

The Construction of the Gazetteer of Japanese Place Names based on Humanities GIS, and the Analysis of Characteristic on Distribution of Place Names Attribute

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With the recent spread of GIS(Geographic Information System), the correlation of the geographic information with digitized maps and satellite images, has become effective in the study of humanities, particularly archaeology, history, and area studies.

Despite the increasing number of humanities studies outside Japan that use such historical and geographical information, in Japan, there are few tools that could become a foundation for such humanities research besides the Gazetteer of Japanese Place Names.

Therefore, we developed the database for the index of *Dainihon Chimeijisho* (*The Dictionary of Place Names in Greater Japan*) edited by Togo Yoshida in 1900 (Meiji 30). The *Dainihon Chimeijisho* (*The Dictionary of Place Names in Greater Japan*) provides the detail explanation of the historical investigation and change of place names such as country names, county names, names of mountains, rivers, lakes and harbors. Its first edition was published in 1900. The index contains 53,956 place names in *kanji* and *kana*.

Also, the database for the Japanese Historical Gazetteer digitized by providing *kanji* and *kana* readings of place names, Romanization of place names, geographical relations of countries, counties, towns and villages, the relations with the current cities, towns, and villages, and latitude and longitude, based on the index of *Dainihon Chimeijisho*.

Furthermore, as the provision of the information on the transition of place names and the digitization of the index of places (“Chi no Bu”) of *Kojiruien* (*Kojiruien* is a kind of encyclopedia and it is completed in 1914) and place names in the ancient Japan are completed, we are planning to merge the Digital Gazetteer with *Dainihon Chimeijisho*. In addition to *Kojiruien*, we are planning to merge *Shikinaiisya* (Shrines registered with Jinmyocho of Engishiki, 2,842 shrines) and *Jiinn* (Japanese Temple name, 78,588 temples) with *Dainihon Chimeijisho*.

Finally, we analyze the characteristic of the place name and those distributions by using the place name attribute that is the data item of the dictionary. We constructed the Japanese Historical Gazetteer using OpenText (DBMS), and record structure is adopted XML.