
The construction of the Taiwan Humanities Citation Index

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Keywords

Software tools, Research, Taiwan

Abstract

The Taiwan Humanities Citation Index (THCI) is Taiwan's effort to construct a search, research, and evaluation tool for research in the arts and humanities. This article describes the design, framework, features, and policies and rules of the THCI. Citation analysis has been regarded as a systematic way to investigate research developments and trends. Since the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) indexes mostly English journals, the THCI could become an auxiliary citation index of the A&HCI for Taiwanese researchers.

Electronic access

The Emerald Research Register for this journal is available at

www.emeraldinsight.com/researchregister

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available at

www.emeraldinsight.com/1468-4527.htm

Introduction

In the history of research development, research or innovation is built on the base of preceding research. Researchers usually "cite" the ideas and papers of pioneers. This behavior is called "citation". A citation includes two objects: one is the source work; the other is the cited work. Although there are many reasons for a citation (Weinstock, 1971), the cited work has something to do with the source work. For general users, cited works provide a guide to further reading. For researchers, the collection of information about cited works is a treasure for citation analysis. Citation analysis permits the researcher to comprehend current developments in subject fields, the properties of bibliographical usage, and research trends.

The ISI has produced the Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), and Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) for many years. The Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has produced the Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD) since 1989 (Meng, 1995). Nanjing University in mainland China and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology produce the Chinese Social Science Citation Index (CSSCI) (Su *et al.*, 2001). These citation index databases have a great impact on research. Some researchers apply citation data to evaluate the contributions of research fellows, journals, or institutes (Garfield, 1972); some apply citation data to analyze the structures of specified research fields (Henry, 1973); some apply citation data to retrospectively evaluate research trends, and to make projections about future trends (Garfield, 1979).

Most journals in ISI's citation indexes are published in English. In Taiwan, we need local citation index databases for local requirements. The CSCD and CSSCI provide citation data for researchers in mainland China. If we want to have an overall picture of Taiwanese research in the arts and humanities, we have to construct a Taiwan Humanities Citation Index (THCI).

The purpose of the THCI project is to construct a citation index for humanities journals published in Taiwan. At the same time, we hope researchers will be able to apply the THCI to understand humanities research, to analyse the changing patterns of humanities studies, and to predict future trends in the humanities.

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The goals of the THCI project are as follows:

- to construct the humanities citation index;
- to provide essential search features (i.e. journal title search, author search, cited author search, source article title search, and cited article title search); and
- to provide citation analysis functions (the THCI can identify the frequency of citation for journals and authors: researchers could use this data to calculate impact factor and immediacy).

“Citation” is widely used in bibliometrics. Price (1986, p. 284) has said:

It seems to me a great pity to waste a good technical term by using the words citation and reference interchangeably. I therefore propose and adopt the convention that if paper R contains a bibliographic footnote using and describing paper C, then R contains a reference to C, and C has a citation from R.

However, it is very easy to confuse readers with the word “citation”. Therefore, the word “citation” in this article is regarded as an action where authors make references to other works. The two objects involved in a citation will be called the “source work” and the “cited work”, respectively.

Related works

In 1958, Eugene Garfield set up the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) to provide information retrieval services. ISI is now the most authoritative citation index company in the world.

ISI provides the following academic data search services: life sciences, clinical medicine, physics, chemistry, agriculture, biology, livestock medical, engineering and technology, society, environment and behavioral science, art and humanities, etc. These databases cover more than 16,000 journals, proceedings and monographs in the sciences, social sciences, and the arts and humanities. The service includes complete bibliographies and references.

ISI's products and services include Citation Index, Current Awareness, Specialized Content, Evaluation/Analytical Tools, Information Management Tools, ISI Custom Marketing and Intelligence, Research Community, etc. Moreover, these products and services are provided in print, on diskette, on CD-ROM, on magnetic tape, and online via the internet.

ISI began publication of its first citation index, the Science Citation Index (SCI) in 1961. Since then, the company has developed other indexes, such as the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI). These citation indexes are not only

important search tools for the general public, but are also used as tools for faculty evaluation, journal evaluation, and institute evaluation.

The Chinese Academy of Science in mainland China established the Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD) in 1989. It indexes 315 science and technology journals published in mainland China, as a supplement of SCI (Meng, 1995). The first paper-based CSCI based on the CSCD was published in 1995, and the first CSCI CDROM (CSCD-CD-96) was published in 1996. By contrast, Nanjing University has focused on social science and arts and humanities journals, and has produced the Chinese Social Science Citation Database since 1997. In 1999, Nanjing University in mainland China signed a contract for the cooperative development of the CSSCI with Hong Kong's Science and Technology University. The first CSSCI CDROM (CSSCI-1998) was published in 2000 (Su *et al.*, 2001).

Several citation index projects are also under way in Taiwan. In 1997, the National Science Council (NSC) of the Republic of China supported a pilot project for producing the Taiwan Science Citation Index (TSCI). The pilot project created a prototype database, the Taiwan Science Citation Index Database, which indexed several science and technology journals published in Taiwan from August 1996 to July 1997 (Chui, 1998). In 1999, NSC established two project-based research centres: the Social Science Research Centre (SSRC) and the Centre for Humanities Research (HRC). The main tasks of the two centres are to produce the Taiwan Social Science Citation Index (TSSCI) and the Taiwan Humanities Citation Index (THCI), respectively. This article will describe the THCI project and its achievements to date. (Note that THCI is a stand-alone citation index database, which is produced locally in Taiwan and contains no data from other citation databases.)

Design of the THCI

The main goal of the THCI is to produce a citation index of arts and humanities journals published in Taiwan. In addition to being a search tool and an evaluation tool, a citation database can be regarded as a research tool, from which can be learned the characteristics, developments, and research trends in arts and humanities research in Taiwan. Use of the THCI as a research tool is the core philosophy behind the project. The following criteria are used to determine whether a journal should be indexed by the THCI:

- the subject fields of indexed journals should be mainly arts and humanities; and

- the indexed journals should be published in Taiwan.

We first made a list of arts and humanities journals published in Taiwan. Then, the final list was decided by a committee composed of members from different disciplines. The priority to be given to each journal was assigned. The final list contained 245 titles with three different priorities. Since the positioning of the THCI as a research tool in the main concern, THCI must index as many journals as possible. Therefore, few journals are filtered out. Table I shows the statistics of the final list.

Although the THCI indexes many journals, not every journal article is indexed. Only research papers or academic articles are indexed. Therefore, short stories, prose, poetry, jottings, news articles, editorials, letters, book reviews, bibliographies, catalogues, speech transcriptions, interviews, minutes, event diaries, dictation sketches, visiting reports, compliments, obituaries, and the like are screened out. For convenience, and to avoid misunderstanding, the words “source work(s)” and “cited work(s)” are used for the two objects involved in a citation (see Figure 1). Since the source work(s) in the THCI are journal articles, we will also use the words “source articles” or “source journals” in the following sections.

The data in a citation index database are basic bibliographic data for source works and cited works, and the citation relationships. We have defined numerous attributes for all of the possible uses for the THCI. The following paragraphs will describe these attributes and their corresponding values.

Table II is used to describe the journals. Since the source works and the cited works are stored in the same table, the “PublicationType” is for cited works (books, proceedings, journals, reports, theses and dissertations). When the

Table I Statistics of indexed journals by discipline

Discipline	Number of titles
Arts	16
Literature	82
History	48
Language	46
Library Science	23
Philosophy	17
Religion	13
Total	245

Figure 1 A citation

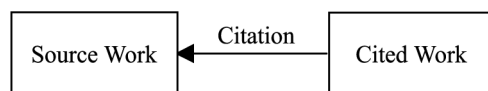


Table II Journal table

Field tag	Field name	Data type
JournalID	Bno	VARCHAR(15)
JournalName	Bname	VARCHAR(255)
ISXN	Isxn	VARCHAR(20)
Discipline	Bdomain	VARCHAR(3)
PublicationFreq	Frequency	VARCHAR(8)
PublicationDate	Syear	VARCHAR(10)
PublicationType	Btype	VARCHAR(10)
Publisher	Publisher	VARCHAR(50)
SubPublisher	SubPublisher	VARCHAR(50)
PublisherAdd	Badd	VARCHAR(80)
PublisherWWW	Website	VARCHAR(80)
NationalLibID	NCLno	VARCHAR(8)
Remarks	Bnotes	VARCHAR(255)

“PublicationType” is “book”, the corresponding “ISXN” field will record an ISBN rather than an ISSN. Table III stores the data on the source articles and the cited articles. The “Funding” field is used to identify funding sources such as the National Science Council and the Ministry of Education. As a result, we can estimate how much funded research is published. The “JournalID” field is a foreign key.

We distinguished six types of citation used in Chinese arts and humanities articles. Since some articles might use more than one type of citation simultaneously, we defined the priority for each citation type. The THCI keeps a record of only those cited works with the higher priority of citation type used in each source work. These types of citation are shown in Table IV. Table V shows the core relationship in the THCI. Table V shows the relationship between “SourceID” and “CitedID”, which are foreign keys borrowed from the “Article” relationship.

In addition to taking citation types into account, THCI identifies different types of cited work. Generally speaking, THCI only indexes journal articles, conference papers, books, field investigation reports, technique reports, and theses and dissertations. In arts and humanities

Table III Article table

Field tag	Field name	Data type
ArticleID	Pno	VARCHAR(15)
ArticleTitle	Title	VARCHAR(255)
ArticleLang	Language	VARCHAR(10)
ArticleDiscipline	PDomain	VARCHAR(10)
ArticleVolNo	Volno	VARCHAR(10)
ArticleDate	Pdate	VARCHAR(22)
PageNo	Pageno	VARCHAR(10)
Keywords	Keywords	VARCHAR(255)
Funding	Funding	VARCHAR(50)
JournalID	Bno	VARCHAR(15)
ArticleRemarks	Pnotes	VARCHAR(255)

Table IV Types of citation

Citation type	Priority
Citation	1
Notes	2
Footnotes	3
References (bibliography)	4
Notes in articles	5
Quotation	6

Table V Citation table

Field tag	Field name	Data type
CitationID	Cno	VARCHAR(15)
SourceID	SourceNo	VARCHAR(15)
CitedID	CitedNo	VARCHAR(15)
CitationType	CType	CHAR(1)

disciplines, the use of languages other than English is a common phenomenon. Therefore, the languages of cited works are recorded as well. Languages are recorded as English, Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Korean or Other.

In order to allow for the possibility of investigating the cross-impact of different disciplines using the THCI, we have identified five main disciplines and eight sub-disciplines of the humanities. Table VI shows these disciplines and sub-disciplines.

Since author(s) may move to new affiliations, we have to trace the transition. Therefore, two relationships are related to persons, as shown by Table VII. The first relationship is for the author(s) of source or cited works; the second for the researchers themselves. Researchers may publish different articles while they are in different institutes or organizations. The "Researcher" table keeps up-to-date information for the researchers. We trace the historical data of a researcher's publication, rather than his transition from institute to institute. Figure 2 shows the relationships between the tables.

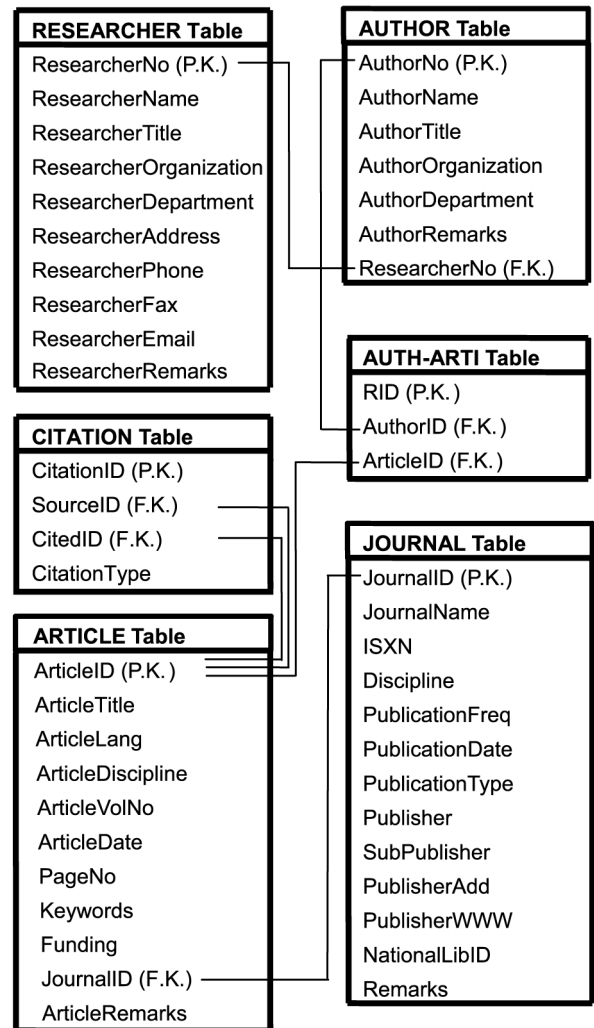
Table VI Disciplines

Main discipline	Sub-discipline
Humanities	Arts
	Chinese Literature
	Foreign Literature
	History
	Language
	Library Science
	Philosophy
	Religion
Social Sciences	
Natural Sciences	
Biological Sciences	
Engineering & Technology	

Table VII Researchers and authors

RESEARCHER Table	AUTHOR Table
ResearcherNo (P.K.)	AuthorNo (P.K.)
ResearcherName	AuthorName
ResearcherTitle	AuthorTitle
ResearcherOrganization	AuthorOrganization
ResearcherDepartment	AuthorDepartment
ResearcherAddress	AuthorRemarks
ResearcherPhone	ResearcherNo (F.K.)
ResearcherFax	
ResearcherEmail	
ResearcherRemarks	

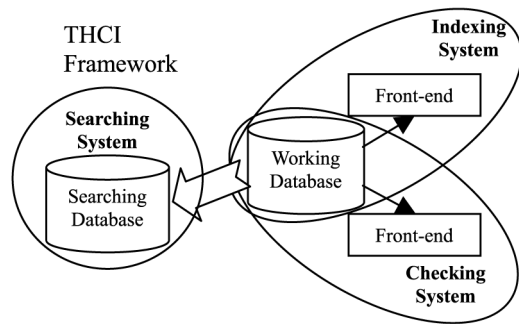
Figure 2 THCI tables relationships



Framework of the THCI

The whole THCI framework is composed of three components, as shown in Figure 3. The first is an indexing system, the second is a checking system, and the third is a searching system. The indexing

Figure 3 The THCI framework



system consists of a back-end working database system and a front-end client system. The checking system also consists of a back-end working database system and a front-end client system. The searching system has a typical three-tier architecture and is composed of a web browser, a web server, and a searching database system. The indexing system and the checking system use the same working database. The searching database is periodically imported from the working database. All databases in the THCI framework are the implementation of the relational data model. The platforms for the indexing and checking systems in the THCI framework are Intel-based machines with a Windows 2000 server and a SQL server. The front-end clients of the two systems are implemented using Borland C++ Builder.

The searching system provides Basic Information Retrieval (BI Retrieval) and Citation Analysis Retrieval (CA Retrieval). BI Retrieval provides journal title search, author search, source article title search, and cited article title search. The functions of CA Retrieval are complete but are not available online at the present time. CA Retrieval will provide an immediacy index, an impact factor with different time windows, and frequency of citation, after the data-checking task is completed.

Policies and rules of the THCI

Because the format for citations in humanities journals in Taiwan is very inconsistent, we could not draw up a complete set of rules for the THCI in advance. Nevertheless, some policies and rules have been defined.

Policies

- The indexed articles are research-oriented and humanities-based.
- The “broad indexing” principle is adopted.

- THCI is a research-based database rather than an evaluation-based database.
- The source journals are published in Taiwan.
- The cited works are restricted to journal articles, books, articles collections, research reports, theses & dissertations, and others (explained in Rules subsection).

Rules

Source works

(1) Title:

- Use the very title shown in journals or articles.
- Use double-byte BIG5 code for Chinese punctuation marks; use single-byte ASCII code for English punctuation marks.
- Use “ = ” for title presented with more than one language. The leading title is in the same language as the article.
- Rome phonetic transcription for Chinese could be used while cited works use it.

(2) Author:

- Use “last name first” principle, e.g. “Scholes, Robert”.
- Use the name listed in the article first and a “ = ’ followed by the transliterated name, if available. For example, the listed author is “陳素貞” and if the transliterated name is available, “陳素貞 = Chan, Sucheng” will be recorded. By contrast, “Scholes, Robert = 蕭爾斯·羅伯特” will be used if the listed name is “Scholes, Robert”.
- If no author information is available but editor information is, use editor name instead.
- Record translator name in the “Remarks” field rather than the “Author” field.
- Institute author is recorded in “Author” field as well.

(3) Date:

- Use the Gregorian calendar.
- Use “/” for cross-year notation, e.g. 1998/1999.

(4) Place:

- Use traditional form for Chinese character rather than simple form, e.g. “臺灣” vs “台灣” for Taiwan.

(5) Publisher:

- Use complete name for Publisher, e.g. “外國語文學系” vs “外文系” for “Department of Foreign Languages and Literature”.
- Use the first publisher in the publisher list for group publication. Other publishers are recorded in the “Remarks” field.

(6) Start/end pages:

- For source articles, the starting and the ending page numbers have to be recorded completely.

- For cited articles, rules depend on the citation type (please refer to Table IV).
 - Record the starting page numbers for “Notes”, “Footnotes”, “Notes in articles” and “Quotation”.
 - Record both starting and ending page numbers for “Citation” and “References”.
- (7) *Remarks*: Record other important data:
- Translator names.
 - Themes for special issues.
 - Use “○” to separate data in the “Remarks” field.
- (8) Use “□” for non-encoding Chinese characters.

Cited works

- (1) Record cited works based on the priority listed in Table IV.
- (2) Cited works are journal articles:
 - Rules for source articles are applied here.
- (3) Cited works are books:
 - Record book title rather than chapter title.
 - Do not record page number.
 - If the books are separated into numerous volumes, volume numbers are seen as part of book title, e.g. “Chinese history (1)”.
- (4) Cited works are collections of articles:
 - Articles in the collection are regarded as the “cited works”.
 - Rules for source articles are applied here.
- (5) Cited works are research reports:
 - Rules for cited books are applied here.
 - Project title, project grant number, and funding organization are recorded in “Remarks” field, if available.
- (6) Cited works are theses and dissertations:
 - Rules for cited books are applied here.
 - The granting institution is recorded in the “Publishers” field.
- (7) Cited works are “Others”:
 - “Others” includes ancient books, historical materials, gazettes, archives, standards, laws, patents, electronic articles, etc.
 - Books published before 1911 are regarded as ancient books.
 - Basically, rules for cited books are applied here with some exceptional rules shown in the following.
 - No matter how many times “others” are cited in one source article, it would only be considered as one citation.
 - Newspaper titles are recorded in the book/journal title field.
 - The caption of a news article is recorded in the article title field.

This is a partial description of the rules set, which is being revised continuously.

Applications of the THCI

Up to April 2004, the THCI had indexed 3,550 journals, 35,097 source titles and 499,932 cited titles. In addition to being a search tool for humanities bibliography, the THCI is intended to be a research tool which is useful for understanding research trends, for depicting the citation map, for finding important objects (institutes, journals, researchers, and articles), and for identifying research sub-disciplines (Henry, 1993). As mentioned above, a major goal of the THCI project is for the index to function as a research tool, although it also can be regarded as an evaluation tool.

Search tool

As a search tool, BI Retrieval and CA Retrieval provide various features, as mentioned previously. The current version of the THCI is available online at www.hrc.ntu.edu.tw/thci/thci.htm. Figure 4 shows a snapshot of the THCI web page. This page provides BI Retrieval. If users wish to use other features, they can click on the “Citation Analysis Retrieval System” (although this feature is not available in the mean time) and “Related Articles on Citation Analysis” listed on the right of the red triangle. There are two sections in Figure 4. The left part is BI Retrieval; the right section allows browsing of journals by discipline.

If users wish to search for a particular author, they key in the name in the search box with a check mark in the corresponding radio button, for example, “陳光”, as shown in Figure 5. Figure 6 shows the search results. Click on one of the hits, for example, “陳光華”, and the articles are displayed accordingly. Figure 7 shows not only the articles list, but also basic information about the author, the number of that author’s articles that are cited in the THCI, and the frequency of their citation.

By clicking on one of the articles, the cited works for this article are shown. Figure 8 shows the basic information for this article and the corresponding cited works. By clicking on one of the cited works, a list of articles which cite the cited work will be displayed (see Figure 9).

Research tool

The THCI online service does not provide research features directly. Interested researchers must first identify the scope of their research. Researchers then need to search for the required data, download it, and arrange the downloaded data for further analysis. For example, the co-citation matrix (Garfield, 2001) might be constructed in the arrangement stage.

Figure 4 THCI homepage

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Center For Humanities ResearchHomeHow to contact usSearch Chinese version

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THCI

The Taiwan Humanities Citation Index (THCI) lists the citations of articles in Taiwan's humanities journals, which could further give us an understanding of the number of citations of papers published in these journals. The analysis could shed light on the development of a certain research topic and further infer about the future trend of research in that area of study. Moreover, the analysis of the literature cited in journals and the mutual citation between articles could help in the assessment of the degree of influence of a particular journal in the field of humanities. This information could then be provided to researchers for their reference.

Basic Information Retrieval System
-provides the basic retrieval function of the citations database, including the retrieval of key words of a title, retrieval of the name of an author, retrieval of a journal article, retrieval of an article citing another article, and the retrieval of the cited article.

Citation Analysis Retrieval System
-allows the search of the number of times that an article is cited, the number of times that an author is cited, the coefficient of influence, immediate citation index, self-citation index, and the rate of self-citation.

Related Articles on Citation Analysis
-provides related articles on citation analysis published in Taiwan and abroad, including Mainland China.

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Figure 5 Searching for a particular author's articles

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Basic Information Retrieval

Choices
 Name of Journal
 Name of Author
 Name of Source Article
 Name of Cited Article

Key words

Search Reset

Listed Journals in database

Category of journals	number	Category of journals	number
<input type="checkbox"/> all journals	245	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	17
<input type="checkbox"/> General subjects	82	<input type="checkbox"/> history	48
<input type="checkbox"/> library information	23	<input type="checkbox"/> arts	16
<input type="checkbox"/> religion	13	<input type="checkbox"/> languages	46

Search Reset

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Evaluation tool

Before using any citation index as an evaluation tool, we have to understand the motivation behind citation. Weinstock (1971) has discussed this issue in detail. However, a few citations are still made in an incorrect way. Therefore, use of a citation index

as an evaluation tool is still controversial. Even assuming that all of the citations are fair and correct, there are still problems (e.g. the use of inappropriate metrics for evaluation).

In order to overcome as many inaccuracies as possible, we are planning to provide a metric

Figure 6 Search results for author



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Match Author : 24 Records Sort by : Author Name ascendant descendant

No	Author Name	Institute Name	Department Name
11	陳光祚		
12	陳光國		
13	陳光崇		
14	陳光堯		
15	陳光華=Chen, Kuang-Hua	國立臺灣大學	圖書資訊學系
16	陳光胎		
17	陳光榮	私立元智大學	企管系
18	陳光榮	私立實踐大學	企業管理學研究所
19	陳光榮	私立清雲技術學院	國貿系
20	陳光磊		

1 2 3

Priority | Next | First | Last | Requery | Correct | Print

Figure 7 Author's articles indexed in THCI



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作者資料

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服務機構 國立臺灣大學 服務單位 圖書資訊學系

[本資料庫收錄之作者文獻：24筆] [顯示作者被引文獻：36筆] [顯示作者被引文獻(扣除自引)：21筆]

本資料庫收錄之作者文獻 請選擇排序的欄位：文獻題名 遞增 遞減

編號	文獻題名	書刊	文獻卷期	出版日期
1	「電子圖書館」支援課程之探討	圖書學刊=National Taiwan University Journal of Library Science	12	1997-12
2	1998年造訪圖書資訊學一對學門的看法	圖書學與資訊科學=Journal of Library and Information Science	26(1)	2000-04
3	TREC現況及其對資訊檢索研究之影響	圖書與資訊學刊=Bulletin of Library and Information Science	29	1999-05
4	XML/Metadata管理系統—Metadata之設計=The Design of XML/ Metadata Management System	中國圖書館學會會報=Bulletin of the Library Association of China	65	2000-12
5	中文資訊檢索測試集之設計與製作	資訊傳播與圖書學=Journal of Information, Communication, and Library Science	6(3)	2000-03
6	引文分析研究發展現況	書府	18/19	1998-06
7	文件內容之分析—語料庫為本的模型=Content Analysis-A Corpus Based Model	圖書學刊=National Taiwan University Journal of Library Science	11	1996-12
8	日本圖書資訊學教育的發展與現況=The Development and Current Status of Library	國立臺灣大學圖書資訊學刊=National Taiwan University Journal of	16	2001-09

“impact factor with time window”, $IF(ts, yr)$. As we know, ISI uses a fixed two-year time window. For engineering-oriented disciplines, two years is appropriate, but it is too short for other disciplines. Researchers at Leiden University in The Netherlands have found that even six years is short for the disciplines of biology and medicine. The

appropriate time window may be even longer for disciplines in the arts and humanities. The time-dependent IF is a much more informative metric. The application of IF with a clear description of the time window make clear the basis of the calculation, and enable us to understand the potential problems.

Figure 8 Cited works of an article



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來源文獻

文獻題名	超越資訊檢索的語言藩籬		
文獻作者	陳光華=Chen, Kuang-Hua		
來源書刊	大學圖書館=University Library Quarterly		
文獻卷期	2(1)	起始頁碼	87-99
出版日期	1998-01	文獻語言	中文
學門類別	圖書資訊學	學位級別	
經費來源			
附註			

本篇引用下列文獻： 16 筆 請選擇排序的欄位： 遞增 遞減

編號	文獻題名	書刊	文獻卷期	出版日期	作者姓名
1		語彙知識之擷取與混合式機器翻譯系統之研究		1996	陳光華=Chen, Kuang-Hua
2		Adaptive Vector Space Text Filtering for Monolingual and Cross-Language Applications		1996	Card, Douglas
3	Across Language, Across Cultures	D-Lib Magazine		1997-05	Peters, Carol
4	An Approach to Conceptual Text Retrieval Using the Euro-WorldNet Multilingual Semantic Database	Proceedings of AAAI-97 Spring Symposium Series on Cross-Language Text and Speech Retrieval		1997	Gilarranz, Julio · Gonzalo, Julio · Verdejo, Felsa

Figure 9 Articles citing a particular cited work



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被引文獻

文獻題名	An Approach to Conceptual Text Retrieval Using the Euro-WorldNet Multilingual Semantic Database		
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附註			

本篇被下列文獻引用： 1 筆 請選擇排序的欄位： 遞增 遞減

編號	文獻題名	書刊	文獻卷期	出版日期	作者姓名
1	超越資訊檢索的語言藩籬	大學圖書館=University Library Quarterly	2(1)	1998-01	陳光華=Chen, Kuang-Hua

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Difficulties and problems

We have encountered many difficulties and problems in producing the THCI. The first is the varied formats of the citations. Different disciplines have different formats; different journals use different formats; even different articles in the same journal use different formats.

The second problem is the lack of skilled staff. We are a project-based team and employ part-time students to key in the citation data. Some students have difficulty in recognizing the components of a

citation. Often these students cannot read the language in which the articles are written, which may be English, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and even Sanskrit.

The third problem is one of incorrect or incomplete citations. In this case, our staff have to check the citations using various online bibliographic services. This is time-consuming and costly.

The fourth problem is identifying the discipline of source articles and cited works. Some source articles cover more than one discipline, and staff

have difficulty in identifying the main discipline. Further, bibliographic data about cited works often offers the only clue as to the discipline of the article, making accurate judgments difficult.

Conclusions

The THCI project has been under way since January 2000. Although various problems and difficulties have occurred, we have solved them one by one and completed the following tasks:

- constructing THCI's working environment;
- setting up THCI's construction procedures;
- drawing up THCI's policies and rules;
- implementing THCI's framework systems; and
- fulfilling various search features.

Since most indexed journals of A&HCI are English journals, THCI could be an auxiliary citation index for Taiwanese researchers to gain an overall picture of Taiwanese research in the arts and humanities. The THCI's online service can be found at www.hrc.ntu.edu.tw/thci.htm

A CD-ROM version of the THCI is under development and will be released in the near future.

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