

Equipment Sharing in Hokkaido University

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Abstract

Nowadays, it becomes increasingly important to gain efficiency and usability of equipment and assets in universities for maximizing outcomes of research and education within the limited resource and budget. This is also ranked as a high-priority government policy dealing with the development of reform and functional enhancement of universities in Japan. Here we present our advanced efforts on equipment sharing made by the Global Facility Center (GFC) in Hokkaido University.

The GFC provides a variety of services related with the use of more than 130 leading-edge machines (named “open facilities”) and high technologies accumulated in the 140 years’ history of Hokkaido University to support research and education activities for not only on-campus but also off-campus researchers, students, and engineers. Total number of users is now about 35,000 per year. The GFC consists of five divisions organized for training/supporting users of open facilities, providing advanced instrumental-analysis services, finding the best solution of machining by using an industry-university-cooperated network, promoting a “buying and selling” type reuse, and constructing an international network and a human-cultivation curriculum based on the high level equipment and techniques. A particular focus will be on the sales-driven reuse system and the industry-university network for machining, which are the first trials among all of the universities in Japan.

Keywords: Equipment sharing, Open facility, Advanced instrumental analysis, New reuse system, Industry-university-cooperated machining solution service