

From search to association: how to bridge the isolated silos of knowledge

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Research Center for Informatics of Association (RCIA) aims to unify the information stored separately in libraries, museums, archives, and other facilities and organizations for cultural memories. RCIA promotes the research on information technology that enables the linkage between the unified cultural information and the memories or knowledge in broader areas.

“Association” is the keyword for our research. People perform intellectual activities by memorizing, remembering, and associating. RCIA has developed the informatics of association for retrieval and presentation of digital information so as to be interlocked with these activities, and has been providing information use environment to encourage spontaneous learning. Our goal is to realize a society where people can easily find the trust-worthy information. For this purpose, we seek for information expression to identify the credibility of information

RCIA has developed information services on libraries and cultural heritage including “Webcat Plus,” “Shinsho Map (Map of Paperback Series),” “Book Town Jinbo,” and “Cultural Heritage Online.” Above all, “SO: IMAGINE” service bridges these isolated services to form a multiple information resource for searching.

Every organization has made efforts to preserve records and information for years. This presentation will examine what we need to do in order to help people living in the present and future to explore ideas and to solve problems with those records and information.

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Director, Research Center for Informatics of Association, National Institute of Informatics, Japan. Takano holds a Ph.D. in science and specializes in functional programming, program transformation, and informatics of association. After working at research laboratories in Hitachi, Ltd., he joined the faculty of the National Institute of Informatics in 2001 and has concurrently served as a professor at the University of Tokyo since 2002. He is enthusiastic about building the associative information services based on Generic Engine for Transposable Association.