Editor's Message to Special Issue of Computer and Humanities

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The Special Interest Group of Computer and Humanities (SIG-CH) affiliated with the Information Processing Society of Japan (IPSJ) has promoted interdisciplinary studies between information science and the humanities to apply information technologies to the field for nearly three decades. These research results have provided academic and social contributions by expanding the possibilities of technologies accumulated in IPSJ. Further, they have led the way toward new academic fields.

On the other hand, these research results have been presented in only a limited number of journals and conferences, such as the Symposium for Computer and Humanities (JINMONCOM) organized by the SIG-CH. Few journals properly review and widely distribute interdisciplinary research results. This special issue was planned by the SIG-CH to resolve this issue.

The main topics covered in this special issue are studies in the humanities applying information technologies and studies in information science about recording, accumulating, and distributing information resources related to the humanities. This special issue highlights achievements among researchers not only in informatics but also in the humanities, thereby sharing progress in both scientific fields.

Twenty-four papers, including two papers for the *Journal of Information Processing* (JIP), were submitted between October 2016 and May 2017, and 12 papers—including one paper for JIP—were accepted (acceptance ratio: 50%). This number of submissions was nearly twice what we anticipated, probably because this special issue was the first attempt regarding the theme of “Computer and Humanities,” covering various subjects. Additionally, some authors were involved in SIG-CH activities for the first time and submitted papers about subjects that are rarely addressed by SIG-CH. I am recognizing the broad scope of this theme.

Although the peer review policy of this special issue is basically the same as for other papers submitted to JIP, contributions to the humanities were carefully considered in addition to novelty in information technology because the theme is closely associated with interdisciplinary studies. Each reviewer made detailed and specific comments for rejecting papers. I expect that authors will revise their papers based on the comments and resubmit them to JIP or *IPSJ Journal*. Furthermore, the influence of this special issue was not limited to the authors. There were some researchers who were responsible for meta-reviews or reviews of papers submitted to the JIP for the first time because of this special issue. Among them, there are researchers specializing in the humanities. It is believed that they will continue to contribute to various

activities of IPSJ, including the reviews of papers concerning the humanities.

Papers in this special issue provide the latest research results about subjects of the humanities including literature, history, linguistics, characters, bibliography, dance, and geography. Various kinds of information technologies were used to analyze research resources for these subjects and construct relevant data. For example, information retrieval, corpus, digital archives, metadata, geographic information systems, the Semantic Web, and natural language processing are applied technologies covered in this special issue. I hope that these research results are widely recognized and shared among researchers not only in information science but also in the humanities. Further, I hope that they will give inspiration for their future studies. My wish is that this special issue will contribute to progress in both information science and the humanities.

This special issue is the result of cooperation among many people. I would like to express my gratitude to the authors who submitted interesting papers. The peer reviewers cooperated with the tight schedule, even though they were very busy. Members of the editorial board and editorial committee judged the reviewed papers carefully and did their best to ensure the high quality of this special issue. I gratefully acknowledge everyone involved in the review process. Finally, I appreciate IPSJ staff members who gave us appropriate advice on editing this special issue.

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