

# A Field Data Management System For Area Studies

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In recent years, mobile devices such as PDAs, digital cameras, and GPS receivers have enabled researchers of area studies to easily collect different types of field data such as text, positions, and photos. For classifying and analyzing these field data, researchers need to manage and integrate them. However, this is not always an easy task, especially if the data include too many details. Therefore, in this study, I have developed a field data management system for managing and integrating field data. This field data management system can perform the following functions: (1) store GPS logs, digital photos, and handwritten memos digitized using an Anoto digital pen in a database; (2) edit metadata of each data; (3) integrate these data according to timestamps that indicate when the data were created; and (4) display the integrated data on a map. Further, the proposed system can be used to export the integrated data as a KML file or a csv file. Using this export functionality of the system, researchers can easily make their results open to the public. Finally, I report the results of a usability test conducted using the proposed system for area studies in Japan and Thailand.

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