

# 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. In response to these changes, the Museum will present its exhibitions in such a way that the latest research results are shared more effectively and more broadly by making the utmost use of its position as an Inter-University Research Institute and in cooperation with universities and museums, both in Japan and overseas.

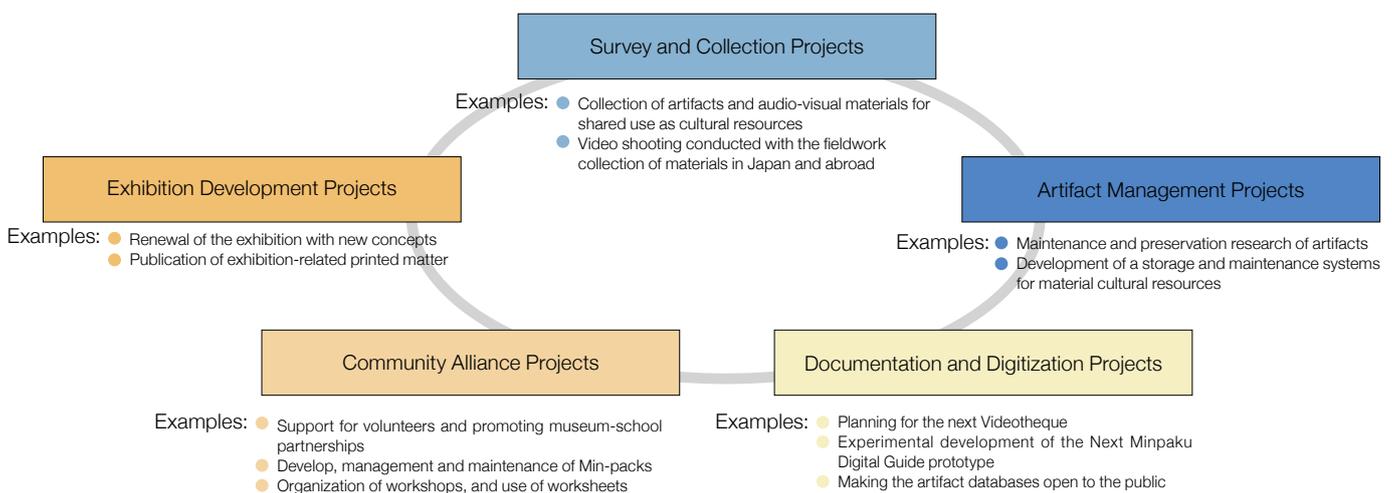
New exhibitions will be designed to provide forums for interaction and mutual learning that will involve the three stakeholders; the researchers who create the exhibitions, the owners of the cultures exhibited, and the visitors. In addition, following the process of globalization, the Center adjusts 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.

Since 2009, steps to build up our outside members have included the introduction of a research fellows program to facilitate joint research on cultural resources and consultation with external experts when evaluating new projects.

### Relationships among Cultural Resource Projects in each category



## List of Cultural Resource Projects

### Survey and Collection of Cultural Resources

Editing video for "Fascinated by Tuva"	KONAGAYA Yuki
Yurt installation at the Mongol exhibition—modernizing tradition, incorporating IT	KONAGAYA Yuki
Collection of Ainu fish skin clothing and video coverage	SASAKI Shiro
Collection of <i>Tsukurimono</i> [Artifacts]	SASAHARA Ryoji
Video of folk performances in Tokunoshima	SASAHARA Ryoji
Collection of <i>Mendon</i> festival costumes and equipment	SASAHARA Ryoji
Collection of quilts from 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> century USA	SUZUKI Nanami
Planning, producing, and editing of video about Native American crafts	SUZUKI Motoi
Editing both Maranao and English versions of a video program about Philippine gongs	TERADA Yoshitaka
Purchase and documentation of a restored <i>charamera</i>	FUKUOKA Shota
Production of long and short works related to "Diversity and transformation of the female diety festival in Rajasthan, India"	MIO Minoru
Video and audio recordings related to social change and weddings in Rajasthan, India	MIO Minoru
Multimedia content, including a short video, "Ethnography of the ceremonies and subsistence of the Bai people in Yunnan Province, China"	YOKOYAMA Hiroko

### Materials Management

Creation of a system for preservation and management of tangible cultural resources	SONODA Naoko
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### Digitization

Opening Minpaku's database of Native American prints to the public	KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro
Organization, settlement of rights issues, and establishment of a database open to the public of photographs taken on the "Research Expedition to Northwest Nepal" from the former Ministry of Education archives	KUBO Masatoshi
Establishment of a world (Asian) textiles database	KUBO Masatoshi
Using 3D computer graphics to create a digital archive of ethnic architecture	SATO Koji
Updating the music and folk performance database	FUKUOKA Shota
Creation of a database of photographs from the UMESAO Tadao collection	YOSHIDA Kenji
Organization and creation of a database of artifacts gathered on Kyoto University's academic expedition	YOSHIDA Kenji

### Exhibitions

Special Exhibition "UMESAO Tadao: An Explorer For the Future", Spring, 2011	KONAGAYA Yuki
Preliminary study for renewal of the Central and North Asia exhibitions	SASAKI Shiro
AY 2011 Special Exhibition "Daily Life among the Aynu of the Kurile, Sakhalin and Hokkaido Islands"	SASAKI Shiro
Empirical research on exhibition design to enhance social benefits based on human-centered design	HIRAI Yasuyuki

Experimental development of the Next Minpaku Digital Guide prototype	FUKUOKA Shota
Investigation of a next-generation videotheque	FUKUOKA Shota
Production of the Minpaku Digital Guide content	FUKUOKA Shota
Thematic Exhibition "Indian Popular Art"	MIO Minoru
Renewal of the main exhibitions with new concepts (Europe, Information, and Introduction exhibitions)	YOSHIDA Kenji
Planning and preparation for a Special Exhibition " <i>Looms and Textiles from Around the World</i> " (provisional title)	YOSHIMOTO Shinobu

### Social interaction (Research Development)

Museum-School Partnership Workshop for Teachers	ASAKURA Toshio
Performance of the <i>Kamuynomi</i> prayer ceremony and traditional Aynu (Ainu) dances designated Important Intangible Cultural Assets	SASAKI Shiro
Workshop "Meeting and Connecting through Expression" (2009-2011)	NISHI Hiroko

### 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

### Artifacts

Development and collection of video footage on the "Cultures of the Korean Peninsula": an exchange project with the National Folk Museum of Korea	ASAKURA Toshio
Survey and organization / registration of former Museum of Ethnology artifacts	KONDO Masaki
Acceptance of a donation of visual materials and locally collected artifacts from the second half of the Japanese colonial period in Taiwan	NOBAYASHI Atsushi
Development of a support tool for artifact database screening and database publication	YAMAMOTO Yasunori

### Exhibitions and Social Interaction

In connection with the Ulsan City Museum's "Ulsan Collection" exhibition, <i>100 Years of Academic Exchange with Daldong, Ulsan</i>	ASAKURA Toshio
Support for volunteer activities	ASAKURA Toshio
New and revised editions of <i>Min-pack</i>	ASAKURA Toshio
Workshop hosting and worksheet exercises	ASAKURA Toshio
Traveling exhibition "A Fateful Journey: Africa in the Works of El Anatsui"	KAWAGUCHI Yukiya
Year-end and New Year exhibition event <i>Tatsu</i> [Dragn]	KOBAYASHI Shigeki
The Language Exhibition maintenance project	SHOJI Hiroshi
Use of cultural resources in exhibitions related to aboriginal peoples in Taiwan	NOBAYASHI Atsushi
Partial renovation of the Music Exhibition	FUKUOKA Shota
Conversion of visual materials from Special Exhibitions into multimedia contents	FUKUOKA Shota