Early Diplomatic Japanese Collections Abroad: Contextualizing 19th Century Japanese Material Heritage in World History through On-site and Online Research and Use (REKIHAKU)

Focusing on Japan collections (objects and related historical documents) in Europe and the United States built in the 19th century, this project looks at the history of mutual relations by considering them not only as Japanese historical and cultural materials but also as materials that have moved to their current locations and been given a new context. Multi-perspective research on Japanese materials abroad will be advanced to reframe them in a global context as well as develop projects that promote their local use remote environments, and online spaces.

Study on the Construction of Archival Infrastructure for the History of Modern Japan-Vatican Relations (NIJL)

It is well-known that exchanges happened between the Vatican (the Holy See) and Japan during the Warring States period, but the relationship in modern times is actually important as well. In addition to missionary educational and social activities conducted in various places, the Vatican acted as an intermediary with the Allies during World War II. This project is a full-scale survey of archives (written records) related to diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Japan in the modern era, which have not been well known in Japan, and will contribute to the future development of research on the history of Vatican-Japan relations by laying information groundwork on this topic.

Japan-related Documents and Artifacts in Hawai'i: Historical and Social Survey Interface (NINJAL)

Among the Japan-related materials scattered overseas, those created in Hawai'i since the 19th century are numerous and diverse, but there is a high risk of materials being discarded because fewer and fewer local staff can understand Japanese. With a starting point in advancing research based on local language history, social history, and life history, this project aims to give an overview of the current state and future prospects of materials management by investigating the materials collections, interviewing relevant persons, and collaborating with local communities.

NIHU Co-creation Initiatives

Co-creation Outreach NIHU Knowledge Co-creation Projects

In collaboration with the NIHU's institutes and research institutes such as universities, these projects aim to visualize cutting-edge research on human culture through museums and exhibitions as well as build a research promotion model that enhances research through co-creation with academia and society. Moreover, they will promote social co-creation together with NIHU symposiums and other public outreach projects.

▶ NIHU Interactive Museums

A “circulation of knowledge” between universities, other research institutions, and society will be created by using digital technology to prepare materials and data owned by NIHU's institutes, visualize them through museums and various exhibitions, and share and publish research processes and results by various methods and in various places. In this way, the aim is to build a model for promoting open humanities research through co-creation with various people in Japan and overseas. Moreover, joint research will be conducted to solve communication challenges, such as visual and auditory difficulties, and, based on the results, to develop exhibition methods that support diversity.

▶ Liberal Arts Communicator

In addition to communicating the results of humanities research to society in an easy-to-understand manner by utilizing various media and opportunities such as exhibitions, “Liberal Arts Communicators” are trained systematically as researchers with skills to pick up on social demands for and responses to research and funnel that back into the research field. As an interpreter who “connects” society and research, he/she will promote social collaboration and co-creation as well as contribute to the promotion and development of the humanities.



The collaboration lecture “Research Communication in Humanities and Social Sciences” at the University of Tsukuba Graduate School

▶ NIHU Symposiums

With NIHU at the center, universities and various research organizations collaborate to hold symposiums on the latest results in humanities research.



41st NIHU Symposium, held hybrid



▶ Industry-Academia Collaborations

In collaboration with industry and external organizations, social benefits of research results are promoted, and contributions are made to develop academic culture.

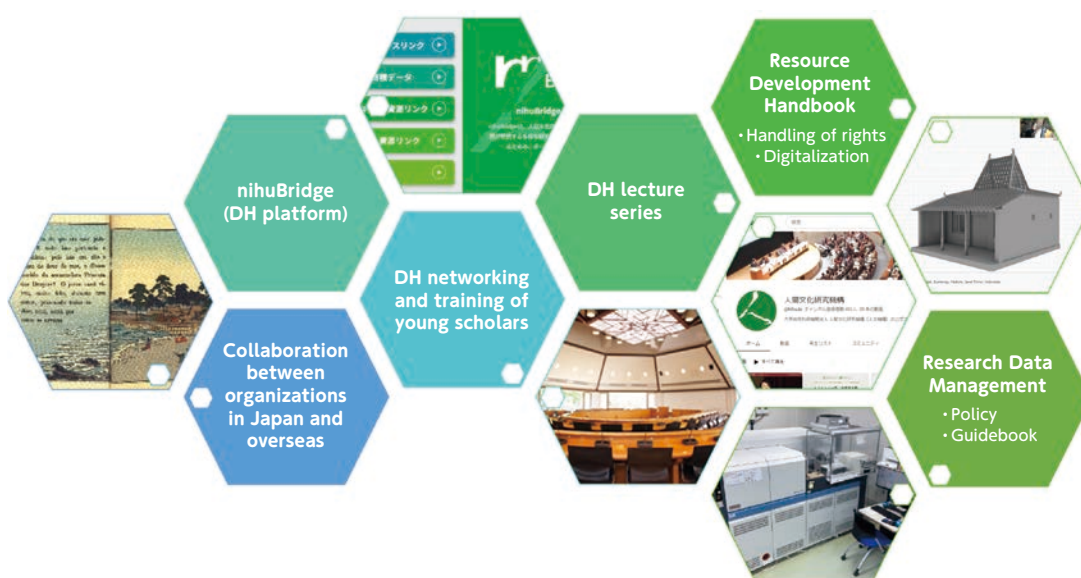
▶ The web magazine “NIHU Magazine”

This is a web magazine that disseminates NIHU research results and activities both in Japan and internationally. It is published regularly in two languages, Japanese and English.



Co-creation Outreach NIHU “Digital Humanities” (DH) Projects

Since 2022, NIHU has conducted a six-year project placing priority on the promotion of Digital Humanities (DH). NIHU sees DH not only as the application of digital technologies to diverse fields and methods in the humanities; but also as the action of a place where scholars and other members of society from different fields come together for interdisciplinary discussion and co-create new research fields and research platforms. For NIHU, the projects form the infrastructure on which to create knowledge for the next generation. In FY 2023, NIHU has launched an office for the promotion of the digital humanities and play a unique role in the international advancement of DH research.



Key Activities

- Digitalizing and making available research resources for humanities research held by the NIHU's six institutes and other research organizations in Japan.
- Compiling the above research resources into databases to make them searchable.
- Developing a platform to support efforts such as the standardization of data formats, inter-database coordination, and rights management to make the databases publicly available.
- Providing and sharing the established research platforms to integrate different disciplines and propel the team research projects of domestic and international research institutes.
- Utilizing DH to promote the preservation, analysis, and exchange of new knowledge by scholars in Japan in the context of humanities research.

▷ nihuBridge

nihuBridge is a portal site for sharing and utilizing diverse research resources disseminated by NIHU and its constituent institutes.

The website—released as a new platform offering an overview of the achievements of the NIHU institutes—is an updated version of the NIHU Integrated Retrieval System (nihuINT), originally developed as a product of the research resource-sharing promotion project. nihuBridge not only allows users to acquire datasets and collect information by searching and cross-referencing databases but also provides information from directories and APIs.

From here on, NIHU aims to further advance nihuBridge, by enhancing the connection between its knowledge information, and develop the website into a platform for promoting data utilization.

NIHU Co-creation Initiatives

Co-creation Outreach NIHU Global Partnership

NIHU has built collaborative research relationships with foreign research institutions involved in humanities research. We actively promote to invite foreign researchers and dispatch researchers overseas, and hold and send speakers to international conferences.

▶ Overseas Research Facilities

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



Visit by faculty and graduate students from Vietnam National University, Hanoi.

▶ Agreement with UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

NIHU signed an agreement with the United Kingdom's Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in 2007 to facilitate the exchange of post-graduates and early career researchers. The agreement has been renewed several times since then and a cooperative relationship has developed between the two organizations. Based on this agreement, at the request of the AHRC, NIHU provides placements and research guidance to graduate students and early career researchers from the UK who wish to pursue Japanese studies. NIHU continues to contribute to the development of overseas researchers through these types of activities.

▶ NIHU Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits

In order to contribute to NIHU projects and expand overseas research opportunities (survey research and presentations at international conferences, etc.), young researchers participating in NIHU Research Projects and NIHU Co-creation Initiatives are dispatched to overseas universities and international research conferences.

NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies

In January 2019, the NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies was established, with the support of the Kuraray Foundation, with the aim to promote the international development of Japanese studies and deepen the understanding of Japan in the academic community. The prize will be awarded to researchers based overseas who have shown outstanding achievement in Japan-related scholarship in philosophy, religion, thought, art, literature, language, history, folklore, society, the environment and other fields related to the Humanities and have made great contributions to the international development of Japanese studies.

2019 The prize winner Haruo Shirane

Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture and Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University

2020 The prize winner Andrew Gordon

Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History at Harvard University, Professor of the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies at Harvard University

2021 The prize winner Jean-Noël Robert

Professor of Collège de France

2022 The prize winner Josef Kreiner

Professor Emeritus of University of Bonn, Visiting Researcher of Hosei University Research Center for International Japanese Studies

2023 The prize winner SHIBATANI Masayoshi

Deedee McMurtry Chair Professor of Humanities and Professor of Linguistics Emeritus at Rice University, Professor Emeritus of Kobe University



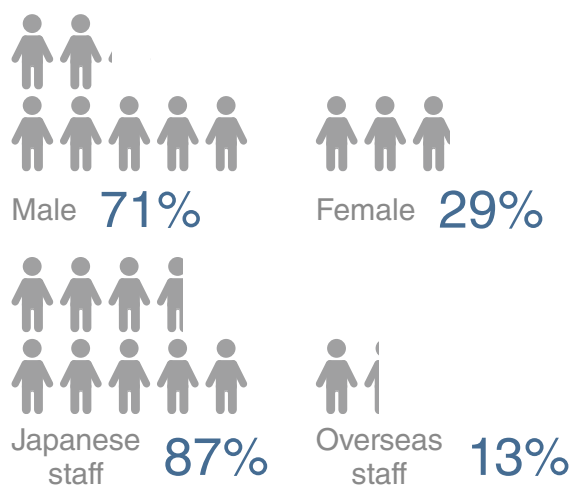
NIHU president KIBE(left), and the fifth winner Dr. SHIBATANI (right)

NIHU at a Glance

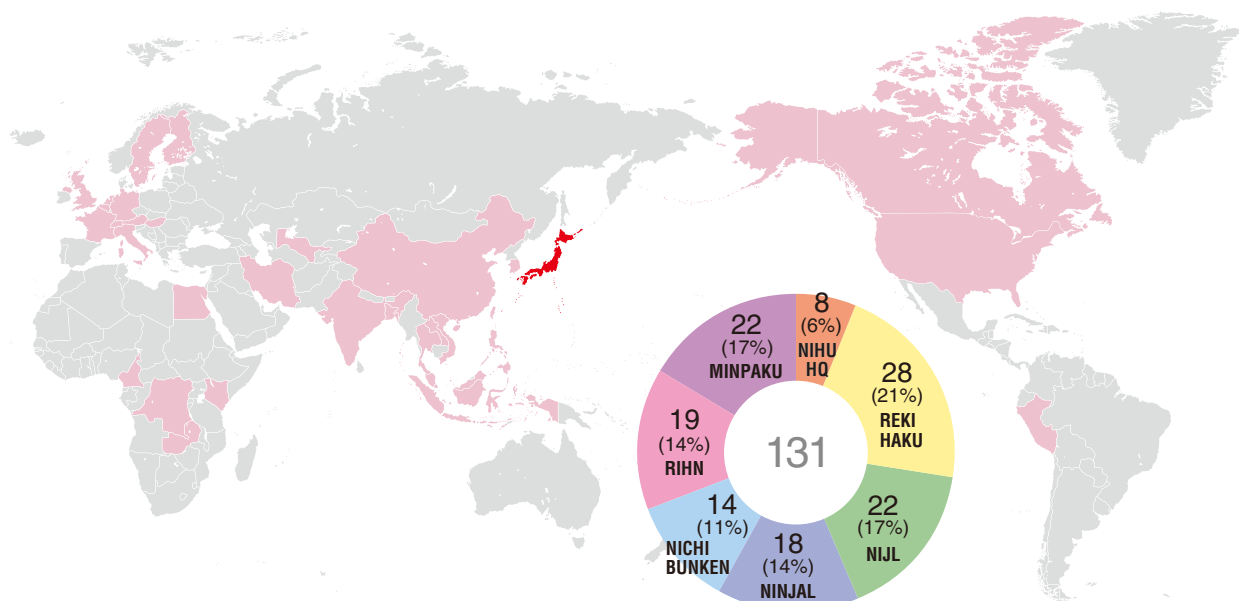
Profile of Academic and Administrative Staff (2023)

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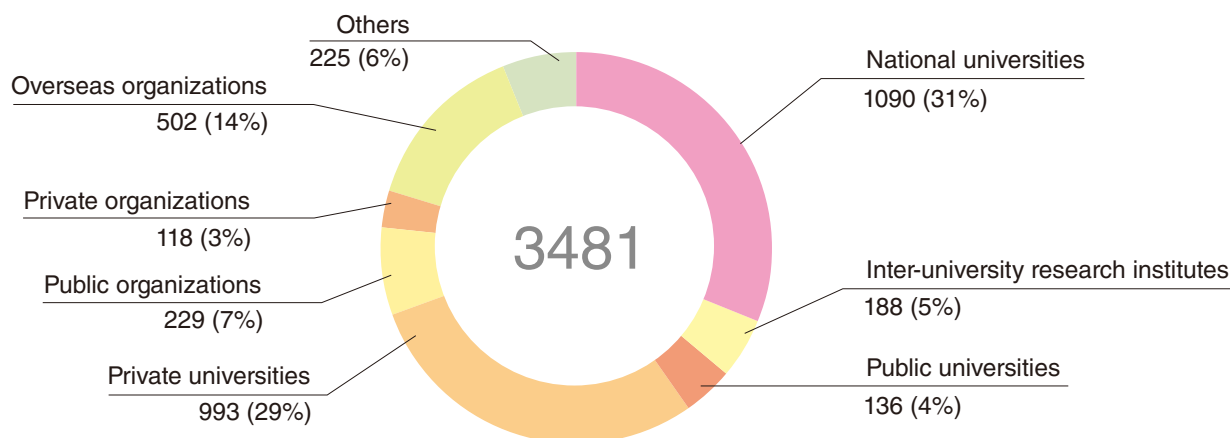
Organization	Academic staff	Administrative staff
NIHU HQ	35	39
REKIHAKU	45	123
NIJL	30	161
NINJAL	27	87
NICHIBUNKEN	35	89
RIHN	25	85
MINPAKU	56	163



Map of Agreements with Overseas Research Institutions (2024)



Researchers Collaborating with NIHU (2023)



Activities of the NIHU Institutes

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



Automated graphitization equipment for radiocarbon dating (REKIHAKU)

Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI)

NIHU's six institutes offer courses at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI. The six graduate (doctoral) courses take advantage of the institutes' respective resources to train scholars for broad perspective and a high level of expertise and learning.

Department (~FY2022)		Program (FY2023~)		Name of Institute	Number of students (as of May 1, 2023)		Number of degrees awarded (FY2022)
Cultural and Social Studies	Regional Studies	Department of Advanced Studies	Anthropological Studies	MINPAKU	25	(7)	2
	Comparative Studies						
	Japanese Studies		Japanese Studies	NICHIBUNKEN	15	(9)	1
	Japanese History		Japanese History	REKIHAKU	12	(0)	1
	Japanese Literature		Japanese Literature	NIJL	7	(0)	2
			Japanese Language Sciences	NINJAL	4	(3)	0
			Global Environmental Studies	RIHN	0	(0)	0

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



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 that was to advance research on Japanese history and culture. Its vision is to offer historical perspectives that open the way to the future, and to enhance mutual understanding among people with divergent perceptions of history. Pursuing this vision, Rekihaku advances its research style of museum-based research integration, in which resources, research, and exhibitions are interconnected and actively shared and published. Further, Rekihaku promotes interdisciplinary collaborative research with researchers in Japan and abroad, as well as initiatives involving multidisciplinary cooperation towards developing a new model of Japanese history.



Cooperation with the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology and the Faculty of Letters for practical training at the museum

Research Projects

Rekihaku organizes research projects with researchers from within and outside of Japan. "Collaborative research" consists of "principal research" aiming for interdisciplinary collaboration on core research themes based on Rekihaku's mission (5 projects), "fundamental research" addressing the development of methodological foundations for historical studies (7 projects), "developmental research" aimed at breaking ground for new areas of study and developing human resources, and "Collaborative access type joint research" to train early career researchers such as students enrolled in doctoral programs and postdoctoral researchers (6 projects). In addition, "research projects on Rekihaku's collections" are designed for making effective use of the museum's holdings (2 projects) and "exhibition projects" in exhibition development of special and featured exhibitions (12 projects) are conducted (Number of projects conducted in FY 2023).

Exhibitions

Permanent exhibitions at Rekihaku present essential elements of Japanese history and culture, from prehistoric and ancient times to contemporary history, with an emphasis on the history of people's daily lives. Special exhibitions and featured exhibitions are held to publicize the achievements of collaborative research and collecting activities. Seasonal exhibitions of plants connected to traditional activities are also offered at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life.

Collections / Databases

Rekihaku is committed to collecting authentic materials, reproductions, audio-visual materials, and other resources. As of May 1, 2023, Rekihaku has 275,503 items in its collection (including 5 national treasures, 87 important cultural properties and 27 art treasures). It also has a library of 367,286 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 (71 databases as of May 1, 2023).



Harvesting the Intellectual Wealth of Premodern Japanese Texts

The National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL) is a comprehensive scientific research institution specializing in Japanese literature. Its activities include the large-scale collection of literary texts and other related documents from across Japan, the provision of these materials for use by researchers working in various fields related to Japanese literature, and the active promotion of advanced collaborative research projects utilizing these materials. Drawing upon its scholarly achievements in documentary research on premodern Japanese texts --a body of accomplishment built up over the 50 years since the institute's founding --NIJL works with research institutions and researchers both in Japan and abroad to leverage premodern Japanese texts as a rich intellectual resource and is committed to paving the way for innovative research spanning a variety of fields.



NIJL's Reading Room

Surveying, Collecting, and Using Resources

NIJL surveys primarily Japanese literary texts and other related documents (manuscripts, printed books, historical documents, etc.), collecting these in digital and other formats. The institute offers reading and copying services in its reading room, in addition to providing copy services through the interlibrary loan system. It also conducts a variety of educational programs in concert with various universities. Beyond these services, parts of its collections can be freely accessed through 5 databases available from NIJL's website, notably the "Union Catalogue Database of Japanese Texts." Selected materials are also accessible via the NIJL website as "premodern Japanese text datasets" in which full individual works may be downloaded as single files made available through the Center for Open Data in the Humanities (CODH) at the Research Organization of Information and Systems' Joint Support-Center for Data Science Research (ROIS-DS).

Exhibition Space

NIJL endeavors to make available the results achieved in its documentary research and collaborative research projects through display in its public exhibition space. It also offers a series of regularly changing temporary exhibitions, showcasing a variety of different themes.

NIJL Arts Initiative

NIJL strives to bring its abundant store of premodern materials into dialogue with the modern world, in hopes of engaging with these materials in a variety of original ways. The NIJL Arts Initiative actively utilizes these rich cultural resources as a means of responding to the contemporary needs of society, while simultaneously promoting the spread of Japanese culture and learning throughout the world.



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.



"Handbooks of Japanese Language and Linguistics" Series

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

The Research Library of NINJAL collects and stores mainly research materials and linguistic resources concerning Japanese language studies and the Japanese language, as well as related fields such as Japanese language education, linguistics, etc. This is the only library specialized in the Japanese language and linguistics in Japan.

● Special Collections

Tojo bunko (dialects), Ota bunko (dialects), Hoshina bunko (language issues), Kenbo bunko (dictionaries), Kanamozikai bunko (characters/notation), Fujimura bunko (phonology), Hayashi bunko (Japanese Linguistics), Koshimizu bunko (pedagogical studies of the Japanese Language), Nakamura bunko (Japanese Linguistics), etc.



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.



(left) "Nihon Kenkyū"
(center) "Japan Review"
(right) "Nichibunken Monograph" Series

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 610,000 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 DVDs and CDs.

Publications

Nichibunken disseminates the latest research in Japanese studies through its two peer-reviewed journals, Japan Review and Nihon Kenkyū. The Center also sponsors monographs in both Japanese and English, and publishes the proceedings of conferences held in Japan and abroad.



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.



Groundwater survey at Tarama Island, Okinawa

RIHN Research Formation: Project-based Approach

RIHN promotes research through a project-based approach, in which research proposals submitted and selected through an international open-call are implemented as research projects lasting three to five years. Forty-three research projects have been completed thus far, and seven research projects are currently ongoing.

Comprehensive Research Across Disciplines

A diverse group of researchers from all fields, including the natural sciences, humanities and, social sciences, work together to conduct research.

The laboratory space is an open space that is 150 meters long, and researchers from different academic fields and disciplines interact with each other constantly.

Solution-oriented Research in Collaboration with Society

RIHN research projects conduct research in many regions in Japan and abroad. Researchers collaborate with local communities in various ways, often establishing academic agreements (MoUs) with local governments.

Environmental Isotope Study Collaborative Research Program

Various elements make up ecosystems such as water, the atmosphere, organisms and soil; human activities and their history; and all human and natural phenomena. Within the interacting ring, there is an inherent "fingerprint" of the stable isotope ratio of the element. At RIHN, we call analysis of these stable isotope ratios "Environmental Isotope Studies." We have been conducting joint research with domestic and international researchers since 2012.



A forum for sharing and creating knowledge of the world

The National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) is an inter-university research institute of cultural anthropology, providing postgraduate education and managing one of the world's largest museum facilities. As a focal hub for international research, collaboration and shared access, the museum works with peoples and societies the world over, accumulating cultural resources and disseminating ideas and information through exhibition and publications. Minpaku has been constructing an online "Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture" to enable researchers and source communities to exchange information related to cultural resources of the world, and create a new knowledge of humanity.



Research Projects

Based on extensive academic resources, Minpaku continues its mission of "creating a science of global human coexistence", to establish guidelines for human symbiosis. The main activities are a Special Research Project entitled "Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in the Post-Nationalist Era", to explore guiding principles for realizing a convivial human society, and a Transdisciplinary Project on "Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture", to create a digital databank of cultural resources for global use, and interdisciplinary joint research projects on peoples, societies and cultures, in collaboration with researchers and source communities in Japan and abroad.

Collection and Databases

Minpaku holds some 346,000 cultural and ethnological items, and 70,000 audio-visual recordings. It also houses a book and journal collection of cultural anthropology and related fields consisting of some 280,000 titles in Japanese and 420,000 titles in other languages. As well as making these resources available for use in research and

university education, it also lends them to other museums and touring exhibitions. In addition to online catalogues detailing artifacts, audio-visual materials, books and other documents in its collection, various outcomes and data of research at the museum are made open to the public through an online database and academic repository.

Exhibitions

Minpaku disseminates research results to the public through several kinds of exhibition.

● Main Exhibition Hall

The museum's permanent exhibition is divided into nine regional galleries and two cross-cultural galleries showcasing music and language. Also, a thematic exhibition gallery showcases contemporary issues or recent research.

● Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions are large-scale events designed to comprehensively and systematically showcase the latest research on specific themes. The museum presents them twice each year.

NIHU

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

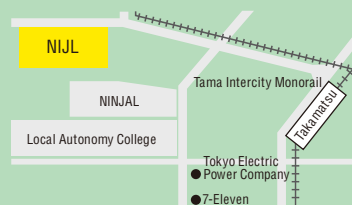
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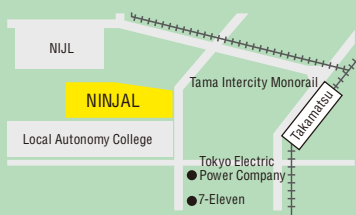
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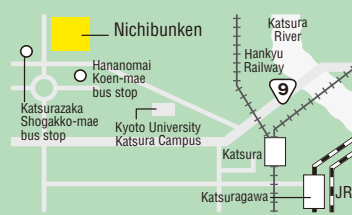
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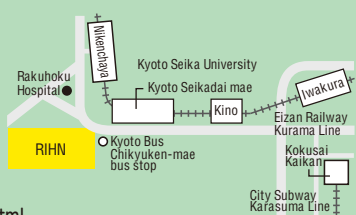
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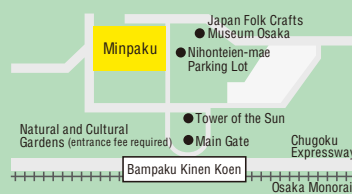
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National Museum of Ethnology

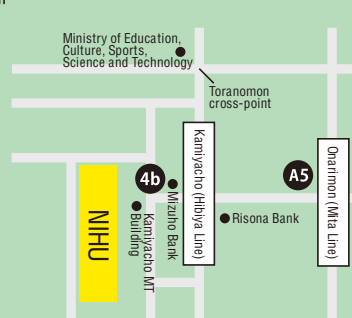
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International Research Center
for Japanese Studies
NICHIBUNKEN・KYOTO

Research Institute
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RIHN・KYOTO

National Museum of
Ethnology
MINPAKU・OSAKA

National Institutes
for the Humanities
Administrative Headquarters
NIHU・TOKYO

National Museum of
Japanese History
REKIHAKU・CHIBA

National Institute of
Japanese Literature
NIJL・TOKYO

National Institute for Japanese
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NINJAL・TOKYO