National Institute of Informatics News

No.12 2005

Capturing

Post-processing Archiving

Utilizing

mono project
The research project for building a platform for developing and utilizaing multimedia archives to support inheritance or share of irreplaceable knowledge about arts and crafts. (for details to p.15)

Joint research No.6 **Joint Research and Workshop on Constraint Programming**

Hiroshi Hosobe / Ken Satoh (NII)

Joint Research and Workshop on Constraint Programming

Constraint programming, which generally refers to computation with constraints, is a technology that has been rapidly emerging and gaining attention. Constraints represent relationships among objects that compose problems, and constraint programming allows problems to be declaratively modeled in natural form and then to be automatically solved by technologies called constraint satisfaction. Constraint programming is applicable to various areas including many different problem solving tasks (such as scheduling) and also software development.

We, twelve researchers at universities and research institutes in Japan, are conducting a "workshop-style" joint research project on constraint programming. This project is led by Professor Kazunori Ueda at Waseda University. Our purpose is to further promote developments in constraint programming through intensive discussions on many different topics from the viewpoints of various areas such as artificial intelligence and software. Our research range from basic to applied subjects, specifically including soft, geometric, and interval constraints as fundamentals, and also constraint logic programming, concurrent constraint programming, and constraint-based user interfaces. We are also attempting to produce new developments in constraint programming by aggressively assimilating related

technologies including metaheuristics and formula manipulation.

The first workshop of this research project, called the Franco-Japanese Workshop on Constraint Programming, was held at the National Institute of Informatics from October 25 to 27, 2004. In addition to eleven talks given by the project members, the workshop had thirteen talks presented by French researchers, which was realized by gaining cooperation from the Embassy of France in Japan. Also, an invited talk was given by Professor Krzysztof R. Apt at the National University of Singapore. These invited talks and research presentations provided not only recent research results but also research surveys and future prospects, which caused vigorous discussions among participants.

Through this research project, we are continuing to promote communications among researchers and research activities in the constraint programming community.

*(**Hiroshi Hosobe,** Associate Professor, Office for Cooperative Research Programs, Research Center for Testbeds and Prototyping /*
***Ken Satoh,** Professor, Symbolic Reasoning, Foundation of Informatics Research Division)*

Research & Education

Life-like Character based Interfaces and Affective Computing

Life-like character based interfaces are computer interfaces that emulate aspects of human face-to-face communication by using anthropomorphic virtual agents. Those agents do not only display multi-modal behavior in the form of speech, facial expressions, and gestures, but they may also perceive, and to a limited extent, understand the user. A salient feature of character-based interfaces is that they support affective communication with users, by expressing emotion verbally and non-verbally, and also recognizing the emotional state of the user. Affective interaction is

the basis of a large number of successful character-based applications, ranging from online product presentation and e-learning to info-kiosks and interactive entertainment.

My research interest is in life-like characters and affective computing with the overall goal of creating interfaces that allow users to communicate naturally and effectively with computers. Hence I am engaged in the design, authoring, and evaluation of life-like characters, as well as in the modeling and processing of physiological user data, specifically bio-signals to recognize affective states and eye

movements to track users' focus of attention. A central aspect of my research is that computers respond appropriately to the affective and social needs of computer users. My broader vision is to realize multi-modal interaction in ambient (ubiquitous, smart) environments.
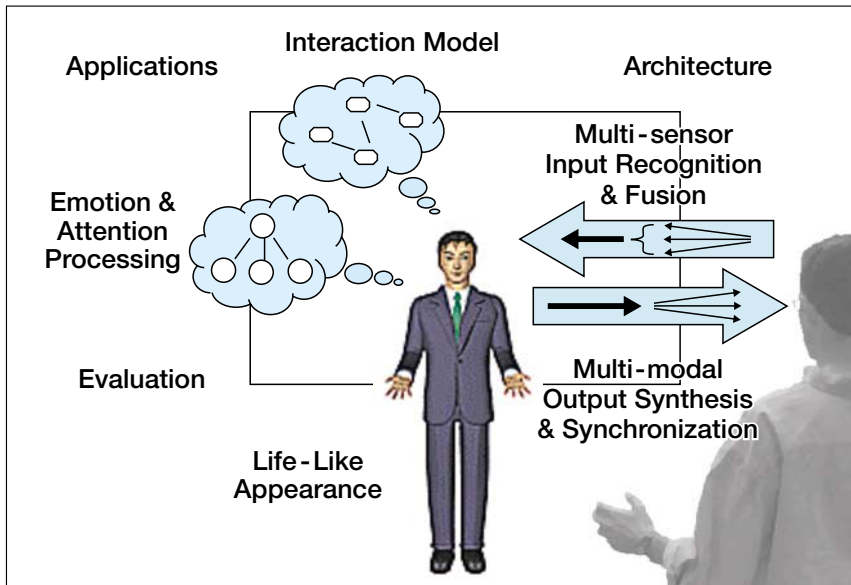
(*Helmut Prendinger,* Associate Professor, Image Processing, Multimedia Information Research Division)

◼ A Visit to Tsinghua University in China

On November 9 and 10, 2004, Professor Shigeki Yamada and Mr. Matsushita (Chief of the International Planning Section, the International Affairs Division) visited Tsinghua University to participate in a discussion of educational and research exchange with the University.

Dr. Mitsutoshi Hatori (Professor Emeritus) initiated dialogue between Tsinghua University and the NII faculty, communicating with Professor Gong Ke (Vice President of Tsinghua University). Currently, one Tsinghua student has been accepted into the Ph.D. Program in Informatics in the Department of Informatics, the NII Graduate University for Advanced Studies.

At the meeting with Professor Gong (also attended Dr. Mitsutoshi Hatori, Professor Emeritus), the two parties reached an agreement to promote research partnerships and student exchange. On this occasion, NII delegates also met with Professor Feng Zhenghe (Department of Electronic Engineering) and agreed to activities furthering mutual exchange.

On the following day, the delegates visited Professor Lin Xiaokang, Vice Chairman of the Department of Electronic Engineering, Graduate School at Shenzhen, Tsinghua University, discussing educational and research exchange initiatives. This occasion also featured a special lecture for students by Professor Shigeki Yamada.

(*International Affairs Division*)

Professor Emeritus, Dr. Hatori (second from left) and
Professor Shigeki Yamada (left) talking with
Vice President Gong Ke (center)

NAREGI booth opened at SC2004, a worldwide conference on high performance computing technologies

The National Research Grid Initiative (NAREGI) (URL: http://www.naregi.org), opened an exhibition booth at the SC (Supercomputing Conference) 2004 International Conference (URL : http://www.sc-conference.org/sc 2004/welcome.html, which is the most advanced and authoritative conference in the field of high performance computing and networking.

The SC conference series annually invites scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, programmers, system administrators and managers related to computing and networking to get together for the exhibition, seminars, training and guidance, etc. This years conference was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the United States from November 6th through 12th.

NAREGI made demonstrations of the middleware, which structures the science grid, coupled simulation using grid, which represents an example of advanced research and development in the grid environment, and networking.

About 900 participants, including certain prominent researchers, came to the NAREGI booth and a number of very valuable discussions were made there. This exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for promoting NAREGI's reputation to the world, as illustrated by an offer for research cooperation made by another research institute, which was prompted by the demonstrations they observed at the NAREGI booth.

Discussion in NAREGI booth

NAREGI booth

(Planning and Coordination Section)

Second Japan / France Grid Computing Workshop Held

From December 13 through 14, 2004, the Second Japan/ France Grid Computing Workshop was held at NII jointly with INRIA (Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique). Subsequent to the successful completion of the first Workshop held in Paris last March, INRIA had requested a second event in Japan. In the first workshop, the primary objective was to mutually introduce the current grid projects. This time, discussions focused on more specific approaches to joint research and coordination efforts. The sessions

were attended by 12 French delegates and 23 Japanese participants. NII dispatched Professor Miura (Co-chair) of NAREGI Collaborative Center for Research Grid, Henri

Participants in the workshop

Angelino, a visiting professor, and NAREGI-related personnel. For a day and a half, the Japanese participants gave presentations on NAREGI updates, on the network

The situation of the workshop

measurement project involving ITBL, the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research, and AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), and on the joint project between University of Tsukuba and INRIA, as well as on network research at Kyushu University. The French side gave presentations on various projects such as the EU COREGRID, Virtual Observatory, Grid5000, and RESO (high-speed network). Discussions followed these presentations on themes where joint research is feasible, such as test beds, middleware, and network measurements. In the afternoon of the second day, participants made a field trip in the Tsukuba area, engaging in separate discussion sessions involving researchers at the NAREGI base. The French participants gave extremely favorable comments on a highly fruitful workshop.

(Kenichi Miura,
Project Leader of the Collaboration Center for Grid Research and Development / Professor at High-end Computing,
Infrastructure Systems Research Division)

NII MESSAGE FROM NII RESEARCHER

Project Researcher,

Sonoko Satoh

1991　University of Library and Information Science bachelor
　　　(Library and Information Science)
1994　Waseda University bachelor (literature)
1996　Waseda University Master's degree (literature)
1999　Waseda University Ph.D. (literature)

Since June 2004, I have joined to the "Digital Silk Road Project" as a researcher in NII. This DSR project has organized by several projects. "Digital Archive of Toyo Bunko Rare Books" which I belong to is one of them and this "Toyo Bunko project" started in 2002 by the proposal of Prof. Takeo Yamamoto.

The Toyo Bunko is a library and research institute specializing in Asian studies. Their collection is one of the top 5 in all over the world, therefore this library has well known in abroad researchers. However users are very limited. The digital archive of precious books of The Toyo Bunko that we established would be able to contribute much more people and researchers in the whole world to let them read the books actually and use the several search functions in the system to

find the data or information more powerfully. My part in this project is to investigate the contents of the rare books in the Toyo Bunko holdings, prepare the materials as the digital text data and research meta-data of them.

I have been studying about Chinese Art History which belongs to the humanities. That is why, sometimes I lost myself in computer science study field in here. However, through a lot of trial and error, now I feel the happiness to be able to research and improve myself in such open and stern environment.

Guidance for the Entrance Examination of Ph.D. Program in the Department of Informatics, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI)

The department of Informatics of SOKENDAI held the guidance for the entrance examination of Ph.D. Program at NII on Monday, November 29, 2004. The guidance targeted prospective students seeking to enroll in April 2005.

Attended by thirteen prospective students, the guidance was hosted by Professor Ueno (Chairman of the Department of Informatics) and Professor Ken Satoh, who provided general explanations.

SOKENDAI students (Mr. Kazuki Kobayashi and Mr. Alexander Kovacs) introduced their school lives. Following visits to the Graduate Student's Office, Lecture Room and Library, individual counseling sessions were provided to those seeking them.

Here, participants enthusiastically asked many questions not just Professor Ueno, but Professor Ken Satoh, Professor Makoto Tatsuta, Associate Professor Hironobu Gotoda and Assistant Professor Takashi Koga.

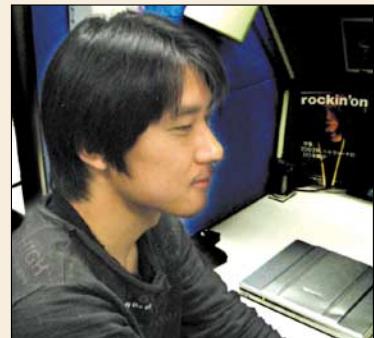*(Research Cooperation Division)*

Individual counseling session

Guidance presentation

Message from Graduate Students

Ryota Ozaki

Department of Informatics,
School of Multidisciplinary Sciences
Graduate University for Advanced Studies

I completed my master's course at the Graduate School of the University of Electro-Communications in March 2003, and entered the Department of Informatics at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies in April of that year. Currently, I am engaged in research activities under the supervision of Professor Katsumi Maruyama of the National Institute of Informatics (NII).

I think a major plus at this university is that there are good facilities. For example, the university's main campus in Hayama has accommodations, at which I was able to stay while attending a study camp. Our laboratory has a gym where I can exercise to keep myself both physically and mentally fit.

Unlike the other students, my research subject falls in the field of computer science rather than informatics. Even so, the university has enough teaching staff in this field to meet my needs. Furthermore, thanks to a credit transfer system, students can take lecture courses at the University of Tokyo and Tokyo Institute of Technology. In fact, I currently attend a course at the University of Tokyo that is proving to be very informative.

To put it simply, my research is concerned with operating systems. There are an ever-increasing number of computers whose devices we interact with in daily life. The object of my research is to design, create, and evaluate basic software that will allow us to use these devices more easily.

Finally, permit me to tell an anecdote about myself. My desk is referred to as "Nirvana's desk."* Well, this is really more of an honor than I deserve.

*Nirvana is the name of a famous rock band.

■ FY 2004 National Institute of Informatics (NII) open lectures

The NII open lectures consist of announcements by researchers from both within and inside and outside the NII of current topics related to their research activities, in order to advance the NII's research, development, and other activities. They are held annually in eastern and western Japan.

In FY 2004, these lectures were based on the theme "Governance of Ubiquitous Society—Into the Future of Information Institution."

General remarks were made by Lecturer Prof. Yoh'ichi Tohkura of the NII, on the theme "Information Institution as Today's Issue!" followed by a keynote lecture by lawyer Hisamichi Okamura (a visiting professor at the NII) on the theme "Information Security and Legal Systems" and then lectures by three other presenters.

Attendees remarked that although the lectures themselves were quite challenging, they were enjoyable and beneficial because actual policies and other matters could be discussed as a result.

At the Tokyo lectures, information was disseminated using the SCS system, provided by the National Institute of Multimedia Education. Plans call for streaming the day's lectures from the NII's website, and for publishing them in book form, at a later date.

The schedules, locations, and content of the lectures are shown below.

Tokyo：Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall (at National Center of Sciences)

Kyoto：Campus Plaza Kyoto

1. Location and times:
   - Tokyo: 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Friday, November 5, 2004 / Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall (at National Center of Sciences)
   - Kyoto: 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 16, 2004 / Campus Plaza Kyoto

2. Theme: Governance of Ubiquitous Society — Into the Future of Information Institution

3. Program
   - Greeting from sponsor: Yasuharu Suematsu, Director General, NII (Tokyo)
        Masao Sakauchi, Deputy Director General, NII (Kyoto)

   - General remarks: Information Institution as Today's Issue / Lecturer: Yoh'ichi Tohkura (Professor, NII)

   - Keynote lecture: Information Security and Legal Systems / Lecturer: Hisamichi Okamura (Lawyer, NII visiting professor)

   - Lectures:
     Legal and Economic System Models of Digital Rights Management / Lecturer: Noboru Sonehara (Professor, NII)
     Systematic problems and future of E-commerce / Lecturer: Associate Hitoshi Okada (Professor, NII)
     Information Security Policy: Present and Future / Lecturer: Shin Takamura (Assistant Manager, Advanced Information Systems and Software Division, Information and Communications Policy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

   - Master of ceremonies: Masamitsu Negishi (Professor and Director of International and Research Cooperation Department, NII)

(Publicity and Dissemination Division)

■ First Electronic Library Service Liaison Meeting held in 2004

The National Institute of Informatics is scheduled to launch a new thesis information service in April 2005 that combines the current information retrieval service (NACSIS-IR) and the electronic library service (NACSIS-ELS). A briefing on this new service was presented in the "First Electronic Library Service Liaison Meeting" on October 29th (Fri.), 2004, at the National Center of Sciences Building, for academic organizations participating in the electronic library service. The briefing was attended by 144 members from 128 academic organizations. In the liaison meeting, talks addressed how to use the new thesis information provision service formats, establish copyright licensing fees, and schedule future operations. Each participating academic organization was invited to discuss these issues.

More specifics are to be ironed out after reviewing opinions gathered from academic organizations after the

A scene from the meeting

meeting. A second meeting is scheduled for February 2005.

(Contents Division)

National Institute of Informatics invited to exhibit at Library Fair & Forum

The National Institute of Informatics (NII) introduced its research and other activities at its booth at the Library Fair & Forum, held from November 24 to 26 at Pacifico Yokohama. Sponsored by the Library Fair & Forum Committee, and with support from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the National Diet Library, and others, the Library Fair & Forum is a comprehensive exhibition that showcases the latest technology in information provision and information exchange, and invites all businesses and other parties concerned with libraries and library systems to attend. The Library Fair & Forum has grown both in scale and content each year, and is now a major exhibition for related parties, which is why the NII decided to participate.

This exhibition was centered on business-related solutions, such as Webcat Plus (an associative book search service), NACSIS-CAT/ILL (a catalog information service), and the GeNii service (academic content portal to be introduced formally next year). It also included an exhibition of research projects, such as new book maps, an East Asian library, and a digital Silk Road.

Approximately 18,000 people attended the exhibition. Of these, approximately 2000 visited the NII booth, demonstrating a high level of interest in its activities.

In addition, a forum sponsored by the NII, and supported by the Japan Association of National University Libraries,

A scene at the forum

and the Japan Association of Private University Libraries which was held, entitled "The Leading Edge in Academic Communication: Open Access and Self-Archiving." The keynote lecture was delivered by Université du Québec professor and Canada Research Chair Stevan Harnad, on the theme "Maximizing Research Impact by Maximizing Research Access," and was followed by a lively question-and-answer session. The content of and materials used in this forum are available (in Japanese only) on the website of the International Scholarly Communication Initiative (http://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/)

(Publicity and Dissemination Division)

The Sixth Library Fair and Forum (2004): The Cutting Edge of Scholarly Communication: Open Access and Self-Archiving

Under the auspices of the Association of National University Libraries and the Japan Association of Private University Libraries, the sixth Library Fair and Forum 2004 (held November 24-26) featured various discussions on the theme on November 25.

Professor Stevan Harnad (Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Science, University of Quebec at Montreal) was invited to present a keynote speech, under the title of "Maximizing Research Impact by Maximizing Research Access" on the impact of open access on research activities by introducing trends and influences in the open access

A scene at the forum

Professor Stevan Harnad

movement and institutional repositories. Under the chairmanship of Professor Syun Tutiya (Professor of Chiba University and Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Informatics), the 111 participants explored the effectiveness of the open access movement and influence on scholarly communications through an in-depth question-and-answer session.

Details and materials related to the forum are available on the website for the International Scholarly Communication Initiative (**http://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/**)

(Contents Division)

Temporary Services Launched for Japan-Korea ILL/DD

On November 22, 2004, temporary operations (document photocopying, etc.) commenced for the NACSIS-ILL document delivery system between Japanese and Korean universities. This is the second service expansion of the ILL/DD (Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery) following initiation of document delivery services between Japan and the U.S. in April 2002 (see No.10 (2002.6)). This service is intended to facilitate document delivery and acquisition and to provide greater aid for research by Japanese and Korean investigators and exchange students.

Before the temporary services were launched, a meeting attended by those in charge of the program was held in September 2004 in Seoul to discuss operations and reach a consensus based on the results of operational trials with KERIS (Korea Education and Research Information Service) and Korean university libraries. These efforts are based on a partnership of the Japan Association of National University Libraries and the Coordinating Committee of Japanese University Libraries.

As of November 2004, 59 Japanese libraries and 226

Meeting attended by personnel in charge of Japan-Korea ILL/DD (at KERIS, Seoul)

Korean libraries participated in the launch of temporary services. Document borrowing operations are to be introduced by the end of 2005, with further improvements in services expected in the future.

(Contents Division)

Briefings Held on Operations Concerning University Libraries, etc.
— NII Library Week 2004 —

From December 7th through 17th, 2004, briefings on operations promoted by the NII in collaboration with university libraries were held at five locations nationwide (Sapporo, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Fukuoka).

This year's briefings dealt primarily with the NACSIS-CAT/ILL, the scholarly institutional repository, and GeNii (NII scholarly contents portal). Before talks on each topic, speakers presented some general policies for future content-related operations under the rubric "Improvements in the Scholarly Information Infrastructure at NII." For the NACSIS-CAT/ILL, speakers introduced recent topics, challenges, and possible solutions for each system under the heading "Current State and Challenges of NACSIS-CAT/ILL." Discussions concerning the "scholarly institutional repository" addressed joint development operations involving the metadata database and a project involving construction software implementation experiments for the scholarly institutional repository. Discussions of the GeNii (NII scholarly contents portal) addressed various issues related to new services slated for introduction in the following and subsequent years and the new fee-based system.

These briefings were attended by all 1,004 members and enlivened by questions and lively discussion.

(Contents Division)

Tokyo Site

Deputy Director Konishi of the Development and Operations Department speaks

Cooperation of Training
for Specialists on Japanese Scholarly Information

NII research and operations were presented at NII on December 6 (Mon.) as part of a program entitled Training for Specialists on Japanese Scholarly Information. Hosted by the Japan Foundation and the National Diet Library, this series of training sessions invites non-Japanese specialists in Japanese scholarly information (librarians, etc.) in collaboration with the International House of Japan and the NII,

A student making a presentation at the workshop

providing them with training on Japan-related information and information services for overseas researchers. The training sessions were conducted from November 29th (Mon.) through December 17 (Fri.) and attended by seventeen individuals from thirteen countries.

These training sessions introduced and practiced as training topics the scholarly information network operations and content services (Catalogue Information Service, Academic Institutional Repository, Academic Contents Portal) provided by NII. Talks also discussed GIF (International ILL/DD), promoted by the Japan Association of National University Libraries in collaboration with NII.

Lectures on the CAT System held November 25 (Thu.) and 26 (Fri.) before the training sessions were attended by nine trainees.

The events also featured a workshop held December 9 (Thu.) on the topic of Information Literacy Education in the Digital Era: Focusing on Research Libraries on Japanese Scholarly Information, in which four trainees gave presentations. This occasion also featured a presentation

on the Academic Information Literacy Training Course by NII staff.

Trainees posed various questions concerning the NII's scholarly information services and other related topics, with their enthusiasm offering a glimpse of the scale of expectations for various existing and potential services on Japanese scholarly information among overseas researchers.

(Planning and Coordination Division)

■ Karuizawa Saturday Salon 2004

On November 20, 2004, the eighth lecture of the Karuizawa Saturday Salon was held at the International Seminar House for Advanced Studies in Karuizawa,Nagano. The lecture given will appear on the NII Website at a later date.

The Eighth Lecture : November 20, 2004

21st Century to be opened up by Content Industry

Professor, Graduate School
of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo

Yasuki Hamano

"While the advanced nations support and foster the content industry as national concerns, our government belatedly promulgated and enacted the law called 'Content Promotion Act'(June 4,2004). The government disregarded its raison d'etre but now it is regarded as a hopeful industry. I will clarify the reason and details with data why it is now considered as a hopeful one and furthermore I will examine what is required to our content industry from the viewpoint of research and development." (excerpt from the material delivered at the Seminar) Pro. Hamano talked plainly with his own activity.

(Publicity and Dissemination Division)

National Institute of Informatics Public Lectures 2004, "Eight words to deepen Informatics"

The Fifth Lecture : Thursday, November 18, 2004
"Open Source"

Professor, Software Research Division

Katsumi Maruyama

1970	University of Tokyo graduate school Master degree
	Doctor of engineering（University of Tokyo）
1970-1995	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation（NTT）
	Musashino Electric Communication Laboratories
1995-1998	National Institute of Japanese Literature, Professor
1998-2000	National Center of Scientific Information Systems, Professor
2000..	National Institute of Informatics, Professor

Research field: Software (OS, Object-oriented programming, distributed processing)

You may wonder why many excellent programmers provide software products as open source software to the public without any monetary reward: full-scale software designing and development require great endeavor.

Bill Gates: "Who can afford to do professional work for nothing ?"

Linus Torvalds: "Just for fun"

In fact, the open of source program has been done for a long time, that has promoted the improvement of software technology. The wide-spreading of Internet cannot be achieved without open source software. Recently many people observe open-source-minded software design or business model because of the success of Linux.

Therefore, I took up as a topic the essence of program technology conveyed with an example and an imitation and something about open source in this public lecture.

The Sixth Lecture: Thursday December 16, 2004
"e-Learning"

Associate Professor National Institute of Informatics

Noriko Arai

Tokyo Institute of Technology, Doctor of Science
1994　Assistant, Hiroshima City University
1996　Associate member research worker, Fields Institute for Research
1997　Associate member research worker, University of Tronto
2001　Associate Professor, Foundations of Informatics Research Division, National Institute of Informatics
Research fields : Distance learning (e-learning), Mathematics Logic

Distance Learning most often means an approach to facilitate and enhance learning by means of personal. In Japan, it is said that this field has grown up to one trillion yen industry. However, some of the companies have withdrawn from this field. The key to the success in e-learning needs to clarify "Who are the users", "What do you want to provide for this education", and " How will you get the advantage through this education". It is essential to design the appropriate learning environment on the appropriate framework. In this lecture, I focus on the potentiality of the community-wares or weblogs as the educational medium, and introduce several successful cases to create learning environment on the Internet. I also introduce various educational needs and methods of e-learning systems which suit for them too.

(Publicity and Dissemination Division)

■ Visit by Chief Librarian of University of Nairobi Library, Kenya

Ms. Salome Mathangani, Chief Librarian of University of Nairobi Library, Kenya, visits the NII on October 5 (Tue.).

Following a session providing a general overview of NII, Mr. Konishi, Deputy Director of the Development and Operations Department discussed NII operations. Subsequently, Ms. Mathangani asked various questions concerning the status of institutional repositories in Japan, on which latter topic discussions generally focused.

(International Affairs Division)

■ Visit of Delegation from the National Library of China

On November 11 (Thu.), a delegation from the National Library of China visited NII.

A five-member delegation led by Mr. Zhang Yanbo, Deputy Director of the National Library of China, visited the Institute as part of an operational exchange program with the National Diet Library.

Following a general overview of the Institute provided by Mr. Negishi, Director of International and Research Cooperation Department, and operational explanations provided by Mr. Konishi, Deputy Director of the Development and Operations Department, participants engaged in lively discussions. The representatives of the National Library of China took part in this exchange as participating members of the NACSIS-CAT system promoted by NII.

The National Library of China announced its intentions to not just foster this relationship as a member of NACSIS-CAT, but to develop a better and more wide-ranging partnership, a goal with which the participants unanimously agreed.

(International Affairs Division)

International cultural exchange activity for National Institute of Informatics exchange students held in the Book Town Kanda

The National Institute of Informatics (NII) and the Tokyo Antiquarian Booksellers Corporation held an international cultural exchange activity in Book Town Kanda on November 30, 2004 for exchange students conducting studies and research at NII.

A total of nearly 50 participants split up into two teams to walk among six antiquarian bookstores that boast histories dating back to the Meiji Era, such as Meirinkan, which specializes in science and technology books, historic Isseido, and the antiquarian book section of Yagi bookstore, which specializes in autographed manuscripts. Students were permitted to handle books and ask questions to the dealers. In addition, they were given the opportunity to visit the Tokyo Kosho Kaikan, where the Tokyo Shiryokai grand market, a massive annual auction market, is held, and received an explanation of how a dealer auction is conducted.

The NII, which is located in the Hitotsubashi area of Kanda, is near the antiquarian bookseller's district of Jimbocho, Kanda. Kanda itself boasts a wealth of publishers and booksellers, and is noted as an area that has cultivated international links throughout its history. For this reason, the NII planned this event as an opportunity to expose its

Exchange students browse through rare books at Isseido bookstore

exchange students those undertaking cutting edge information technology research and expected to become industry leaders in their own countries to this slice of Japanese culture. The event was made possible through the cooperation of the antiquarian bookstores of Kanda, the world s largest, and still growing antiquarian bookseller s district. Ms. Ann Herring, a prominent researcher on cultural aspects of children and a scholar with an interest in antiquarian bookstores, served as guide.

(Publicity and Dissemination Division)

Mutual library usage agreement concluded with Meiji University

The National Institute of Informatics (NII) has concluded a mutual library usage agreement with Meiji University for graduate students, enhancing the services provided to graduate students of each institution by enabling them to utilize the specialist collections of each institution's library.

Since FY 2002, the NII has accepted doctoral candidates from the informatics program at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies. The number of such students is 57 at present. However, since its library collection is centered on specialized documents, the NII has needed to enhance the availability of academic and general publications. This joint usage agreement with Meiji University, a university near NII that boasts a library with a high reputation and abundance of materials, is extremely important in this aspect. The NII also plans to provide unique services, services that can only be offered by an informatics research institution.

Signing ceremony held at the Meiji University library

A signing ceremony was held on December 1 as confirmation of mutual exchange and cooperation between area libraries.

(Publicity and Dissemination Division)

■ Conferment of Title of Professor Emeritus

On December 14th (Tue.), the title of professor emeritus was conferred upon Professor Kinji Ono (currently Professor by Special Appointment at NII and Visiting Professor at Waseda University) and Professor Mitsutoshi Hatori (currently Professor at Chuo University).

Following a career as Director of KDD Research Laboratories, Professor Ono joined the NACSIS (National Center of Science Information System: NII's predecessor) as a professor in the Systems Division and as Director of the Research and Development Department in April 1995. In April 2000, on the establishment of the National Institute of Informatics (NII), he was appointed professor in the Infrastructure Systems Research Division and Executive Director of Research. He retired from the NII as of March 31, 2004.

After serving as professor at the School of Engineering, University of Tokyo, Professor Mitsutoshi Hatori was appointed professor in the NACSIS Systems Research Division. In April 2000, on the establishment of the National Institute of Informatics (NII), he was appointed professor in the Multimedia Information Research Division and Director of the Development and Operations Department. He retired from the NII as of March 31, 2004.

Their contributions to the reorganization of the National Center of Science Information System and the establishment of the National Institute of Informatics are worthy of the highest regard. Their efforts involving research and development in informatics and Institute operations and development have also been noteworthy. In honor of their achievements, both individuals were conferred the title of professor emeritus.

(General Affairs Division)

Ceremony on December 14, 2004, Conferring Title of Professor Emeritus Commemorative photograph, with Professors Ono and Hatori (both side)

■ Presentation of Length-of-Service Award at the National Institute of Informatics

The Length-of-Service Award was presented at the General Director's Office on November 19 (Fri.) 2004 at the National Institute of Informatics.

This award is presented annually on Labor Thanksgiving Day to a clerical staff member employed for over twenty years at the Institute, including years at the National Center of Science Information System (NII's predecessor).

Director General Suematsu recognized the long-term services of Kiyoshi Funatogawa, Assistant Director of the Budget and Accounts Division, Administrative Department, offering words of thanks.

This year's recipient received a certificate of commendation and a commemorative gift.

(General Affairs Division)

A commemorative photograph of Mr. Kiyoshi Funatogawa, Assistant Director, at center

Research Organization of Information and Systems Office of Intellectual Properties News

1. Opening of the Intellectual Property Formation Committee established in the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

As described in the previous issue (issue 25), the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation is promoting establishment of an Office of Intellectual Properties through the cooperation of the four institutions. On December 20, the Office of Intellectual Properties' Intellectual Property Formation Committee of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation was launched, consisting of members including intellectual property directors of the four institutions.

This committee is the highest-ranking committee as regards coordination between the four institutions. It supervises promotion of activities and important topics required for this purpose. This has strengthened the cooperative activity structure of the overall and liaison subcommittees of the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation set up under this committee, which includes operational personnel, intellectual property managers. Together, they will ensure that information is shared among the four institutions.

2. NII registered trademarks

Registered trademarks are used for business products and services. The National Institute of Informatics' abbreviation 'NII' is a registered trademark that can be used for networking services, printed materials, and so on. Since this trademark can be used only for registered fields, please make inquiries to the Office of Intellectual Properties if you wish to use it.
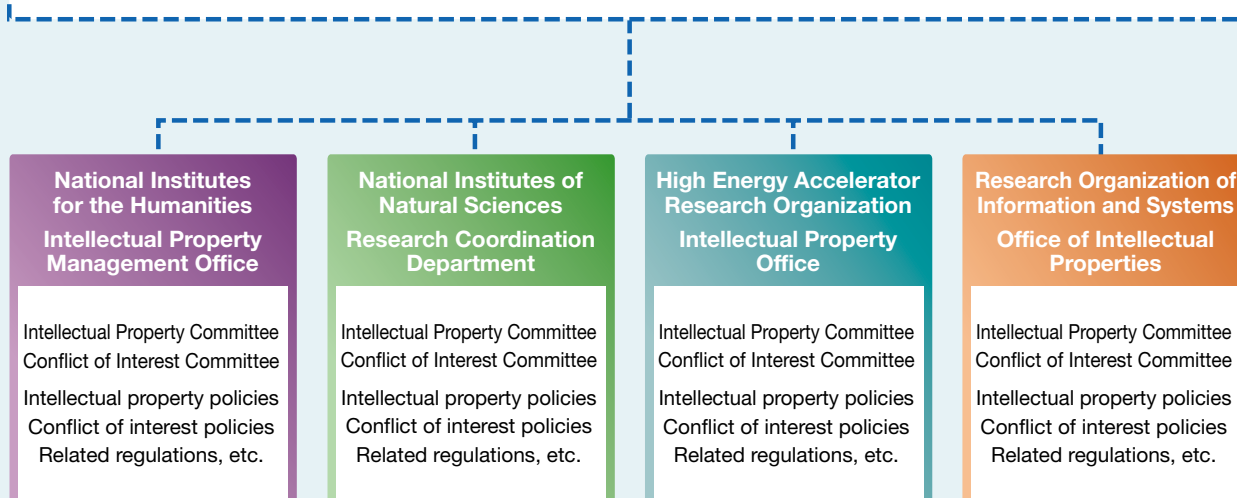

Project of the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation [*1]

Human resources : the following personnel of the Research Organization of Information and Systems concurrently also serve as office staff:
Intellectual Property Manager, Intellectual Property Deputy Manager, operations staff

Business promotion: the Intellectual Property Formation Committee of the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

Operations coordination : Overall subcommittee of the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation (meets once annually)
Liaison subcommittee of the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation (meets six times annually)

National Institutes for the Humanities **Intellectual Property Management Office**	National Institutes of Natural Sciences **Research Coordination Department**	High Energy Accelerator Research Organization **Intellectual Property Office**	Research Organization of Information and Systems **Office of Intellectual Properties**
Intellectual Property Committee Conflict of Interest Committee Intellectual property policies Conflict of interest policies Related regulations, etc.	Intellectual Property Committee Conflict of Interest Committee Intellectual property policies Conflict of interest policies Related regulations, etc.	Intellectual Property Committee Conflict of Interest Committee Intellectual property policies Conflict of interest policies Related regulations, etc.	Intellectual Property Committee Conflict of Interest Committee Intellectual property policies Conflict of interest policies Related regulations, etc.

*1   In order to improve operational efficiency, an executive committee has been established under the Office of Intellectual Properties of the Research Organization of Information and Systems.

(Intellectual Property Center, Research Organization of Information and Systems)

The Mono project

Kenro Aihara, Associate Professor, Software Research Division
Atsuhiro Takasu, Professor, Research Center for Testbeds and Prototyping

The Mono project, a collaborative research project of RCIR with Tokyo Nat. Univ. of Fine Arts and Music and Iwate Prefectural Univ., explores the concept of archiving artistic expression as a means of sharing and preserving the innate knowledge of artists and ideas-people that would otherwise be lost. The project examines the methodology of the development and deployment of archiving systems predicated on high-quality and wide-ranging information pertaining to handicrafts and artistic works.

The aim is to create archiving systems capable of complementing high-quality visual information about artistic works — normally in the form of still and/or video images — with detailed qualitative information about the creation process, such as background information and descriptive information on methodologies. In this way, the archive will provide a true repository of all facets of artistic expression.

The content in this project primarily involves conversational videos, generally based on interviews. The focus is therefore on developing methodologies for the collection of interview footage and transfer into archival format, as well as the design of a platform for this purpose. These tasks are divided into the following broad themes:

- Assisting museums and galleries in the collection and archiving of interview footage by developing procedural manuals and associated support tools
- Developing dictionaries of specialist terminology concerning the use of internet information resources in conjunction with archiving
- Providing end-user support in the form of comprehensive lifelong learning packages incorporating both on-site information at museums and galleries and on-line information over the internet

http://research.nii.ac.jp/mono/
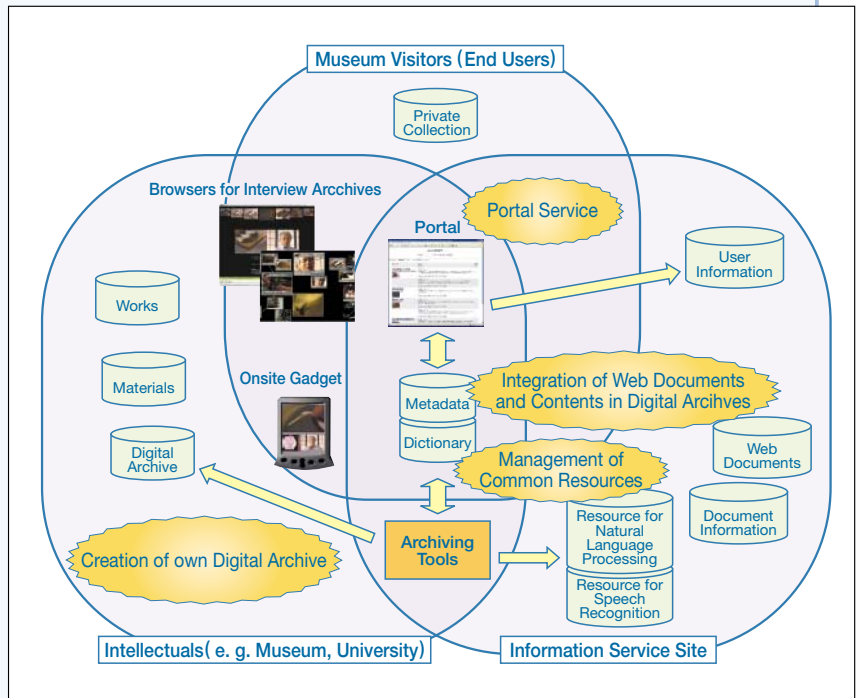
**Detailed information on the research
and projects of NII is available at our Website.**

http://www.nii.ac.jp/index-j.html