Notes on the Institutional Collaboration

The Formosan Aboriginal Project

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Introduction

1. Background of the National Project of Digital Archives

2. Ideas and Spirits of the Project
The Problem and It’s Nature

1. How can we develop a functional internet platform for data exchange and data retrieval from different databases and from different institutes?

2. Is it only a IT problem?
Few Words on the Formosan Aborigines

Austronesian People / People of the Pacific

2002/0920-0922 Formosan Aboriginal Project
Few Words on the Formosan Aborigines

More than 20 groups

Mountain Aborigines & Plains Aborigines
The project:

Digital Archives of the Formosan Aborigines

1. The Institutes Involved
2. The Anthropology Team
3. The Stumbling Block
The Problem

1. Lack of consensus
2. Lack of organization
3. Lack of knowledge
4. Different aims
5. Different metadata
6. Different structures of database
The Solution---general

1. Monthly meeting
2. Exchange visits
3. Website establishment
4. IT implementation
The Solution---cross databases

1. Define types of data
2. Metadata analysis
3. Build the main table
4. Setup different input frames
5. Select linking keys
6. Design search engine & interface
Diagram of Cross Databases

Data Types

Metadata Analysis

Single Table

Search Interface

Attributes meaning

Linking keys

Different input frames

Photos
Sounds
Music
Documents
Texts
Videos
Artifacts
Objects

Data Types

Metadata Analysis

Single Table

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Attributes meaning

Linking keys

Different input frames

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The Solution---cross institutes

1. Communication
   Different aims & projection of future:
      research / teaching / exhibition
   Different metadata & data structures
2. Metadata analysis & comparison
3. Data exchange: XML standards
4. Select linking keys
5. Setup common web interface
6. Design search engine
Diagram of cross institutes

XML

Web Interface

A
B
C
D
E
A
B
C
D
E
Conclusion

1. Complex problem, simple solution
2. Single table, many frames
3. Disperse databases, unified interface
Conclusion
What is “technology” anyway?

1. “technology”
   not only techniques, but also attitudes

2. “informational literacy”
   literacy / cultural literacy / informational literacy
   a problem of knowledge

3. “discourse”
   a problem of sociology of knowledge