

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

Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



Title of Project : Establishing the Foundation of Japanese Library Catalogue Studies and Expanding the Research Tools for Classical Studies—With a Focus on Royal and Noble Library Holdings

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Research Area : Historiography (Japanese History)

Keyword : Japanese Classical Studies, Library Catalogue Studies, Royal & Noble Libraries

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Within the recent revival of classical studies globally, classical studies in Japan had reached an impasse, and a creative revolution-from-within was hard to achieve. As a means to improve such conditions, from 2007-2011 JSPS sponsored the project, “Establishing the Foundation of Library Catalogue Studies and the Revival of Classical Studies: the Restoration of Royal and Noble Libraries and the Explication of Traditional Knowledge Systems.” Traditional knowledge systems during Japan’s premodern periods primarily were collections of hand-written manuscripts housed in royal and noble libraries and in associated shrine/temple collections. These holdings were collated organically so as to ensure their continuation across generations. Restoration of the traditional knowledge system is possible by way of the digitalization and combination of these catalogues. The purpose of this research is to continue the above project, laying the foundations of library catalogue research as a new scholarly domain of Japanese classical studies. This research will make accessible digital images of documents from royal collections, individual collections from noble houses, and major aristocratic library collections connected with the royal house. It also will add to the repertoire of investigative tools available for classical studies, and in doing so help to revive Japanese classical studies from its current moribund state.

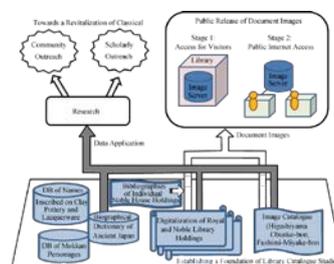
【Research Methods】

1. Roughly 1 million digitalized documents from royal and noble libraries as well as 200,000 items from the digital catalogues of Higashiyama Obunko-bon and Fushimi-Miyakebon will be made accessible at the Historiographical Institute reading room via Hi-Cat Plus and TK View. In close consultation with the Imperial Household Library, security policies are being devised that eventually will enable the internet release of portions of their holdings.

2. As tools for classical research, an enlarged *Biographical Dictionary of Ancient Japan* and a *Timeline of Interactions among Japan, China, and*

Korea will be published.

3. The results of royal and noble individual house catalogue restoration research will be published in *Research on Royal and Noble Libraries* (vols. 5 and 6), and elsewhere



【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

1. As longstanding, traditional networks of knowledge, the roughly 1 million items held by royal and noble libraries are core documents of classical research. Digitalizing and making them accessible will transform the classical research environment and encourage manuscript-based investigations.

2. As hitherto difficult to access royal and noble library materials are made available via the internet, manuscript-based research will be possible not only domestically in Japan but also globally, thus stimulating the internationalization of Japanese classical studies.

3. A database of ancient personages, long anticipated in scholarly circles, will be completed.

4. Lectures and publications aimed at the general public will deepen understanding of the classical world in the community of non-specialists.

5. High-quality resolution images of documents will be passed on to future generations.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Tajima Isao, ed. *Research on Royal and Noble Libraries* (vol.4), Shibunkaku Press, 2012.

【Term of Project】

FY 2012-2016

【Budget Allocation】

147,300 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

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