Database Versus Text: A Study on the Zhuzi Yulei

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Abstract

This paper shows how we can manage a particular text as a database with minimal programming skills. The point is to demonstrate the state of digital humanities in Taiwan. Most Taiwanese scholars in the humanities, lacking knowledge of information science, do not benefit from computing technology. In this paper, I use the Zhuzi yulei 朱子語類 (Classified conversation records with Master Zhu) as an example to show how we can utilize TEI (Text Encoded Initiative, a schema of XML, eXtensible Markup Language) to make the Zhuzi yulei into a simple database and I ask a couple of questions that are important for our understanding of this significant text.