Developing a New Research Data Infrastructure for Japanese Historical Materials

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INTRODUCTION

The Historiographical Institute (HI) of the University of Tokyo fostered an information environment to promote sharing and utilisation of humanities research data through the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) programme ‘the Program for Constructing Data Infrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences’.

JSPS opened the Japan Data Catalog for the Humanities and Social Sciences (JDCat) in 2021, a batch searchable data catalogue of research metadata in humanities and social sciences.

DEVELOPING DATA USE

HI established terms and conditions for using the followings: Images of historical materials of the Imperial Family and court archives, documents of the Miyakonojo Shimazu Family, Toji Monjo, and documents related to Iwakura Tomomi.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

HI is compiling information about data preservation of historical materials titled ‘Progress Management System for Historical Materials’ Digitalization’.

EXCHANGING METADATA

HI is exchanging metadata with the following: Images of historical materials of the Imperial Family and court archives, documents of the Miyakonojo Shimazu Family, Toji Monjo, and documents related to Iwakura Tomomi.

RESULTS

JDCat offers cross-search information from various research datasets in humanities and social sciences.

Users can cross-search for data that match their research themes; data providers can use the repository of their research projects as an operational repository.

HI clarifies the interpretation of each item in the JDCat metadata schema, adds information on text specific to humanities data, and examines methods for describing geographic and temporal ranges.

CONCLUSIONS

In March 2023, HI launched the ‘HI Lab’ to the public. It may be fed back to archival data as research resources, thus achieving a distribution in which the archival data circulate that can advance the digital transformation of Japanese historical research.