This English version is only a translation of the Japanese version, and is provided for reference only. In case of discrepancy between the Japanese and English versions, the Japanese version shall prevail and be treated as the correct version.

Personal Information and GakuNin

Understanding personal information protection laws and their impact on GakuNin and individual operational entities

What is GakuNin?

GakuNin is an abbreviation of the Japanese phrase "Gakujutsu Ninsho Federation", which can be translated as, "Japanese Access Management Federation for Research and Education." GakuNin is a collaboration between universities and the services that universities rely on. Universities typically use academic resources, while organizations, publishers and other companies provide academic resources.

If you join GakuNin, you can inter-operate with other participant universities and participant service providers using federated identity. Through federated identity, each user can access systems in many administrative domains with one ID and password and a single authentication session, achieving single sign-on. For example, a user could sign on to the wireless LAN at another university using their identity from a distinct home organization, and then seamlessly access an e-journal whose publisher has a contract with the home organization at the same time.

GakuNin and Personal Information

If you join GakuNin as an identity provider (IdP), your IdP will send user information to a GakuNin SP when the user wants access. This attribute information may or may not contain personal information. Sending attributes to the SP is considered disclosure to a third party, so particularly if personally identifying information is included, you should follow the prescribed legal procedure. You can also choose not to send personal information at all, allowing your users access to only a subset of GakuNin's services. Further, GakuNin provides a "uApprove" plug-in, enabling each of your users to individually consent to specific attribute release. Still, please ensure that your IdP operates with a complete understanding of the federation's structure, and both the spirit and letter of all applicable laws.



◆ Legal Systems for the Protection of Personal Information in Japan

The law concerning protection of personal information differs depending on the kind of university. It is necessary to confirm which laws regulate your university, and know and understand the laws' contents.

Regulated by	Kind of university
Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57 of 2003)	Private Universities
Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies, etc. (Act No. 59 of 2003)	National Universities. Independent Administrative Agencies, etc.
Municipality ordinances (Follow Act No. 59 of 2003 basically)	Public Universities

Guidelines concerning the protection of individual information are also provided by ministries. Universities, regardless of type, are asked to obey "Guideline concerning the measures on which corporate bodies should take for secure proper handling of individual information such as students at school (notification)" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

Personal Information

"Personal Information" is defined in Act No. 57 of 2003 as "information about a living individual which can identify the specific individual by name, date of birth or other description contained in such information (including such information as will allow easy reference to other information and will thereby enable the identification of the specific individual)."

Personal information may be stored in a database for ease of retrieval, or be just written down on paper. In Act No. 57 of 2003, there are hierarchical classifications of personal information, and obligations are specified for each level of hierarchy.

On the other hand, the definition of "Personal Information" in Act No. 59 of 2003 is different from and broader than that in Act No. 57 of 2003. Moreover, the hierarchy definition is also different.

Personal Information Types and Related Law



Personal Information Protection Law Retained by Independent Administrative Institutions



Attributes and Personal Information Utilized in GakuNin

The following is a list of the attributes which can be provided to an SP.

* denotes non-personal information;

** denotes personal information;

*** denotes personal information as governed by the Personal Information Protection Law Retained by Independent Administrative Institutions.

Name	Short description	PI
OrganizationName	Organization name in English	*
jaOrganizationName	Organization name in Japanese	*
OrganizationalUnitName	Organization unit name in English	*
JaOrganizationUnitName	Organization unit name in Japanese	*
eduPersonPrincipalName	Unique ID in the federation	***
eduPersonTargetedID	Unique and opaque ID to each SP	**
eduPersonAffiliation	Person's role at the organization	*
eduPersonScopedAffiliation	Person's role at the organization with scope information	*
eduPersonEntitlement	Representing a license, permission, right, etc. to access a service	*
SurName	Surname in English	***
jaSurName	Surname in Japanese	***
GivenName	Given name in English	***
jaGivenName	Given name in Japanese	***
DisplayName	Display name in English	***
jaDisplayName	Display name in Japanese	***
mail	Email address	***

Not all attributes will not be provided to each SP. Some SP's may require personally identifying information, but some may not. It is highly recommended that users should understand each SP's attribute release requirements.