

A Proposal for Research on Electronic Cultural Atlas Project of Korea

Hae Un Rii, Dongguk University

Hung-Gyu Kim, Korea University

Jae-Ryong Shim, Seoul National University

Hyo Hyun Sung, Ewha Womans University

Yee-Heum Yoon, Seoul National University

Korea

This paper is a part of the proposal for “The Research on Electronic Cultural Atlas Project of Korea” to apply for the research fund to Korea Research Foundation.

Introduction

Korea having various cultural experience is the country where many tangible and intangible cultural properties for thousands years are existed with a long history of over 4000 years. As we understand, there is no standard format for creating regional electronic cultural atlas in other ECAI teams of the world. Of course, there is a great difference of mapping area creating by each regional ECAI team, and electronic cultural atlas can be represented differently based on the quantity of cultural information and covered region in the atlas.

It is the most important subject to show effectively and realistically on a single electronic cultural atlas how such tangible and intangible culture in Korea have been transformed as time changes. To create the cultural atlas of Korea as a whole, it is necessary to establish the standard format for mapping cultural contents in time-space perspectives. This kind of research was discussed among ECAI-Korea team members from the beginning and, thus, initiated from that we need the standard format and principle to create electronic cultural atlas of Korea. Therefore, the purpose of the research is to establish the basic guideline (or standard format) for creating the electronic cultural atlas of Korea to fit into the Korean situation.

Methodology Using in This Research

The methodology of this research is various according to the participants’ interests, because its contents and subjects could not be limited to an academic field. Culture should be dealt with in all possible academic fields. The contents of this research consist of three parts – review and analysis of other ECAI-teams’ work, technological part to create

electronic cultural atlas, and cultural classification system and the case studies. To accomplish this research, thus, five Korean scholars from all different fields and Prof. Lancaster get together and will co-work for three years. Based on each scholar and his/her own subject, the methodology will be different.

First of all, it is important to review the trends of creating database of cultural information of Korea and the World. So, the trends of mapping contents and techniques of electronic cultural atlas created by other ECAI teams will be reviewed and analyzed. From this, we would like to fine out what is the appropriate content and technique should be used for Korean case.

Second, we already created electronic cultural atlas for palaces and Buddhist temples located in Seoul as a pilot study. From this, we decided Internet GIS should be the basic technique for pan-world electronic cultural atlas. So, in this research, we will figure out what is the most proper method using Internet GIS to express Korean cultural information, and how we follow the metadata standard system for Korea based on the analysis of works by other ECAI technical teams and on the classification of contents of Korean cultural information.

Third, it is necessary to construct the cultural system of Korea containing all tangible and intangible cultural information, for which anyone can search and understand easily. So, the comprehensive cultural classification system will be designed to express Korean cultural characteristics in the tendency of world electronic cultural atlas.

Fourth, there are so many cultural information to put into the cultural atlas. Among them, religious information is important because it serves as a basic to form culture. Especially there are many cases that religious persons made an important role in the history of Korea. So, culturally influenced persons' data will be collected and computerized for creating electronic cultural atlas as an example for this research.

Fourth, other case study is about folk literature, and performing arts such as folk drama, *pansori* (song of drama), etc. The data of both images and documents by recording interview and recording in a film for those folk literature and performing art will be collected. And the framework for creating electronic cultural atlas will be designed.

Research Plan

(1) First Year (1999. 12. 1 - 2000. 11. 30)

- 1) To Analyze Trends of the Electronic Cultural Atlas in Foreign Countries
- 2) Design for Cultural Systematic Format
- 3) Investigation and Classification of Existing Cultural Information
- 4) Building metadata for Korea Case

(2) Second Year (2000. 12. 1 - 2001. 11. 30)

- Computerizing Culturally Influenced Persons' Data, and Data of Folk Literature and Performing Art
- 2) A Framework for Cultural Information System in terms of Technical Aspect

(3) Third Year (2001. 12. 1 - 2002. 11. 30)

- Establishing Frameworks of Culturally Influenced Persons' Data, Folk Literature and Performing Art for Electronic Cultural Atlas
- Establishing a Framework of Comprehensive System for Electronic Cultural Information

Participants and Their Role for the Research

This research is regarded as an international and interdisciplinary co-operative research. Thus participants for the researchers are consisted of five scholars among ECAI-Korea team members from all different academic fields and Professor Lewis Lancaster from University of California at Berkeley. Korean researchers are Hae Un RII from Dongguk University (Cultural Geography), Hung-Gyu KIM from Korea University (Korean Literature), Jae-Ryong SHIM from Seoul National University (Buddhist Philosophy), Hyo Hyun SUNG from Ewha Womans University (Geography and GIS), and Yee-Heum YOON from Seoul National University (History of Religion).

Each participant's role for the research based on their interests is as follows:

(1) Chief Researcher : Hae Un Rii

- Management of the Research
- Analysis of Existing Research
- Analysis of Contents for Electronic Cultural Atlases of Other Cases
- Connecting with Headquarter of ECAI and Other ECAI Teams

(2) Co-Researchers :

1) Hung-Gyu KIM

A Framework of Folk Literature and Performing Art for Electronic Cultural Atlas

2) Jae-Ryong SHIM

A Framework of Culturally Influenced Persons' Data for Electronic Cultural Atlas

3) Hyo Hyun SUNG

A Framework for Cultural Information System in terms of Technical Aspect

4) Yee-Heum YOON

Design for Cultural Classification Form

5) Lewis LANCASTER

Discussion with ECAI-Korea Team and Guiding the Overall Direction on the Research

- Connecting with World ECAI Teams for the Research

Based on the research by each participant for three years, the tentative final list of contents of this research is as follows:

(1) Introduction

(2) Trends of the Electronic Cultural Atlas in Foreign Countries

(3) A Framework for Cultural Information System in terms of Technical Aspect

(4) Design for Cultural Classification System

(5) A Framework of Culturally Influenced Persons' Data Electronic Cultural Atlas

(6) A Framework of Folk Literature and Performing Art for Electronic Cultural Atlas

(7) Conclusion

Research Funds for The Research

To accomplish this research, we applied to Korean Research Foundation for research funds in July, 1999. Finally, we got the fund of 123,500,000 Won (= U\$107,391.00) for three years and we will get the matching fund, which is one fifth of research fund from KRF, for three years from ECAI.

For future research, we'll try to get some funds from Ministry of Information and Communication, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Cultural Properties Administrative, and other related institutes.

Use of the Results from this Research

This research, as a primary research to create electronic cultural atlas of Korea, is to design the basic frame for effective and typical electronic cultural atlas. Therefore, we expect the result of this research is to contribute the standard format for the electronic cultural atlas creating in other places of the world.