

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)】

Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



Title of Project : Advancing Japanese Bibliographics and Improving the Accessibility of Documents Held by Royal and Aristocratic Archives - Clarifying the Structure and Transmission of Knowledge Systems

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Research Area : Humanities History Japanese history

Keyword : Japanese Bibliographics, Studies of Premodern Japan, Royal and Noble Archives

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Bibliographics research on royal and noble archives, supported by four large-scale JSPS grants over the past 17 years, seeks to enact major improvements in the arena of research on premodern Japan, furnish new documentary materials and research perspectives, and shed light on the origins and structure of premodern Japan's "knowledge systems." Its four main points of research are:

1. To make available for public internet access roughly one million images of historical documents associated with royal and noble archives held by the Imperial Household Agency Library;
2. To render more accessible to researchers scholarly documents held by Kyoto Gosho Higashiyama Obunko, Kyoto Gosho, Shūgakuin Rikyū, and Katsura Rikyū;
3. To broaden and strengthen the foundation of Japanese Bibliographics by bringing together and systematizing individual royal and noble archives' histories, inventories, and related scholarly works, and transmitting the main points of this research in English;
4. To create and make publicly accessible convenient databases and other research tools for researchers of premodern Japan and hold public lectures about premodern archives research for researchers and popular audiences.

【Research Methods】

1. Upgrade and make accessible to the public the Hi-CAT Plus system (the bibliographic database of the University of Tokyo Historiographical Institute);
2. Perform database conversion of the Higashiyama Obunko Collection Bibliography held by Board of Chamberlains, determine correspondences between it and the bibliographic inventory of Early Modern Royal Archives, and accelerate the database conversion of scholarly documents held by Kyoto Gosho and Rikyū;
3. For each individual archives, gather information about the unique features of its collection, its chief holdings, the people connected with its origins, practices of loaning and borrowing manuscripts, and all relevant scholarly studies, so as to provide an up-to-date, easily understood, systematized portrayal of each.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

1. We anticipate that public web access will generate the discovery of new documents and better manuscript versions, make possible detailed manuscript research from abroad, and stimulate the internationalization of premodern Japan studies.
2. With the full elucidation of the Higashiyama Obunko Collection, it will become possible to construct a virtual replica of the Early Modern Royal Archives inventory. We anticipate that usage of the scholarly materials held by Kyoto Gosho and related rikyū will lead to an expansion of fields that harmonize humanities and sciences, and that an increase in inbound new discoveries it engenders will in turn develop tourist attractions and make regional contributions.
3. Individual research on historical documents relating to archival collections will move us closer to clarifying the knowledge systems of premodern Japan.
4. Increased access to the documents handled by the Imperial Household Agency Kobunsho will give rise to new research materials, tools, and perspectives that in turn will inspire researchers and revitalize premodern studies.

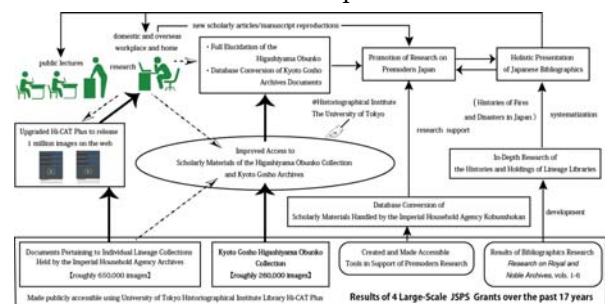


Figure1 Activities and results of project

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Research on Royal and Noble Archives, vols.1-6

【Term of Project】 FY2017-2021

【Budget Allocation】 157,000 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://www.hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp/kodai/kinri-kuge-ind-ex.html>