A First Look at Kanripo, a Distributed Repository for Premodern Chinese Texts

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During the last 15 to 20 years, a considerable amount of premodern Chinese texts have been made available electronically, both for free and unhindered use and commercially in dedicated and locked down applications. Examples for the first type include projects such as the *Chinese Buddhist Electronic Text Association* (http://www.cbeta.org) and *Wikisource* (http://zh.wikisource.org/) and the *Internet Archive* (http://www.archive.org), while examples for the latter includes products like the *Siku quansshu electronic edition* (四庫全書 電子版) by Digital Heritage Publishing or *Zhongguo jiben guji ku* 中国 基本古籍庫 by Airusheng.

For scholars wanting to make use of these ressources for their research, there are a few obstacles, including:

- different formats and ways to access the texts
- in many cases, texts do not confirm to philological standards
- researchers can not annotate the texts and share their notes

In this presentation, I will describe an effort to overcome these problems through a network of repositories for premodern Chinese texts. First experiments for one node of such a network have been started at Kyoto University's Institute for Research in Humanities and its associated *Center for Informatics in East-Asian Studies*, CIEAS. In these experiment, the distributed version control system (DVCS) git is used as a basic transportation layer. Every text in the repository is represented by one DVCS node; different editions of the text can be represented by different versions or "branches" within the repository; digital facsimiles can be associated with such versions. Users can also create new branches with their own annotations and comments and share these with other researchers, either in closed groups or with the general public.

Development has also started aiming at a convenient desktop based tool for interacting with the repositories, a preliminary development version of this tool called *Mandoku* will also be demonstrated during the presentation.