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A Study on the System Construction, Integration and Use of Regional History Digital Archives in Korea

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Abstract:

This study introduces the concept of local history and its application in academic studies and educational programs to demonstrate the need for better bibliographic control and easier access to local history materials. The disparate development of local history and culture information systems by libraries and museums, who have yet to cooperate in creating a single integrated system, is described. A research academy has taken the lead in bringing the resources of these institutions together in a electronic dictionary of local history and culture. Nevertheless, the prospect of cooperation between museums and libraries in the near future is good based on the foundations that they have laid separately.

1. Introduction
2. Concepts and the system of Korean local history
3. Administration of educational courses and the application of materials in provincial history (*hyangt'osa*)
4. Construction, integration and use of Korean local history digital archives
 - 4.1 Construction and integration of the informatization system for historical materials among libraries
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5. Conclusion: Evaluation and prospects

1. Introduction

The study of local history (*chibangsa*) in Korea was readdressed by historians in the latter half of the 1980s with great scholarly results. Under the influence of Western historical theories in the 1990s,

studies in Korean history, which up to then had been organized chronologically, expanded into the realm of cultural history, synthesized history, and the history of daily life, taking regional people as the central subject in the study of local history. The focus of these expanded studies was the region itself with an emphasis on its organic interrelation relationship with general history and universal history (*t'ongsa*).

In terms of organization, the materials for local history research were presented from a narrative system categorized by period and utility. History was written from the perspective of regional people of each period: ancient, Koryŏ, Chosŏn, modern, and contemporary. The materials were organized in an effort to understand historically popular regional consciousness in terms of regional culture. Furthermore, the Korean History Research Society (*Hanguksa yŏngu hoe*) initiated a project to present the current state of research and themes that were being conducted at that time in seven regions: Kyŏnggi, Suwŏn, Kangwŏn, Ch'ungch'ŏng, Yŏngnam, Chŏnnam, and the Cheju.

In order to institute another educational program for local history, the Korean government reflected these contents in 5th, 6th and 7th educational courses at the junior high and high schools levels. The 7th stage course, in particular, emphasizes history as encompassing the entirety of life and stresses the urgency of utilizing the materials of provincial history (*hyangt'osa*).

Although the construction of a digital archive system directed at local materials has been conducted separately by different organizations, at present discussion has only just begun over its integration and use. Among the libraries, local historical materials are being assembled and integrated through an informatization system for historical materials, and a unified system for national cultural properties is being constructed and integrated among museums as well. In particular, the Academy of Korean Studies (*Hangukhak chungang yŏnguwŏn*) began a project for an “Electronic Dictionary of Korean Provincial Culture” (*Hanguk hyangt'o munhwa chŏnja taejŏn*), collecting and organizing all the materials dispersed throughout the country, and creating a reference archive on folk culture so that ordinary individuals and diverse groups are able to access these documents easily.

In Korea, however, no concrete discussion between libraries and museums has yet occurred on the integration of materials. Consequently, this paper addresses the construction, integration and use of the digital archives for Korean local history by examining concepts and system of Korean local history, the administration of educational courses and the use of provincial history materials, the construction, integration and use of the digital archives for Korean local history, and concludes with an evaluation of these matters and some thoughts on future prospects.

2. Concepts and system of Korean local history

Concepts employed in Korean local history are *hyangt'osa* (), *chiyŏksa* () and *chibangsa* (), which can be equated respectively with ‘provincial history’ ‘regional history’ ‘local history’ as

used in Britain and America. In Japan, these same terms were used as the concepts emerged. In Korea, there has been no definite scholarly consensus over the use of these three terms. It is, therefore, necessary to examine the concept and scope that each term represents.

Hyangt'osa (provincial history) is a term that indicates the indigenous, unique and local characteristics of a specific locality; at the same time, it connotes the idea of pride for one's hometown.¹ Provincial history ultimately addresses the history of a locality once occupied by one's ancestors. However, provincial history, wherein provincial characteristics are tied to the subject or object of research, lacks objectivity because of the idea of local hometown pride. To understand provincial history, we also need to look at provincial education. Provincial education—focused on understanding the common system of the locality and the lives of the people, departs from the more abstract perspectives of nation or world and instead focuses on provincial society and the collection of related educational materials. It is based on German educational trends that present an educational structure where educational goals, methods and content are more concrete.²

Chiyōksa (regional history) is a horizontal spatial concept that addresses the history of a region independent of its relationship to national history. The term “village society” has been in use within recent circles of Korean historians and stems from a field of history that focuses on social history, or more broadly “universal history” and generally regards one region as a single unit of measurement.³

Although *chibangsa* (local history) is a concept similar to *chiyōksa*, the former is a concept subordinated to the center. The center and locality are concepts divided into perpendicular spaces, and the *chibang* (the locality) is a concept that implies being subordinate and peripheral to the center. As a result, *chibangsa* is a type of history where the locality is an object within the history of the nation.⁴

Of the new terms presented above, the concepts *chiyōksa* and *chibangsa* have been used interchangeably by scholars in Korea. Although there are conceptual differences, in an effort to explain the historical conditions of a region or perhaps regional particularities, scholars assert that more than anything else both *chiyōksa* and *chibangsa* should emphasize the unique characteristics that could only have been produced by the people of a specific region or period. If such particularities are said to arise from a base of cultural universals of the popular nation (*minjok*), then they assert that the unique regional characteristics must be clearly explained through historical comparisons in order to determine its

¹ Kim Hymning, “Local History through Methodology: A Study of Literati Rule during the Chosŏn Dynasty.” *The Current State and Themes of Korean Local History, Society for the Study of Korean History*. Seoul: Kingpin munhwa as, 2000, p. 329.

² Kim Hymning, *ibid.*, p. 330.

³ Kim Hymning, *ibid.*, pp. 329-330.

⁴ Kop Skye, “New Directions in the Study of Local History.” *How to Study Local History: First Conference of History and Culture*. Seoul: Yōksa munhwa hachure, 1998, pp. 13-40.

existential value.⁵ At times, terms from provincial history are used by scholarly groups that emphasize the history of daily life or cultural history.

As mentioned above, though provincial, regional and local histories differ slightly from each other, they are also terms that have mutually complementary relationships. The study of local history and regional history expand upon the foundations established by provincial history, yet it would be easy for provincial history to lose a sense of objectivity without local history's objective elucidation of the perspective of the center or regional history's basis in universals.

Since the 1980s, a great number of materials on Korean local history have been published by period and region. However, these materials have gone no further than research that focuses on unique regional characteristics. In light of this, an examination of the issues from the perspective of the center, suggests that there has been no objective portrayal of local history or regional studies from a universal basis. There has also been a lack of systemization and integration by region in terms of the collection, organization and utilization of local history documents. No close relationship between specialized researchers and scholars of provincial history has been achieved.

3. Administration of educational courses and the use of provincial history materials

The educational courses in Korea have undergone seven stages of change since the "Essential Lectures" period (1946-1954). Education in provincial history is linked to the fifth (1987), sixth (1992) and seventh (1997) stages and is reflected in the contents of educational courses and texts.⁶ Provincial history is related to the fifth, sixth and seventh educational stages, within a context that emphasized change and which was formed to advance political democratization, initiate an autonomous ruling system, and demand an educational reform that would enable the spontaneous and creative management of change befitting the times. The seventh educational stage further stressed decentralization and autonomy.⁷ The place of provincial history in these educational stages is summarized in Table 1 below.

⁵ Yi Cajun, "Theories and Current Systematic Trends in the Study of Korean Regional History." *Studies in Korean History* 32: *Theories and Conditions of Studies in Regional History*, p. 204.

⁶ Although there is a slight difference between "provincial history" (*hyangt'osa*) as a term generally used in relation to the educational courses and "local history" (*chibangsa*), they will be referred to here according to their original usage.

⁷ Chow Singe, "The administration of educational courses and teaching provincial history" *History Education*. Vol. 68, pp. 129-134.

Table 1. Educational Courses and the Study of Provincial History

	Fifth Stage (1987)	Sixth Stage (1993)	Seventh Stage (1997)
Elementary	Some cities/counties. Authorized publications for 3 rd graders. Regionalization and group formation of 4 th graders.	Emphasis on the regionalization of educational courses. Development of texts on society and research by city for 1 st semester 4 th graders. Authorized publications for 3 rd graders, some cities/ counties.	Plan to utilize regionalized teaching materials already in publication.
Middle school	Inculcation of historical views through cultural properties of provincial history related to provincial history. Inculcation of historical interest through the use of provincial history documents with attention to regional society.	Having cultivated interests in the study of Korean history, the cultivation of provincial pride through the study of provincial history. Formation of study groups of provincial history.	Synthesized interpretation of Korean history as a history that encompasses the lives of all Korean people.
High school	Elevation of interest in provincial culture. Cultivation of attitudes. for contributing to historical development as a member of provincial society.	In order to raise consciousness about provincial history forming the basis of national history, raise interest in provincial history and love of provincial culture. No contents on the study of provincial history.	

As noted in the table above, although the goals of the fifth, sixth and seventh educational stages were the study of provincial history for elementary, middle and high schools, regional texts were produced and used as basic regionalized materials for courses only at the elementary level. In the sixth stage, the established goal was the study of provincial history but within the study of Korean history. The category of provincial history was thus reduced, with no reference to provincial history in high school

texts. In the seventh stage, having established that “our history is interpreted in a synthesized manner because it is a history that encompasses the lives of all Korean people,” the study of provincial history was expressed as encompassing all of life.⁸

In order to support such educational courses, it was urgent that provincial documents be used. First, materials for use in provincial history include the books, old maps, and ancient documents that comprise the historical record. Second, materials that comprise archaeological art history are dwelling sites located through the examination of land maps, tombs, dolmens, tools derived from the stonework or ironwork, Buddhist monasteries, fortress walls, stone inscriptions, kiln sites, earthenware, ceramic tile. Third, there are materials related to ancient architecture such as palace halls, city gates, shrines, inns, government offices, Buddhist temples, schools, homes, and rooms. Fourth, there are materials related to the history of social systems on village history, village systems, marriage system, and families and relatives. Fifth, there are materials related to transitional ceremonies such as birth, wedding, funeral and ancestral worship rites. Sixth, there are materials related to folk myths such as the *kasin* myth, *tongsin* myth, and *musok* myth.⁹

4. Construction, integration and use of digital archives for Korean local history

As noted above, the archives for Korean local history are organized according to period and region. Although plans have been advanced for the collection and organization of these materials, they have yet to be completely systematized. Also, the construction of a digitized local history system that targets these local historical materials is being conducted separately by different organizations, but as of now, it has not proceeded beyond initial discussions on its integration and use as a resource under the joint ownership of libraries and museums.

I shall now examine the construction and integration of the informatization system of historical materials by libraries which serve as organizations of cultural properties for the promotion of shared benefits, the construction and integration of an integrated system for national cultural properties among museums, the systematic integration of local history materials which are to be used in the electric dictionary of Korean provincial culture (*Hanguk hyangt'o munhwa chǒngja taejǒn*) of the Academy of Korean studies (*Hangukhak chungang yǒnguwon*).

⁸ Yu Singeing, “The current state of research and themes in teaching provincial history,” *History and Teaching History* No. 5, pp. 169-191.

⁹ Imp Hogan, “A Study on the Locations and Uses of Provincial Historical Materials” *History Education*, Vol. 55, pp. 23-38.

4.1 Construction and integration of a digitized system of historical materials among libraries

The 8th article of Korea's library promotion law stipulates the construction of a cooperative network among libraries. At present, the National Library of Korea (*Kungnip chungang tosŏgwan*) is the central axis of the library community for building a cooperative library network, and the Korean Education and Research Information Service (KERIS, *Hanguk kyoyuk haksul chŏngbowŏn*) is at the center for building cooperative university library network. As such, there are many diverse cooperative projects and regional cooperative networks taking place.

Of these, the informatization of local history documents held by each library has been undertaken in accordance with the informatization of historical materials at the national level. The National Institute of Korean History (NIKH, *Kuksa p'yŏnch'an wiwŏnhoe*) authorized a Korean History Information Center (*Hanguk yŏksa punya chonghap chŏngbo sent'ŏ*) upon the enactment of the "information resource management law" (*chisik chawŏn kwalli pŏp*) in March 2001, and in the following year, attention was directed towards issues surrounding database (DB) construction methodology, system development, and standardization with the establishment of "Informatization Strategic Plan in the field of Korean history" (ISP, *Hanguk yŏksa punya chisik chŏngbo kibanhwa chŏllyak kyehoek*).¹⁰

In particular, the project for constructing an integrated information system for Korean history followed the tenor of the information management project which has been sparked by the construction of databases that concentrated on historical documents and the preservation and management of valuable materials.

Such factors are well expressed by the research contributions revealed in the "Document investigation results in the field of Korean history" (February 2002) by the National Computerization Agency (NCA, *Hanguk chŏnsanwŏn*), the organ with exclusive responsibility over the information resource management project at the time for selecting and standardizing information resources for historical materials, their level of social utility, and preservation value.

¹⁰ *Kuksa p'yŏnch'an wiwŏnhoe*, "2001 Completion Report for the Knowledge Resources Management Project and Project for the Establishment of an Informatization Strategic Plan (ISP) for the Field of Korean History" (April 16, 2004).

Table 2. Selection and Standardization of Information Resources for Historical Materials

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Detailed index</i>	<i>Examples</i>
Degree of research contributions	Basic materials for understanding applicable period.	Annals of the Chosŏn Dynasty, Basic dictionary of Korean history, etc.
	High frequency of usage of integrated materials of the applicable period.	Historical books on official service, essential literary collections, newspapers/journals, modern & contemporary periodical publications, etc.
	Specialized materials according to field.	Record of important figures, public government documents, statistical collections, court documents, land registrars, business management materials, land documents, diplomatic documents, etc.
Degree of social utility	Ease of processed materials in informatization and use.	National historical materials
Preservation value	Useful/valuable documents.	

According to Table 2 above, the information resource management project was ultimately a “construction project for an integrated system of information on Korean history” in conjunction with the NIKH, the Korean Classics Research Institute (*Minjok munhwa ch’ujin hoe*) which was formerly a national organization of public works, the Kyujanggak Archives of Seoul National University which holds the greatest number of historical materials of Korea, and the Academy of Korean Studies (*Hangukhak chungang yŏnguwŏn* which is also known in Korea as the predecessor of *Hanguk chŏngsin munhwa yŏnguwŏn*).

The project was begun in 1999. After the establishment of the NIHK in March 2001, these four representative organs jointly invested a total of 39.2 billion *wŏn* by November 2004 when the first stage of this project was completed. Then in 2005, the NIKH, as the current integrated information center for the field of Korean history, initiated the first part of the second stage of the project on its own. This integrated information center is an institution that is already operating with the cooperation of twelve

specialized information centers and is working on activating these information centers and constructing an integrated and standardized format for historical materials.¹¹

The Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development (*Kyoyuk injök chawön pu*) established a “plan for the informatization of historical materials held by universities” (2004-2008) to pursue at the governmental level a project to digitize the historical materials held by the university libraries and prepare an electronic circulation system.

The universities had been extremely slack in digitizing materials despite the fact that they held historical documents of the highest value in terms of historical preservation and usefulness.¹² Consequently, the foremost goal of this project was the automation of the bibliographic information for all the documents held by the university libraries in order to jumpstart the construction of this database. After sorting through the historical documents that have the highest national value in terms of preservation or utility, the original manuscripts would be digitized and the materials processed by way of either *t'alch'o* (the conversion of the grass characters into the square style characters) or annotation. Second, although this project was for the construction of a system for the electronic circulation of historical materials, on one hand, it is also creating an integrated index that enables the rapid comprehension of information on documents held in university libraries, and on the other hand, it is constructing an integrated search system that allows these digitized original documents to be accessed publicly. Third, in an effort to standardize the historical database, standards were fixed that would enable exchange of historical documents between heterogeneous databases that were built in a decentralized structure. Standards were also fixed in cooperation with relevant organizations in order to enable both domestic and international circulation.

In order to digitize the bibliographic information of all the documents held by the university libraries over this period, the formatting will be based on KORMARC—a format for old books—which eventually will either be totally revamped or will be used to preserve the bibliographic information already under construction. Furthermore, ten percent of the documents in university libraries that have a high value in terms of national preservation or utility will be selected for a database that will be constructed from the original manuscripts with annotations and *t'alch'o*. Also, in the construction of an

¹¹ The composition of the contents for this purpose includes tools for historical materials, policy materials for the publicity of Korean history, basic historical documents, old private books, old Western books, foreign document collections, modern and contemporary colonial materials, historical materials from the Independence Movement, materials related to history of war, to modern and contemporary social movements, to important figures, and to local and village history, academic research and academic conference materials, and materials related to cultural properties.

¹² “The construction project for an integrated system of Korean historical information” was for the construction of an integrated service of the information resource database for the field of history that was pursued by four organizations: the NIKH, Kyujanggak Archives of Seoul National University, Academy of Korean Studies (*Hanguk chöngsin munhwa yönguwön*), and the Korean Classics Research Institute (*Minjok munhwa ch'ujin hoe*). Also, through an announcement made by the Bureau of Information and Communications, the NIKH was appointed as the “center for integrated information for Korean history” and has been operating the gateway server and digitizing and integrating the services for national treasures such as the *Süngjönwön ilgi* (Diaries of the Royal Secretariat, 1624-1894) or the *Ilsongnok* (Royal Diaries of Chosön kings from 1760-1910).

electronic circulation system of historical materials, the historical document databases that have already been built by universities will be serviced jointly through the Integrated Information System for Korean History (*Hanguk yŏksa chŏngbo t'onghap sisŭt'em*).¹³ The National Central Library has been constructing and operating an integrated index of ancient documents for use by university librarians to jointly construct and implement a bibliographical information database for historical documents.¹⁴

4.2 Construction and integration of a unified system among the museums for national cultural properties

The 9th article of the museum and art gallery promotional law stipulated the construction of a cooperative network among museums and art museums. The Ministry of Culture & Tourism (at the time called the Bureau of Culture and Athletics) presented a “Basic plan for the promotion of cultural informatization” (1997-2010) as the basis of this, and as part of this policy, after the information on artifacts held by twenty-six museums throughout the country were input into the database Korean National Heritage Online was completed in May 2001 and launched as a service on the internet (<http://www.heritage.go.kr>). Through an endowment of funds for the acceleration of the informatization, the Cultural Heritage Administration, National Museum of Korea, National Folk Museum of Korea, nine local national museums, seven municipal museums, eight university museums and twenty-seven other organizations all contributed to this project. National treasures, valuables, designated national cultural treasures, and artifacts held by twenty-six museums, as well as introductory and photographic information for 100,000 cultural treasures, and three-dimensional information were input in the database. They also completed the construction of a website portal for the important cultural treasures throughout the country, the administration of a cyber museum, the operation of an integrated search system for cultural treasures and artifacts held in museums, and the construction of a standardized artifact management system for artifacts held in museums around the country. From 2000 to 2005, 64.5 billion *wŏn* was invested into constructing this information system for national cultural properties as part of a countrywide cultural information network for Korea’s approximately 250 national, municipal, private and university museums and for the joint management of information about national cultural properties at the national level.¹⁵

¹³ For an integrated service of all the materials within the universities, the metadata is being constructed according to the ancient document MARC system, while the NIKH has been developing and implementing metadata based on Dublin Core (DC) for the smooth servicing of ancient original manuscripts.

¹⁴ Kang Sunae, “A Study on the mid-term development strategies for the historical materials informatization project” in Bureau of Educational Information Resources. *Study on Library Policies* (February 2002), pp. 1-139.

□ Kang Ŭnsu, “A study of the construction of a museum network: Centered on a case analysis of the holdings information network on the internet” Ph.D. Dissertation, Chungang University Graduate School of Fine Arts: Major in the Management of Holdings in Museums and Art Galleries (June 2003), pp. 70-73.

In addition, from 2000 to the present, the Bureau of Culture and Tourism has expanded their integrated information system on culture and fine arts (<http://www.culture-arts.go.kr>) to include culture and fine arts organizations and groups nationwide, and by 2010, they plan to construct a network and form a mutual cooperative system. With the participation of the National Theatre of Korea (*Kungnip kükchang*), National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Center (*Kungnip kugakwǒn*), National Museum of Contemporary Art (*Kungnip hyǒndae misulgwan*), Seoul Arts Center (*Yesul ūi chǒngdang*), Korean Culture and Arts Foundation (*Hanguk munhwa yesul chinghǔngwǒn*), Korean Culture and Tourism Policy Institute (*Hanguk munhwa kwangwang chǒngch'aek yǒnguwǒn*) Korean Film Archive (*Hanguk yǒngsang charyowǒn*), they are building a cooperative system, the contents of which will include the entire field of arts such as plays, music, dance, images, cultural policies, and general literary arts. In this manner, the construction of a cooperative museum system in Korea will focus on the construction of a unified information system for cultural properties under government leadership. For such systems to be maintained as successful cooperative systems, there must be an active base of cooperation and collaboration by the participating organizations.¹⁶

Libraries and museums know that in the environment within which they operate, there is a limit to the service satisfaction that they can provide, and they are conscious that while the construction of a cooperative system where they work together and jointly possess the resources is a practical measure, yet there is no known exemplary case of a cooperative system developed by mutual organizations. While research on the formatting of metadata for the purpose of a cooperation has been initiated in part, there has been no actual construction of a joint system between any library and museum.

4.3 Construction of an electronic dictionary of Korean provincial culture by the Academy of Korean Studies

The construction project for the “Electronic Dictionary of Korean Provincial Culture” by the Academy of Korean Studies began in 2005 as a project for total integration of all records within a targeted ten years. The project will systematically investigate and achieve the integration of all the historical properties of Korean regions—in terms of history, tradition, landscape, lifestyle, cultural transmission, arts, antiquities and relics—with facts and materials related to the current forms of politics, economy, society and culture of these locations.

The Research Institute of Korean Spirit and Culture, the predecessors to the Academy of Korean Studies (*Hanguk chǒngsin munhwa yǒnguwǒn*) and the Federation of Korean Culture Center (*Chǒn'guk*

¹⁶ Pak Cheyong and Cho Yunhŭi, “A study on the development of the form of cooperative systems for libraries and museums,” *Hanguk munhǒn chǒngbo hakhoe chi*, Vol. 38 No. 2 (June 2004), pp. 315-333.

munhwawŏn yŏnhaphoe), had initiated basic investigative research for the compilation of this electronic dictionary of provincial culture in 2001 resulting in nine volumes.¹⁷ The content of these nine volumes include: 1) sites of life (*salm*): nature and geography; 2) history of life: local history; 3) traces/vestiges of life: cultural properties; 4) subjects of life: clans and figures; 5) framework of life (1): politics and administration; 6) framework of life (2): economics and business; 7) contents of life: religion and culture; 8) methods of life: livelihoods and folk customs; 9) stories of life: oral transmission and vernacular studies.

In order to carry out this project, the Academy of Korean Studies first gathered and organized the authoritative compiled materials. The project members then collected and organized reference materials for provincial cultures that were difficult for individual scholars to access. In order to prepare an environment that would be jointly owned, they integrated basic materials related to provincial culture and started the provincial cultural archives in 2005. To accomplish this, first they gathered, organized and preserved documents from the administrative organizations of 232 cities and counties, historical museums, art museums, commemoration halls, exhibition halls, cultural associations, literary associations, cultural collections, countrywide performance theatres, sites of historical relics/remains, sites of the remains related to famous temples/local shrines/Protestantism/Catholicism/other religions, sites of scenic or historic interest, publications on regional festivals and event organs, provincial record, small publications, pamphlets, leaflets, information maps, websites, audio visual materials such as CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, video, cassettes, sound recordings, etc. The project also created an offline archive of provincial culture materials in order to enable general users to peruse, search and borrow materials. After gathering and organizing basic materials related to provincial culture, an online digital archive was built to be used directly in the process of writing, revising and compilation of the Korean provincial culture dictionary.

The expected results of this project are, first, in its role as a cultural capital asset where culture and arts can be used to improve the quality of existing goods, for ~~and~~ the development of new goods, and to design of buildings that symbolize the composition of everyday life and the necessities of living. Traditional culture and arts can be used as materials for contemporary performance arts and through the digital revolution they can also be used broadly in the “contents industry” that is rapidly developing as basic materials for the tourist industry, research and education. Second, the informatization of all the regions of Korea will be made systematic and efficient, sparking the development of other industries. It will produce standardization throughout Korea, stimulate the development of information and communication technologies and software. In addition to this, it will effect the integration of Korea’s

¹⁷ Academy of Korean studies and Association of Korean cultural institutes, *A Study on the Preliminary Investigations in the Compilation of the Electronic Dictionary of Korean Provincial Culture* (2001), pp. 10-11.

regions and the expansion of its cultural territory, thus having culturally historical significance as a great turning point in the rehabilitation of Korean culture.¹⁸

5. Conclusion: Evaluation and Prospects

I shall conclude with an evaluation of the foregoing topics and some suggestion for future prospects for synthesizing research on the construction, integration and use of the local history digital archives of Korea.

- 1) Regarding the concepts of Korean local history such as provincial history (*hyangt'osa*), regional history (*chiyōksa*), and local history (*chibangsa*), although there is some confusion in their use, the terms “regional” and “local history” are used in academic research while the term “provincial history” is used in educational and cultural fields. Since the 1980s, a great number of materials on Korean local history have been published that have been categorized by period and region. However, these materials have gone no further than research that focuses on the preservation of unique regional characteristics
- 2) The fifth, sixth and seventh educational stages have emphasized the domain of provincial history, and the seventh stage has particularly emphasized decentralization and autonomy. In order to provide support for educational courses, there needs to be more effective use of historical records, and materials of archaeological art history, ancient architecture, history of social systems, transitional ceremonies, and folk myths.
- 3) Although the construction of a digital archive system for local history that targets local history materials has been undertaken independently by various organizations, as of now, discussion has just begun on its integration and use especially in terms of the joint ownership of resources by libraries and museums. Informatization of local history materials in libraries has been addressed in accordance with the informatization of historical materials at a national level, and thus an information system of historical materials has been constructed for the history field under the leadership of The National Institute of Korean History (*Kuksa p'yōnch'an wiwōnhoe*). The informatization of historical materials in university libraries has been accomplished about through the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development (*Kyoyuk injōk chawōn pu*), which has constructed an integrated index of materials based on the National Central Library's Integrated Information System for Korean History. The cooperative network of museums was constructed and is now operating as an integrated system of national cultural properties (Korean National Heritage Online: *Chukka munhwa Yuan chonghap sisūt'em*), the prospect for which is the construction of a cooperative integrated information system for culture and arts by 2010. The project of constructing an electronic dictionary of provincial

¹⁸ Academy of Korean Studies, *Ibid.*, pp. 13-22.

culture by the Academy of Korean Studies is a project that was started in 2005 with the objective of completing a comprehensive collection of all provincial records of Korea within ten years. In order to carry out this project, they will make an offline archive of provincial cultural materials, and collect and organize basic materials related to provincial culture. They have also begun to construct an online digital archive of provincial culture to be implemented immediately during the process of composing, editing and compiling a dictionary of Korean provincial culture.

- 4) Of course, in terms of the joint ownership of information resources, there has been a recent trend among libraries, museums, and record halls to construct cooperative systems for providing one-stop services within a “ubiquitous environment”. In Korea, museums and art museums were the first to construct cooperative systems, and although libraries and museums have yet to do so, it is not long before they will create a cooperative network. Once the Academy of Korean Studies electronic dictionary of provincial culture is completed, the study of provincial history will be unified and systematically implemented.