

Research Center for Cultural Resources

Purpose

The Research Center for Cultural Resources was established in April 2004 to facilitate the systematic management of cultural resources and to digitize them. The Center is also charged with conducting investigations, and research and development to ensure that its resources are shared extensively and used for the good of society. The Center is also involved in planning and coordinating the promotion of the implementation of relevant projects.

Cultural resources include a variety of materials, both tangible and intangible, and information related to such materials, as well as knowledge, skills, know-how, human and organizational networks, and intellectual property, all of which are considered useful resources for the development of society.

By encouraging the sharing of these cultural resources worldwide, the Center aims to develop a basis for fostering cross-cultural understanding and the realization of a multi-cultural society where people with different backgrounds live in harmony and better meet the needs of this age of globalization.

The value of cultural resources becomes more apparent through the process of investigation and collection. These resources can be better shared and used for the good of society when managed systematically and digitized. Promotion of each of the steps in this process requires a framework of social alliances and international contributions, as shown below.

Flow of Cultural Resources from Surveys and Collections to Society



The steps that constitute the process are basic research which involves the theoretical study of various issues, and developmental research which is the development of methodologies, systems and technologies, or the conducting of preliminary studies based on the findings of the basic research, which eventually leads to the implementation of programs.

The Research Center for Cultural Resources is responsible for conducting the basic and advanced developmental research required for each of these steps and for planning and coordinating the implementation of the resulting programs.

The Research Center for Cultural Resources is now the core of our institution. One initiative associated with this new status is the renovation of all main exhibitions, to reflect changes in the world and academic interests in the more than 30 years since the museum was opened and to better meet the needs and expectations of a new generation of visitors. This center's aim is to adapt to these changes by constructing new exhibits to share our research results and continue our cooperation with both local and overseas universities and museums, thus making maximum use of our functions as an Inter-University Research Institute.

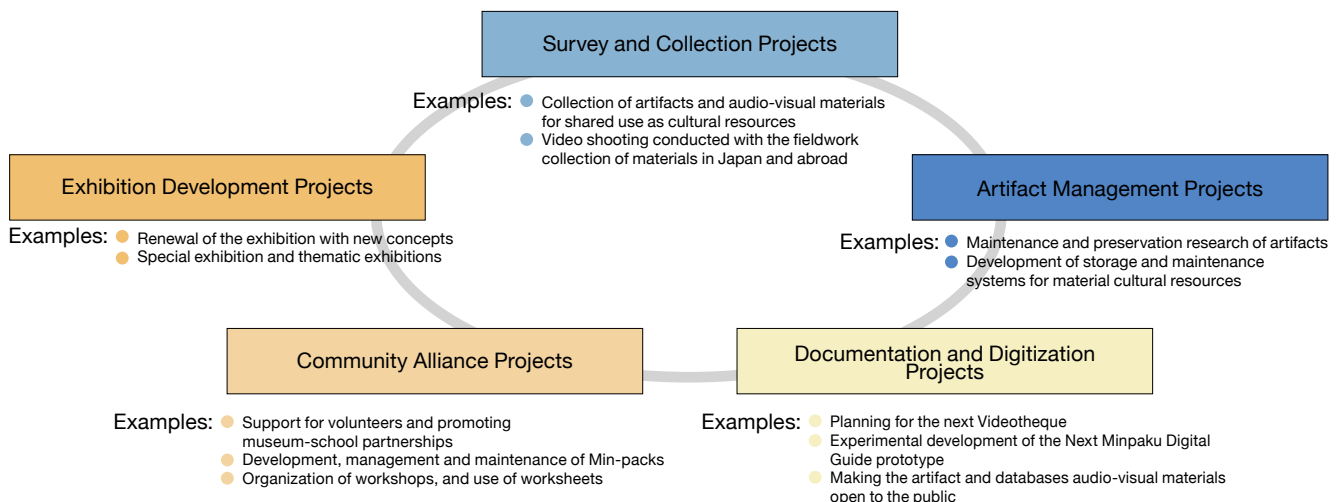
New exhibitions will be designed to provide forums for interaction and mutual learning that will involve the three stakeholders; the researchers who create the exhibitions, the owners of the cultures exhibited, and the visitors. In addition, following the process of globalization, the Center adjusts and shifts the conventional exhibitions that show the individual characteristics of regional cultures, into "glocal exhibitions" that describe movement as well as demonstrate linkages between regions and the world.

Cultural Resource Projects

A "Cultural Resource Project" is a research project which aims to consolidate Minpaku's position as an Inter-university Research Institute, promote the organization of academic resources held both by Minpaku and other institutions, encourage the shared use of Minpaku, and enhance its academic value, all in accordance with the second interim and mid-term programs.

Starting in 2009, the center introduced the Cultural Resources Inter-University Visiting Researcher system to strengthen ties with the academic community; the center also introduced a system of consultation with external experts when considering research proposals.

Relationships among Cultural Resource Projects in each category



List of Cultural Resource Projects in 2012

Survey and Collection of Cultural Resources

Collected artifacts related to culture on the Korean Peninsula during the colonial period	ASAKURA Toshio
Collected artifacts related to the impact of transnationalism on contemporary Korean society	OTA Shimpei
Shot videos related to traditional Chinese architecture and ancestor worship and collected examples of ceramics and the four treasures of the scholar's study (paper, ink, brushes, inkstones)	HAN Min
Investigated modernizing lifeways among the Tuva, a people who live in Russia, Mongolia, and China.	KONAGAYA Yuki
Collection of Ainu fish skin clothing and video coverage	SASAKI Shiro
Produced an ethnographic video program using footage shot in Inokawa in Tokunoshima-cho.	SASAHARA Ryoji
Produced a video about the Nagahama-Hikiyama festival for the new Japan exhibit	SASAHARA Ryoji
Collected and produced materials related to traditional arts and festivals for the new Japan exhibit	SASAHARA Ryoji
Collected and researched materials for "Foreigners in Japan" (tentative title)	SHOJI Hiroshi
Collected artifacts related to overseas Chinese	CHEN Tien-Shi
Edited a long-format video about Maranao culture	TERADA Yoshitaka
Produced DVD containing recordings and educational materials related to Philippine gong music	TERADA Yoshitaka
Edited a video program about Spanish music (both English and Spanish-language versions)	TERADA Yoshitaka
Collected Samoan fine mats	NIWA Norio
Collected contemporary Taiwanese aboriginal craft items	NOBAYASHI Atsushi
Produced long and short versions of "Social Change and Marriage Ceremonies in Rajasthan, India"	MIO Minoru
Edited Videotheque program on the society and culture of the Bai people who live in China's Yunnan Province	YOKOYAMA Hiroko
Produced exhibits and collection of ethnographic materials related to the "Weapons and Agricultural Implements" Mozambique project	YOSHIDA Kenji

Materials Management

Creation of a system for preservation and management of tangible cultural resources	SONODA Naoko
Research related to the environment for conservation of cultural treasures damaged during the Great Northeast Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	HIDAKA Shingo

Digitization

Created database for English-language materials related to Zuni artifacts in the Minpaku collection	ITO Atsunori
Establishment of a world textiles database	KUBO Masatoshi
Updated information in database of photographs from research on Australian aborigines	KUBO Masatoshi
Using 3D computer graphics to create a digital archive of ethnic architecture	SATO Koji
Organization and creation of a database of artifacts gathered on Kyoto University's academic expedition	YOSHIDA Kenji

Exhibitions

Special Exhibition: "Zafimaniry Style: Life and Handicrafts in the Mist Forest of Madagascar", Spring, 2013	IIDA Taku
Special Exhibition: "Modernologio" Now: Kon Wajiro's Science of the Present, Spring, 2012	KUBO Masatoshi
Planning and preparation for a Special Exhibition "Shibusawa Keizo Memorial Project Attic Museum"	KONDO Masaki

Preliminary study for renewal of the Central and North Asia exhibitions	SASAKI Shiro
Planning and preparation for a Thematic Exhibition (International Collaborative Exhibition) "The society and Culture of the Plains Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan"	NOBAYASHI Atsushi
Thematic Exhibition "Transmitting Memories: Tsunami Disaster and Cultural Heritage"	HIDAKA Shingo
Rebuilt the Videotheque database	FUKUOKA Shota
Conducted investigations related to the new Videotheque system using multifunction terminals	FUKUOKA Shota
Developed prototype for next-generation image search system	FUKUOKA Shota
Conducted experiments related to development of the next generation of the Minpaku Digital Guide	FUKUOKA Shota
Produced Minpaku Digital Guide contents related to the Americas and Europe exhibits	FUKUOKA Shota
AY2012 renewal of Minpaku Japanese culture exhibits: "Festivals and Performing Arts" and "Everyday Life"	YOSHIDA Kenji
AY 2012 Special Exhibition "The Warp and Weft of Weaving: Handlooms and Textiles of the World"	YOSHIMOTO Shinobu

Social Interaction (Research Development)

Produced a "Korean" Min-Pack	ASAKURA Toshio
Museum-School Partnership Workshop for Teachers	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Performance of the <i>Kamuynomi</i> prayer ceremony and traditional Aynu (Ainu) dances designated Important Intangible Cultural Assets	SAITO Reiko

List of Cultural Resource Projects in 2013

Survey and Collection of Cultural Resources

Content and program development for the new Culture of the Korean Peninsula exhibit	ASAKURA Toshio
Produced a program from video footage shot in China's Fujian Province	HAN Min
Produced a program using video footage shot among the Tuva	KONAGAYA Yuki
Produced a short video about the Nagama Hikiyama festival	SASAHARA Ryoji
Collected artifacts for exhibition of 19th-21st century American quilts	SUZUKI Nanami
Produced a Videotheque program based on the presentation "Voices of Distant Memories — South Indian Classical Music of the Vina Dhanammal Lineage"	TERADA Yoshitaka
Collected materials for the new Southeast Asia exhibit	NOBUTA Toshihiro
Collected materials related to contemporary Okinawan culture and shot video footage related to Japanese emigrants	HIDAKA Shingo
Collected materials for the new Central and North Asia exhibit	FUJIMOTO Toko
Collected specimens, video and audio recordings for the new South Asia exhibit	MIO Minoru
Edited Videotheque program on the society and culture of the Bai people who live in China's Yunnan Province	YOKOYAMA Hiroko

Materials Management

Creation of a system for preservation and management of tangible cultural resources	SONODA Naoko
Research related to the environment for conservation of cultural treasures damaged during the Great Northeast Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	HIDAKA Shingo

Digitization

Established a world textiles database	KUBO Masatoshi
Added new data and improved the interface for database of photographs from fieldwork among Australian aborigines	KUBO Masatoshi

Digitalization of the University of Tokyo ethnography catalogue	SASAKI Shiro
Conversion into a database of the Oki Morihiro Photographs of Indian Culture Archive	MIO Minoru
Organization and creation of a database of artifacts gathered on Kyoto University's academic expedition	YOSHIDA Kenji

Exhibitions

Special Exhibition: "Zafimaniry Style: Life and Handicrafts in the Mist Forest of Madagascar", Spring, 2013	IIDA Taku
Thematic Exhibition "Human Interactions with Other Creatures in Amazonia"	IKEYA Kazunobu
Preparations for the thematic exhibition "Unknown Continent: Nature and Culture in Greenland" (tentative title)	KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro
AY 2013 Special Exhibition "Shibusawa Keizo Memorial Project Attic Museum"	KONDO Masaki
Preparatory research for new Ainu culture exhibit	SAITO Reiko
Preparatory research for the thematic exhibition "Sakhalin petroglyphs" (tentative title)	SASAKI Shiro
Preparatory research for new Central and North Asia exhibits	SASAKI Shiro
Thematic Exhibition "Transforming Arms into Art: Peace-building in Mozambique"	YOSHIDA Kenji
Research on accessibility of the Museum's exhibition spaces	YOSHIDA Kenji
Preparations for "The Power of Images: The Minpaku Collection" (tentative name), a special exhibition planned for the fall of 2014 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the National Museum of Ethnology and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology.	YOSHIDA Kenji
AY2013 new exhibits (Culture of the Korean Peninsula, Regional Cultures of China, Culture of Japan: Okinawa, Multiethnic Society exhibits)	YOSHIDA Kenji
Investigation, development, and testing of the new Videotheque system using multi-function terminals	FUKUOKA Shota
Development and testing of the next-generation Minpaku Digital Guide	FUKUOKA Shota
Production of Minpaku Digital Guide contents for the Japanese Culture exhibit	FUKUOKA Shota

Social Interaction (Research Development)

Production of revised version of the "Living in the Extreme North" Min-pack	KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro
Museum-School Partnership Workshop for Teachers	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Performance of the <i>Kamuynomi</i> prayer ceremony and traditional Aynu (Ainu) dance designated Important Intangible Cultural Assets	SAITO Reiko
Production of revised version of the "Understanding Javanese Culture" Min-pack	FUKUOKA Shota

Cultural Resource Planning Project

Divided "Cultural Asset Management" into two programs, Artifacts and Exhibitions and Social Interaction, aiming to promote more effective diffusion of research results.

List of Cultural Resource Planning Projects in 2012

Artifacts

Development and production of video materials for the Culture of the Korean Peninsula, cultural exchange with the National Folk Museum of Korea	ASAKURA Toshio
Acceptance of the donation of Native American Hopi ceremonial costume	ITO Atsunori
Acceptance of the donation of silver work from Oman and Yemen	UEBA Yoko

Acceptance of the donation of Altiq masks	KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro
Accession of additional Uemura Naomi materials	KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro
Acceptance of the donation of photographs from fieldwork among Australian aborigines from Professor Emeritus KOYAMA Shuzo	KUBO Masatoshi
Acceptance of the donation of photographs from fieldwork among Australian aborigines from Professor Emeritus KOYAMA Shuzo	MATTHEWS, Peter J.
Acceptance of the donation of Okurasama (Japanese deity) statue and offering box	HIDAKA Shingo
Acceptance of the donation of big catch flags (flown by Japanese fisherman when returning with a large catch)	HIDAKA Shingo
Acceptance of the donation of materials related to swidden agriculture	HIDAKA Shingo
Acceptance of the donation of rice farming materials from the Okutani collection	HIDAKA Shingo
Acceptance of the deposit of rice farming materials from the Ikoma City collection	HIDAKA Shingo
Acceptance of the donation of "Toys through the Ages" from Osaka Prefecture's Big Bang Children's Museum	HIDAKA Shingo
Acceptance of the donation of musical instruments and dolls from Myanmar	FUKUOKA Shota
Development of a support tool for artifact database screening and database publication	YAMAMOTO Yasunori
Received an additional donation of video and audio materials related to research conducted by scholars from Kyoto University	YOSHIDA Kenji

Exhibitions and Social Interaction

Opening and preparations for the National Folk Museum of Korea's Arirang—Soul of Korea exhibition	ASAKURA Toshio
Joint exhibition with the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Art (Hayama): Beads in Africa: The collection of National Museum of Ethnology	IKEYA Kazunobu
Workshop hosting and worksheet exercises	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Support for volunteer activities	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Year-end and New Year exhibition event <i>Hebi</i> (Snake)	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Improvements to the Americas exhibit	SEKI Yuji
Traveling exhibition Mandala: Mandala Deities in Tibet and Nepal (Ishikawa-ken History Museum)	MINAMI Makito
Improvements to the Oceania exhibit	MATTHEWS, Peter J.

List of Cultural Resource Planning Projects in 2013

Artifacts

Development and production of video materials for the Culture of the Korean Peninsula, cultural exchange with the National Folk Museum of Korea	ASAKURA Toshio
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Exhibitions and Social Interaction

Thematic Exhibition "Arirang: The Soul of Korea"	ASAKURA Toshio
Improvements to the Europe exhibit	UDAGAWA Taeko
Workshop hosting and worksheet exercises	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Support for volunteer activities	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Year-end and New Year exhibition event <i>Uma</i> (Horse)	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
Thematic Exhibition (International Collaborative Exhibition) "The History and Culture of the Plains Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan"	NOBAYASHI Atsushi
Development and implementation of research data exhibition system	FUKUOKA Shota