

# International Collaboration Research for Japanese Literature

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**Hisashi Yasunaga**

National Institute of Japanese Literature  
(国文学研究資料館)

Tel: +81-3-3785-7131 Fax: +81-3-3784-8875

[yasunaga@nijl.ac.jp](mailto:yasunaga@nijl.ac.jp) <http://www.nijl.ac.jp/~kiban-s/>

# National Institute of Japanese Literature (国文学研究資料館)

**Organization:** an Inter-University Research Institute,  
by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology (Monbu-Kagaku-Sho)  
founded in 1972.

**Object:** Serve Japanese literary materials of pre-1900  
to academic researchers and public.  
i.e. to investigate, locate, collect and preserve  
these resources, then to make catalog  
by utilizing computer.

# Databases in NIJL

(Digital Archives)

## Secondary: Catalog database

1. Union catalog of old books (Kokusho-So-Mokuroku)
2. Authentication for author, title, etc.
3. Catalog of holdings (Microfilms, Original books)
4. Catalog of research publications (Serials)
5. Catalog of research papers, thesis, etc.

## Primary : Contents database

1. Nihon-Koten-Bungaku Taikei, fulltext
2. 21 Waka anthology, fulltext and image
3. E-iri Genji Monogatari, fulltext and image
4. Nara-ehon, image
5. Holding original old books, image
6. Meiji publications, image

# Background

1. Japanese studies have become popular outside Japan in recent years, but
  - It is difficult to know what state such studies are in.
  - From Japan, it is difficult to get up to date information on recent research activities overseas.
  - However, the same can be said for any country.
2. There is a shortage of vital good quality material and information.
  - There is a lack of digital material.
  - The collaborative environment is still underdeveloped.
  - There is a preconceived idea that operating in Japanese is difficult.

# Objective

1. To work in collaboration with researchers outside Japan to expand and disseminate materials related to Japanese literature.
2. Collaborative construction and distribution of digital archives.
3. Collection and archiving of content specific to individual country's situations and needs
  - Establish *research bases* outside Japan
  - Utilization of a *collaboration system* using the internet
4. Promote research on Japanese literature through collaboration

# Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)

**Subject:** Organization and Circulation System  
for Japanese Literary Research  
based on International Collaboration

**Period:** 2001 to 2006

**Organization:** Yasunaga Hisashi (Representative)

**Researchers:** 24 collaborative researchers  
(with 3 overseas researchers)

**Funding:** ¥120,000,000 (Direct)  
¥120,000,000 (Additional)

# Programme and Problem

## 1. Establishing a research base

- (1) Research organizations
- (2) Research bases: U.K., Italy, France, US

## 2. System research

- (1) Basic planning and construction of a basic server
- (2) Development of a prototype collaboration system
- (3) Collaborative construction of metadata

## 3. Content research

- (1) Methods for general data collection and organization
- (2) Methods for digitization
- (3) XML
- (4) 3 axis design (concept, author, work)

# Three Topics of Research for Japanese literature and related fields

Topic 1: Preparation of international materials

Topic 2: Cooperative construction of  
a collaboration system

Topic 3: Creation and utilization of  
a metadata database



# Specific proposals for Topic 1

## 1. Research directory (state and direction of research)

- Each country's researchers, universities, institutions, etc.
- Scholarly Associations (BAJS, AISTUGIA, SFEJ, etc.)
- International Associations (EAJS, EAJRS, AAS, etc.)

## 2. Database directory of Research Publications

- Each country's research publications (including books) and research papers
- Scholastic theses
- Proceedings and research theses from international associ.

## 3. Translated literature database

- Directory of translated Japanese literary works
- Fulltext, multilingual digital archives

# Specific proposals for Topic 2

## 1. System development

- Expansion of the digital Library's present system (functions, size)
- Development of an international general-use archive system

## 2. Archive expansion

- Content needed by each nation's universities, scholastic associations, etc.
- Proceedings and research theses from international associ.

## 3. Promoting collaboration

- Proposing and deciding on a theme for collaboration
- System development and feasibility testing

# Specific proposals for Topic 3

## 1. Joint Operations at research facilities for the humanities (inside Japan)

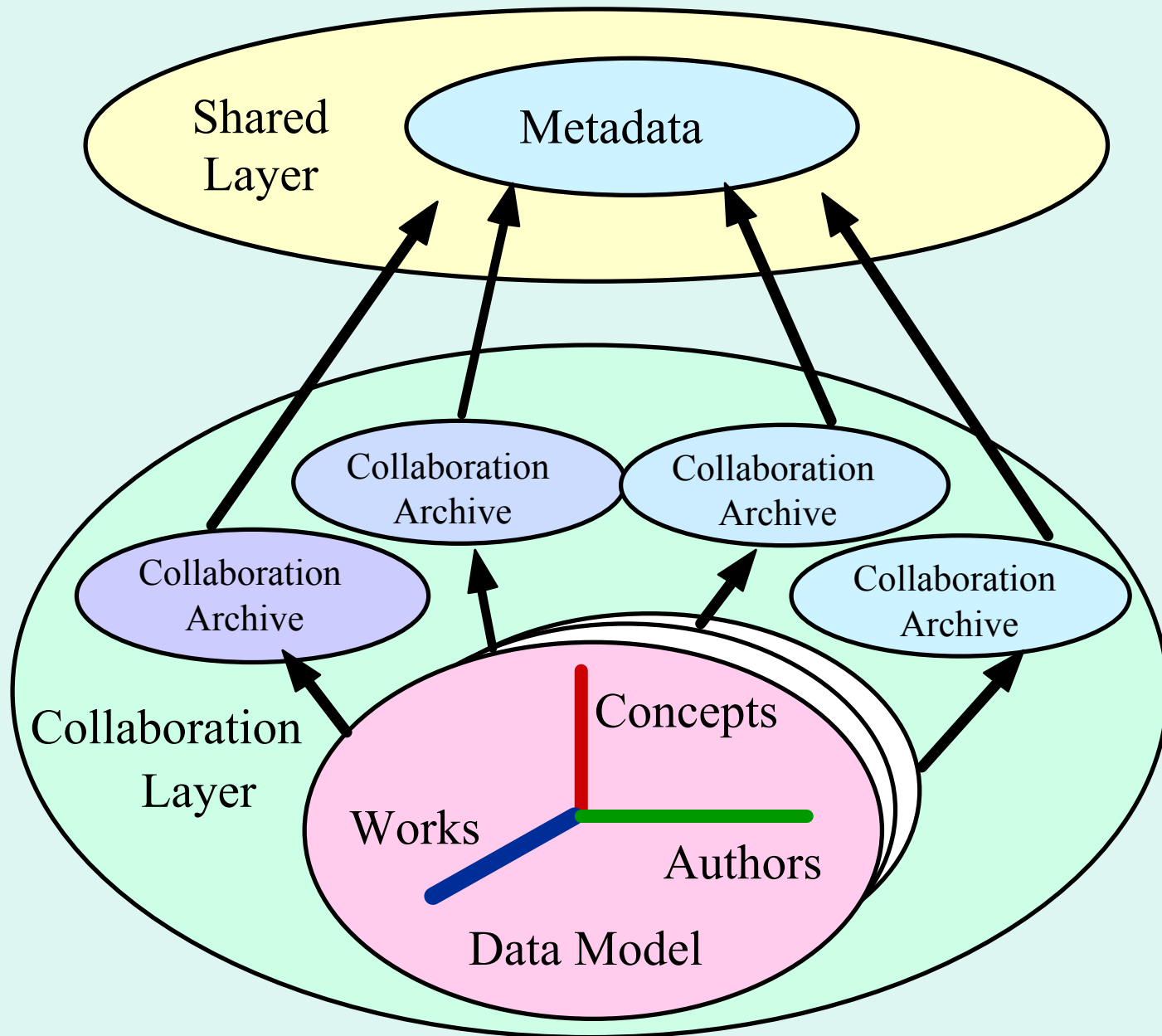
ex. NIJL, Historical Documents Center, IRCJS, National Museum of Japanese History, Osaka City University, etc.

- Share information resources
- Develop technologies such as Dublin Core and Z39.50

## 2. Development in each country

- Feasibility of customizing the above system
- Feasibility testing at available research bases

# 3-Axis Collaboration Model



# Research plans for each country

1. **Research plans for Topic 1** (Enhancement of contents)
  - (1) Creation of a research directory
  - (2) Research thesis directory database
  - (3) Translated literature directory database
2. **Research plan for Topic 2** (Examining research topics)
  - (1) Storage in archives (considering types of requirements)
  - (2) Research on collaboration (research topics)  
e.g. Analyzing quotes, juxtapositions, parody, rhetoric
3. **Organization of research topics**
  - (1) Organization as the foundation for each nation
  - (2) Research collaboration

# Products

## 1. Reports and presentations

- (1) 2001 Scientific research(S) report, March 2002
- (2) Yasunaga: Plan for International Collaboration for the Transformation of the NIJL into an Information Organization, March, 2002

## 2. Home Page <http://www.nijl.ac.jp/~kiban-s/>

## 3. Systems

- (1) R&D and management of a collaboration system
- (2) Electronic bulletin board system and mailing list

## 4. Contents

- (1) Research directory for each nation, research resources (bilingual)
- (2) Creation of SGML/XML versions of the works in the Nihon Koten Bungaku Taikei
- (3) Other (Nara E-hon pictures, Photographs of original works, glossary of terms, etc.)

# Points to consider

1. What shape will this project take?
2. Methods and responsibilities of project participation
3. Positions of each nation, academic association, international association, etc.
4. Content
5. Incentive

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