

Digital Archives of Intangible Cultural Properties: From Dance Performances to Traditional Festivals

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Our research at the Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University, has been focusing on archiving dance and other performing arts for preserving and analyzing these intangible cultural properties. In order to record three-dimensional information about human body motion in a very precise manner, we are using an optical-type motion capture system. This talk elucidates a few of our research projects concerning digital archiving, including the ones of dancing as well as a world-famous festival in Kyoto as a traditional cultural event. These topics are to demonstrate characteristic of Humanities Computing in Japan, employing multimedia and Virtual Reality information technologies, which suggests future directions of the field.



(a) Nihon-buyo



(b) Noh



(c) Kabuki



(d) Awaodori

Figure 1. Motion Capture of Traditional Japanese Performing Arts



Figure 2. Virtual Float Parade of the Gion Festival