



project leader is Prof. Takeru Akasawa, a cultural anthropologist. The work is taking place in cooperation with the private sector, especially with the technical assistance of Toppan Printing Company. In the *Rakuchū rakugai* project will be depicted not only the 17th-century architecture and the atmosphere of old Kyoto, but also Buddhist clerics, tradespeople, aristocrats, barbers, performers, and government officials (at this point as many as 2,728 individual persons will be illustrated). Indeed, at the same time that it is a first class work of art, the *Rakuchū rakugaizu* is also a record of politics, culture, economics and local customs. In order to turn two dimensional images into three dimensional ones, the researchers at Nichibunken—specialists in fields ranging from architecture, history, art history, cultural anthropology, sociology and information science—through a collective effort are trying to make it possible to re-experience the old 17th-century capital, revealing what was actually heard in the streets of 17th-century Kyoto, how the people walked, how goods were arranged for sale, and so on. Although this project is still in the planning stages, inquiries have already been coming in from North American universities about its use as a preliminary introduction to Japan in surveys of Japan and in art courses. Nichibunken is looking forward to getting fully into the project.

The work on visual images is only one aspect of the many activities of Nichibunken, but through it may be appreciated the cutting edge of research on culture in Japan today.

You can access some of the Nichibunken visual image database through our homepage: <http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/>



Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan

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Japanese News Sources, Print and Online

Randall Short
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Japan Digest's website (<http://www.japandigest.com>), and subscribe to their FREE daily email of headlines. This is the quickest and easiest way to be aware, at least, of top stories every day. Those who wish to follow up on particular issues might visit the DCJ in person, search Japanese media websites, or simply download individual summaries from *Japan Digest's* website for a fee (\$1 per summary, or \$7.50 per issue).

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