Digitally-Enabled Criticism: "Reading" Visual and Spatial Data Using IIIF & Machine Learning

In this talk, I will introduce machine-assisted methods to explore a new way of reading visual and spatial data, such as IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) for curating data, machine learning for extracting information, and digitally-enabled criticism to evaluate the content. I will finally introduce our ongoing project, called "historical big data," to reconstruct the past such as the Edo Period in Japan (1603-1868) in terms of city, people, climate and disasters.

Abstract

Visual and spatial data, such as images, photographs and maps, are playing important roles in digital humanities to understand the culture and landscape in the past. In comparison to textual data, where machines are actively used for reading in the form of text mining and "distant reading," visual and spatial data are now dependent on human reading due to the lack of technology that helps human interpretation.

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23. 11. 2018 13:00

Asanobu KITAMOTO earned his Ph.D. in electronic engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1997. He is now Director of Center for Open Data in the Humanities (CODH), Joint Support-Center for Data Science Research, Research Organization of Information and Systems (ROIS), Associate Professor of National Institute of Informatics, and SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies). His main technical interest is image processing, but he also extends the approach of data-driven science into a wide range of disciplines such as humanities, earth science and environment, and disaster reduction. He received Japan Media Arts Festival Jury Recommended Works, IPSJ Yamashita Award, and others. He is also interested in trans-disciplinary collaboration for the promotion of open science.

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