

Geographic Locator of Land Deeds

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The integration of history and Geographic Information System (GIS) has not only broadened the horizons of the humanities research but also has been regarded as a critical factor in fostering the development of the digital humanities in the near future. However, without sufficient training and practicing in information technology, mastering GIS can be a daunting task for humanities scholars. In order to bridge the gap between humanities researchers and GIS, we present two WebGIS systems to attempt to solve the problem pointed out above.

The first one is built upon a database of pre-1900 land deeds transcribed during the period of Japanese rule. Land deeds are primary documents for historians studying the social development of Qing era Taiwan. Based on extracted geographic information, such as coordinate of land deeds, we built a retrieval system which users can find and observe the spatial relationship of land deeds either through typing keywords or just drawing an area. There are several layers of maps, of different nature and time periods, for users to present the result of retrieved deeds.

In the second system, we provide a platform for users to generate their own theme map on a administrative map. Through uploading statistical data in Excel format, users can observe the distribution of data in different regions presented in different color according to density on a map automatically generated by the system. This visualization system can play a critical role for humanities researchers to rediscover the socio-economic transition of Taiwan.

Keyword : HGIS, GIS, Taiwan Baotu, Land Deeds, Statistical Theme Map