

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

Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



Title of Project : An Exploration and Comprehensive Study of the Heritage of Religious Texts: Building a Humanities Archives Network

Yasurō Abe

(Nagoya University, Graduate School of Letters Center for Cultural Heritage and Texts, Professor)

Research Project Number : 26220401 Researcher Number : 60193009

Research Area : Humanities

Keyword : Study of Religious Texts, Humanities Archives Network, Study of Religious Heritage, Japanese Literature, Japanese History

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Japan is a treasure trove of diverse religious heritages that extend from classical written texts to ritual performances that form its living legacy and spatial environment. In the field of temple archives, the exploration of the sacred texts (*shōgyō*) of the Goryū tradition compiled by Shukaku Hōshinnō and the reconstruction of the intellectual network that sustained Ōsu Bunko at Shinpukuji are the frontier of research into medieval Japanese literature. In addition, employing the methodology of the study of religious texts developed in textual studies in the COE of Nagoya University, we will initiate a project that further imparts comprehensive value. Our goal is to universalize and to archive the vast and multifarious religious texts preserved in Japan, constructing a network based on the mutual exchange and sharing of knowledge among researchers.

【Research Methods】

Through research that both transcends boundaries and unites disciplines in the humanities, we will create an archive of the heritage of religious texts by integrating iconographic and ritual dimensions to a philological foundation and thereby elucidate its universal value.

*We will explore the creation of an archive, reconstituting historically significant religious texts that are extant in various forms in temples and private collections or archives chiefly concentrated in the Chūbu region. For this purpose, we will make the previously established Center for Cultural Heritage and Texts at Nagoya, the central location for the creation of an archive of religious texts where researchers may explore the field and will institute a forum linking researchers engaged in this work.

*We will promote joint exhibitions, as well as joint research, with other institutions in the humanities.

*In order to return fruits of our research to society, we will hold forums and exhibits that are the subject of comprehensive studies of visual representation and performance resulting from cooperation among disciplines in the humanities.

*We will hold international research conferences and workshops in which the heritage of religious texts and the creation of an archive are both object and subject at selected universities, research institutions, and museums in Japan and abroad.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

By creating an archive for religious texts as human cultural heritage, we will recreate these texts in a form open to society at large and not only to scholars, and we will construct a foundation that is continuously supported and preserved by the citizens as a significant and valuable public asset. Specifically, we aim to create a complete catalogue of all the works in Ōsu Bunko that have been designated Important Cultural Properties and to complete an electronic archives as a regional model open to the public.

Implementing these objectives, we will act to establish a Humanities Archives Network to promote national and international cooperation, making dissemination of this knowledge possible.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Abe Yasurō. *Chūsei Nihon no shūkyō tekusuto taikei*. Nagoya Daigaku Shuppankai (2013)
Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryōkan, ed. *Shinpukuji zenpon sōkan*, Periods 1 and 2 (24 volumes), Rinsen Shoten (1998-2011)

【Term of Project】 FY2014-2018

【Budget Allocation】 139,300 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

nagoya.cht.archives@gmail.com