

《明清臺灣行政檔案》引用關係之重構

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中國明清兩代的行政檔案，是中央與地方政府處理政務過程中形成的官方文書，數量龐大，內容包羅萬象，是研究明清政治、經濟、外交最原始的第一手材料。然而，清代的檔案制度將文書往返溝通於皇帝、官員之間的行政過程脈絡給打散，分別存放在不同的檔冊或機構之中，造成歷史研究者查找相關史料的困難。本研究利用行政文書之中常運用「引文」來說明發文原因的特徵，嘗試以資訊科技重構明清行政檔案間的引用關係。我們運用臺灣歷史數位圖書館（THDL）收錄的 37,817 件《明清臺灣行政檔案》之全文與詮釋資料，進行實驗，從中建構了 3,947 組「奏事文書引用諭旨」與 1,456 組「諭旨文書引用奏事文書」引用關係，並據此串連具有引用關係的兩兩檔案，最終建構出 1,258 個引用關係圖，協助歷史研究者從大量零散的檔案中找出密切相關者，進行觀察研究。

關鍵字：引用關係、明清行政檔案、臺灣歷史數位圖書館、THDL

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On Reconstructing the Citation Relations among the Court Documents of the Qing China

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During the Qing dynasty of the Imperial China, the court document system played a key role in the administration of the empire. Hence, the Qing government produced a significant number of court documents. These documents have been the main source of research materials for studying the Imperial China during the Qing dynasty since they provided the most direct and first-hand details of how government affairs were handled among the emperor and government officials. However, the archiving system for the court documents made it difficult to find related materials in such a huge collection: court documents evolved from the handling of a specific affair were often archived separately. The availability of digital full texts opens an exciting new door for applying information technology to assist historical research. We discovered that in the content of court documents there were often explicit citations referring previous documents during the handling. They can be used as clues to reconstruct threads of court documents evolved from the handling of affairs. We designed a computer algorithm to automatically reconstruct the citation relations among court documents. We applied this method to the “Selected Collections of Taiwan-related Documents from the Imperial Governments of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” corpus of THDL, and discovered 5,403 pairs of citation relations among imperial decrees and memorials. Totally they resulted in 1,258 threads of court documents, which might help historians to reveal the most direct and first-hand details of the handling of administrative and political events.

Keywords: Citation Relation, Historical Documents, THDL

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