Overview of the Digital Silk Road Project

- Data can Tell the History of Silk Road -

DSR International Symposium 2013

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The “Digital Silk Road” Project

- NII started the Digital Silk Roads (Shortly DSR) project in 2001 in cooperation with UNESCO
- The “Digital Silk Road” Project extends the UNESCO’s 10-year initiative in 1990’s “Silk Road” Project
- The project aims to create a digital archive of rare books and cultural heritage in the Silk Road region and establish a new style of Silk Road study in the 21st century
- The project intends to create the new “Silk Road” on Internet using the advanced digital technology

DIGITIZATION AND UTILIZATION OF TOYO BUNKO RARE BOOKS

- The digital archive is a collaborative project with Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library)
- 203 volumes (76 authors) from cover to cover (total 59,358 pages)
- Features
  - The collection of academically essential resources
  - Rich choices of navigation methods including a full text search
  - Multipurpose utilization of digitized resources

Utilization of digital contents

- Read Narratives
  - Silk Road in Rare Books
  - Discovery of Civilizations of Central Asia
- See Maps
  - Silk Road Maps
  - Digital Maps of Old Beijing
- Search Databases
  - Database of Buddhist Cave Temples in China
  - Stein Place name Database
  - Commentary on Pelliot Catalogue for Dunhuang
- Enjoy Images
  - Senga Silk Road
  - Photographs of Past and Present
  - Digital Silk Road Kids

Digital Archive of Toyo Bunko Rare Books

Silk Road Narratives
Historical Silk Road Map Collection

Silk Road Maps
- Stein's maps are georeferenced to be used on Google Earth and Maps
- Beijing maps are georeferenced and corrected, and gazetteers are also available

Photographs of the Past and Present

DSR Imaginary Museum
- This portal provides the virtual <MUSEUM> and <LIBRARY> for the Digital Silk Roads, <CINEMA> moving video of Bamiyan heritage, <PANORAMA View> of Bamiyan Landscape, <Silk Road TOUR> representing major Silk Road Route and <CHRONOLOGICAL MAP> for submitting and sharing Silk Road contents

DSR Imaginary Museum

3D Reconstruction and Virtual Reality of the Citadel of Bam
- The Citadel of Bam was destroyed by an earthquake in 2003
- The site is registered in the list of the world heritage in danger of UNESCO in 2004
- 3D-VR is used for future physical reconstruction and memory of the Bam
Citadel of Bam

- One of the biggest mud brick complex in the world
- Most of the citadel was collapsed by the earthquake
- “Bam and its Cultural Landscape” is now UNESCO’s World Heritage in Danger

Past Conference and Training

- International Symposium
- DSR Workshop
  (Beijing University, Tsinghua Univ., British Library IDP, Univ. of Tehran)
- DSR Training
  (JASS’04: JSP ASIAN SCIENCE SEMINAR in Tokyo,
  UNESCO Digital Archive Seminar at Baku, Azerbaijan)

3D Modeling and Rendering

One part of the citadel

Acknowledgment

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Thank you very much!