

From Digital Archives to Digital Humanities – The NTU Approach

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Digitization at the National Taiwan University (NTU) was initiated in 1996. In the decade that followed, we have produced over 1,000,000 meta-data records, 6,000,000 images, and Chinese full-text of 100,000,000 words. The content emphasizes on primary documents, spans over 400 hundred years, and covers a wide range of subjects such as Taiwanese history, judicial court records, Provincial Assembly records, the National Party archives, records of the democratic movement of the past 50 years, etc. The digital collections of NTU have become an indispensable part of Taiwan studies.

In addition to digitization per se, we have paid particular attention to making our content available to the research community of Taiwan studies. This is done through building systems that try to cater to scholars' need. In other words, we are building digital research environments that not only allow researchers to search and retrieve documents, but also to observe and analyze the sub-collections that has been retrieved through queries and, hopefully, to discover problems and issues that have not been studied. We have also developed tools that try to build relationships among documents automatically. In this talk, we will use the Taiwan History Digital Library (THDL) to demonstrate our approach. The relationship-building part will also be shown through a notion of land transitive graphs, which are constructed automatically from among 30,000 old land deeds.