Jack Halpern, CEO of The CJK Dictionary Institute (CJKI) in Japan, is pleased to announce the publication of The Kodansha Kanji Dictionary (KKD), published by Kodansha USA in August.

The Kodansha Kanji Dictionary—a revised, expanded edition of Jack Halpern's groundbreaking New Japanese-English Character Dictionary (published by Kenkyusha in 1990)—is the most complete, linguistically accurate, and up-to-date dictionary of its kind. The culmination of more than a quarter of a century of labor—over 100 man-years—this authoritative and easy-to-use dictionary has been celebrated the world over by students and teachers of the Japanese language for its wealth of detailed information on the meanings and usages of Sino-Japanese characters.

Distinctive Features

- 5,458 entry characters—1,037 more than in the previous edition
- 65,500 senses for 49,000 words and word elements, and illustrative examples
- A total of six lookup methods and three indexes allow learners to locate entries quickly
- Core meanings that summarize the dominant senses of each character
- 5,630 synonym articles detail the similarities and differences between related characters
- 716 usage notes clarify common homophones
- 4,421 character forms, with a thorough treatment of nonstandard forms
- 13,200 character readings, including Chinese readings and readings used only in names
- 2,136 stroke-order diagrams showing how to write each of the Jōyō Kanji
- 242 compound-formation articles clarify the etymology of kanji compounds
- 13 appendixes introduce a mass of invaluable kanji-related information

“Unrivaled in terms of both quantity and quality … this dictionary will satisfy the needs of kanji learners the world over.”

Shigeko Miyazaki, Chair of the Board, Association for Japanese-Language Teaching (AJALT)
This revised, expanded edition includes the integration of 5,458 entry characters—almost 20% more than in the first edition. This includes all the government-prescribed Jōyō and Jinmei Kanji, as well as other important characters used in literature. The new edition also features more readings, meanings, synonym articles, usage notes, and vocabulary items than before. And, in keeping with modern Japanese-language curricula, character and compound readings are shown in kana instead of romanized Japanese.

With its wealth of detailed and up-to-date information on kanji meanings, readings, and usages, its accessible new design, its convenient lookup methods (six including SKIP), and its added content, this dictionary is certain to satisfy the needs of students, teachers, scholars, translators—anyone who uses the Japanese language.

iOS version for The Kodansha Kanji Learner’s Dictionary Now Available

The iOS version for the Learner’s edition was released in October, 2013 and is available for download now in the iTunes App Store. The application takes advantage of the iPhone and iPad’s advanced features to make the dictionary even easier to use by learners, while still being a faithful adaptation of the print edition. Users can search for characters by SKIP, by radical, by on and kun readings, as well as by English meaning. What’s more, unlike the print edition, users can opt to have Japanese readings displayed in either Romanized Japanese or kana. No kanji dictionary application on the market today offers such a full range of features in such a stunning, user-friendly interface.