Title of Project : Development of Integrated Knowledge through Establishment of an Interactive Research Scheme based on the Open-Data of Research Resources for Wooden Tablets and Related Topics

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【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Wooden tablets are important primary historical sources in various researches. That said, they are extremely fragile and difficult to display thus need to be made more available for detailed research. As the national center of research on wooden tablets, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Nara Institute) has developed and published online a set of databases.

However, research concerning wooden tablets has greatly evolved. Databases developed individually by separate institutes no longer apply to current research needs. A new approach is needed.

The goal of the current research is to prompt a paradigm shift of the accessibility of research resources from "unilateral provision" to "bilateral sharing" and create an environment of knowledge sharing, through which to pioneer research on wooden tablets and written historical sources (particularly on historical characters) in East Asia and the rest of the world.

【Research Methods】

The current research hopes to achieve its goals through steps A)–C) below:
A) Increasing the "quantity" of resources
a. Making protocols of open-data on historical characters.
b. Imaging the Nara Institute's research resources in a format that complies with IIIF
c. through b, Establish the context for coordination
B) Achieving "greater variety" of resources
a. Developing tools encouraging participation
b. Archiving empirical knowledge
c. Enhancing annotation on historical scripts
C) Developing new research
a. Studies involving techniques of big data
b. Spurring, furthering, and publicizing interdisciplinary and international research

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

Nara Institute owns the largest collection of data on wooden tablets. Formatting those in accordance with IIIF will facilitate inter-institutional and international coordination and collaboration.

Empirical knowledge will be directly archived by utilizing information technology in steps from unearthing to archiving, and compiled "knowledge" will be disseminated via instant messaging.

Analysis of recently archived empirical knowledge and observations should lead to diverse results.

fig1　Our new scheme

The current research seeks mainly to identify specific aspects of ways in which characters were written when written culture emerged in Japan.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Hajime, BABA "The Study for Japanese Ancient Wooden Tablets "Yoshikawakobunkan, 2018

Supervised by Harumichi ISHIZUKA, Edited by Tomokazu TAKADA, Hajime BABA, Shoichi YOKOYAMA, "The Study for Kanji character font history" Bensei-shuppan, 2016

【Term of Project】FY2018-2022

【Budget Allocation】96,100 Thousand Yen
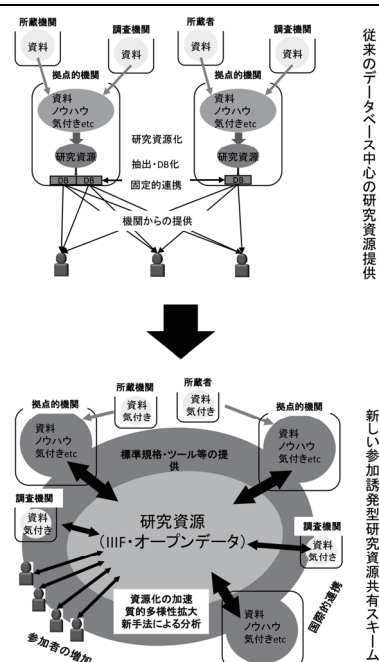
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