Art History Document Retrieval System Using a “Key Word Lexicon”

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The world of art is formed from an extremely complicated image network in the same way as the map of the universe. One “shape” can be extremely varied, and it may have connections with surprising images. Because of the conditions of non-uniformity in artwork names in the varied disciplines required for art history research, the art history terminology representing images, problems, and works is generally formed in a non-systematic, complicated net work. To improve the situation and organize this net work systematically would be an extremely complicated task.

As the result, a retrieval system was tested with this terminology as existing state. At the heart is a test production key word lexicon, based on key words accumulated in the Oriental Japan art history document data base, which is currently being developed at this research centre.

The key word lexicon has many attributes which correspond to recorded key words during document extraction in free time form, and a code is set for classifying words to each keyword/attribute. The network is a simple word network, but the possibilities for the use as a foundation network in art history research are obvious. Combination with a knowledge base is also possible.

If the user of the retrieval system is presumed to be an art history researcher, he/she can voluntarily choose the retrieval word while freely tracing the word network, in order to accomplish retrieval of the document. The free association retrieval that this system supports is very unique.