

The Construction of the Digital Gazetteer and Mapping Pilgrimage in 66 old countries of Japan

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Historical digital gazetteer is essential tool for humanities GIS data management. It is expected that the digital gazetteer will play an important role in the research of each field of the humanities such as the archeology, the folklore, the history, the Japanese literature, the geography, the sociology, and area studies.

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), and the Dainihon Chimeijisho, which the first edition was published in 1900, provides the detail explanation of the historical investigation and change of place-names such as country and county names, names of mountains, rivers, lakes, and harbors. The index contains 53,956 place names in kanji and kana. 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. And then, we merged Shikinaisyā (Shrines registered with Jinmyocho of Engishiki, 2,842 shrines) and Jiinn (Japanese Temple name, 78,588 temples) with Dainihon Chimeijisho.

Also, we built topographical map database (1,435 maps). Topographical maps are first measured maps which cover the entire countries. We scanned these maps, overlying administrative borders, and processed water areas (rivers and lakes, etc.) and roads, etc. as the polygon and line data.

We also provided the place data (counties, towns, villages, “aza”, Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples, rivers, etc.) on these maps with their longitude of latitude. And then, we stored these place-name data (242,735 place-names) in this digital gazetteer. And, we merged villages (65,210) described in *Kyuko-Kyuryo Torishirabecho* (the official document concerning the production volume of rice of each village in each feudal clan in the end of the Edo period and it was completed in around 1877) into the digital gazetteer.

Furthermore, we also merged pilgrimage places (1,261) and stone monument towers erected for the repose of pilgrim’s soul (8,738).

Finally, we mapped pilgrimage places for 66 old countries in Edo era of Japan by using these digital gazetteer.