

Academic Research Activities in Japan

---- A Report on the 1998 Academic Research Activities Survey ----

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National Center for Science Information Systems

Introduction

National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS) conducts an "Academic Research Activities Survey" in order to collect information for the "Directory of Researchers," a database on the research activities of scholars. This survey was conducted from 1961 onward by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture, and in 1992 this function was taken over by NACSIS.

The survey for fiscal 1998 covers 1,457 institutions engaged in academic research, and some 150,000 scholars affiliated with these institutions supplied most of the replies. Note that the scope of the survey respondents was widened in 1998 to include graduate students enrolled in university doctorate (post-MA) programs, special researchers affiliated with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, research associates affiliated with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and part-time researchers at universities, etc., in addition to faculty and researchers employed at universities, etc., in positions equivalent to associate professor or above.

The results of the survey are already available as the "Directory of Researchers," which can be accessed online using the NACSIS Information Retrieval Service (NACSIS-IR). This service enables users to obtain detailed information on researchers and scholars from universities and other institutions throughout Japan.

The present report is a statistical compilation of the survey data for fiscal 1998 prepared in order to provide a quantitative understanding of academic research activities in Japan. This is the sixth quantitative analysis of the "Academic Research Activities Survey." The five previous reports covered the survey for fiscal 1977 (published by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture in 1980), the survey for fiscal 1993 (published in 1996: "Statistical Survey on the State of Research Activities in 1993 --," *Journal of Information Processing and Management* 39 (7) (1996)), the survey for fiscal 1995 (published in 1997: "Statistical Survey on the State of Research Activities in 1995 --," *Journal of Information Processing and Management* 40 (7) (1997)), the survey for fiscal 1996 (published by NACSIS in 1998: "Academic Research Activities in Japan – A Report on the 1996 Academic Research Activities Survey --"), and the survey for fiscal 1997 (published by NACSIS in 1999: "Academic Research Activities in Japan – A Report on the 1997 Academic Research Activities Survey --"). Like its predecessors, this report is organized so as to make it as easy as possible to compare the data it contains with the data presented in the past reports prepared by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture.

It is our hope that this report will enable readers to gain an understanding of overall trends in academic research activities in Japan.

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