オンライン研究データベースにおけるコンテンツ生成のモチベーション
—知識共有のための持続的なプラットフォームに向けて—

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Motivations of Content Development in Online Research Database:
Towards Sustainable Platform for Knowledge Exchange and Sharing

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In the context of achieving universal access to information, UNESCO Bangkok Office is in charge of a web-based knowledge portal, called National Education Systems and Policies in the Asia-Pacific (NESPAP). NESPAP provides three functions for educational experts: 1) networking opportunities; 2) thematic discussions; and 3) access to education policies and resources. Tokyo Institute of Technology and UNESCO Bangkok has worked on improving this database. Utilizing this online educational research database, this presentation is composed of three topics: 1) identification of problems of the original database; 2) improved areas of the database; and 3) issues on motivating users to participate in online educational databases.

Given that the database was not actively utilized in 2013, problems were analyzed from two perspectives, system and usability. First, the platform of the database system, called Drupal, had a low compatibility between plugins, and thus, required a significant amount of customization. This created difficulty in maintaining the system. Further, although the plugins were developed by multiple individuals and third party organization, no systematic updates were taken place. In addition, gaps were found between human resources available to maintain the Drupal-based database and high skills required for its maintenance. Second, although the portal provided multiple functions, they were not fully integrated. Also, gaps were found between required and available functions. This resulted in the fact that users were not motivated to use this participatory educational database although interesting resources were available.

To address those problems, a new platform, WordPress, was adopted to improve the database with three reasons: 1) no custom coding is necessary; 2) less plugins are required; and 3) it enables to integrate different functions. As a result, both the system and usability of the database were improved. Specifically, the system required almost no customization and the number of plugins were decreased from 83 to 31. Further, usability was improved by integrating four different functions of the portal, namely, "eMap" as a database of education experts, "eForum" as an online discussion forum, "eResources" as a database of education resources of the region, and "Education System Profiles" as information of education systems in the region. It also added two new functions, namely, "eConf" as a conference management system, and "eJobs" as a job posting board.

Considering the sustainability of NESPAP, it is important to keep people's motivations to participate in the database. This study refers to Clary's Volunteer Functions Inventory (VFI). VFI enables to explore volunteers' motivations with six categories, namely, Values, Understanding, Social, Career, Protective and Enhancement. Utilizing VFI, a survey was conducted to explore users' motivation to participate in online education databases. The survey consisted of three sections: 1) demographic information; 2) likeliness of using seven functions of NESPAP; and 3) rating of six motivations as a driving factor to use each function of NESPAP. This presentation highlights the result of the data analysis by: 1) relating different motivations and demographic data; and 2) exploring the relationship between each function of NESPAP and users' motivations to participate in online database.