Title of Project : Construction of a New Knowledge Base for Buddhist Studies: Presentation of an Advanced Model for the Next Generation of Humanities Research

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【Purpose and Background of the Research】
The fields of Digital Humanities (DH) has been making surprising progress for the past twenty years in North America and Europe as a new approach that is opening the way for the endangered humanities. The deepening of DH in Japan will be an important key for Japan to serve as a bridge in Asia between the research on Eastern and Western cultures, since Japan will serve as a central nexus for research on Asia. This project builds upon the results of a previous Grant-in-aid (Level A, 2010-2013), wherein multiple large-scale international projects were brought together to build a "knowledge-base" called "Research Base for Indian and Buddhist Studies" SAT-RBIB. This SAT-RBIB will be expanded and enhanced in a new international project that will create an advanced network for scientific research. At the same time, we will critically apply the text-structuring methodology developed in the West--the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) to our text corpora, constructing a methodologically refined database called Next-RBIB. Next-RBIB, which will serve as a knowledge-base for Buddhist studies, will serve as an example to show the scope of the potential of the humanities in Japan to diversify and include the viewpoints and methodologies of the West.

【Research Methods】
In this research project, we will integrate the distinctive research approaches of various fields and re-present the full results of this integration in a comprehensive manner in the digital medium. The research will be carried out distributed among four teams: the general research group, the methodology research group, the international alliance group, and the digital methodology research group. In this process, we will link the leading international scholars from both the traditional Asian humanities studies and DH, building a sustainable scientific network.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】
The core thrust of this research will be to apply the mainstream methodological approach used on digital texts in the West--the TEI. Starting with Buddhist studies and then dealing with other Asian classics, we will uncover traditional humanities knowledge and share this in an interdisciplinary manner by: (1) clarifying the degree of shareability between the research methods of Buddhist studies and related areas of research; (2) testing the applicability or non-applicability to Asian materials of the TEI guidelines; (3) developing a long-term policy to make proposals for encoding characters in the Unicode UCS international character standard; (4) collaborating simultaneously with advanced DH projects in many parts of the world. As a result of the completion of the above four objectives, we will provide an open access universal service for information technology and research methodology. Thus, we can present the new academic knowledge base "Next-RBIB," wherein the original positive connotations of "globalization" can be restored from the standpoint of Humanities. Furthermore, the situation of scholarly research that has been substantially affected by the de facto world standard of the English-speaking realm can be put into a better balance, including the perspective of both Eastern and Western approaches, thus realizing a more realistic world standard. The present study, through the process of the construction of an internationally networked Buddhist Studies knowledge base, aims to offer, with Japan as leader, of a model for the renewal and internationalization of the humanities academic environment.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】
・M. Shimoda, Embracing a Distant View of the Digital Humanities, (Keynote Speech at DH Conference 2012, Hamburg University) http://21dzk.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/DHI/DH2012KN
・K. Nagasaki, T. Tomabechi, M. Shimoda, Towards a Digital Research Environment for Buddhist Studies, *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, (2013) 28(2), Oxford University Press, pp. 296-300.

【Term of Project】 FY2015-2018

【Budget Allocation】 47,600 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】 http://21dzk.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/SAT/