

Introduction to the Computer System at the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo (SHIPS) and "Japan Memory Project" of the COE.

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This aims to introduce the computer system in the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo (SHIPS) and the COE project "Japan Memory Project."

Brief History of SHIPS

It is now almost exactly a century since the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo was given responsibility for editing, compiling and publishing historical documents for academic use. In the early years of its existence, the Institute forbade its staff from giving free access to the materials in its care prior to their publication, but since World War II, there has been a gradual change in this policy. Now the Institute's aim is to allow any interested party to benefit from its resources, be they other academics, the mass media or museums.

In 1984 the Institute introduced computers into its work. Initially, this was simply to eliminate the tedious tasks of collating and sorting index cards, but it soon became apparent that the new technology might open up new vistas in historical research. In particular, the development of the Internet coincided with the new policy of open access to allow the Institute to make its documentary resources available to a worldwide audience. It is in this area that the Institute is currently most active.

The computer network in the Institute, called SHIPS@BroadBand, consists of a Web server, a database server and a file share server. They are connected to the 1000Base Hub, from which the gateway server links to UTnet3 (the University of Tokyo network 3). More than one hundred PCs work together under these servers.

the Japan Memory Project

The *Japan Memory Project* has begun since 2000 supported by the COE program of the Ministry of Education in order to make the research methods in history more accurate and efficient by using computer and network. These are corresponding to contemporary demands from the society. The Project has four groups devoted to network, chronological, biological, and resource research respectively.

Tbl. Themes and systems of each JMP group

	network	chronology	biography	resource
themes	1) system design 2) accumulation of vocabulary	representation of historical contexts and their	representation of personalia	1) calligraphic character information

	and images	accumulation		2) physical data of documents
systems	image storage, electronic lexicon of Japanese history, reciprocal retrieval	comprehensive system of material-based chronology, fulltext system for ancient and medieval documents	electronic personalia module	electronic calligraphic dictionary

The Project installed two servers (web server *CLIOJMP* and storage server *CLIOIMG*) in SHIPS. *CLIOIMG* contains the image files of the materials, which are classified by the reference code used in the library. This classification enables the OPAC database to function as a meta-database of this image server. Each database can quote and display the image of the corresponding document using the Image Display Module. This module was developed by the Project.

Points of the Project

In the view of the Project, the chief advantage to be derived from the new technology is that it facilitates the placing in context of those materials deemed suitable for publication. One of the chief trends in historical research today is the examination of historical records as a whole rather than on a case by case basis.

Just as, one hundred years ago, the Institute developed new methods of type-setting appropriate to the publication of historical sources, so today, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, it is harnessing advances in technology to the presentation and analysis of source materials. So far these new methods consist primarily of facilities for the copying and printing of data, text retrieval and the displaying of images. The Project is always alive to the possibility of fresh advances in technology and ready to apply them as soon as their benefits become evident.

There is more to the publication of historical sources than simply their transcription and printing. The second aim of the Project is to apply the new technology to the totality of the editing process, including collecting, arranging, reproducing, transcribing, annotating, drafting and proofing. Up until now, we have relied on the memory and diligence of historians to establish the connection between one document and the next. Their collected annotations, so-called "Shuge", are a testimony to their patience and skill. The task of compiling will henceforward be enormously facilitated and enriched by the judicious application of these new technologies.