Korean Cultural Information for Teaching and Research (INSTROK)

Hesung Chun Koh
East Rock Institute and Yale University, USA

Abstract

For the past 30 years I have been developing an information system for teaching and research on Korea called INSTROK.   The purpose of today's presentation is to introduce both the nature of the data and the overall information system orientation.

There are at least three different levels and six different kinds of data. The six kinds of data are:

1. Reference data that is both analyzed and annotated bibliographies on Korean society and culture, family, kinship, women, literature and bibliographies.
2. Bio-bibliographic data on scholars on Korean studies.
3. Analytical biographies on Korean women and Sirhak leaders of the 18th century.
4. 18th century criminal codes and criminal cases involving family and kinship.
5. High school and college curriculum series on Korean culture and history.
6. Text data on Korean culture and Korean Americans that is published by East Rock Institute as the *Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin.* (References to all these articles are indexed for easy retrieval.)

The purpose of the Korean Cultural Information System and the data contained in it has been twofold: (1) to aid comparative studies and (2) to facilitate international information exchange in the future.   For these reasons, the method of data analysis is innovative and versatile to suit the wide range of cultural data included. The user can retrieve data which are relevant to his or her needs, comparable to each other, and, above all, trustworthy.

Since 1968 these databases have been developed by Hesung Chun Koh in cooperation with five different research institutions.   These are: the Human Relations Area Files and East Rock Institute (in the United States), the National Museum of Ethnology and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (in Japan) and the Academy of Korean Studies (in Korea).   We are currently working toward an international information exchange and collaboration, INSTROK (International Information Exchange for Teaching and Research on Korea) as has been outlined in 1979 at the First International Conference on Korean Studies held at the Academy of Korean Studies in Korea.

Please see the attached list of the KOCIS outline, Mrs. Koh's database outlines in table form,

and samples for each of these databases.

About the Author

Hesung Chun Koh (Ph.D., Sociology) is Chair and President of East Rock Institute and Director Emerita of East Asian Research, HRAF, Yale University. Currently she is a Visiting Professor at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Koh has taught East Asian Law and Society at Yale Law School (1963–1966), and Korean culture and related subjects at Yale University during 1974–1986. She also served as Director of Research and Development at the Human Relations Area Files at Yale University (1961–1985) and as Director of the information system of the Association for Asian Studies (1969–1971). She was Social Science Research Council Representative to the U.S. National Academy of Science, National Research Council (U.S. National Committee, International Federation for Documentation, 1970–1972) and also attended the UNESCO Meeting of Experts on the World Science Information System (UNISIST). She is author of many articles on information systems and the comparative method as well as books and articles on Korean culture, family, kinship and women.

Outline

A. Bibliographies (annotated, analyzed and indexed)
　　1. There are six different kinds of published bibliographies
　　2. Analytical approach is noteworthy.
　　　Culture unit definition, Multidimensional analysis which include such provisions as subject index – a. Keyterm unique to each culture and b. Keyterm general to all cultures.
　　3. Data quality control method to be able to detect systematic bias of the source
　　　　Received substantial grants from Major U.S. science Foundations because of its methodological strength.
　　4. This method became the foundation for an integrated cultural information system called HACIS (HRAF Cultural Information System).
　　　System design adopted by a national museum in Japan.

B. Bio-bibliographies (full text and analyzed)
1. Large number of Chinese, Japanese, Korean and other languages are integrated into the data base
2. Analyzed data became the reference sources to the major Encyclopedia of Korea project in Korea
3. Grant from the National Museum of Ethnology, Data from the Academy of Korean Studies in Korea and the analysis method from Human Relations Area Files designed by Hesung Chun Koh were used to develop this data base.
4. Information on individual as well as research institutions on Korean studies is included.
　　5. It is a major data quality control database on Korean studies.
　　6. With this data, over 22,000 Chinese character-processing codes were developed in 1980-81.

C. Biographies (analyzed)
　　On Women (modern period)
　　On Sirhak Scholars of Korea (Social reformers among Practical school of thought of Korean Confucianism.
　　Methodologically, key personal profile data, social class variables and factors related to tension points are analyzed together with the other related data.
　　Analysis method may be novel.

D. Data-Legal data (full text , analyzed criminal law codes and criminal law cases of 18th century China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.)
　　Chinese text database. Comparative research possible.

E. Teaching Modules on Korean History and Culture for high school teachers (Primary sources, lesson plans, and teaching method and teacher's guide as well as worksheets for the class room exercises are included here. Primary sources used are short story, novel, interview records of business executives who are trading with Korea and the U.S., U.S. Korea treaties- first, second and final drafts, etc.)

Based on successful college curriculum tested at Yale University and developed in cooperation with high school teachers.

F. Korea and Korean Culture (text data)

Articles on Korea and Korean culture published at East Rock Institute as *Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin.*

Topics Such as history of printing, personality and culture, food as preventive medicine in East Asia, biographies on women, interviews on war time experiences, etc. Efforts have been made to work on articles, which are rather difficult to locate in English.

Korean Americans (text data)

Various original articles on Koreans in America as it has been published in the *Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin.*