

觀念史研究與數據庫的建立和應用

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自 1997 年起，十多年來在一系列研究計畫資助下，**觀濤與我一直在探索人文研究中如何運用數據庫方法。我們建立並利用「中國近現代思想史專業數據庫」(1830-1930) (以下簡稱本數據庫)，研究了約十組中國現代重要觀念變遷。2008 年，相關論文集結為《觀念史研究：中國現代重要政治術語的形成》(以下簡稱《觀念史研究》)一書出版。當時，我們估計這一探索性很強、近於咬文嚼字的研究不會有多少人感興趣，只印了 400 本。出乎我們意料，今年年初該書大陸出版簡體字版，***不到半年就銷售了數千冊，反映出學術界對人文研究中應用數位方法還是相當有興趣的。本文結合我們建立及應用研究型數據庫做觀念史研究的過程及體驗，談一下在這種人機互動的研究中，人文學者和電腦各自發揮什麼作用，以配合本次會議的主題。文章分三部分，第一部分介紹建庫和研究的互動過程；第二部分結合本數據庫功能，介紹我們提出的「以含關鍵詞例句為中心」的觀念史研究方法；第三部分，簡單談談數據庫方法主要特點及其對人文研究的意義。

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** 這項研究曾受到香港研究資助局 (RGC) 於 1997、2002、2006 年三次資助，蔣經國國際學術交流基金會 2000、2004 年兩次資助，以及香港中文大學文學院 2002、2005 年兩次資助；金觀濤是這些研究計畫的主持人，我是主要合作者並擔任數據庫主編。計畫名稱及資助機構參見，金觀濤、劉青峰著，《觀念史研究：中國現代重要政治術語的形成》，香港：中文大學當代中國文化研究中心出版，2008 年，頁 ix-xii；本文註譯均出自香港版。

*** 金觀濤、劉青峰著，《觀念史研究：中國現代重要政治術語的形成》，北京：法律出版社，2009 年 12 月。

Research on the History of Idea and the Establishment and Application of the Database

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This essay introduces how the Database on History of Chinese Modern Thoughts (1830-1930) was built from the integration of our study on the origin and transformation of Chinese modern political thoughts with the funding from a series of research projects from 1997 to now. Under the interactive process of the development of database and our humanistic study, we conclude primarily the database methodology in the study of the history of ideas. We have built a professional database which focuses on a specific research area, and humanistic scholars draw on it as an assisting tool. For example, great conveniences are found in selecting and determining a keyword that expresses a specific concept and showing its yearly usage statistics, extracting large quantities of sample sentences that include the keyword, and constructing an analysis on the category of meaning of that keyword as well as a statistical sentence database etc. During their course of study, humanistic scholars on one hand interact with the database and continuously observe its effectiveness, while on the other hand perform a detailed investigation and analysis of the sample sentences and historical texts, confirm the dictionary and textual meaning of the keyword, build a database on the different meanings of the sentences, as well as analyze the origin and transformation of the concept through a humanistic research approach. Database becomes a convenient device for humanistic scholar and in light of this, the application of database methodology can therefore be classified as “digital humanistic study”. We believe what is most valued of this methodology is that it enables the examination of the study of the history of ideas by experience (large quantities of historical texts).

The application of database methodology into the study of history of ideas and intellectual history will lead to a big revolution in humanities subjects. Apart from its ability to analyze the internal logic of the transformation of ideas and to examine the existing concepts in more details, it also provides a powerful new instrument for the co-operation of multi-disciplinaries (e.g. linguistic, history of ideas, communication, literature and philosophy etc.).

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