

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】
Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



**Title of Project : Creation of Local Historical Document Studies
based on theory of Historical Materials
Preservation at the time of large-scale natural
disasters**

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Research Area : Japanese history

Keyword : Historical materials studies

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

In the drastic structural changes of local communities of Japan, the vast quantity of the local historical documents that have been long maintained in local communities is now in danger of extinction. This fact is seen as one of the crises of communities. Furthermore, the successive occurrence of disasters caused by earthquakes now in activity and storms and floods related to the global warming have accelerated this situation. The history researchers have been involved in maintaining historical materials at the time of large-scale disasters since Hanshin/Awaji Great Earthquake. However, it turned out that neither the maintenance of historical materials based on designated cultural assets nor the preservation done by local inhabitants would be successful. If we neglect this critical situation, it will be remarkably difficult to elucidate the local history and develop its research.

This research will proceed in disaster-stricken areas where problems surrounding local historical documents were intensively discussed among history researchers who were in charge of their maintenance. The historical documents obtained through the re-examination in the areas and joint discussions of those involved will be held as common data. Consequently, the purpose of our research is as follows: we will make use of the outcome of the conventional and international historical document studies. Then we will assess historical materials maintenance theory created in many areas and budding local historical document studies in collaboration with both science of cultural assets preservation related to history and architectural history. Finally, we will establish local historical document studies that can increase historical recognition of local residents while handing over local historical documents to the next generation, which is an urgent problem at present.

【Research Methods】

In this study the focus is put on historical material maintenance theory at the time of the large-scale natural disasters in order to establish new local history document studies, because we know the routine conditions of historical materials maintenance are most typically shown at the time of disasters.

- ① We generalize each historical materials

maintenance theory formed in stricken areas and intensively examine reports of investigation and workshop in the areas. We research into the characteristics of historical materials maintenance theory of each disaster area while grasping the circumstances of the area and the difference of the conditions of maintenance between post-disaster and pre-disaster.

- ② We grasp how this historical materials maintenance theory is situated in the development of local history document studies.

- ③ We clarify the position of local history documents in the whole local cultural assets in cooperation with architectural and art history. We take up a scientific method of restoration of materials damaged in disasters: specifically, paper-based documents damaged in flood. By the above-mentioned methods, we intend to establish new local history document studies.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

- ① Historical document studies can make an academic contribution in forming the foundation of the studies and succeeding local history culture. The studies will be greatly influential to society because they support local history and culture in various areas of Japan.

- ② To make an academic plan of concrete and practical maintenance of historical materials at the time of natural disasters will develop the ability to maintain historical materials among people concerned with history. We can make a contribution to society in terms of history and culture.

- ③ Publicizing internationally our forerunning study concerning the maintenance method at the time of great natural disasters will increase the possibility of saving historical materials from extinction in the world.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Hiroshi Okumura, Historical Consciousness and the Problem of History seen from the Rescue Activities of Historical Documents, Journal of Japanese History, No.416, pp-2-22, 1997.

【Term of Project】 FY2009-2013

【Budget Allocation】 85,500 Thousand Yen

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