

Online Electronic Resource: Thailand and Southeast Asia Ethnic Groups Database Project



Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center



Rationality

- To develop a data sharing system
- To facilitate the advancement of researches on ethnic groups in Thailand and Southeast Asia

Present Situation

There is no online database
(research papers and books are
scattered in various research institutes
with little facilities for outside
researchers to gain access)

Current SAC electronic resource



Framework

The Meaning of Ethnic Group:

- Until 1950 : the diversity of human populations in anthropology is conceptualized in terms of tribe, people; the term of ethnic group is unknown
- In 1960's:" ethnic groups", classified by objective criteria based on cultural distinctiveness observed by anthropologists gain more popularity
- After 1960's, ethnic group is defined more by the people's self identification/subjective criteria

In this project, we define "ethnic group" in both senses in order that we might be able to incorporate different kinds of works but relevant to understanding of diverse peoples' cultures into the database

Framework

Ethnic Groups To Be Included in the Database:
All cultural groups in Thailand and Southeast Asia

Content : Summary of each work into subject categories in Thai language

SAC's Database Project Plan

The First Phase :

- To compile data on Karen, Muslims, Hmong and Tai speakers minority groups in Thailand and Vietnam
- To develop the online easy access database system

SAC'S Database Project Plan

The Second Phase:

- To compile data on other ethnic groups i.e. Mon, Chinese, Lisu, Lahu, Mien(Yao), Lawa, Moken, etc.
- To demonstrate the database system and launch the online sharing system

Project Problems

- Inadequate text analysts
- Comprehensiveness and Correctness of Summary, particularly on theoretical issue
- The issue of intellectual property right

Subject Categories

1. Text Analyst
2. Subject
3. Author
4. Title
5. Document Type
6. Total Pages
7. Source
8. Year (of publication)
9. Location of Document
10. Focus

Subject Categories

11. Theoretical Issues
12. Ethnic Group(s) focused in the Study
13. Language and Linguistic Affiliations
14. Community Site and Environment
15. Settlement Pattern
16. Study Period
17. History of the Group and Community
18. Demography (population number and structure, migration, birth and death)

Subject Categories

19. Economy (natural resources, resource utilization, technology, production, exchange, and consumption)
20. Social Organization (marriage, family structure types, kinship including descent groups, other kinds of grouping such as client-patron relationship, classes, interested groups and socialization)
21. Political Organization (power structure and relations, leadership, factions, conflicts, relationship to state, social control, laws)
22. Belief Systems (beliefs, values, ideology, religious rites and practices)

Subject Categories

23. Education and Socialization
24. Health and Medicine (sanity, beliefs related to health and healing)
25. Folklore (myths, legends, stories and play)
26. Arts and Crafts (architecture, clothing, literature, handicrafts, songs, dances, etc.)
27. Ethnicity (ethnic identity, identification, ethnic maintenance, boundaries and relation)
28. Socio-cultural and Identity Change

Subject Categories

- 29. Abstract
- 30. Map & Illustration
- 31. Date of Report

Summary/Expected Outcome

- Researchers, able to read Thai, interested in learning and understanding ethnic groups in Thailand and Southeast Asia, can gain access to the interested information through the online system and if they wish, they will be able to develop the research issues based on the prevailing research works.

END

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