

Policies for the Publication of Academic Information via the Internet
of the National Museum of Ethnology

Preamble

The rapid technological developments in recent years have enabled great advances in the way academic information is used and distributed. In particular, the spread of the internet has provided easy access to academic information for millions of people around the globe. As a result, public institutions now have a responsibility to ensure that due care is taken over rights relating not only to academic information, but to any online content they post. To this end, the National Museum of Ethnology (hereafter “Minpaku”) has formulated the following policies for the publication of academic information via the internet, and created a separate set of guidelines with detailed stipulations on how they should be implemented. Minpaku’s research and education staff, teachers and students involved in its research activities (hereafter “researchers”), as well as its clerical and technical staff (hereafter “staff”) should abide by these policies and guidelines, as well as the “Ethical Guidelines for Research of the National Museum of Ethnology”, “Ethical Guidelines for Museum Activities of the National Museum of Ethnology”, and ensure that all academic information is published in an appropriate manner.

(Respect for Human Rights and Dignity)

Article 1: Based on Article 1 of “Ethical Guidelines for Research of the National Museum of Ethnology”, when publishing academic information via the internet, respect should always be paid to basic human rights and human dignity, and care should be taken to ensure that privacy, personal information, portrait rights etc. are protected and not infringed in any way.

(Compliance with Laws and Regulations)

Article 2: Based on Article 2 of “Ethical Guidelines for Research of the National Museum of Ethnology”, when publishing academic information via the internet, internationally recognized norms, agreements and treaties, etc., as well as domestic laws and guidelines should be observed, and particular care should be taken to comply with the Copyright Act. Care should also be taken to stay in line with the National Institutes for the Humanities’ regulations.

(Respect for Culture and History)

Article 3: Based on Article 5 of “Ethical Guidelines for Research of the National Museum of Ethnology”, when publishing academic information via the internet, respect should be paid to the community, local society, ethnic culture and history relating to

the content. If there is a disagreement between the relevant parties over the use of the content, every endeavor should be made to achieve consensus.

(Fabrication, Falsification)

Article 4: Based on Article 10 of “Ethical Guidelines for Research of the National Museum of Ethnology”, only content which is clear of any suspicion of fabrication (creating data which does not exist), falsification (altering or falsifying data), or plagiarism (using another person’s ideas, data or research results without appropriate quotation) should be published via the internet. When publishing information whose authenticity is unknown, alternative interpretations should be displayed alongside the source material wherever possible, and efforts should be made to enable internet users to make an informed judgment.

(Consideration for Internet Users)

Article 5: The terms of use and other items that internet users should keep in mind when using Minpaku’s academic information must be made clear for each type of content. Information, such as the user’s IP address, which is automatically collected when a user browses the website, should only be used for analyzing the website’s usage, and should not be transferred or provided to a third party. This should also be made clear to users.

(Maintaining Academic Standards in Website Management)

Article 6: The primary function of Minpaku’s website is to provide accurate academic information, so if any user posts socially unacceptable or inappropriate content on a page which allows users to freely write comments, the content should be examined and, where necessary, appropriate measures should be taken, such as withdrawing the relevant page from use or removing the offending content. Further, if a third party illegally alters the content of a page which does not offer a free comments function, appropriate measures should be taken in line with Minpaku’s standards of information security countermeasures.

(Prevention of Unauthorized Reproduction)

Article 7: Minpaku operates fairly according to the “National Institutes for the Humanities’ Regulations Governing Special Utilization of Objects”. Measures should be put in place to prevent the unauthorized reproduction of academic information available in databases or elsewhere.

(Responding to Feedback from Internet Users)

Article 8: Due care should be paid to users who may feel that Minpaku's publication of academic information or management of the site is inappropriate, and a system should be maintained for receiving feedback from such users. Any issues which are pointed out by users should be promptly attended to.

Supplementary provisions: These policies are effective as of March 9th, 2021.