

MMC (1) : Mongolia

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5.2 MMC (1): Mongolia

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5.2.1 Strategy in framing the Contents

When we are to provide a large quantity of scientific information by a computer, what we must consider most is that the use of computer may change the quality of man's intellectual activity, rather lowering the potential abilities.

A computer has information stored in the form of database, and it is always that the computer shows information according to a search. A man as well uses the search usually when utilizing an immense volume data. Then, the context of information or the relationship between pieces of information is likely to be despised or even ignored.

For example, assume that the information "It is when c does d that a does b." has been obtained through reading a piece of writing. An information receiver will take "when c does d" as conditional clause, then, with this condition, he/she will understand "a does b." Alternatively, sometimes there may be one who lacks the capability of reading carefully and understands that "a does b." However, this is usually attributed to the information receiver who read it carelessly. Now, what will happen when this information is searched in a database? Searching with key word "a" will retrieve "b." The relationship with "b" is understood. In this case, and even if the conditional clause "it is limited to when c does d." is shown, it would be difficult that the condition be correctly interpreted. It is often that the receivers apt to simply interpret as $a=b$. This example carries the meaning that the information is difficult to be correctly conveyed. It is alarming that the ease in information acquisition and its processing will cause the danger for loss of one's function of thinking.

When providing scientific information through computers, sufficient consideration will have to be given as to the limitation or danger which it may cause to the intellectual activities based on the search system. Where there has been considered no relation in meaning between particular pieces of information, it is possible that a relation in meaning is found when searched in a database. Therefore, some room should be left within which an information receiver can create his/her own new relation in meaning. However, it may cause a negligence of right meaning relation. Therefore, in order to keep a certain degree of meaning relation between pieces of

information, we should like to attach importance to the story. That is, the strategy in developing the contents will be to present the information to be searched in hierarchical packages.

First, some number information to be searched shall be grouped to present as one unit of information. It will have a small story. Then, a group of unit information will have context. It will have a large story. Just like a flower shop, where they would not simply place the flowers by species, instead, they would have the flowers arranged in bouquets to display in the window, we also devise an attractive way of displaying the information materials, not simply placing them. And, a flower shop would never sell flowers in sections separating into for example a bloom, stem, and leaf of rose. As we know that the meaning relation between information materials may be broken, we have to purposely give emphasis to the meaning relation to offer the information. We human race are yet on a such stage where we are groping for, having not so much of know-how (as a flower shop would have) of how to offer information materials in Internet.

5.2.2 Tactics for developing the Contents

National Museum of Ethnology carries things for living of different nations of various parts of the world. Explaining these sample materials will be important, too. However, explaining the life style will be more important. People's living has many parts where it depends on things, but there are many other aspects as well where it does not depend on things. For such things, it will be better to explain them using the events.

In such an ideal physical space as a museum, explaining through the things will be most suitable. However, if it is on Internet where explanation is with actual things are absent, the events should better be given the priority.

So, we will use the tactic that, not assembling the contents with things mainly, but assembling it with events, and when relevant thing is available, we will have it appear.

5.2.3 Contents about Mongolian Life Style

In Mongolian plain, they lead nomadic life where they move together with their livestock according to seasons. The contents to show this nomadic life consists of 3 parts:

Part 1 "Living with livestock" illustrates the dealing with the livestock by following the every year's work calendar.

Part 2 "Living with festivals" illustrates the festivals celebrated at each change of season.

Part 3 "Living day be day" illustrates their every day life focusing on the food, clothing and shelter.

In each part, the contents are structured in unity consisting of number of still pictures (photographs) and their explanation. For example, about castration, a unity which is chronological arrangement of live stock farming works and a unity which enables the comparison of different livestock species are prepared.

As to the still photographs, the data of photographed date and time, location, and photographer are included.

In the text of explanation, if any key word is present, such as terminology in ethnology or local language, their explanation will be included.

Memories by the photographer on the particular photograph may be included in the contents. Such text is on the periphery of scientific information, conveying man's sensibilities; so, it is something like the packing.

Speech information related to still photograph can be included. Reproduction of taped voice will be the transmission of scientific information together with sensibility information.

Movies related to still photograph are not included this time. When the technical environment is better arranged for presenting movies on Internet, we should like to add movie form of information. On the stage where movie form of information are presented, it can be assumed that such a link technique of next generation that allow direct access to a thing projected in a movie to call its related information, will be required.

When National Museum of Ethnology carries any sample material that has relation to the explanation in the contents, a link is placed to such sample data. Sample number can be obtained.

When observing these sample materials on Internet, it would bore the visitors when merely a still photograph is presented. Some devising is required. For example, it would be good idea to add such information offering that allows the view of simulated 3-dimensional image using the object movie of QTVR. Just incorporating the available techniques would create a fruitful multi-media database.