

A Platform Development of Crowdsourcing Archival Description and Transcription in R.O.C.

Chuan-Kai Kao

General Manager, An Tai Information Systems Corporation
Taipei, Taiwan, ROC
kai@atinfo.com.tw

Tsu-Feng Ho

Associative Professor & Dean of Libraries
Dept. of Computer Science and Information Engineering
Ming Chuan University, Taoyuan, Taiwan, ROC
tfho@mail.mcu.edu.tw

ABSTRACT

National records are important assets of the country and society. They are not only the historical foundation for predicting the future, but also the treasures of teaching and research. For a long time, archivists played the major role to provide comprehensive and standards-compliant metadata and related descriptions for national records, so that the public can effectively query and apply. In fact, in order to provide accurate descriptions, archivists often spend a lot of time and effort to view archival contents and related materials. However, as the number of national records continues to increase and the number of archival professionals is limited, the efficiency of providing archival descriptions is often inconsistent with expectations. Therefore, how to effectively improve the quality and quantity of the relevant descriptions of the national records has become a top priority. In recent years, thanks to the concept of citizen collaboration, there seems a glimmer of light to deal with the dilemma. Many national archives authorities have begun to promote citizens collaboration projects with exciting achievements, where the records have been digitalized and published on the website, and the public has been invited to participate in archival description or transcription. In

line with the government administrative direction and international development trends, the National Archives Administration of the National Development Committee of the Republic of China has begun to conduct a Crowdsourcing Archival Description and Transcription Collaborative Project. An initial phase of the project is to develop a collaborative platform to invite citizens to provide descriptions or transcriptions for national records catalogs, digital full texts, and photos. The project has completed the prototype of the platform, which adopted ASP.NET MVC and combined with the National Records Information System to display the national records catalogs and related digital contents, and took advantage of responsive web design to provide device-friendly user interfaces. This paper compares some relevant platforms from other countries, and introduces the development approaches and system functions of the prototype.

Keywords: Electronic Records, Crowdsourcing, Archival Description and Transcription