

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)】

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social Sciences)



Title of Project : An Analytical and Practical Approach to Universal and International Access to Policy Information

Mikitaka Masuyama
(National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, School of Policy Studies, Professor)

Research Project Number : 15H05727 Researcher Number : 50317616

Research Area : Political Science

Keyword : Public Policy, Policy Information

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

We have been recently witnessing the steady increase of the government's public information supply for citizens, as well as their success in launching electronic government projects. Yet has such improvement in public information actually affected the ways in which we make policy decisions, and, if positive, in what way? By focusing on these questions, we examine the existing use of public information, and seek innovative ways to provide policy information with the help of the latest digital technology.

【Research Methods】

We have initiated data collection projects that have resulted in the development of a database on administrative information disclosure requests to the prefectural and municipal offices, and the launch of an internet video retrieval system for Diet deliberations in which one can pinpoint and play the parliamentary video clips corresponding to the minutes of proceedings through a keyword search. In this study, we continue to work on these database systems and attempt to achieve the following goals:

1. Improving the data-input system for the database of information disclosure so that the database can be more directly amenable to the staffs in charge at the local offices.
2. Applying the sound recognition techniques to match up video and text information to the meetings in local assemblies as well as other types of videos like TV news clips.
3. Operating a portal site that allows English keyword search, so that one can directly access to policy information without having trouble typing Japanese.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

We seek innovative ways to provide universal access to policy information. For example, we have launched an internet video retrieval system for the Japanese Diet.

By using the latest sound recognition techniques to create timestamp data to match up



parliamentary video feeds and the minutes of proceedings, our system makes it possible for one to retrieve the video clips corresponding to the minutes of the proceedings through a keyword search. The Japanese Diet is the first case in the world to introduce the sound recognition techniques in making the official minutes of parliamentary proceedings, and thus our system leads the world in applying the same sound recognition techniques to make the content of parliamentary videos searchable by keywords.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

- Mikitaka Masuyama and Kaori Takeda, Ikani Mitai Kokkai Shingi Eizo ni Totatsu suruka?, *Revaian*, 56, 54-79, 2015.
- Mikitaka Masuyama and Kaori Takeda, Instant Parliamentary Deliberations Are in Our Reach, *American Political Science Association*, August 28-31, 2014, Washington DC, USA.

【Term of Project】 FY2015-2019

【Budget Allocation】 139,900 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://www3.grips.ac.jp/~clip/>

<http://gclip1.grips.ac.jp/video/>

<http://gclip1.grips.ac.jp/disclosure/>