

Exploring the Methodology of Collecting, Archiving, and Making Available Historical Documents on Broadcasting:

- Utilization of Archival Documents at the NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute for Research Purposes -

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(Summary)

In recent years, with the development of facilities such as NHK Archives, which store and provide the public with access to past broadcast programs, new types of broadcasting studies utilizing archived video materials are making progress. On the other hand, there is still work to be done to put in a framework to utilize written documents regarding broadcasting history in the possession of broadcasters and other various institutions as well as individuals.

Among them, a number of documents related to programs and management of NHK, including those from pre-war era when NHK was an incorporated association, personal documents collected in the course of studies, and audio materials of interviews with people in the broadcasting circle are stored at the NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute. The NHK Museum of Broadcast also houses diverse documents including pre-war and post-war broadcast scripts. Furthermore, there exist countless historical documents possessed by each station of NHK, commercial broadcasters, production companies, universities and other research institutions as well as by individuals involved in broadcasting in the past. However, due to the lack of sufficient linkage between the owners, it is difficult to comprehensively grasp the situation of such historical materials, and hence it is hard to say that these documents are being fully utilized in the studies of broadcasting history.

With an aim to improve the situation, this paper presents the whole picture of the documents stored at the NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute and the NHK Museum of Broadcast and discusses the ongoing efforts to archive and utilize historical materials. It also touches on NHK's system concerning document management and examines what challenges lie ahead in further collecting broadcast historical documents and making them available to the public.

Based on these considerations, the authors discuss issues to be addressed in the three phases, "transferring and collecting," "archiving and sorting," and "making public and utilizing" and examine what kinds of responses are needed to solve problems at each stage, namely developing a transfer system of documents possessed by organizations, preventing deterioration of materials, protecting personal information and handling of copyrights, respectively. Finally the authors argues that, for the advancement of collecting, archiving, and making available historical documents, in addition to implementing appropriate measures at each phase, it is inevitable to further develop studies on broadcasting history utilizing archives and to broadly raise an awareness of the importance of historical materials.