

# TELDAP 2012

Abstract ID : 49

## Tracing the path to democracy – The Digital Repository of Taiwan Provincial Assembly and beyond

### Content :

Taiwan's local self-governance (自治) has been a major force behind Taiwan's march to democracy. Arguably the most influential institutions behind this force are the local assemblies, which include the Taiwan Provincial Assembly and the assemblies at the city and county level. From 1946 to present, the Taiwan Provincial Assembly went through four stages: from Taiwan Provincial Legislature (1946) to Taiwan Provincial Interim Assembly (1951) to Taiwan Provincial Assembly (1959). With the trimming of the Taiwan Province in 1998, TPA became the Taiwan Provincial Consultative Council (TPCC) and changed its role from legislation to consultation. In its 52 year history, TPA set a solid legislative standard for other developing countries to follow. TPA's archives, gazettes, and transcripts of debates are carefully preserved by TPCC, and are a treasure trove for understanding how democracy developed in Taiwan from the grass root up.

Through fundings from the National Digital Archives Program of NSC and the Research Development and Evaluation Commission of the Executive Yuan, and with the help of the Institute of Taiwanese History of the Academia Sinica and the Research Center for Digital Humanities (RCDH) of the National Taiwan University, TPCC digitized its entire holding and, in 2010, completed the Digital Repository of Taiwan Provincial Assembly (DRTPA). DRTPA, accessible for free through the Web, contains the complete archives, gazettes, and yishilu (議事錄 – transcripts of debates, similar to the British hanzard) of TPA. ITH provided the initial design of the metadata for the archives and its digitization, and RCDH provided additional expertise in digitization, metadata, and the design and implementation of the user-oriented system.

DRTPA, available at [http://ndap.tpa.gov.tw/drtpa\\_now/](http://ndap.tpa.gov.tw/drtpa_now/), has been a great success. It is now an indispensable tool among researchers on the development of Taiwanese local self-governance and democracy. There is, however, a strong voice that similar materials of other local assemblies should also be available in digital form so as to provide a complete picture of self-governance at grass-root level. TPCC and RCDH initiated a project in 2011 to incorporate the yishilu of all local assemblies into an integrated system. In this five-year project, we plan to start with a detailed study of the contents and the stages digitization at the 15 counties and the 5 Metropolitans. We will then design a system, based on DRPTA, that can incorporate the existing digitized contents while maintain the flexibility that

different counties/cities require. A standard operational procedure for digitization will also be developed. The goals will be completed within two year. The rest of the 5-year project will be devoted to helping the rest of the counties/cities completing the digitization of their holdings and incorporate them into the system. In this paper we will outline the design and contents of DRPTA, the procedure we plan to use to integrate the holdings of all the local assemblies, the methodology and user interface we have developed to incorporate and present heterogeneous data, the digitization SOP, and the plan to promote the system to the users.

**Primary authors** : Prof. HSIANG, Jieh (Research Center for Digital Humanities, National Taiwan University)

**Co-authors** : Prof. LEE, Yuan-chuan (Taiwan Provincial Consultative Council) ; Mrs. LEE, Cher-jean (Taiwan Provincial Consultative Council) ; Mr. HSIAO, I-ling (Research Center for Digital Humanities, National Taiwan University) ; Dr. TSAI, Chun-min (Research Center for Digital Humanities, National Taiwan University) ; Ms. TUNG, Chia-erh (Research Center for Digital Humanities, National Taiwan University)

**Presenter** : Prof. HSIANG, Jieh (Research Center for Digital Humanities, National Taiwan University)

**Track classification** : Content and Innovative Application

**Contribution type** : --not specified--

**Submitted by** : Ms. TUNG, Chia-erh

**Submitted on** Friday 07 October 2011

**Last modified on** : Friday 18 November 2011

**Comments** :

**Status** : PROPOSED TO ACCEPT

**Track judgments** :

Track : Content and Innovative Application

Judgment : Proposed to accept (Oral Presentation)

Judged by : HEDGES, Mark

Date : 18 November 2011 15:41

Comments : "*Ambitious programme to produce a digital archive of regional material to create a deep resource for the study of the process of local government and democratisation in taiwan.*"