

Humanities GIS in Japan: Current Status, Models and Tools

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Abstract

Interdisciplinary researches between the humanities and information sciences have for many years been expected to create a new paradigm. However, a paucity of appropriate information frameworks to describe and process humanities data quantitatively made it difficult to organize the huge amount of humanities resources into databases and to utilize them for visualizing, comparing, and analyzing data objectively and logically.

Time and place are two quantitative attributes of humanities resources, and a huge amount of knowledge about how to use spatiotemporal attributes explicitly and implicitly has been accumulated in this field. Recently, a new information framework to describe and process spatiotemporal attributes has been developed, allowing the creation of a new interdisciplinary paradigm between the humanities and information sciences called spatiotemporal informatics. This paper describes the current status of spatiotemporal informatics in the humanities in Japan, focusing on the spatiotemporal models, tools and metadata developed by the Humanities GIS Research Group (H-GIS), the leading research group in Japan applying spatiotemporal informatics to the humanities.

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