VISUAL RESOURCES FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

NCTA PRINCETON

EAST ASIAN RESOURCES FOR TEACHING: INSIGHTS FROM PRINCETON LIBRARIANS STUDIES

OCTOBER 10, 2026

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Princeton University East Asian Library

Classified as Microsoft Confidential

OUTLINE

Visual Resources for Teaching Japanese Studies

- Best Practices for using images from Japanese materials
- Categories
  - General
  - History
  - Literature
  - Art
  - Performance Art

Copyright



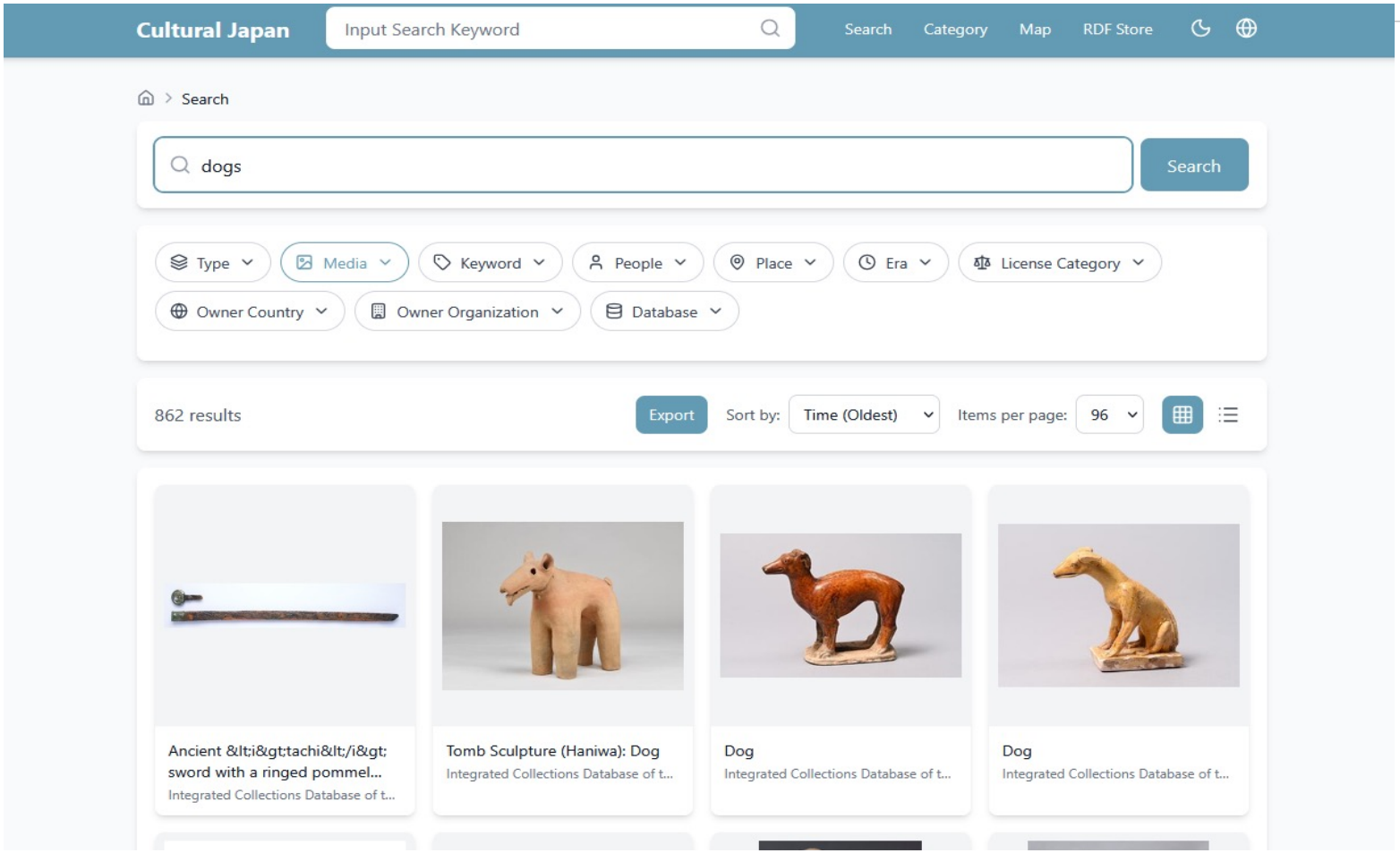
BEST PRACTICE – HOW TO USE IMAGES

- Language barriers: Using Japanese databases and digital collections
  - Interface in English but the records are in Japanese

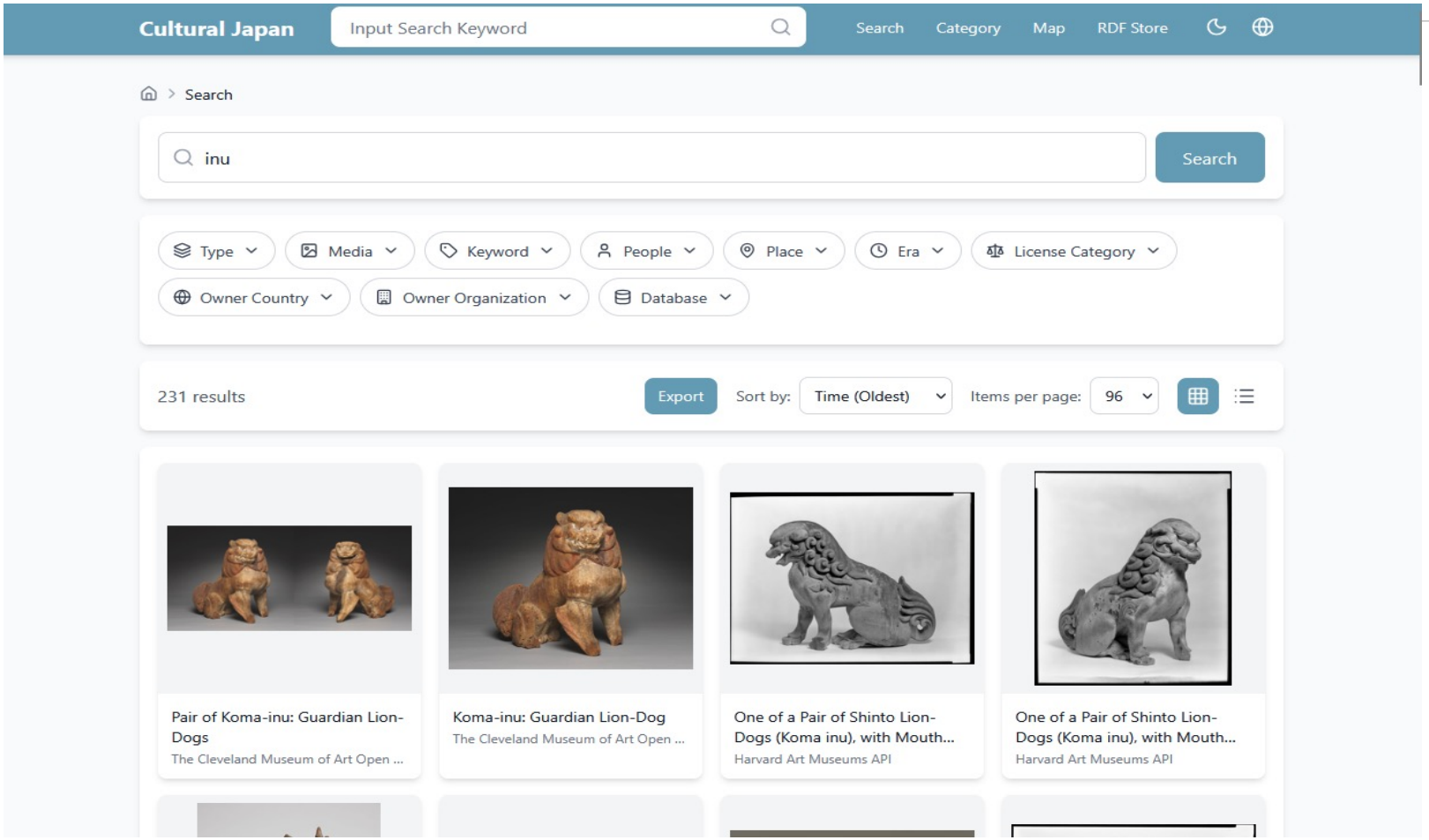
  → Causes the differences of record numbers between search by Japanese and English
  - When doubt, try searching in both Japanese and English
    - Translate by using search engine or AI and copy and paste it
    - Be aware of variant characters, historical terminology, and different Romanization systems

- Image usage and Copyright law
  - Use the images created by IIIF
  - Creative Commons CC BY CC0
  - Always check the institution’s terms of use

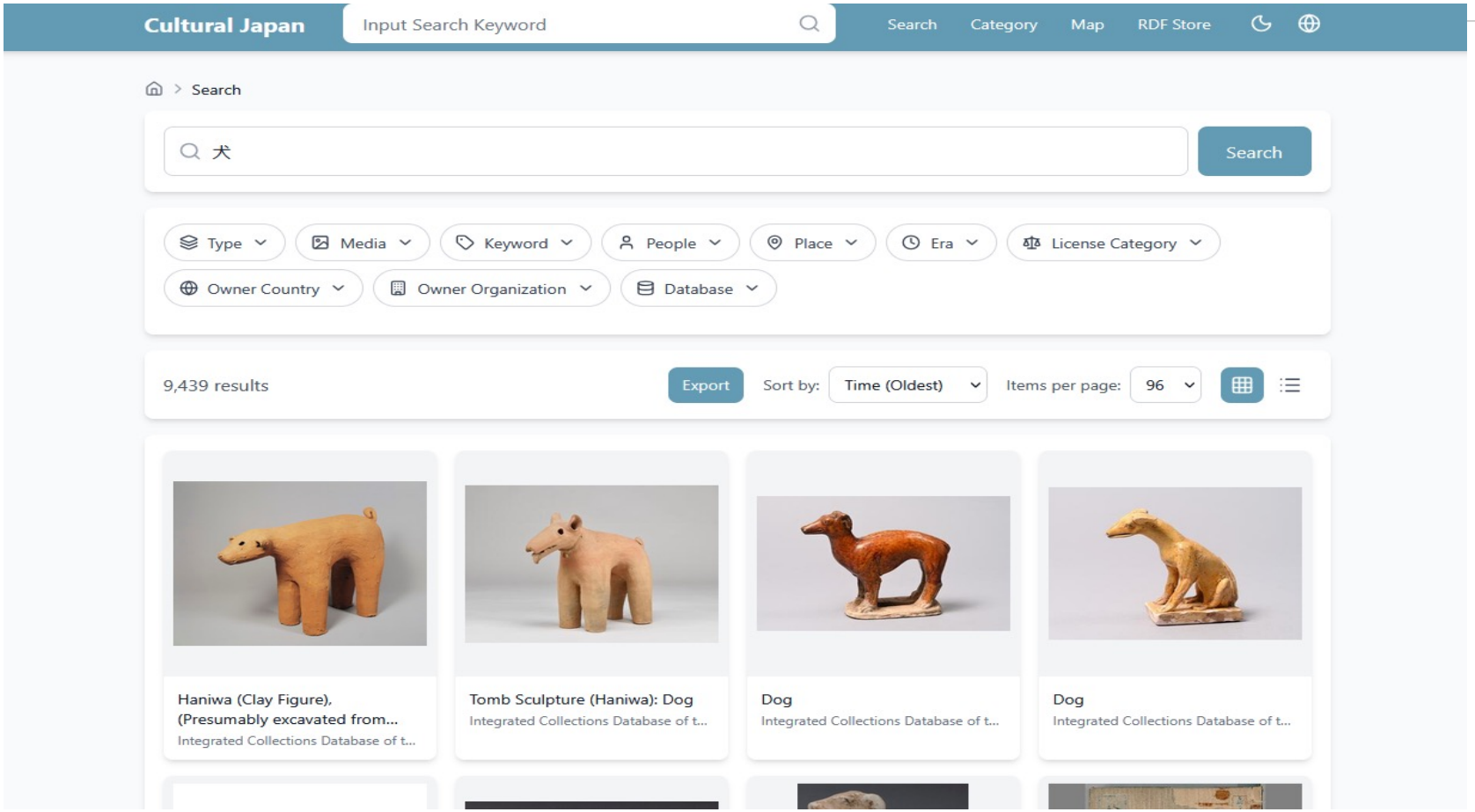
KEYWORD “DOG” → 862 RESULTS (CULTURAL JAPAN)



KEYWORD “INU” 231 RESULTS (CULTURAL JAPAN)



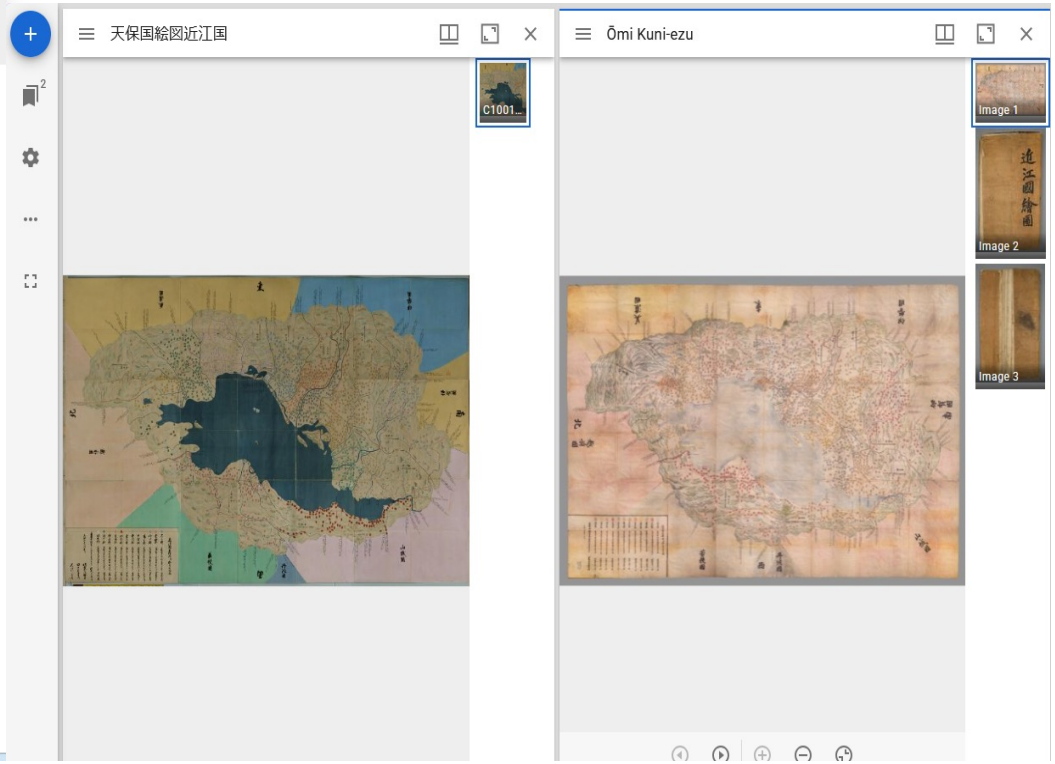
KEYWORD “犬” 9,439 RESULTS



EXAMPLE) COMPARING IMAGE USING IIIF FEATURE

JAPAN SEARCH

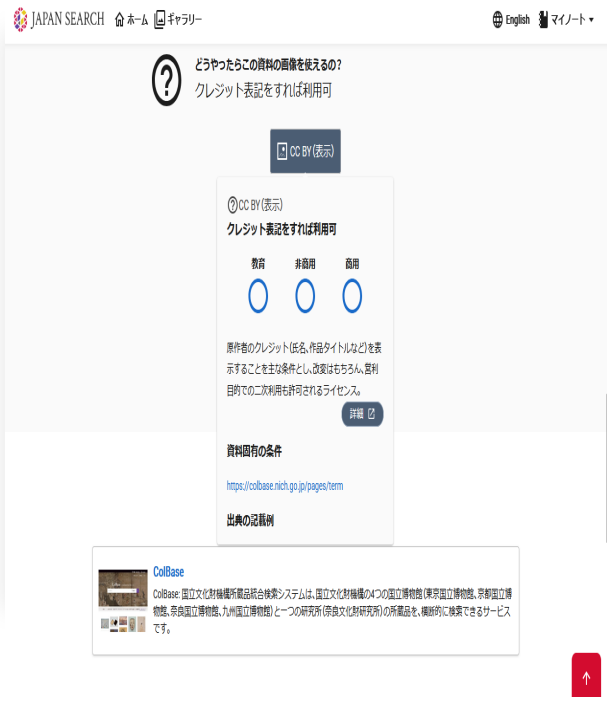






EXAMPLE) CC BY

JAPAN SEARCH



GENERAL

- Japan Search – A national digital archive portal developed and maintained by National Diet Library. Collects contents published in Japan.

- Cultural Japan – Digital resources on Japanese culture from all over the world.

- International Research Center for Japanese Studies database Databases including digital collections

- NCC image gateway A database for online images that are held by various institutions in Japan, North America, and Europe. Bilingual.



GENERAL

JAPAN SEARCH



Usecase

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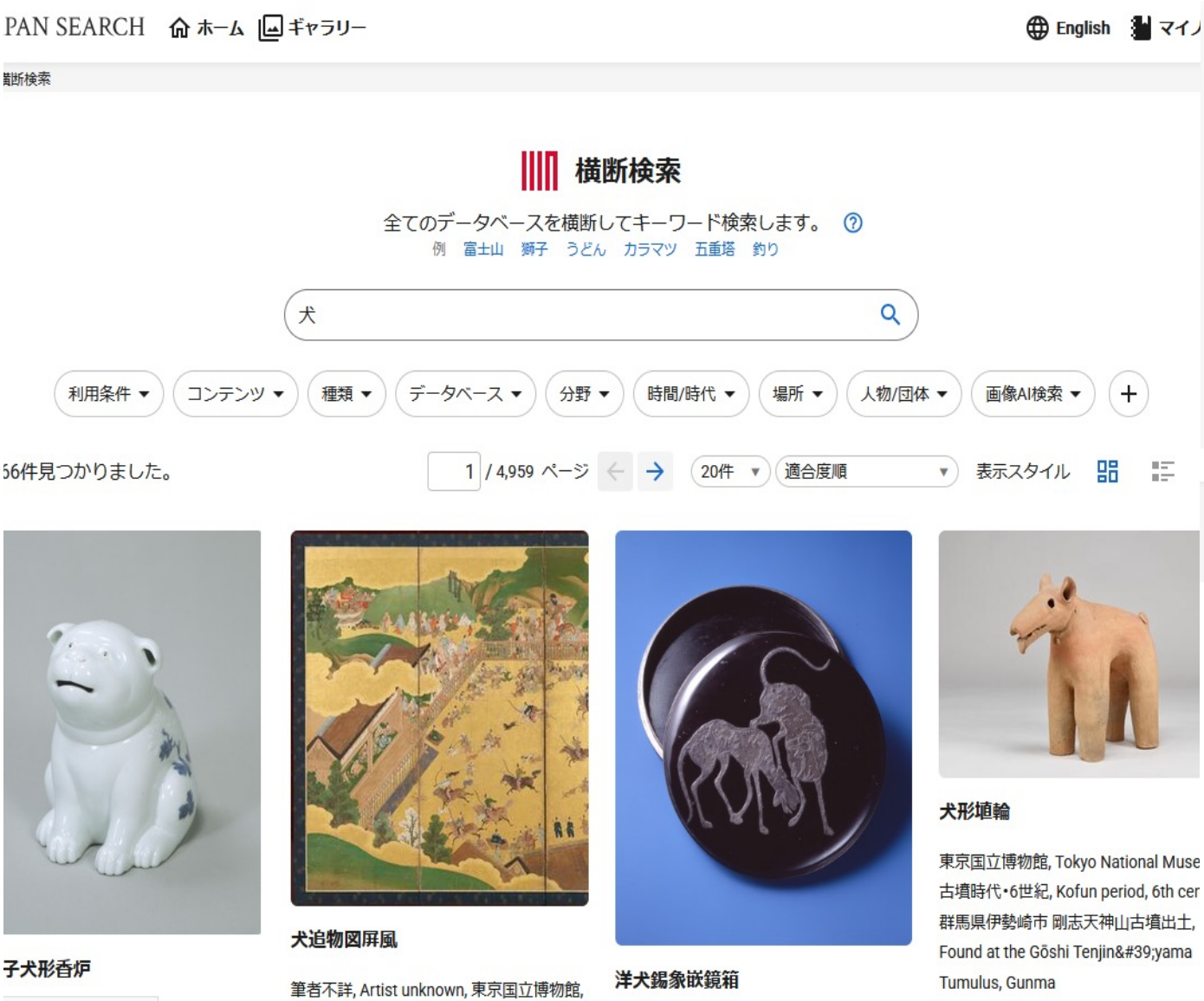
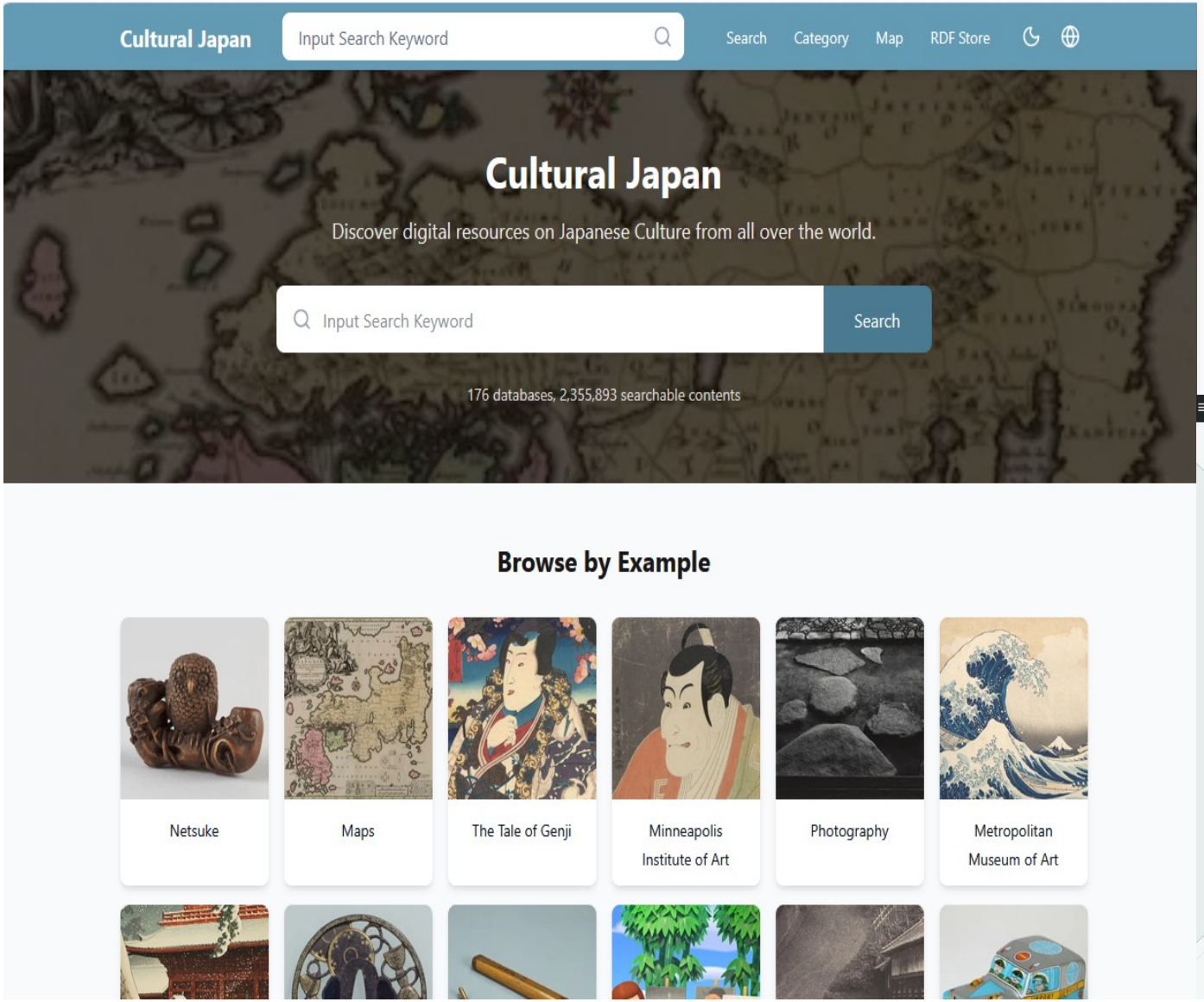
GENERAL

JAPAN SEARCH

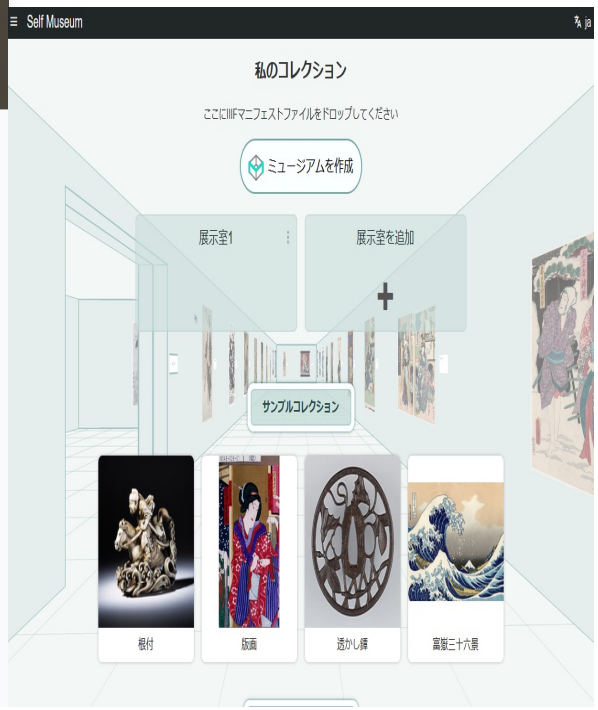


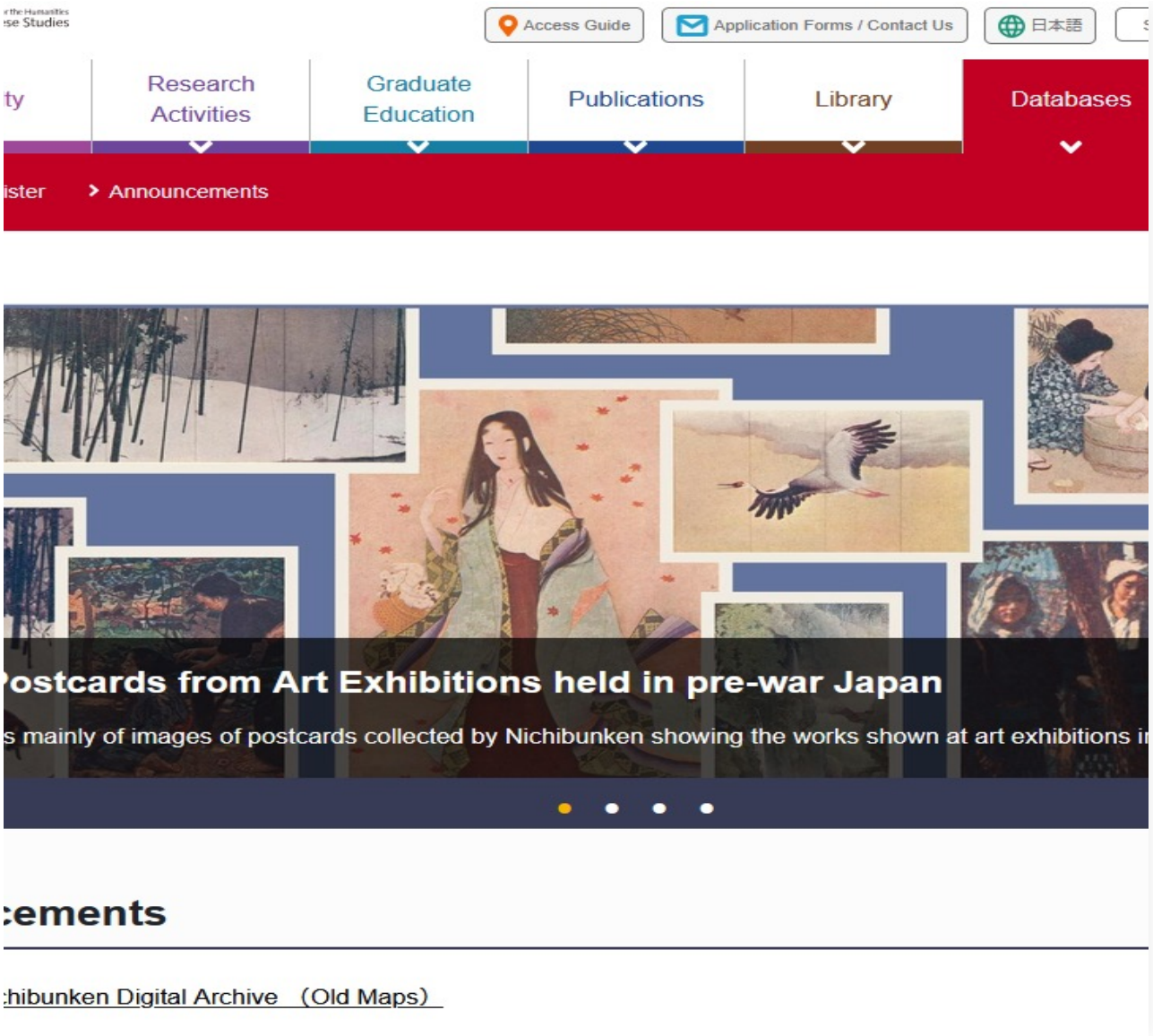




GENERAL

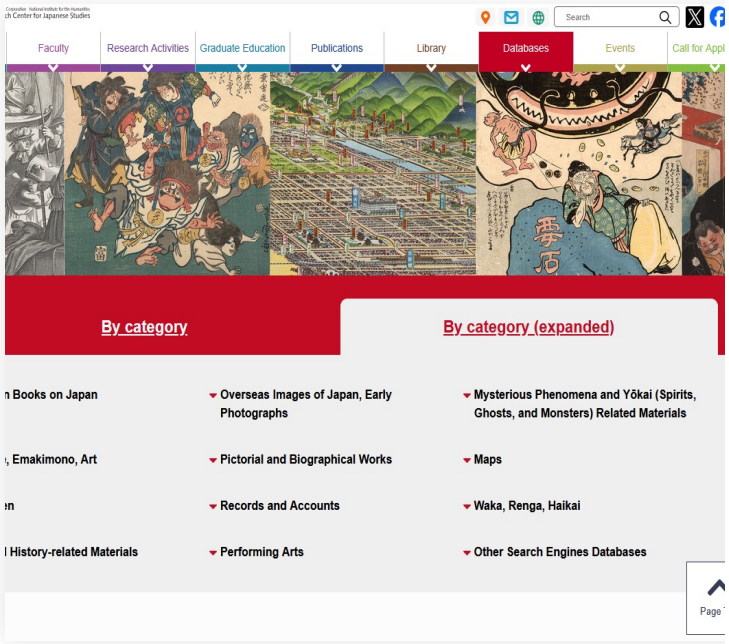
CULTURAL JAPAN

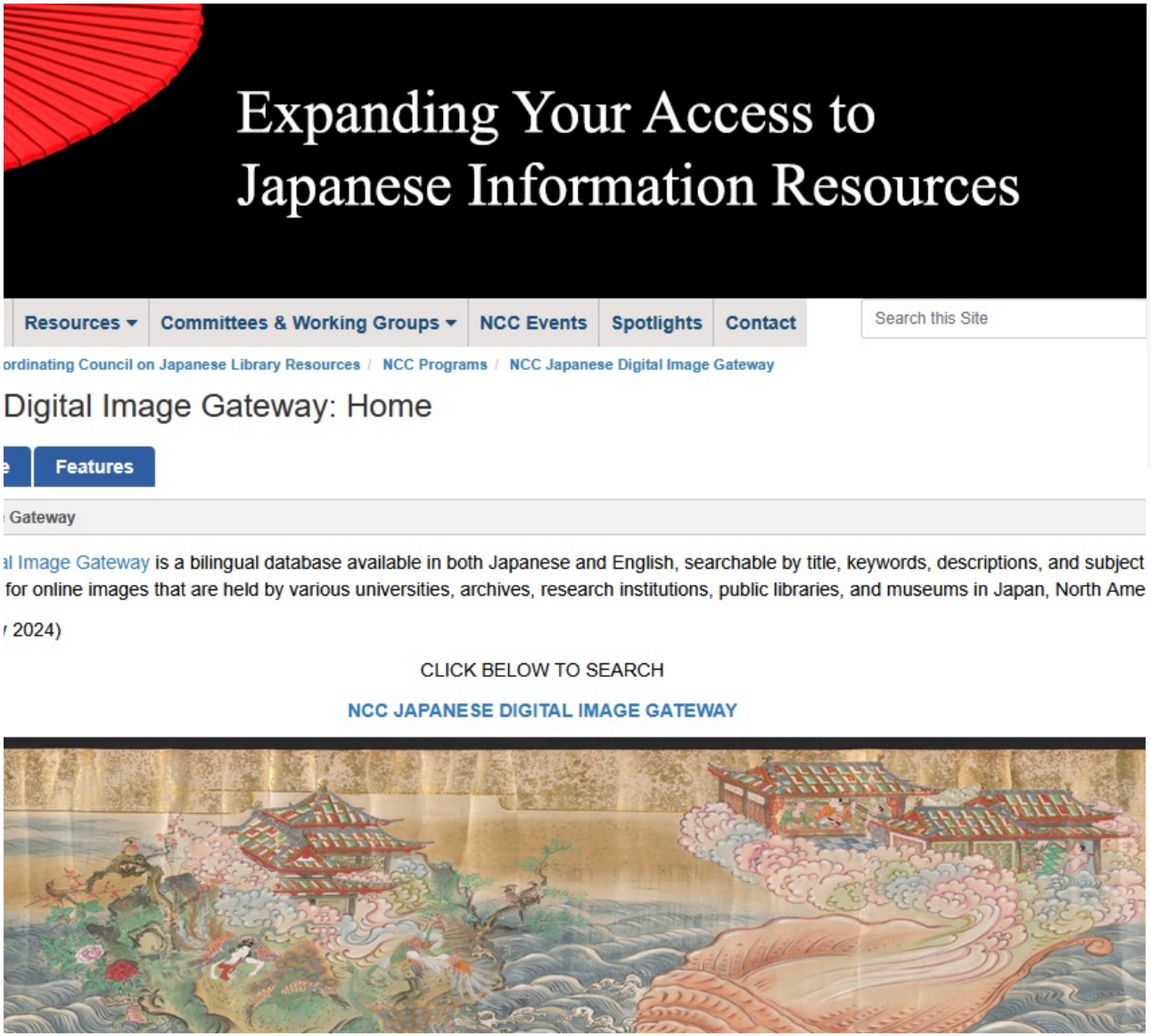




GENERAL

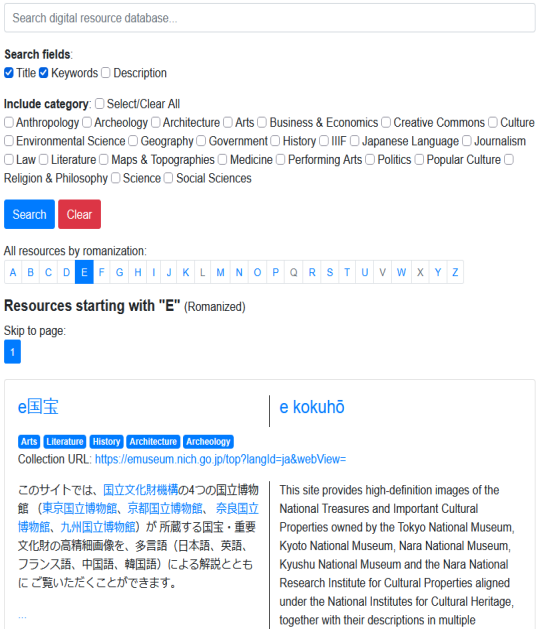
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES DATABASE COLLECTION





GENERAL

NCC DIGITAL IMAGE GATEWAY



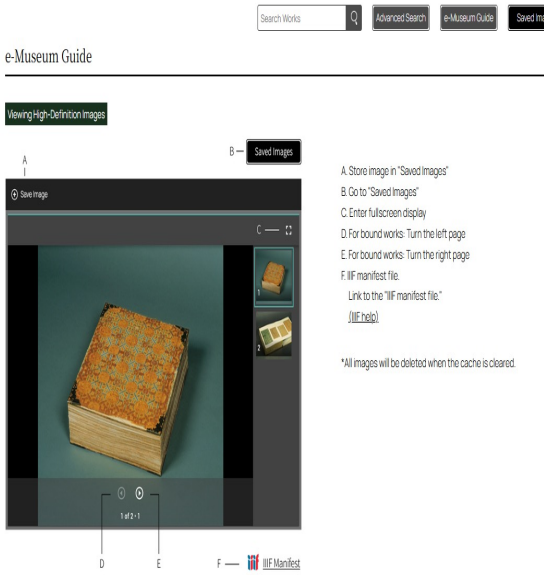
HISTORY

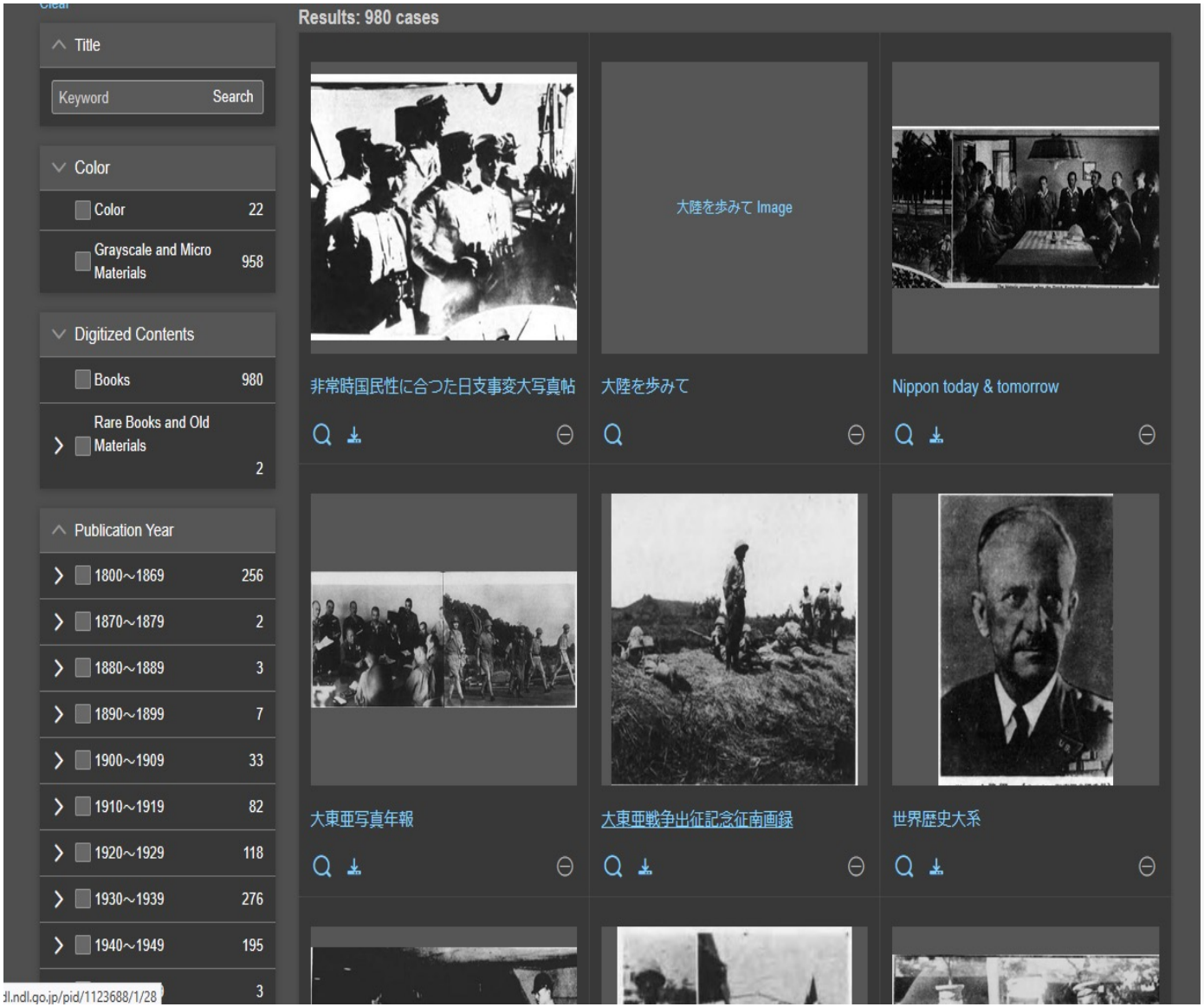
- E-Museum National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties of National Institute for Cultural Heritage, Japan
- Old photos NDL old photographs Collection
- Database of Historiographical Institute, the University of Tokyo



HISTORY

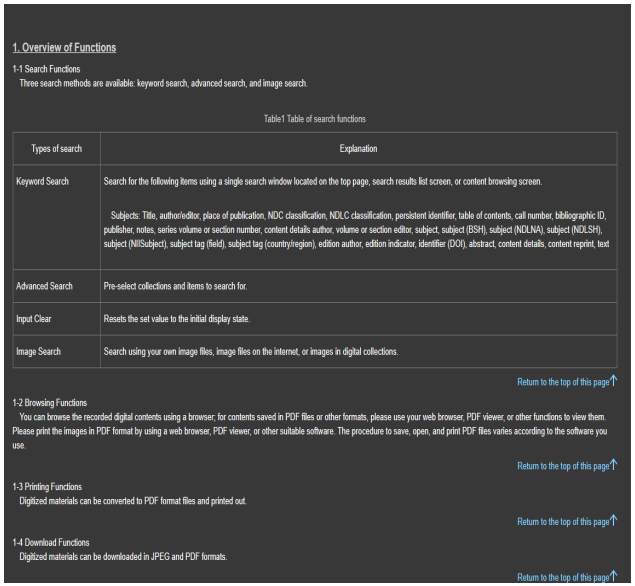
E-MUSEUM (NATIONAL TREASURES AND IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTIES)





HISTORY

NDL OLD PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Overview of Functions

1-1 Search Functions

Three search methods are available: keyword search, advanced search, and image search.

Table1 Table of search functions

Types of search	Explanation
Keyword Search	Search for the following items using a single search window located on the top page, search results list screen, or content browsing screen. Subjects: Title, author/editor, place of publication, NDC classification, NDLC classification, persistent identifier, table of contents, call number, bibliographic ID, publisher, notes, series volume or section number, content details author, volume or section editor, subject, subject (BSH), subject (NDLNA), subject (NDLSH), subject (NIISubject), subject tag (field), subject tag (country/region), edition author, edition indicator, identifier (DOI), abstract, content details, content reprint, text
Advanced Search	Pre-select collections and items to search for.
Input Clear	Resets the set value to the initial display state.
Image Search	Search using your own image files, image files on the internet, or images in digital collections.

Return to the top of this page

1-2 Browsing Functions

You can browse the recorded digital contents using a browser; for contents saved in PDF files or other formats, please use your web browser, PDF viewer, or other functions to view them. Please print the images in PDF format by using a web browser, PDF viewer, or other suitable software. The procedure to save, open, and print PDF files varies according to the software you use.

Return to the top of this page

1-3 Printing Functions

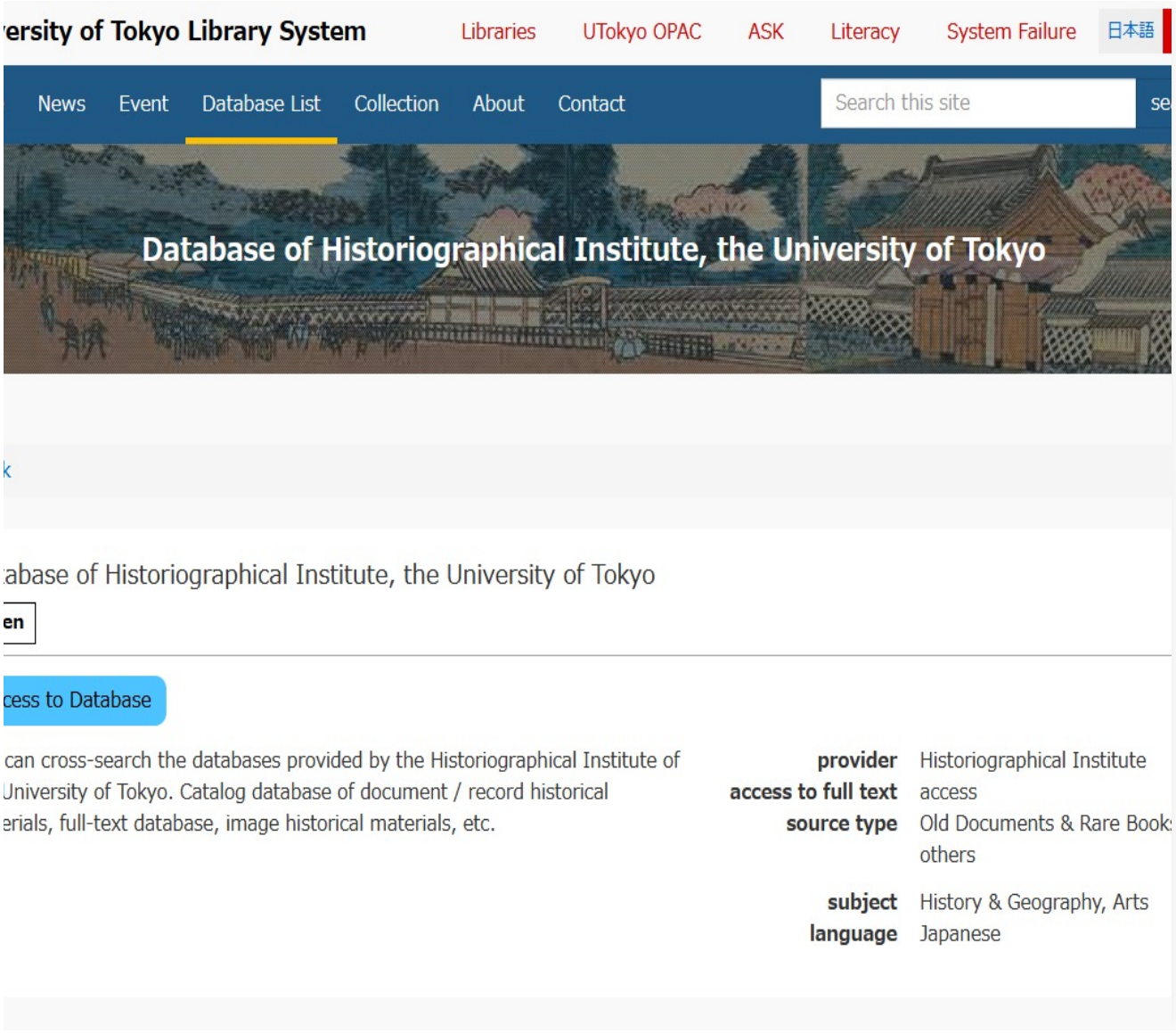
Digitized materials can be converted to PDF format files and printed out.

Return to the top of this page

1-4 Download Functions

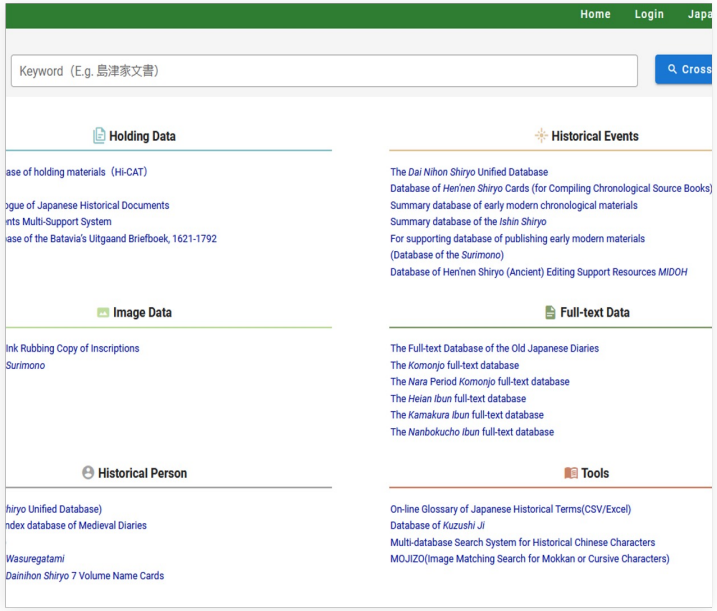
Digitized materials can be downloaded in JPEG and PDF formats.

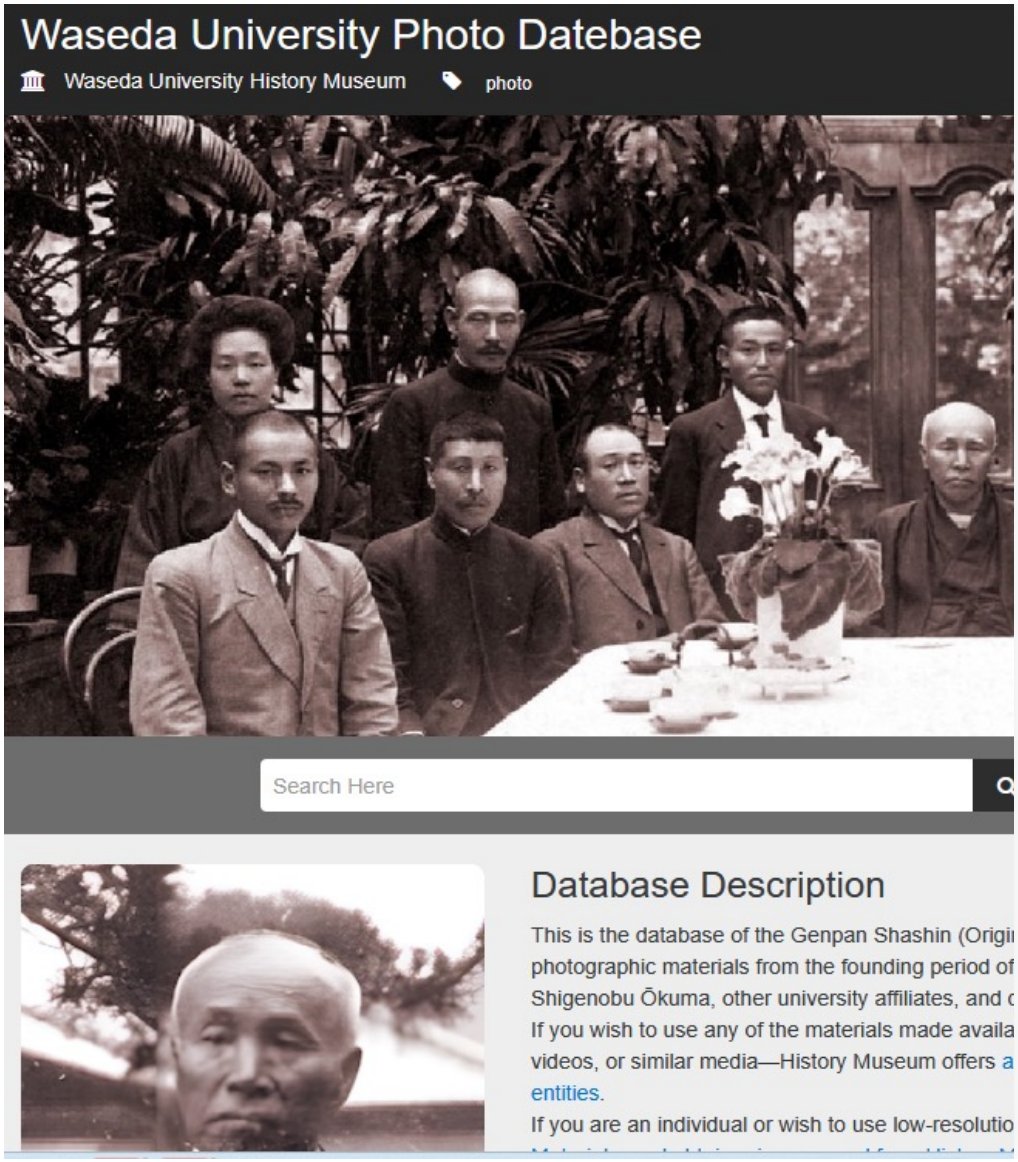
Return to the top of this page



HISTORY

DATABASE OF HISTORIOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE, THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY





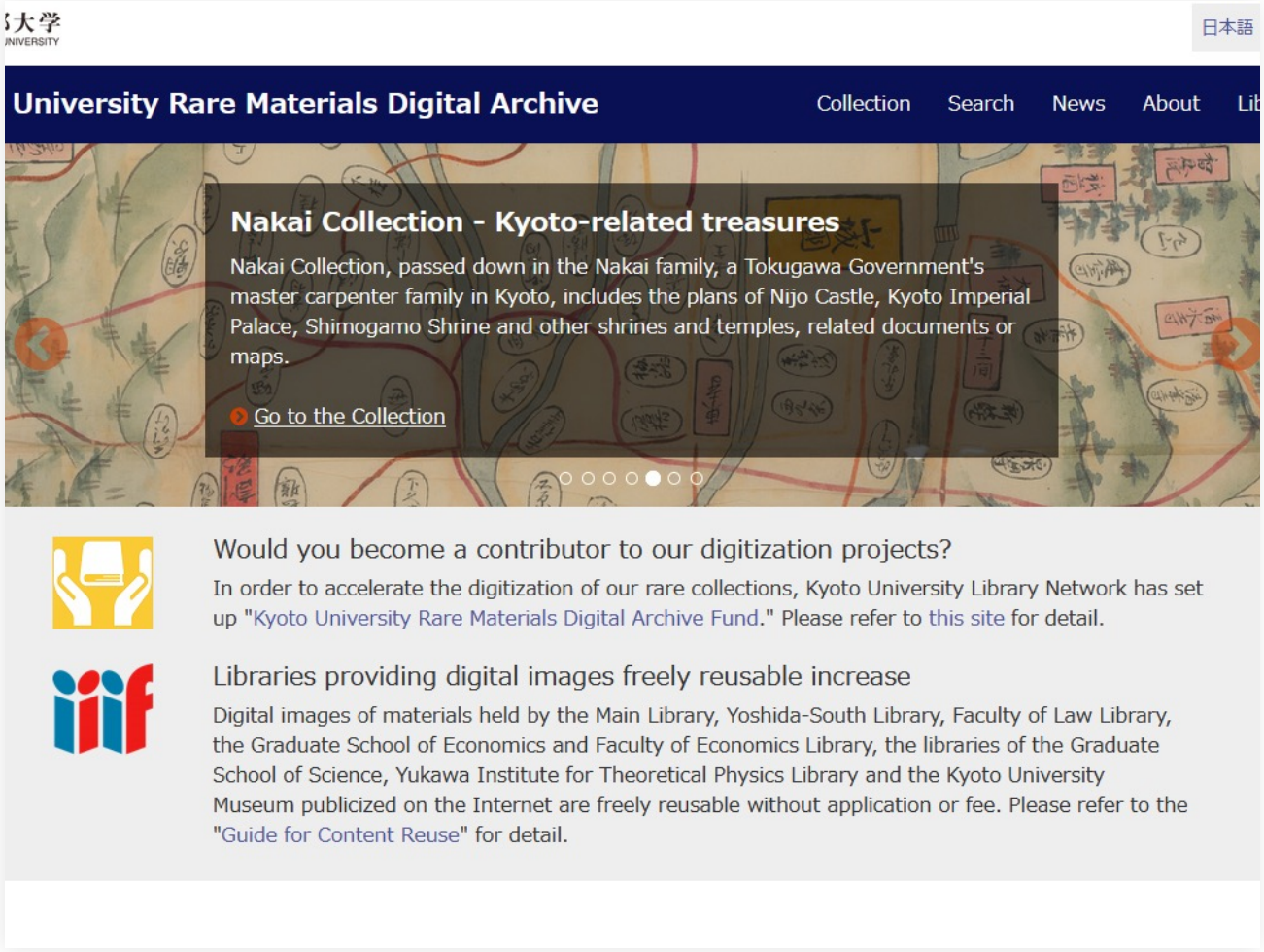
HISTORY

WASEDA UNIVERSITY PHOTO DATABASE



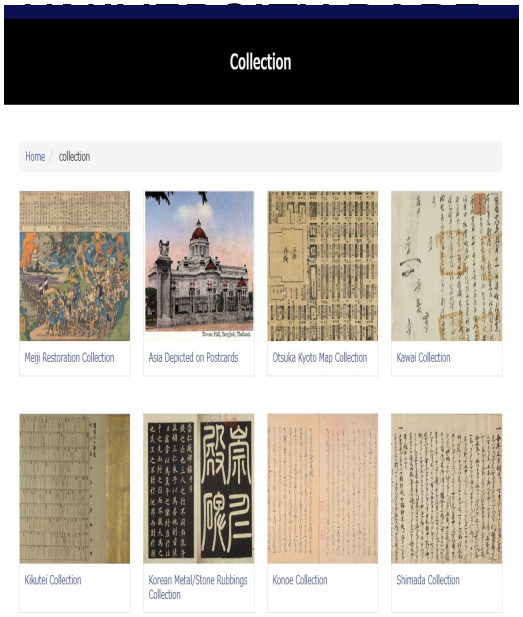
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

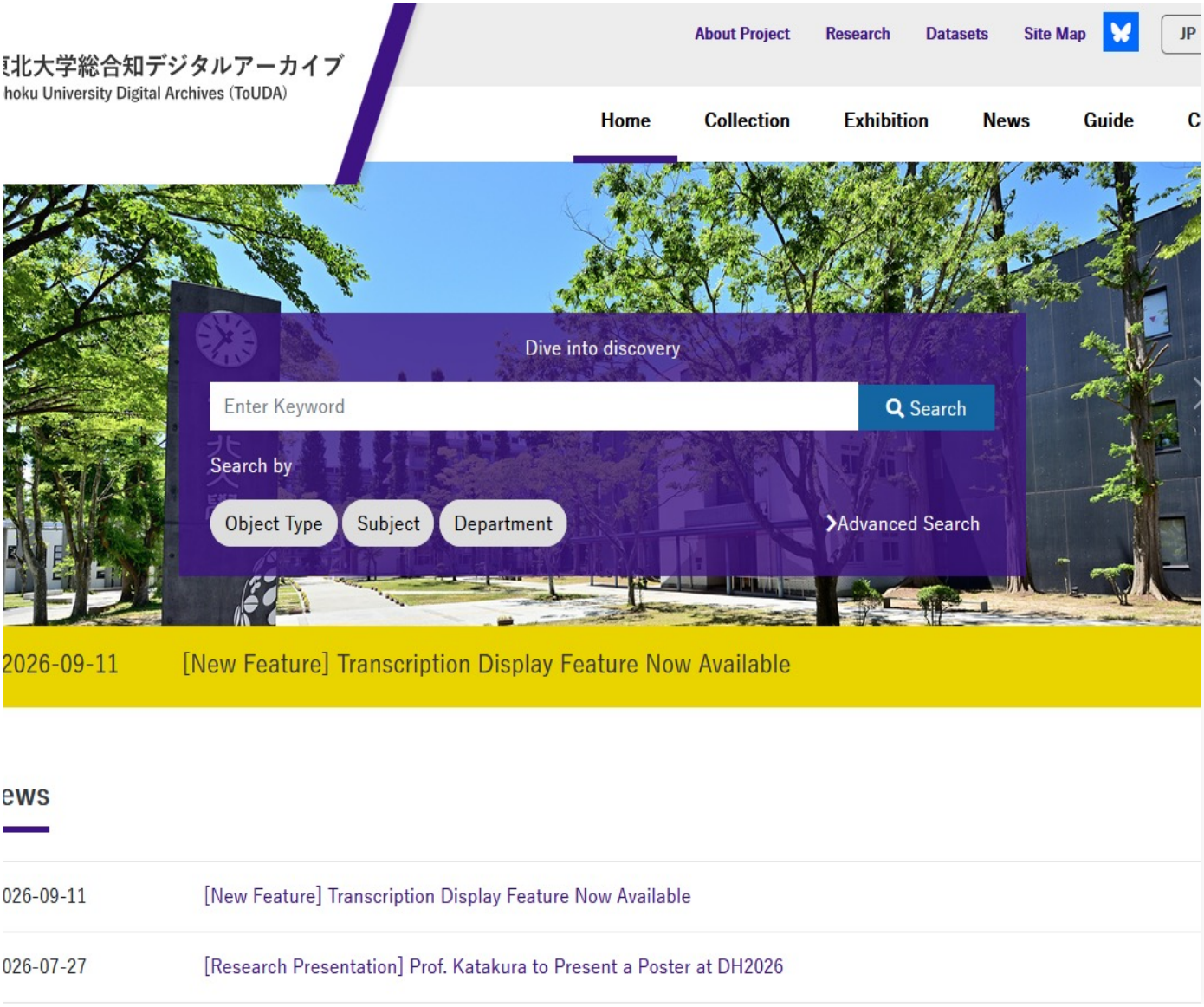
- Kyoto University Rare Materials Digital Archive
- Tohoku University Digital Archives (ToUDA)
- Kumamoto University Digital Archives
- Ryukoku University Digital Archives



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

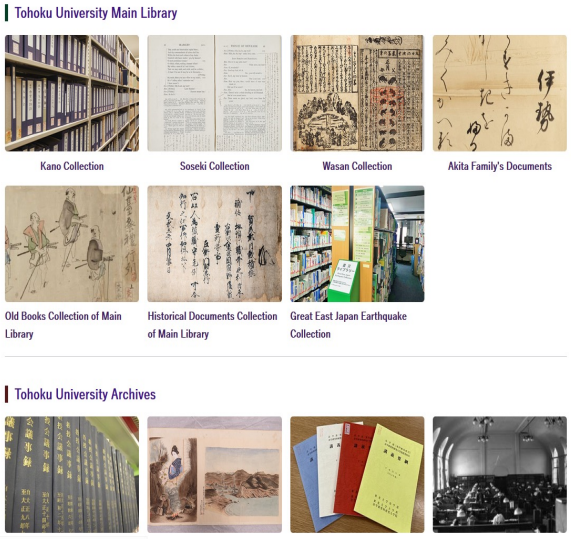
KYOTO

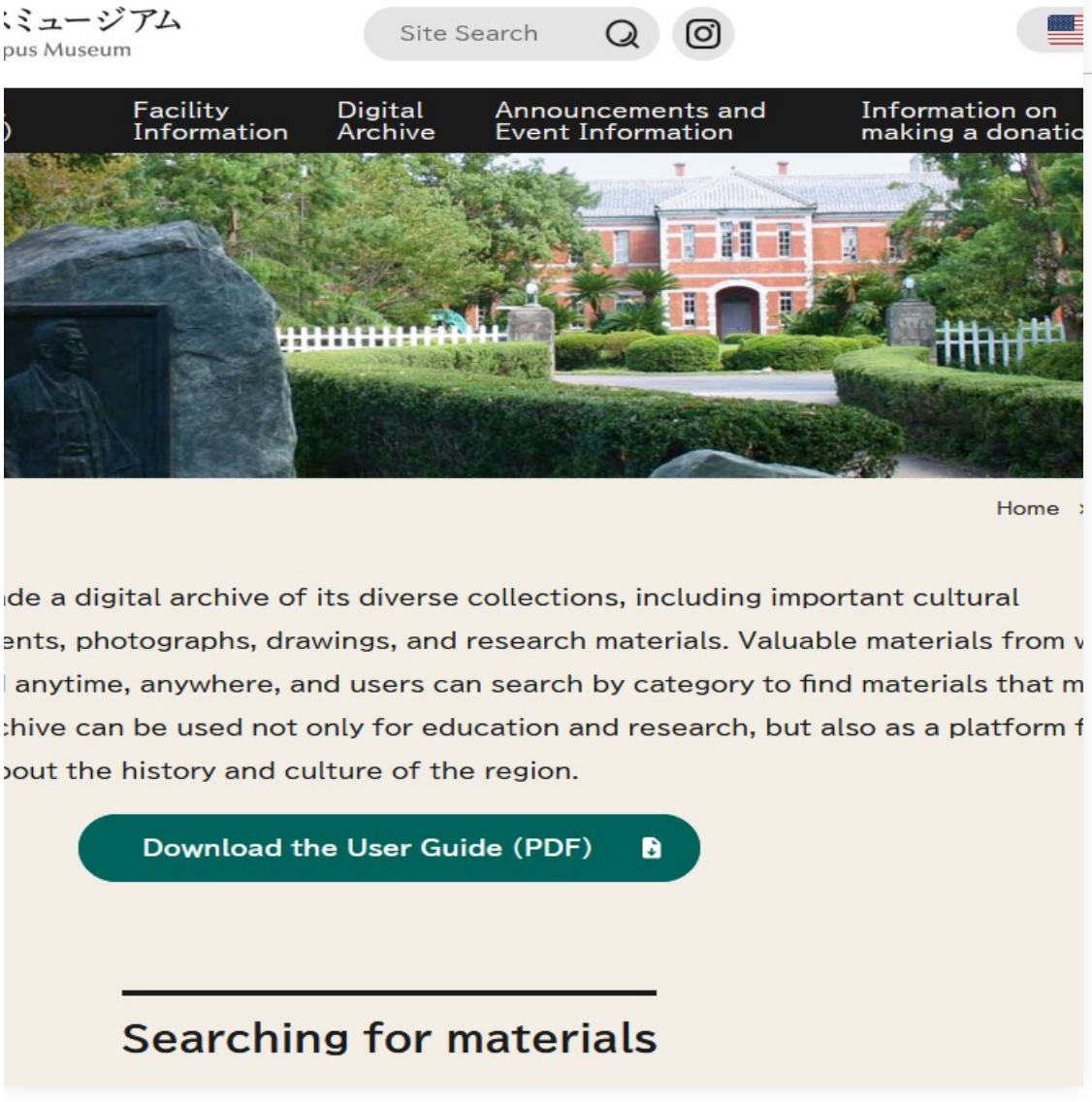




UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

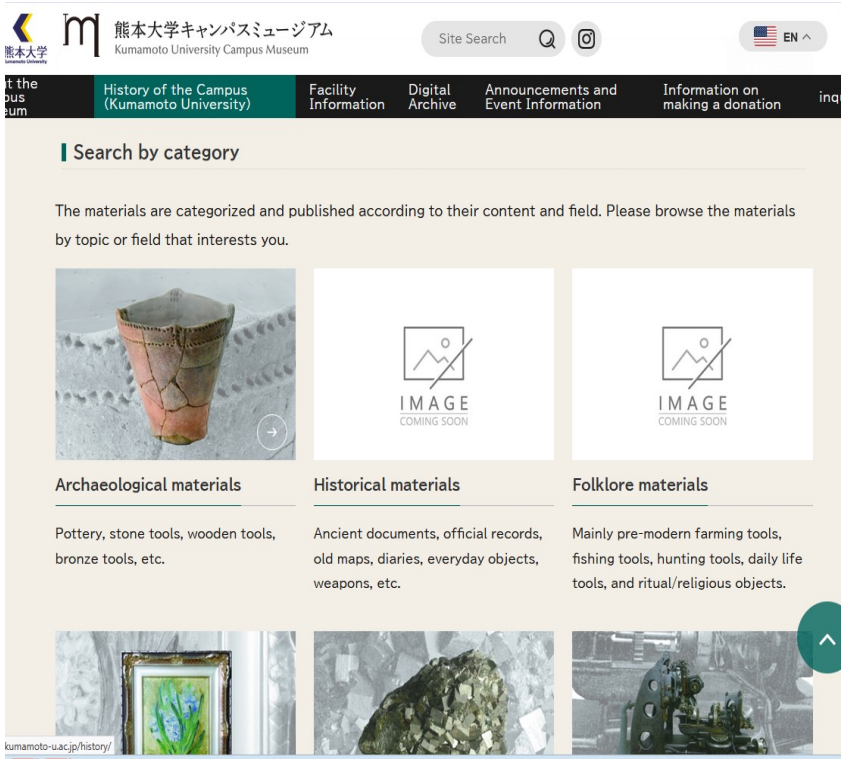
TOHOKU UNIVERSITY DIGITAL ARCHIVES





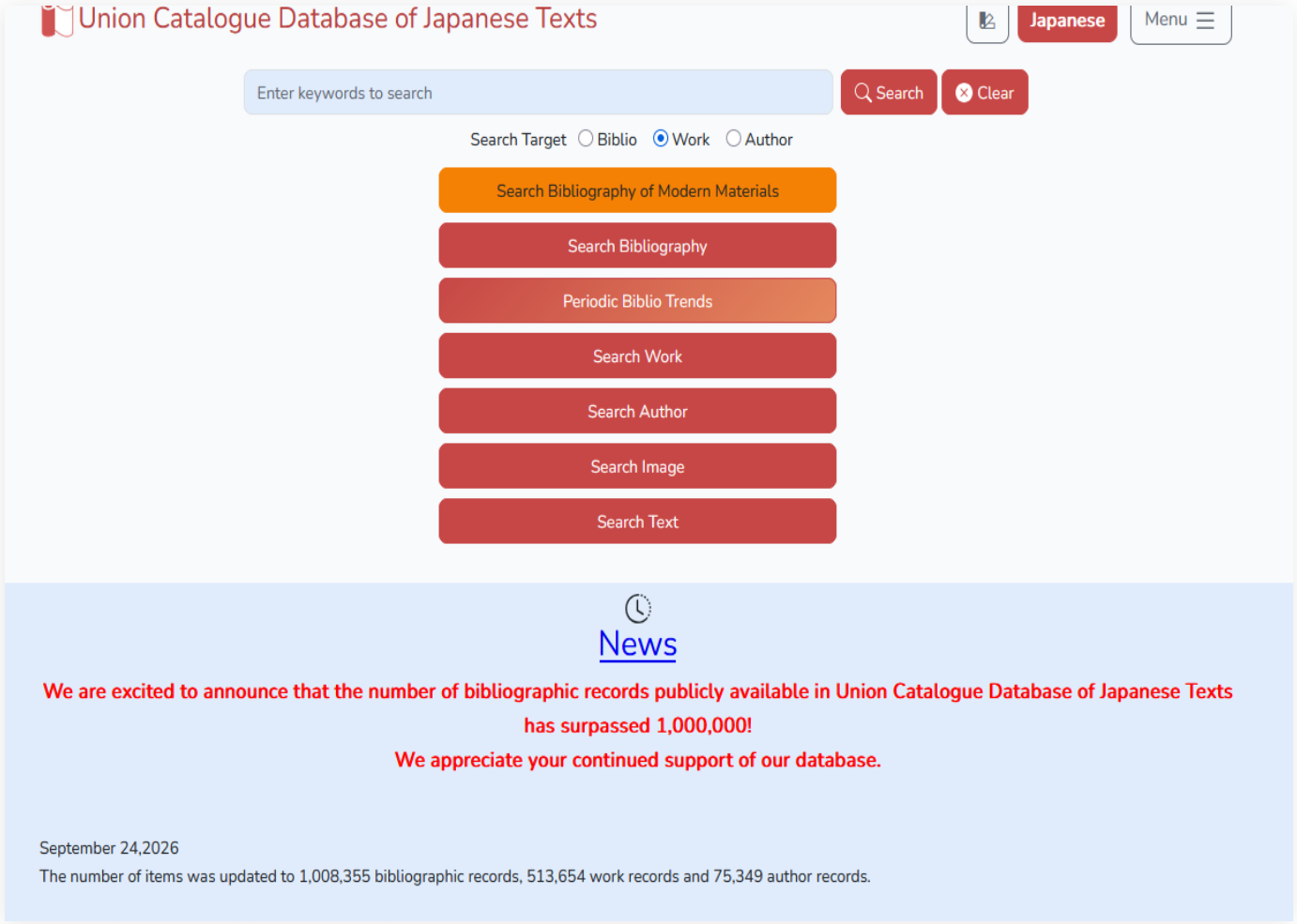
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

KUMAMOTO UNIVERSITY DIGITAL ARCHIVES



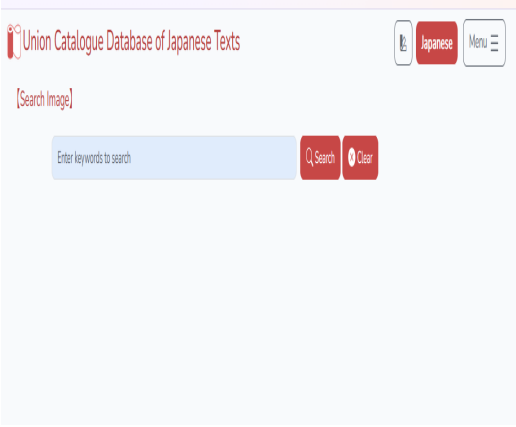
LITERATURE

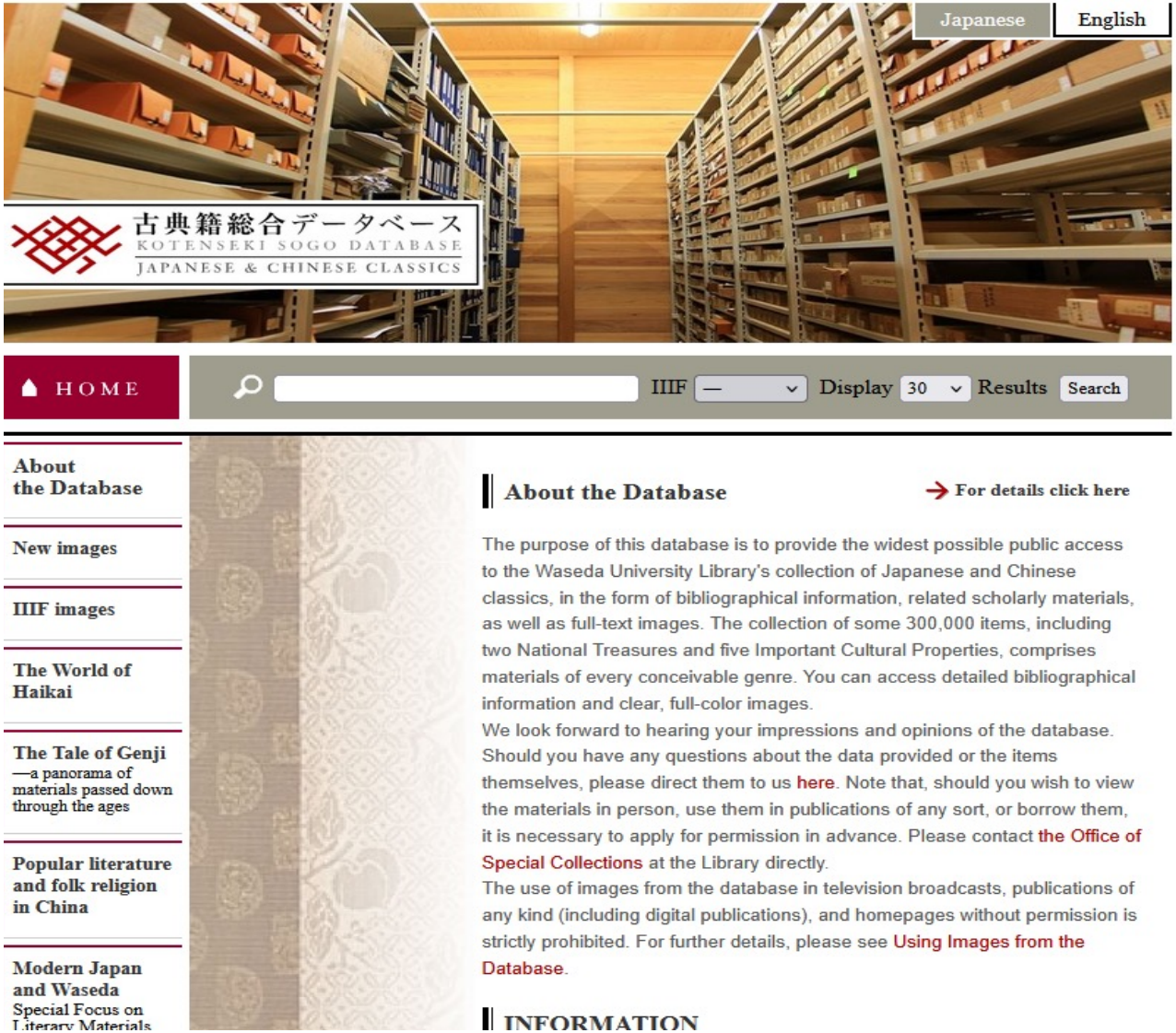
- Union Catalogue Database of Japanese Text Union catalogue of Japanese texts. Contains 1,000,000 records including over 300,000 images.
- Waseda University Kotenseki Sogo database Japanese and Chinese Classics. Contains 300,000 images.



LITERATURE

UNION CATALOGUE DATABASE OF JAPANESE TEXTS





LITERATURE

WASEDA UNIVERSITY KOTENSEKI SOGO DATABASE

About the Database
New images
IIIF images
The World of Haikai
The Tale of Genji —a panorama of materials passed down through the ages
Popular literature and folk religion in China
Modern Japan and Waseda Special Focus on Literary Materials
Japanese History through the Library's Collections

ART

- NDL Image Bank – Database of illustrations from visual materials, including ukiyo-e woodblock prints, books, magazines, etc., from NDL collection.
- Tama Art University Art Archives Center
- Musashino Art University

NDL Image Bank

Before the Internet and even before television, books were a major source of visual information.
The NDL Image Bank showcases items from the National Diet Library's substantial collection of visual materials, including ukiyo-e
books, magazines, and other forms of published media.

Beautiful Japanese Landscapes

This section introduces beautifully colored Japanese landscapes from ukiyo-e prints by UTAGAWA Hiroshige and others, as well as
prints) from the Meiji, Taisho, and early Showa periods.





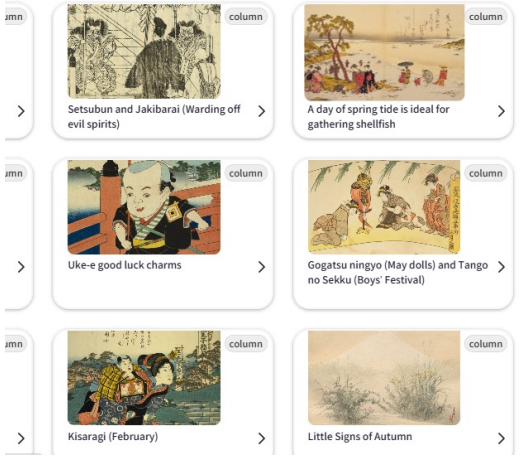




ART

NDL IMAGE BANK

to these images.





ART

TAMA ART UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES CENTER





ART

MUSASHINO ART UNIVERSITY

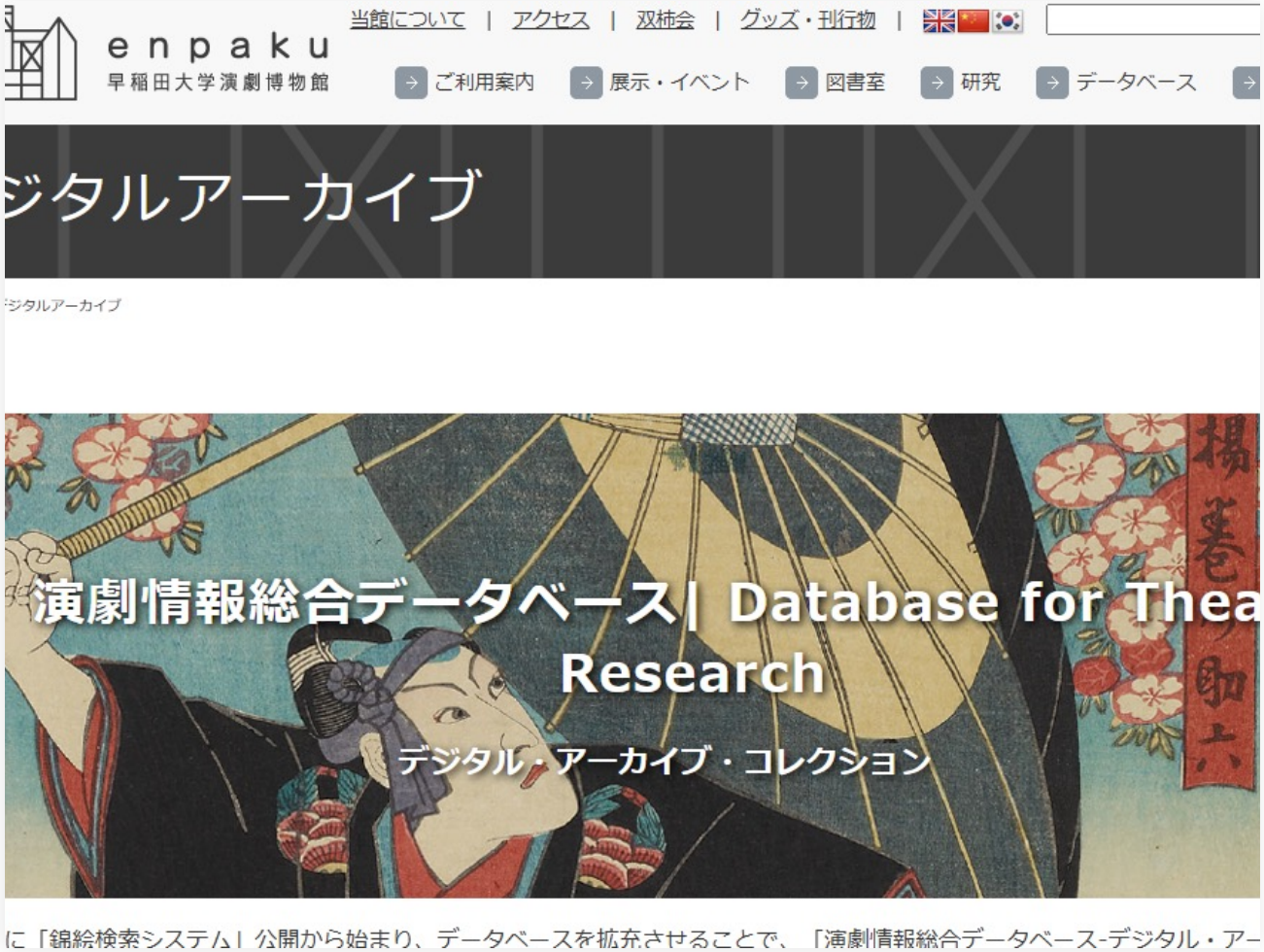


PERFORMANCE ART

- Waseda University Database for Theatre Reseach (Engeki joho sogo detabesu)

- Noh, Kyogen
  - The Nohgaku Performers Association
  - Play list by Japan Cultural Expo

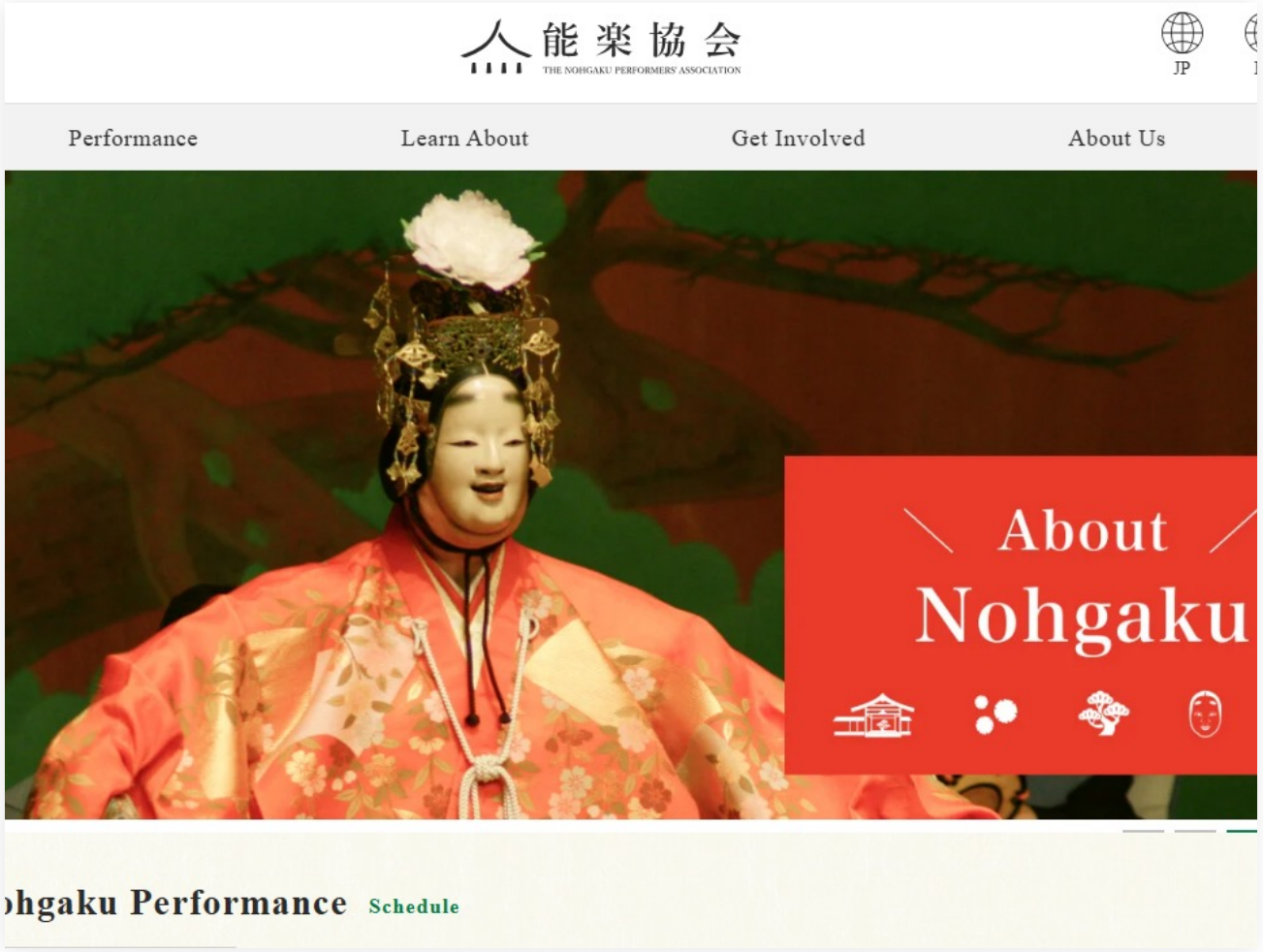
- JATDT Designer’s Works Theatre Database



PERFORMANCE ART

ENPAKU – DATABASE FOR THEATRE RESEARCHWASEDA UNIVERSITY





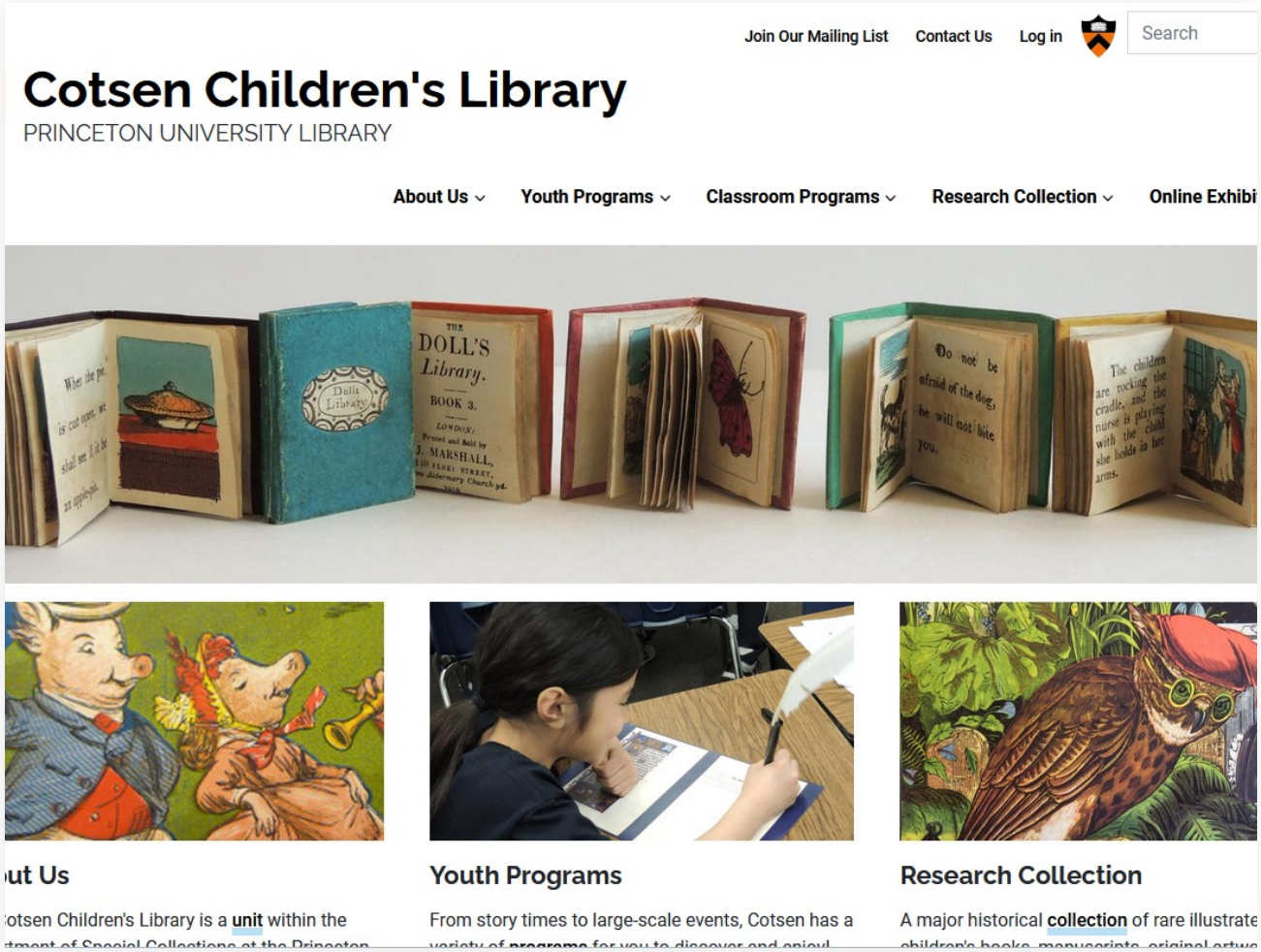
PERFORMANCE ART

THE NOHGAKU PERFORMANCE ASSOCIATION



OTHER RESOURCES

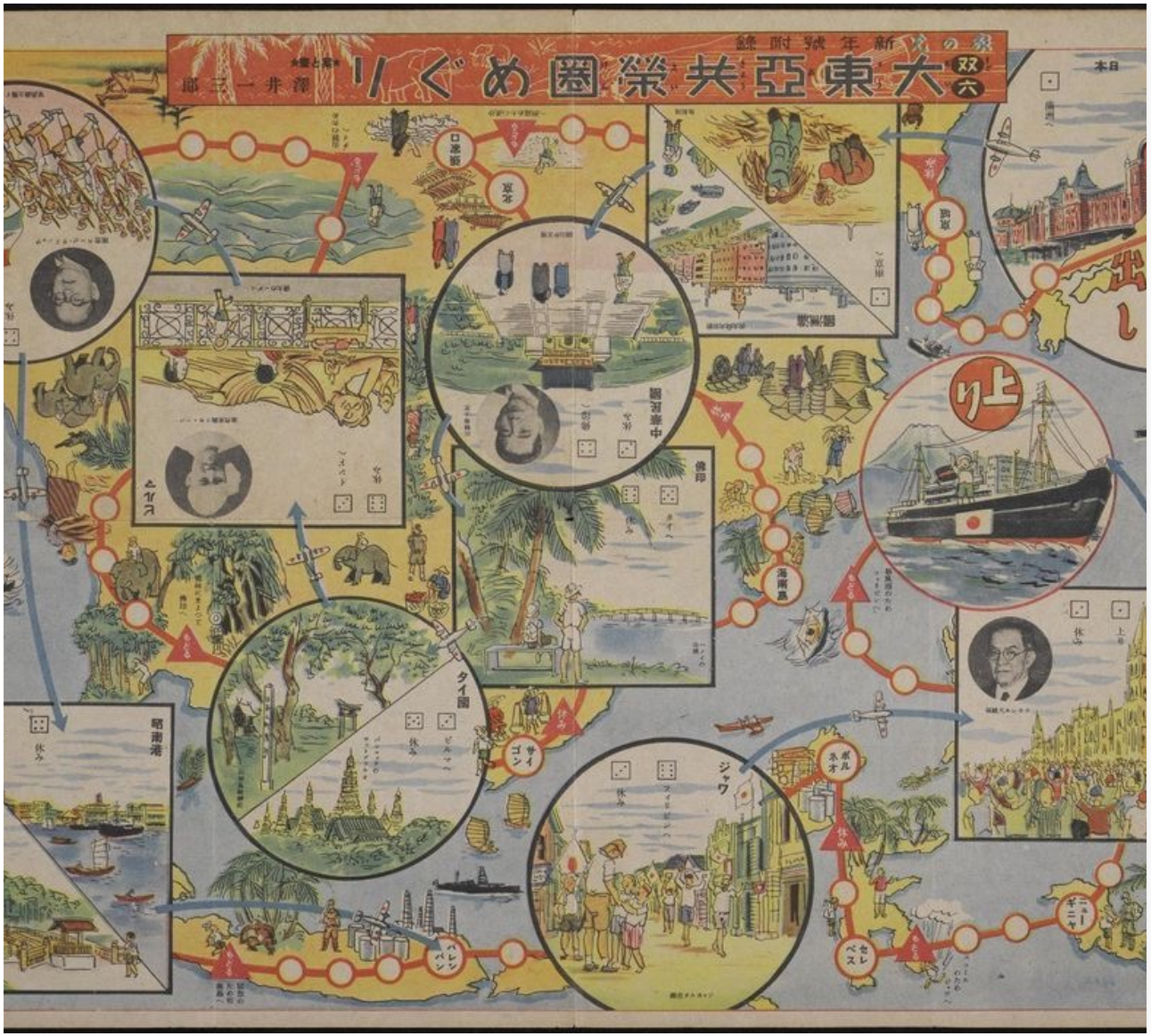
- Princton University Cotsen Children's Library
  - Sugoroku – Japanese board games
  - Other children's play cards, educational texts
- Maps
  - NDL map collection
  - Prineton University Digital Maps and Geospatial Data
    - Map of Japan
- Online exhibitions and Digital PUL
- Archival materials
  - Edo Tokyo Museum Digital Archives



OTHER RESOURCES

COTSEN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY





OTHER RESOURCES

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY COTSEN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Dai Tōa Kyōeiken meguri

Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

(Sugoroku game 1944)



OTHER RESOURCES

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
COTSEN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Shina Jihen Iroha Karuta

The China Incident Karuta

(Card game 1938)

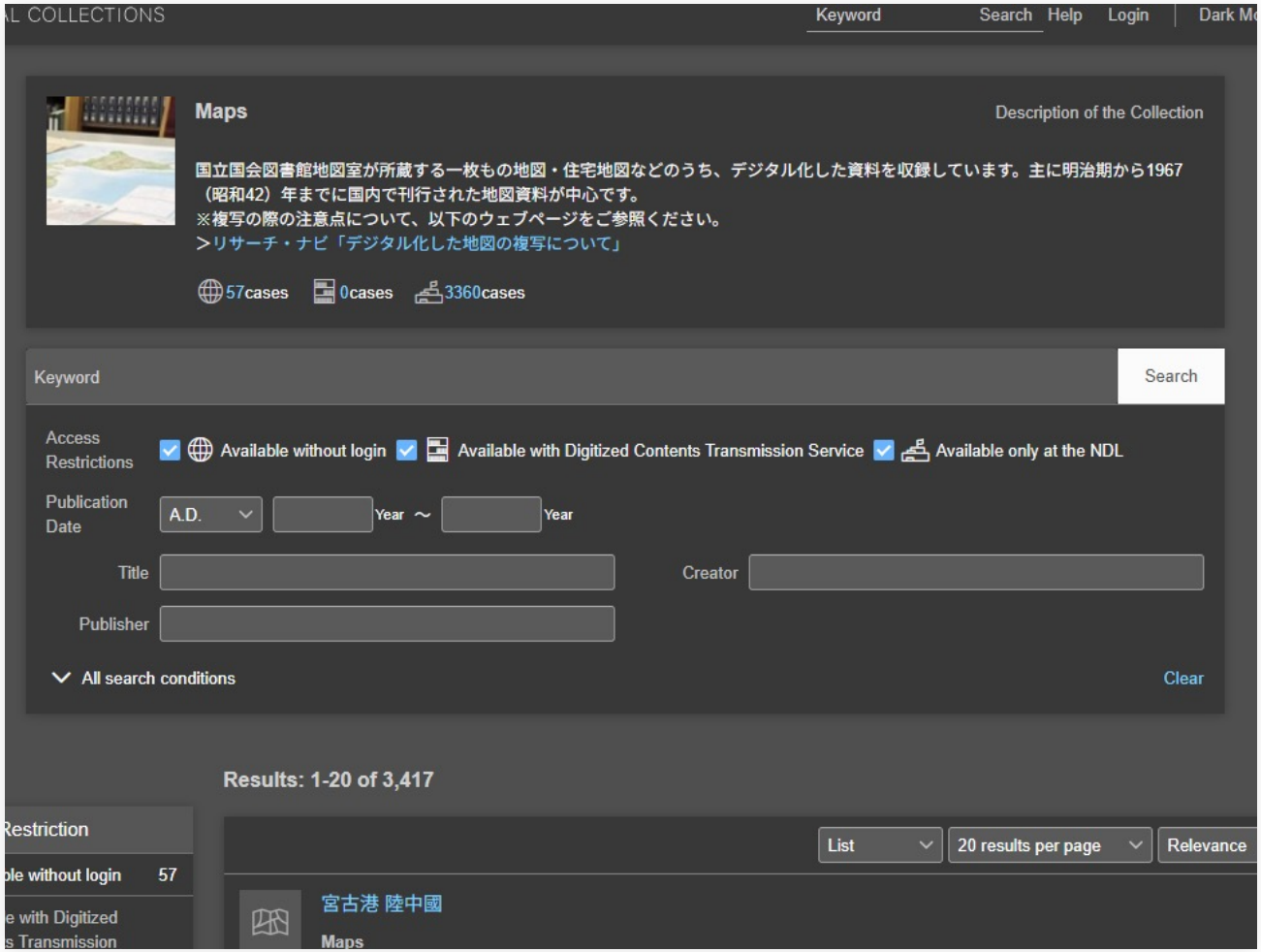


OTHER RESOURCES

ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

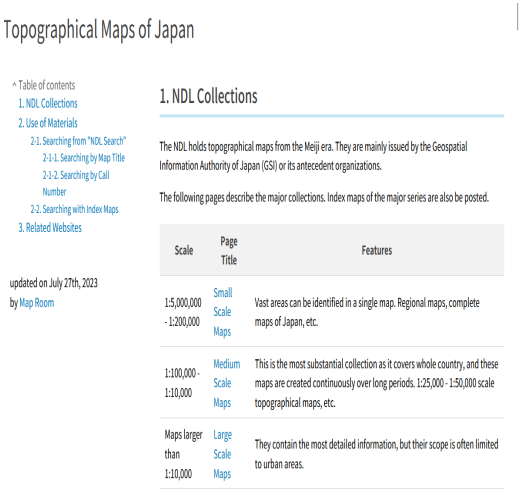
Asakusa kōen 12-kai oyobi hanayashiki fukin chinka no jōkyō

Great Kanto Earthquake ephemera Collection, Princeton University Library



OTHER RESOURCES

NDL MAP COLLECTION



Topographical Maps of Japan

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2-1-2. Searching by Call Number
2-2. Searching with Index Maps
3. Related Websites

updated on July 27th, 2023
by Map Room

1. NDL Collections

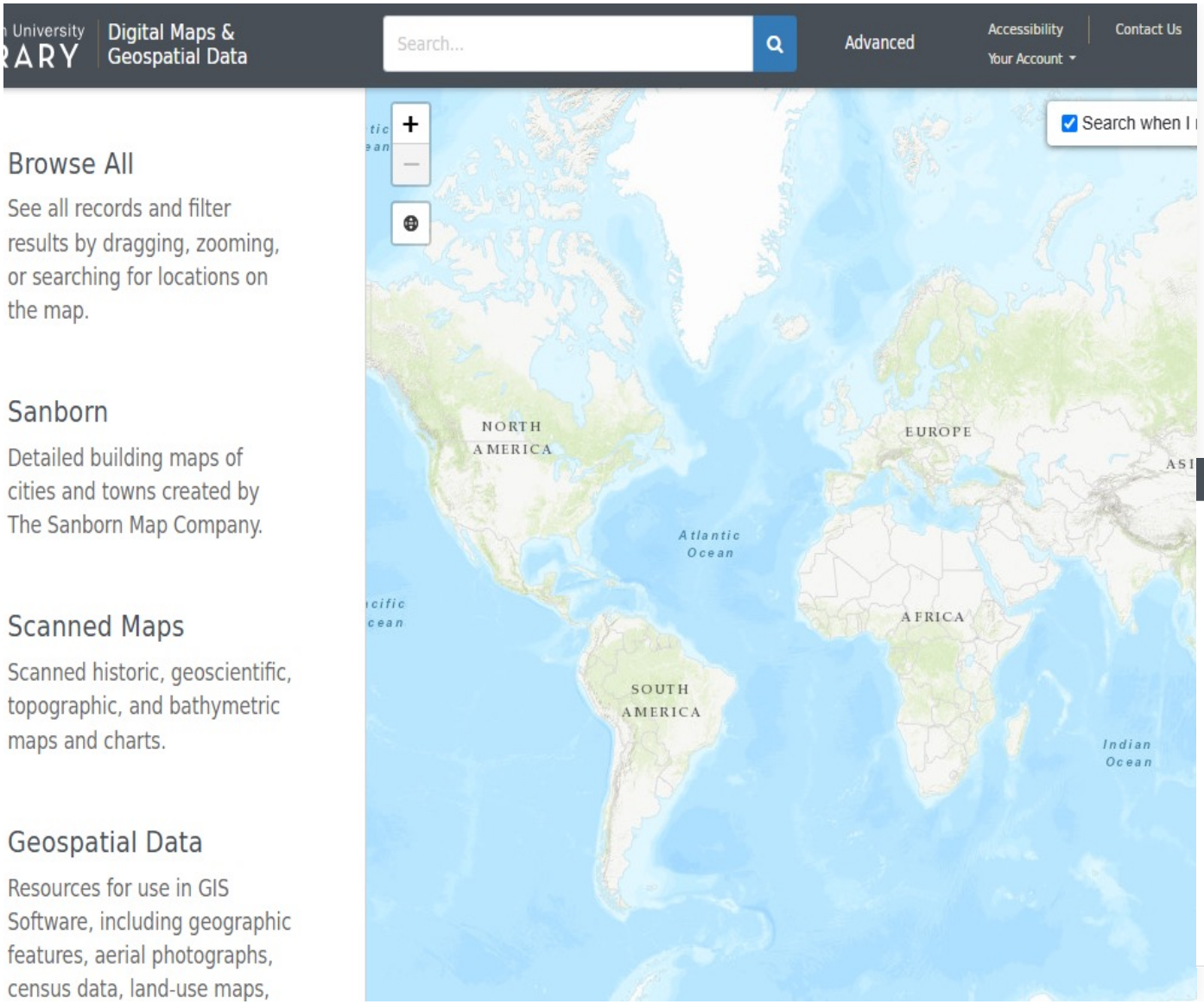
The NDL holds topographical maps from the Meiji era. They are mainly issued by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) or its antecedent organizations.

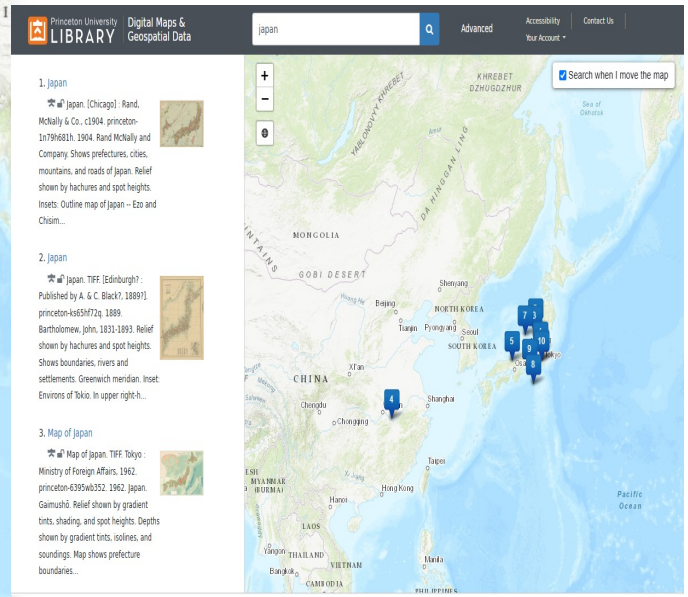
The following pages describe the major collections. Index maps of the major series are also be posted.

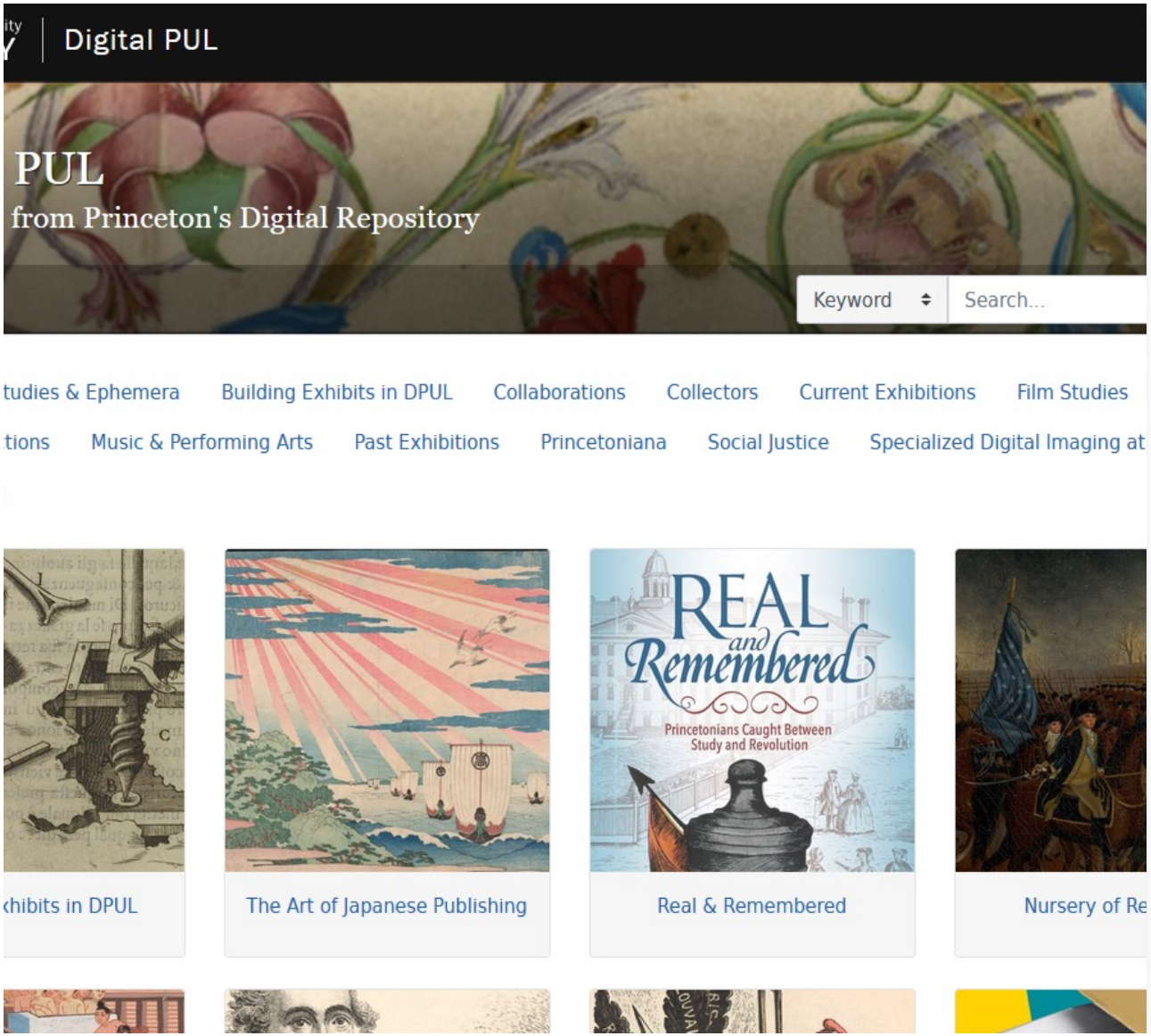
Scale	Page Title	Features
1:5,000,000 - 1:200,000	Small Scale Maps	Vast areas can be identified in a single map. Regional maps, complete maps of Japan, etc.
1:100,000 - 1:10,000	Medium Scale Maps	This is the most substantial collection as it covers whole country, and these maps are created continuously over long periods. 1:25,000 - 1:50,000 scale topographical maps, etc.
Maps larger than 1:10,000	Large Scale Maps	They contain the most detailed information, but their scope is often limited to urban areas.

OTHER RESOURCES

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY DIGITAL MAPS AND GEOSPATIAL DATA

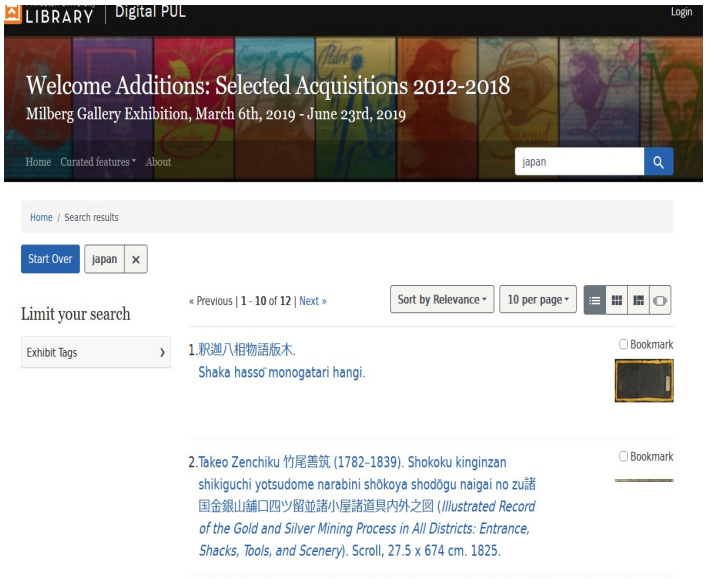






OTHER RESOURCES

DIGITAL PUL



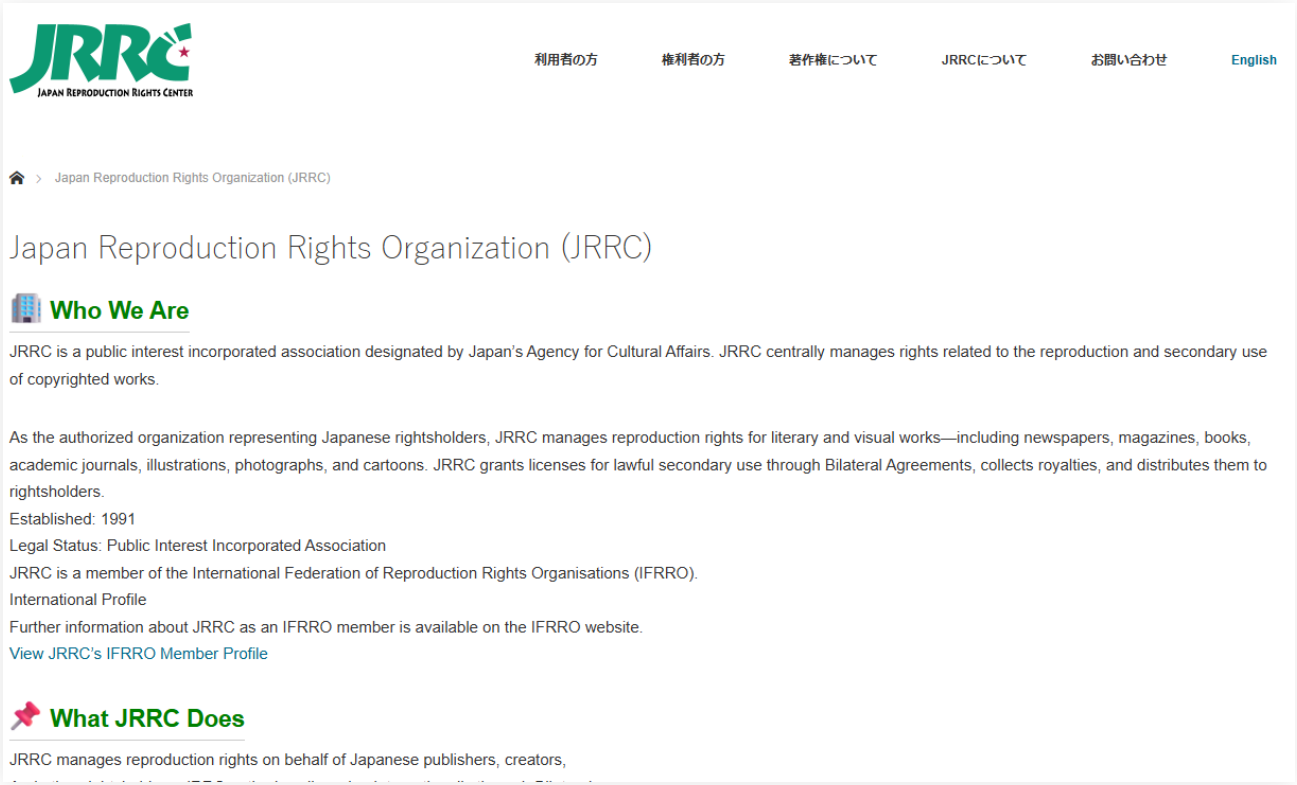
COPYRIGHT

- Copyright Center
  - Japan Reproduction Rights Organization (JRRC)
  - Copyright Research and Information Center

- **Image Use Protocol: Image Use and the Copyright Laws** by NCC (North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources)

COPY　RIGHT

JAPAN REPRODUCTION RIGHTS ORGANIZATION (JRRC)



JRRC
JAPAN REPRODUCTION RIGHTS CENTER

利用者の方　権利者の方　著作権について　JRRCについて　お問い合わせ　English

Japan Reproduction Rights Organization (JRRC)

Japan Reproduction Rights Organization (JRRC)

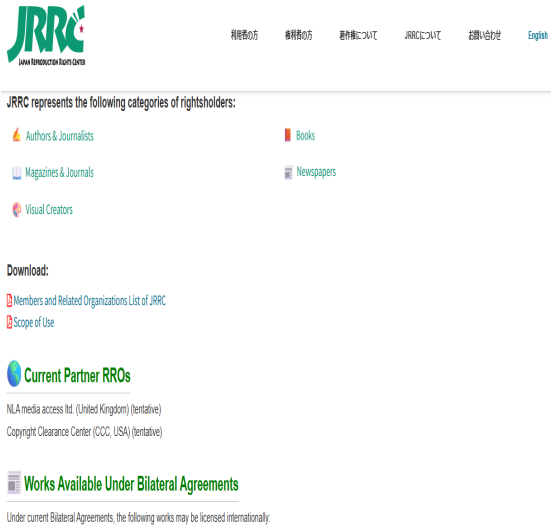
Who We Are

JRRC is a public interest incorporated association designated by Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs. JRRC centrally manages rights related to the reproduction and secondary use of copyrighted works.

As the authorized organization representing Japanese rightsholders, JRRC manages reproduction rights for literary and visual works—including newspapers, magazines, books, academic journals, illustrations, photographs, and cartoons. JRRC grants licenses for lawful secondary use through Bilateral Agreements, collects royalties, and distributes them to rightsholders.
Established: 1991
Legal Status: Public Interest Incorporated Association
JRRC is a member of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO).
International Profile
Further information about JRRC as an IFRRO member is available on the IFRRO website.
View JRRC's IFRRO Member Profile

What JRRC Does

JRRC manages reproduction rights on behalf of Japanese publishers, creators,



JRRC
JAPAN REPRODUCTION RIGHTS CENTER

利用者の方　権利者の方　著作権について　JRRCについて　お問い合わせ　English

JRRC represents the following categories of rightsholders:

Authors & Journalists　Books
Magazines & Journals　Newspapers
Visual Creators

Download:

Members and Related Organizations List of JRRC
Scope of Use

Current Partner RROs

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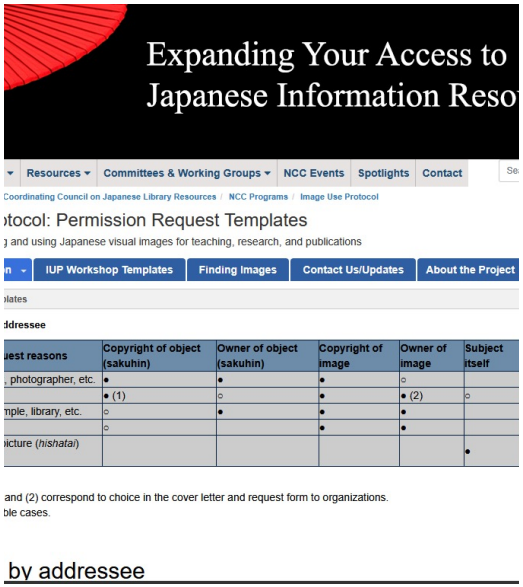

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QUESTIONS?

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- E-resources for Japanese Studies Guide for databases and online resources for Japan studies accessible at Princeton University