Attempts at Digitally Archiving Folk Culture Resources : To Make Use of Cultural Resources and Update the Field Science

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This report discusses issues which arose during the procedure of digitally archiving diary resources and the potentials for the extension and updating of the denotation of folkloristics which were fostered. The ultimate aim of this report can be summarized into two broad goals. The first is to create a structure to increase the degree of sharing of resources handled by a specific field of scholarship (folkloristics, in this case) by making it available for common use and thereby usable by folkloristic researchers with differing interests as well as the general public interested in primary sources. The second is to reconsider the denotation and connotation of existing scholarship with a thorough investigation and analysis of primary sources in an attempt to upgrade this field of study.

The resource considered here is a diary resource from the early years of Showa (which started in 1926) which was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster. This resource offers a glimpse into the social conditions and cultural background of the day which is beyond the scope of folkloristics. Through the exceptionally plain work of extracting the varied information indicated by the resource as completely as possible, classifying them, and digitally archiving them, the writer would like to retrace clues urging the reorganization of the area of research mentioned above.

To this end, this report first provides an overview of results of research surrounding diary and written resources in folkloristics and similar areas and sets the theme for research. Next, it briefly describes the diary resource which is the subject of detailed analysis in this report. Then, it investigates the issues which arose during the process of digitizing and creating a database of the resource and the classification framework which became apparent in dealing with those issues. Changes to the classification framework were cumulative as digitization of the diary progressed. The changes which became necessary while working reciprocally with specific instances are identified. The classification categories extracted by this are compared with existing denotation of folkloristics, and discrepancies are investigated. Through these steps, the classification framework which has been common in folkloristics was critically relativized, and categories necessary to grasp the everyday culture of people including the pervasion of various systems related to modernization, new media networks, and transportation networks were identified.

Key words : digital archive, diary, KJ method, folk denotation, modernization, classification