The Digital Museum project for the documentation of Ikema Ryukyuan

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Goals of the Project

- To design a prototype of the web based museum for an endangered language that is easily updatable, and serves as a basis of collaborative research.

- To provide a forum in which the local people can exhibit their language products.

- To encourage the local people to have a wider access to language resources and to preserve the language and culture of the local community.
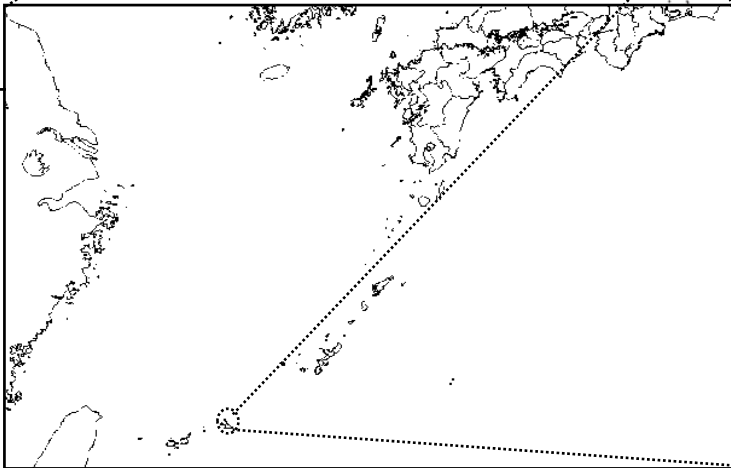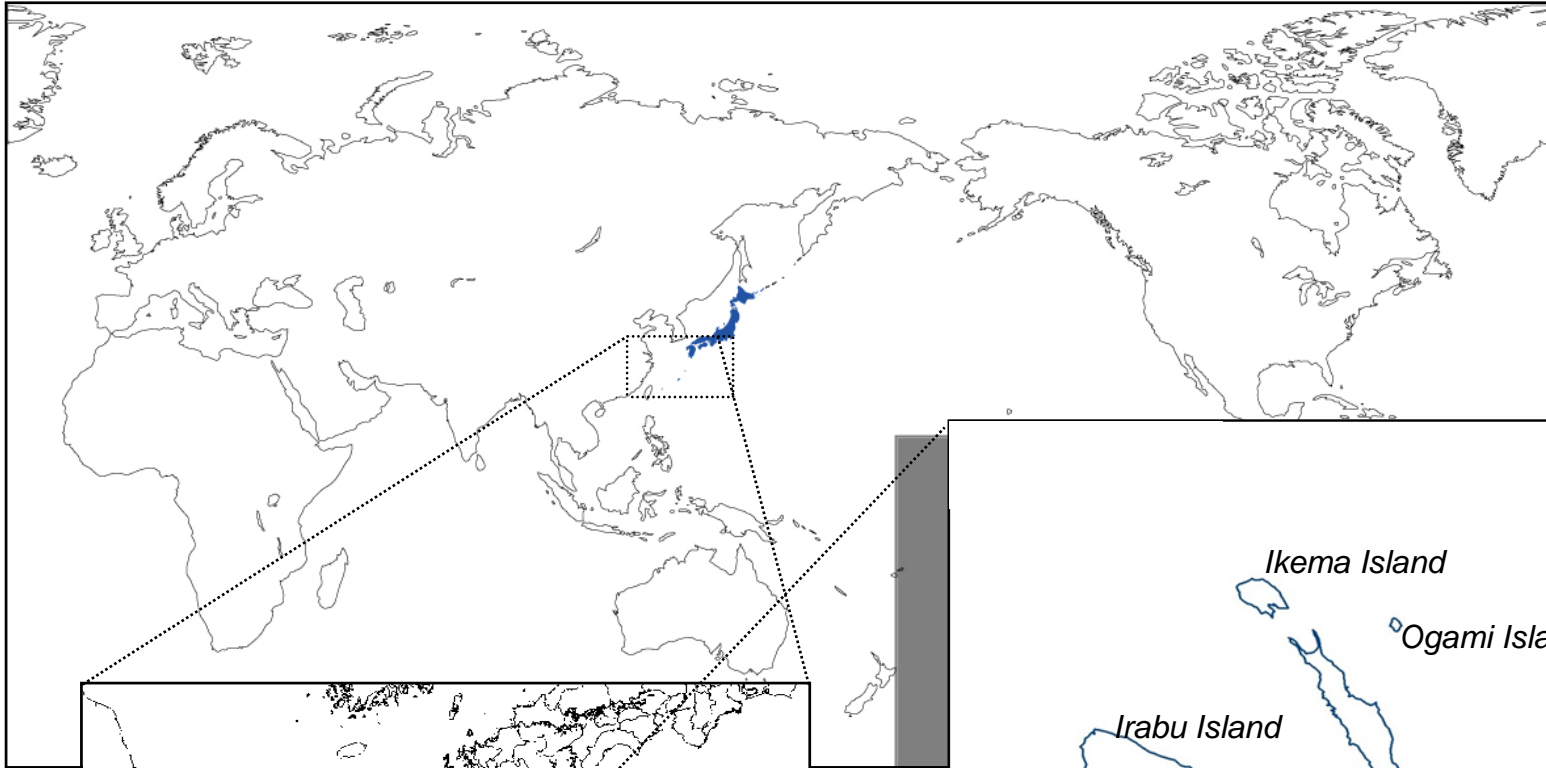
Contents

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1. Overview of the language and the community

- Ikema is a subdialect of Miyako Ryukyuan, one of the five major dialects of Ryukyuan. Ryukyuan is the only language that has been proven to be genetically related to Japanese.

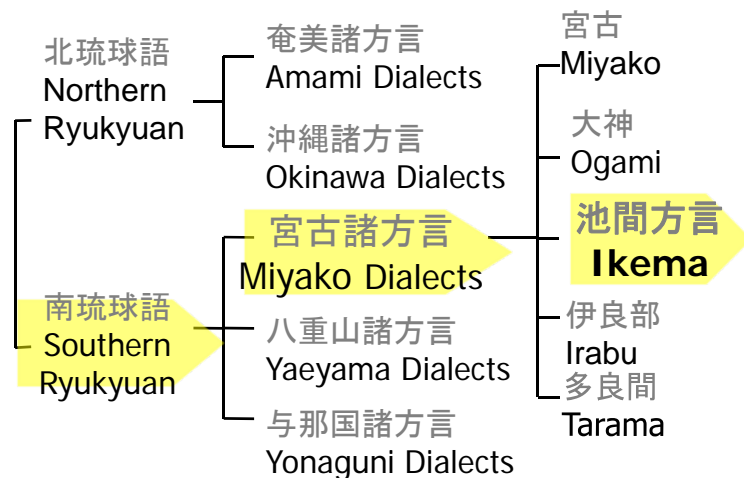- Most of the dialects of Ryukyuan are endangered. Ikema is not an exception.

Maps

Ikema Island

Ogami Island

Irabu Island

Shimoji Island

Miyako Island

Kurima Island

Miyakojima City

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Ikema Ryukyuan

- Spoken in Ikema Island, Sarahama in Irabu Island and Nishihara/Nishibe in Miyako Island

- Approx. 2000 speakers (Fluent speakers are in their 50's or older)

北琉球語
Northern Ryukyuan

奄美諸方言
Amami Dialects

沖縄諸方言
Okinawa Dialects

宮古
Miyako

大神
Ogami

宮古諸方言
Miyako Dialects

池間方言
Ikema

南琉球語
Southern Ryukyuan

八重山諸方言
Yaeyama Dialects

伊良部
Irabu

与那国諸方言
Yonaguni Dialects

多良間
Tarama

池間島
Ikema Island

Irabu Island

佐良浜
Sarahama

西原
Nishihara

Miyako Island

Miyakojima City

2.1 About our research group

A two-year project (April 2008-March 2010) by a group of linguists and the Contents Production Team, the Department of Digital Content Research, Kyoto University.

First year: Basic design of a proto-type of the exhibition space with rich interfaces

Second year: Construction of an updating system, and a display of a full exhibition.

2.2 About our research group: Fieldwork

Members：Department of Linguistics (Kyoto University), Iwasaki, Shoichi (UCLA), Ono, Tsuyoshi (University of Alberta), Kubo, Tomoyuki (Kyushu University), Kurumada, Chigusa (Stanford University).

- Fieldwork on Ikema, and on other dialects of Miyako Islands since January 2006.
- Over 400 hours of recordings: natural discourse, interviews, elicitation sessions.

2.3 About the Contents Production Team

The Contents Production Team:

- Specialties: Video shooting and editing, Illustration, web design and contents direction

- Activities: Providing support for multimedia contents production for universities in Japan
  - Teaching Materials
  - Information Materials

    Web, Video, 3DCGI, Poster etc

3. Design features of the Museum

A four-layered web-based museum

Open access spaces:
1) The exhibition space

Permanent and special exhibition room
2) Library and references

Closed access spaces:
3) Closed library and archives
4) Data storage space

3.1 Closed access space

Closed library and archives:

Access allowed only by registered members.

Store past exhibits with transcriptions, updated archiving information and other annotations.

Data Storage Space:

Access allowed only by the research group members.

Store raw data files with basic metadata.

3.2 Open access spaces

Exhibit Space:
  – Special exhibition room
  – Permanent exhibition room

- Design for the permanent room

  Indexing by location

  Indexing by time line

Examples (1)

Indexing by location

Click!

Activities

saitui

Map of Nishihara village

Preparing meals, Searching for food
- Saitui (Shrimp-fishing)
- nngii nu paa_aizyuu (Potato leaves dressed with vinegar and miso)

Cash income
- Tamunu (gathering firewood)

Children's play
- Opening a stall (at the village festivals)

▲ Return to Page Top
◄ Back to Previous Page

Movies : L...nd Culture

✕ Close

⏸ ⏹ 00:02 | 15:00

Examples (2)

Indexing by time line
(Life history)

Click!
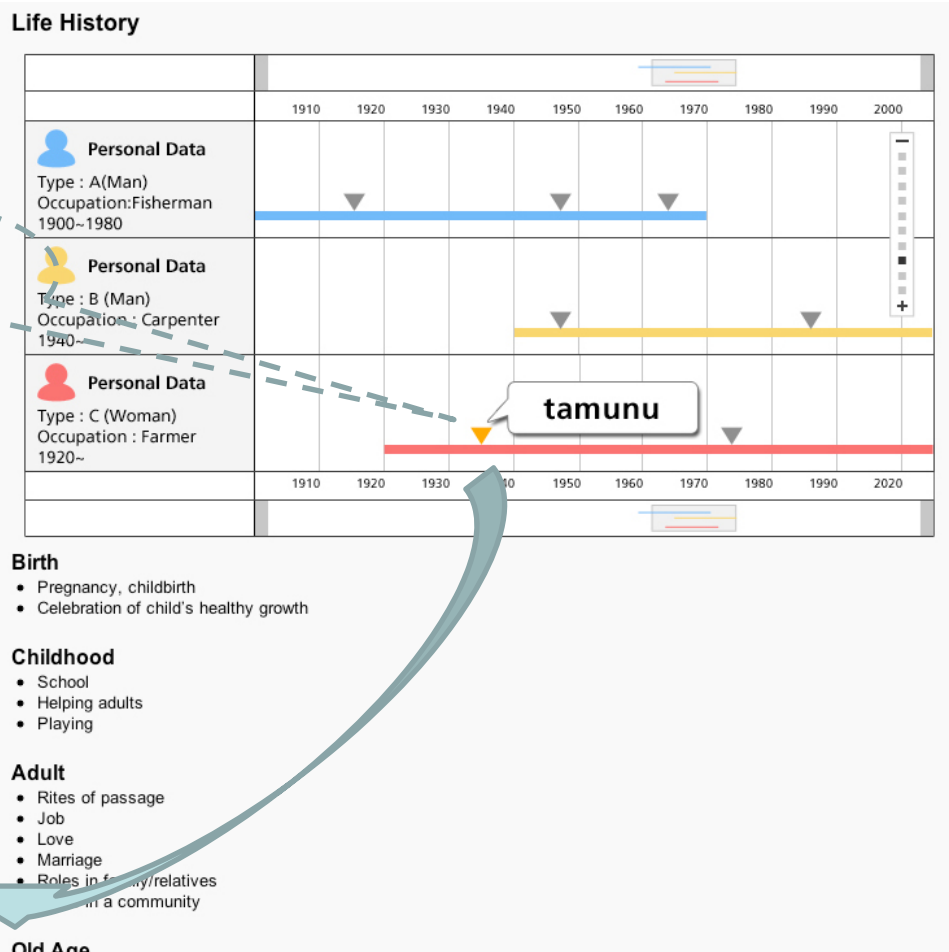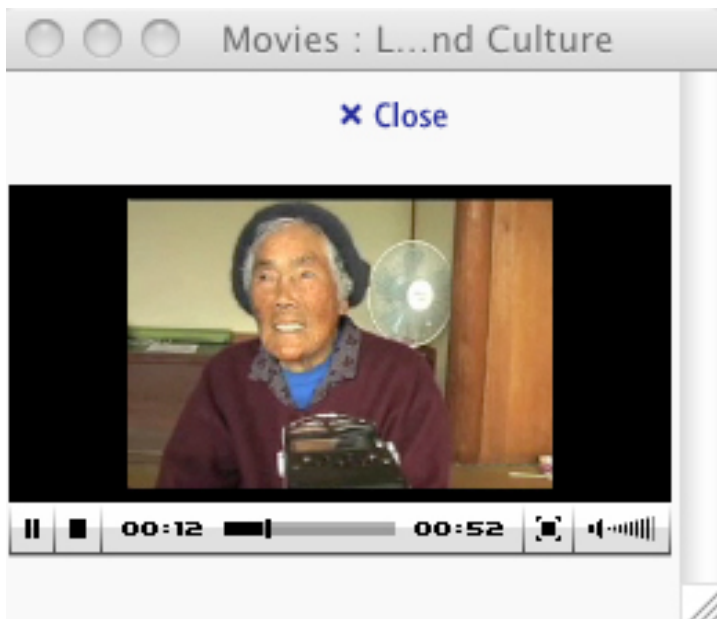
Examples (3)

Indexing by time cycle
(e.g., A year in Nishihara)

Click!

A Year in Nishihara

January
December
February
November
March
Sashiba birds
come over to Miyako
● saugacl
● muddami nigai
● kaanu kannigai
● nndami nigai
● siibu
October
● muudami nigai
● muzlnu uhacl
April
● nnnu uhacl
● myaaku zlcl
● aanu uhacl
● yu kui
September
● hubbyuui
● rokugacl nigai
May
boon season
August
June
July

Myaakuzlcl
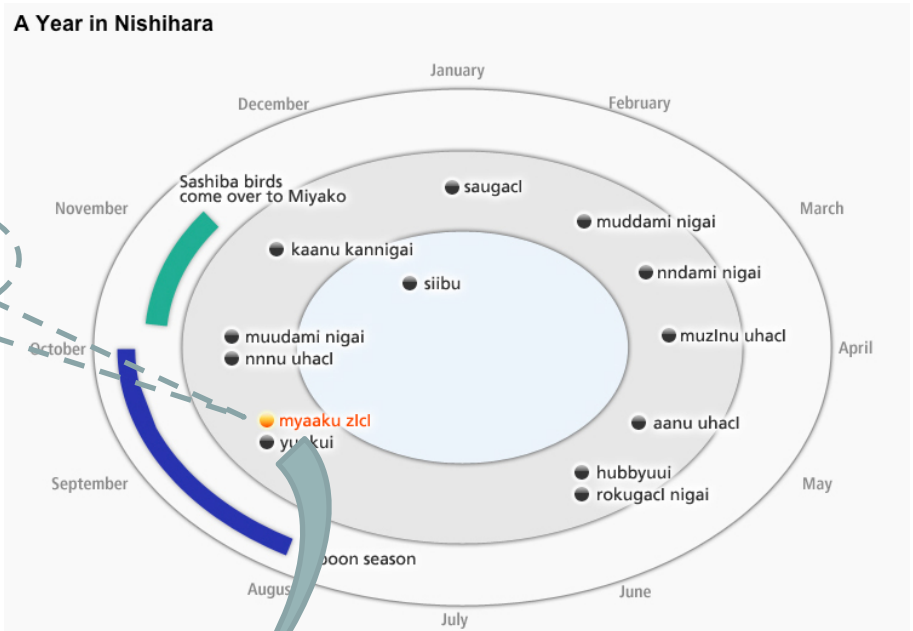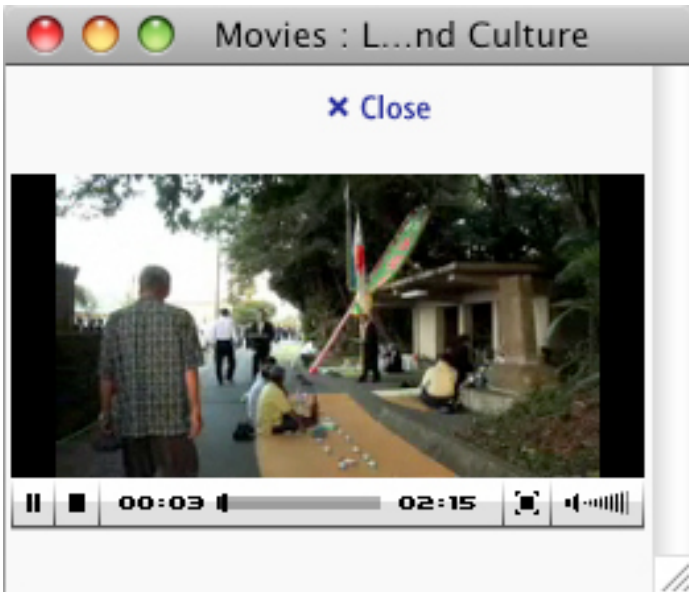
Maakuzlci is a festival in Nishihara to pray for rich harvest, conducted mostly by men. It is held for four days around August or September on the 甲午 (Kinoe Uma no Hi), i.e. the 31st day in the sexagenary (60 day), cycle of the Chinese Lunar calender.

The festival is conducted by Nanamui, a group formed for conducting community rituals. The first day is called Arabi, the socond, Nnakanuhi, third Atunuhi, and the last Buutui. On Nnakanuhi, a ritual called Masumui is conducted to write in the names of the newly born babies on the notebook of the Deities.. There are parades, Kuityaa dances and Sumo wrestling dedicated to the Deities.

Movies : L...nd Culture
✕ Close
00:03 ❙ 02:15

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Why 'museum'?

- Why use the metaphor of a 'museum' ?

- Or more specifically, 'Why do we need an exhibition space of a museum?'

3.3 The purpose of the exhibition space

The purpose of creating the exhibition space is two fold:

- To provide a forum for the local people.
- To make a new and more insightful interpretation of raw data files for display.
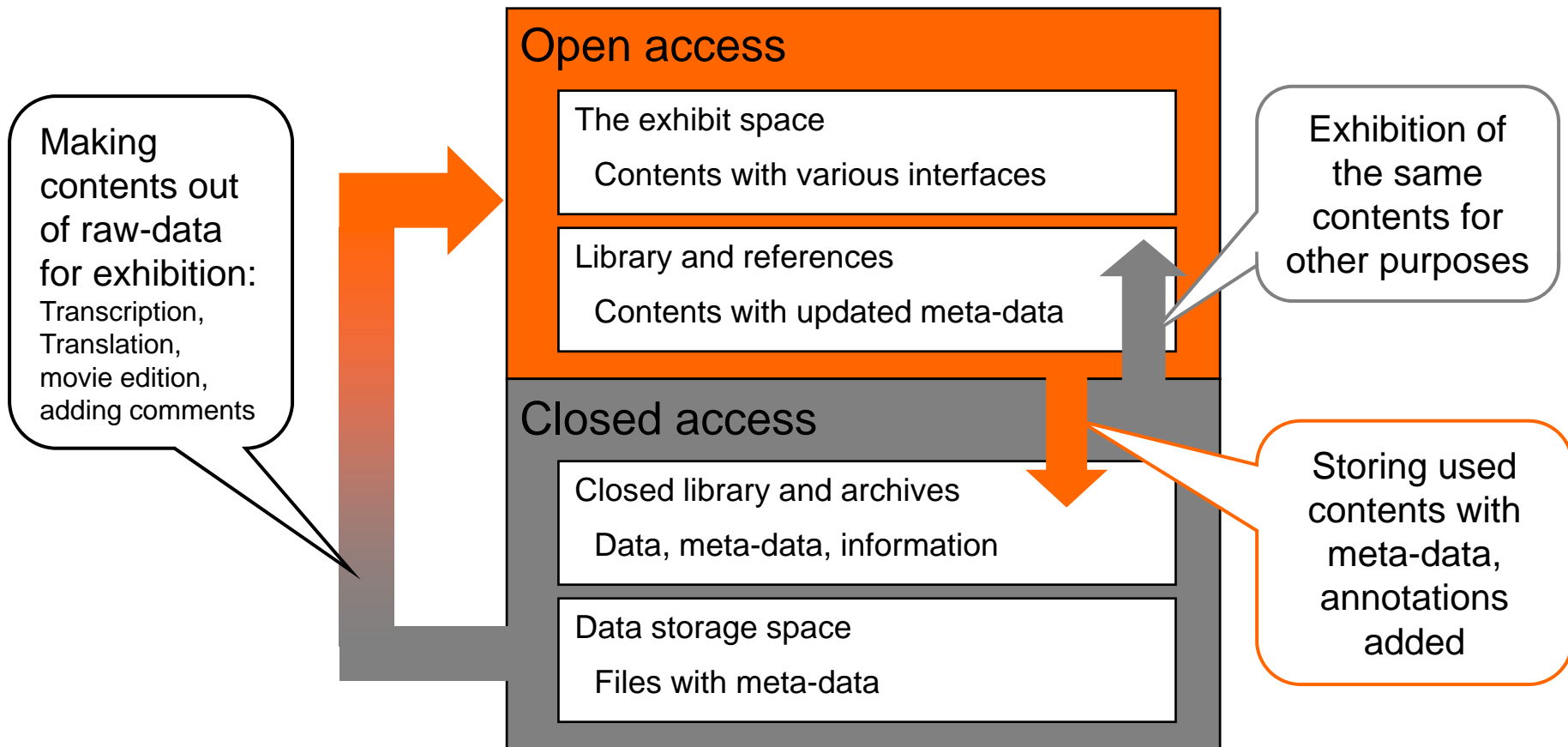
3.3.1 To provide a forum for local people:

- To preserve audio/video recordings of the important events in the community (i.e. the recordings can be used by future generations as "implementation manuals" of the events).

- The local people can display their works and performances, e.g. story books for children, vernacular musicals, or songs.

3.3.2 Meta-data updating through exhibition

- More detailed meta-data and annotations are added to sound/ movie files as they are transferred from data storage space to exhibit space.

- The annotated data can be shared and used for another exhibition by researchers with different interests.

->Resolution of conflicts referred to by Prof. Himmelmann

3.2.3 Design features of the Museum

・A four layered web-based museum

Making contents out of raw-data for exhibition:
Transcription, Translation, movie edition, adding comments

Open access

The exhibit space
Contents with various interfaces

Library and references
Contents with updated meta-data

Exhibition of the same contents for other purposes

Closed access

Closed library and archives
Data, meta-data, information

Data storage space
Files with meta-data

Storing used contents with meta-data, annotations added

4. Some special features of the Museum

- Easy updating

- Use of links

4.1 Updating

- Researchers can directly update the website through the internet by filling in the template.

- The display is not based on any particular program.

    The standards set by W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) are followed in principle to construct the web.

Updating

- Previous methods: manual rewriting of action scripts.

Updating

The method to be adopted for the Digital Museum:
Pages can be updated by filling in the form

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Updating

- The updated page looks the same as the one made by previous methods

4.2 Use of links

- One file can be used for various exhibits. Links to the same file are made from various places.

  See demo.

- One and the same file can be shown in different ways in different spaces.

  See demo.

4.3 Other characteristics

- The system, once completed, can easily be used to create similar websites for other languages and cultures.

5. Demonstration

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to

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