Library

The Nichibunken Library collects a wide range of materials needed for research on Japan and makes these materials available to researchers. It also provides access to Japanese studies-related information of various kinds. The 580,000 titles in the library can be searched via the OPAC, CiNii and OCLC WorldCat. Researchers outside Nichibunken may use the inter-library loan system to apply for document copying and loans of books and other materials. The collection prioritizes books about Japan written in other languages and translations of Japanese works originating in Japan and overseas. In addition to books and periodicals, the collection includes colored photographs from the late Edo and Meiji periods, old maps, and video, DVD, and CD audio and visual materials.

https://library.nichibun.ac.jp/en/

Visiting Research Scholars and Fellows

As an international research center, Nichibunken opens its doors to the world by inviting many scholars from foreign countries to carry out international and interdisciplinary research related to Japanese culture. The foreign scholars are classified either as “visiting research scholars,” who are accepted for periods from three months to one year and receive a salary from Nichibunken, or as “visiting research fellows,” whose income is provided by public and other foundations.

In addition to carrying out their own research, foreign scholars at Nichibunken take part in team research projects organized by Nichibunken professors and deliver presentations at seminars, forums, and international meetings. They also have the opportunity to publish the results of their research in Nichibunken publications.

We hope that the close collaboration between these foreign scholars and the professors at Nichibunken and members of their research teams will become the base for the further development of Japanese studies in the world.

Applications for Visiting Research Scholars and Fellows
https://research.nichibun.ac.jp/en/employment/

Nichibunken House

Nichibunken House consists of family- and single-occupancy units. Family-occupancy units are primarily for visiting research scholars who stay for a long term, with their families. Single-occupancy units comprise two zones, one for long-term users and the other for guests such as team researchers here for a short stay.

Qualification for use:

- **Short-term stays up to one month**
  - Visiting Faculty Members
  - Team Researchers
  - Participants in International Symposiums

- **Long-term stays**
  - Visiting Research Scholars
  - JSPS Research Fellows
  - JSPS Research Fellows

Public Database Access

Nichibunken develops databases of the materials in its collection, the outcomes of research by its faculty, and Japan-related materials held by other organizations. It now provides public online access to 43 databases (As of July 1, 2021).

https://db.nichibun.ac.jp/en/
Faculty

[As of April 1, 2021]

Director-General
INOUE Shōichi
History of manners and customs

Deputy Directors-General
MATSUDA Toshihiko
History of Japanese and Korean relations
TAKII Kazuhiro
Constitutional history; comparative legal history

Professors
ARAKI Hiroshi
Japanese literature
Frederik CRYNS
Interaction between the Western world and Japan
ISODA Michifumi
Japanese history
ISOMAE Jun’ichi
Religious studies; critical theory
ITO Takayuki
History of Chinese thought; cultural interaction in East Asia; comparative culture
KURAMOTO Kazuhiro
History of ancient Japan
LIU Jianhui
History of cultural connections between Japan and China
OTSUKA Eiji
History of the arts of manga; Manga writing theory; Yanagita Kunio studies;
Markus RÜTTERMANN
Japanese medieval social history; semiotics; history of mentalities; history of behaviour
SEKINO Tatsuki
Informatics
TSUBOI Hideto
Modern Japanese literature and cultural history
USHIMURA Kei
Comparative literature and culture; intellectual history
YAMADA Shōji
Informatics; history of cultural exchange
YASUI Manami
Japanese folklore; cultural anthropology

Associate Professors
ENOMOTO Wataru
Japanese political and diplomatic history; security studies
KUSUNOKI Ayako

Assistant Professors
GOZA Yūichi
Japanese medieval history
MATSUGI Hiromi
Art history; art studies
SHIRAISHI Eri
Japanese art history

Specially Appointed Assistant Professors
ISHIMOTO Aki
Early modern cultural history
MAEKAWA Shiori
Japanese modern art history; design history
MITSUHIRA Yūki
History of music therapy

Team Research Projects 2021

Solid “Impermanence”/Fragile “Impermanence”: The Transmigration of the Classics and Future Prospects
ARAKI Hiroshi

Japanese Subcultures and Diversity: The Contribution of International Japanese Studies Research Methods and Pedagogies to a Global Multicultural Society
Edmond ERNEST DIT ALBAN

The Formation and Development of Western Perceptions of Japan
Frederik CRYNS

Avidya on a Spider’s Web: Toward the Future of the Somatic Experience under the Ecology of Social Network System
INAGA Shigemi

Studying Nichibunken’s Collection of Inoue Tetsujiro’s Correspondence: The Rise and Fall of the Nation-State
ISOMAE Jun’ichi

Reconstructing Honzōgaku as an East Asian Multidisciplinary Science: New Developments in Empirical Research on the Fusion of Arts and Sciences
ITŌ Ken

Reconsidering the Early-Modern in the History of East Asia: In Search of a New Global History
ITŌ Takayuki

What are Aristocrats, and What are Samurai?
KURAMOTO Kazuhiro

Reconstructing Modern East Asian Cultural History; Focusing on the 19th Century
LIU Jianhui

The Japanese Colonial Empire and the Global Linkage of Knowledge
MATSUDA Toshihiko

A Theory of Culture during the Edo and Eikyō Periods: Between Popular Views of History on “Kitayama Culture” and “Higashiyama Culture”
OOHASHI Naoyoshi

Formation and Changes of Correspondence-Texts as Seen in the Principle of “As It-Transpositions: The Term Monjo, its Styles, Signs, Representations, and Intentions”
Markus RÜTTERMANN

Imaging Japan in International Cultural Transmissions: An Interdisciplinary Study of Yanagisawa Ken (Takeshi)
SHIBASAKI Atsushi

Japanese Style Education - from the Perspective of the History of Civilizations
TAKII Kazuhiro

The Scars of Post-war Japan
TSUBOI Hideto

Sports as Civilization, Sports as Culture
USHIMURA Kei

Cultural Creativity in a Shrinking Society: Individuals, Networks, Capital, and Systems
YAMADA Shōji

Imagining and Developing Images of the Body in Medicine, Art, and Folk Religion
YASUI Manami

Lawrence MARCEAU

About Nichibunken

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) was founded in 1987 to pursue international, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive research on Japanese culture and to provide research cooperation and support for Japanese studies scholars around the world.

In addition to research on the distinctiveness of Japanese culture, Nichibunken emphasizes the perspectives of comparative studies and cultural exchange. Its professors lead diverse interdisciplinary team research projects on Japanese culture that bring together specialists from a wide range of fields from within and outside Japan. Nichibunken engages in international research collaboration of various kinds such as sharing research information with scholars and research institutions around the world, and sponsoring the participation of its faculty at scholarly meetings held overseas.

PhD Program at Nichibunken

Nichibunken is the institutional home of the Department of Japanese Studies in the School of Cultural and Social Studies at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI. The department promotes interdisciplinary and comprehensive Japanese studies education and research from an international perspective. Students from abroad as well as from Japan enroll in the department’s doctoral program. Under the special inter-university researchers system, the department also accepts and trains graduate students recommended by other universities.

International Research Center for Japanese Studies
3-2 Goryo Oeyama-cho, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 610-1192 Japan
https://www.nichibun.ac.jp/en/

Nichibunken Monograph Series

This series comprises scholarly books in English representing the high quality of research carried out at Nichibunken. Several volumes have been co-published with publishing houses in the U.S. and Europe. The authors are primarily faculty members at Nichibunken.

Nichibunken Open Access

PDF files of publications of Nichibunken are available on the Nichibunken website, https://nichibun.repo.nii.ac.jp
https://publications.nichibun.ac.jp/en/