

The Current Situations and the Tasks of Korean Studies Database Construction

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Abstract. The Korean Wave goes beyond the Asian countries and the world has paid attention to politics, economy, society and culture of Korea. This phenomenon is continuous so that the number of people who learn Korean studies all over the world is increasing. This study researches the current situations of Korean studies database accumulated so far to boost and develop it and examines what needs to be proper contents to the consumers and whether it can be industrialized. Additionally, it suggests the methods that the users can easily access to the data and the private provider can make and spread it. In the past, we put our focuses on building the data, but now we need to make it as a global content, promote to use the data and encourage the spread of information. In case that the privates use, develop the database of Korean studies, and then improves its values both in industry and in studies, these phenomena will last long.

Keywords: Korean Studies, Korea Studies DB, Support of History and Culture, Korean Knowledge Portal.

1 Introduction

‘Gangnam Style of Psy’ over 0.2 billion clicks on YouTube, Pororo broadcasting in about 120 countries, Galaxy S3 sold 20 million internationally, 5th place in London Olympics. These are the great remarks of Korea in the world that we can be proud of. Since the late 1990s, the Korean Waves started to spread among the Asian countries now become not just an interest in short time but global trends. Thus the government keeps making relevant policies and setting strategies to maintain the Korean Waves. The public and the private cooperate and lead that wave. The academies also support it by studying and developing contents. Due to these efforts, the Korean waves that are the center of pop culture make the world pay attention to Korea itself. The increasing number of natives wants to get a job in the Korean companies in their country. The departments of Korean Studies in the major universities increase. The number of universities that have the department of Korean Studies increased to 810 in 82 countries as of 2012 from 152 in 32 countries in 1992 according to Korean Foundation under Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.¹ The department of Korean

¹ Korea Foundation, Resources on Korean Studies Overseas,
http://www.kf.or.kr/kor/06_res/res_gki.asp

Studies is famous in East Asia, Central Asia and Middle East Countries where the Korean companies are actively entering. In the past, they are just interested in Korea, but currently they learn Korean and apply for positions in the Korean companies. In case of the US, the increasing number of colleges selects and includes the Korean class in their formal curriculum. Moreover, the president Obama mentioned the Korean Education System in the last New Year's Address so that the world focused on that. The status of Korea is getting enhanced. The foundation of Korean Studies Overseas is the resource of history and culture in Korea. Given that the geographical characteristics of Korean studies overseas, the relevant documents and reference books are hardly delivered to the educators of Korean studies so that the importance of its database has grown. If so, we will closely look at the preparation status and steps of the Korean studies database accumulating in Korea and judge whether it has possibility to grow as global contents.

2 Korean Studies and Its Database

2.1 Concept of Korean Studies

Above all, we need to check the concept of Korean studies. The dictionary definition of Korean studies is the comprehensive study dealing with all kinds of knowledge of Korea. Based on the researches carried out in various areas like humanities, society and nature, we will figure out the intrinsic characteristics that existed in society and culture of Korea and aim at promoting the exchange and mutual understanding in the international society. In addition, all areas can be the object of study such as language, history, culture, politics, economy, society, geography and science. It is based on the local and political divisions so that it is classified as a 'Study of Region' and a comprehensive study dealing with all kinds of knowledge about Korea. In other words, it is a study that finds out our own characteristics based on the common attributes of Korea. In the existing studies, it is defined as a study that researches the pre-modern history of Korea in the basis of Humanities and Social Sciences literature and Philosophy.² The study on the overall data about liberal arts of Korea is the center of Korean studies. The resources on history and culture are spreading as Korean Studies. In the international society, educating Korean Studies abroad is the essential part to encourage the mutual understanding and exchange.

2.2 Current Situations of Korean Studies Construction

The practical concept of Korean studies is the database of Korean studies caused by the development of digital technology. The data of Korean studies as the contents of Koreanology is the results of digitalizing the resources of history and culture that are

² G. H. Bak, Discussions on Korean Studies and Practical Uses of Korean Studies. Study of Koreanology Vol. 8, p. 372.

the information of Korea. The example of this is the management business of knowledge and information. When we are suffering from IMF, the government started public Work on Informalization to solve the unemployment problems and realized the business by enacting Knowledge Information Resource Management Act in January 2000 and establishing the management plans for knowledge information resource in September 2000. 304.9 billion won were invested in 141 studies from 1999 to 2005 to digitalize the major areas like science technology, history, culture and information & communication. In 2006, database construction works for 43 studies were carried forward, investing 4.3 billion won. Also, to make the foundation of using the knowledge information resources jointly, the government operates Korea Knowledge Portal (www.knowledge.go.kr). In particular, the integrated meta database were made and the speed of searching were increased to enhance the convenience of using and improve the Knowledge Portal system in 2005. Since March 2006, the service is provided to the people to use the knowledge information of Korea by having partnership with the private portals.³ The institutions that linked with the information on Korea Knowledge Portal is 1,389 places and the amounts of information are 143,529,861 cases in 2010. Among this, scientific technology sections are 87,592,558 cases, which takes 50% of the whole parts, the history sections are 30,304,980 cases, and culture ones are 5,998,786 cases. The table below shows that the digitalized data are given through Korea Knowledge Portal.

Table 1. Status of Knowledge Information on Korea Knowledge Portal

Classification	Descriptions	Details
Ancient Writings	Ancient Books	The Seven Chinese Classics the Four Books and the Three Classics, the study of Confucian classic, etc.
	Ancient Maps	Maps in Joseon Dynasty like Daedongyeojido
	Administrative Documents	Family Register, Slave Documents, Court and Royal Documents, etc
	Foreign Documents	Data about independence movement, old book of the western about Korea
	People	Activists of Independence and feminism, etc.
Cultural Heritages	Relics and Remains	National Treasures/Treasures, Tangible Cultural Properties, Folk Relics
	Living	Folks, Clothes, Food, Beliefs
Culture and Arts	Cultural Assets	Intangible cultural assets, data about pattern, etc
	Video	Korean movie films, scenarios, Korea video archives
	Tourism	Leisure Information in Jeju, Gangwon, Gyeongbuk Province

³ National Archives in National Archives of Korea, Knowledge Information Resource Management Act.

Table 1. (continued)

Reports	Researches	Science, IT, National Defense
	Statistics	Chronology of statistic, yearbooks
	Publications	Publications issued by public institutions and government, policy information, etc
Papers	Academic Thesis	Academic journals issued by associations or institutions
	Graduate Thesis	Master's or doctor's thesis
Ecology, Environment	Biological Resources	Data sample of fossil, plants, etc., ecosystem zones
	BT	Dielectrics, proteomes, agro-live stocking bio data
	Ocean	Weather information, schools of fish, video clips
	Geological Resources	Distributions of geological features, mines, minerals
	Astronomy, Universe	Celestial images, astronomical phenomena
	GIS	Aerial/forest photographs that have taken since 1960,
Others	Language, Voice	Korean to Other language translation, Voice recognition data
	Laws	Modern Laws from 1910~1948
	North Korea	Administrative system, natural/Human geographical data

2.3 Current Situations of Korea Knowledge Portal Service

As we seen the functional characteristics on Korea Knowledge Portal, there are integrated search, detailed search and directory. They help the users to find the information easily through the finding system with diverse options based on the existing data. Also, this is provided to others outside by the type of OPEN API, which means that the data on Korea Knowledge Portal can be searched through the other sites. Furthermore, it provides the functions to install the desk bar and search box on personal PC. It also gives the fast deliver services of updated information through RSS and protection service of copyrights and mobile web service (m.knowledge.kr) that can be used on smart phone and pads. In addition, it links to mobile web after reading QR codes. Based on these kinds of basic functions, Korea Knowledge Portal serves the users to find the information about Korea. Data of related institutions of Korean studies is given through this portal.

2.4 Issues and Alternatives of Korea Knowledge Portal Service

Despite of these efforts, the level of awareness is not that high. Alliance with private portals makes it bigger and the two of affiliated sites (Paran, Empas, Nate), which are Paran and Empas, are gone. And the user accessibility is relatively low because of development of mobile environment. These days, many people try to build the integrated management system through Shared Data Portal (www.data.go.kr), but if the users do not know that site, the data cannot be used. Thus, the alternatives have to be

made to enhance the accessibility of users actively. It can be a good method accessed by mobile searching through the mobile web of Korea Knowledge Portal. Partnership with Yahoo and Google that have lots of internet users abroad can be made to make the historical and cultural resources of Korea Knowledge Portal as global contents. It will help the people in foreign countries consume the information of Korean studies easily. For instance, the Heritage Channel use YouTube to provide the high-quality videos about cultural assets in English. These kinds efforts make the reliable public contents outstanding the most among the trillions of contents.

Now, Korea Knowledge Portal provides OPEN API to others. OPEN API technology is the representative of web 2.0 tech realizing the 'Web' as a platform. And it aims at the spread of information and the vitalization of use. Korea Knowledge Portal set the limits to searching. However, OPEN API is applied to the DB lists, each institution has, the detailed information will be spread faster. For example, if information about the cultural assets of Cultural Heritage Administration, tour information of Korea Tourism Organization and geographical information of National Geographic Information Institute are combined, the package of information may be completed. In case that fusion and combination of information are utilized in the industries, the ripple effect will be great. If the users or the private can use it easily, the knowledge will be distributed effectively.

Moreover, the standardization of basic information about metadata needs to be solved quickly. At first, each institution built their information in different forms so that Korea Knowledge Portal had difficult in establishing the database. Management numbers of each data were able to be integrated through UCI.

In case of utilizing, the mutual relationship between data and the reference have to be activated. Most of the digitalized contents about Korean studies are served respectively on Portal. The relevant information has to be linked systematically. For instance, Korea Local Culture Electric Books contain cultural heritage information of Cultural Heritage Administration, Dongyeodo of Korea Information Portal, the Korean classic DB of Institute for the Translation of Korean Classics according to the local contents and show in one place. These contents have to be combined in one package and delivered to the user to make them understand the information better. That is, various data has to be distributed in different types of platforms following the concept of MSMU (Multi Source Multi Use).

3 Conclusions

Now the world has not acknowledged Korea as the country of dispute and separated nation. It means that our traditional culture and pop culture are getting focused. We put our focuses on constructing database so far, but now we need to pay attention to utilize and spread it. When using it, we set the strategies considering the consumers firmly to have positive effects on sharing and spreads of contents. We need to establish the organized systems to make the Korean and international users utilize the contents developed by the private providers.

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