Development of People Database as a Tool for Integrating Image and Text Information

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Not only artifacts stored in museums but also images of artifacts and related literatures are information resources. Information obtained from the information resources by researches and investigations will be used for exhibitions and further researches. Suitable methods to acquire, process and utilize the information are required to enhance effectiveness of the information resources. It is considered that combined use of image and text information is one of the solutions to achieve it.

Databases are well known as a method to manipulate huge volume of information. In general, databases require query words to retrieve desired information from databases. However, users are forced to select appropriate query words for the retrieval. In addition, because databases served by museums store a lot of technical terms, users have to learn such difficult words in advance. In this research, a method to integrate image and text information is discussed to overcome this difficulty for a museum exhibition and as an Internet service. The item focused on in this research is a pair of folding screens named “In and around Kyoto, Rekihaku version A.” People drown in the screens are investigated and obtained information is stored as text information. The folding screens are digitized and the digital images are used to obtain the people information for a historical research project. A database is designed as a tool for integrating image and text information, and the database is used in the exhibition and the service through the Internet. Methodology to develop the database can be used for other items stored in museums because the methodology is utilized by resolving complicated procedure into three elemental procedures such as acquisition, process and output.

Keywords: museum, folding screen, history artifact, digital image, database, exhibition