

Practice of using digital archives in university lectures on the history of earth and planetary science

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With the shift to online lectures after 2021, there has been an increase in the use of archived data for practice, exercises, and graduation research at universities. In the field of earth and planetary sciences, archived data is being acquired and analyzed in situations when observation is difficult. A similar movement is also taking place in the field of humanities and social sciences, and there are reports of practice using "Japan Search," which will be officially released in 2020 and will enable cross-searching of digital archives made available by various institutions.

The same approach can be taken for lectures as well as for exercises through assignments. The use of digital archives, as well as electronic journals, can be a tool to encourage students to learn more independently, as is often the case in lectures on ethics and history in the natural sciences.

In a university lecture on the history of natural science, I asked the students to search and compare the conceptual maps of the solar system drawn on the astronomical documents of the Edo period using digital archives. The experience of using digital archives to search, browse, and examine historical documents was useful regardless of the department to which the students belonged. Some of the final reports were written using the digital archive, and some of the students continued to use it. The same approach can be applied to the historical content in various fields of earth and planetary science, and the use of public data in the class is considered to be useful in considering the contact between science and society.

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