

## An analysis of Rikkokushi (six Japanese chronicles in the 7-9th century) as record media of natural disasters

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We counted the number of characters (i.e. an amount of information) in Rikkokushi, which are the most important chronicles describing the Japanese history mainly during the 7-9th century, and examined the ability of Rikkokushi for recording natural phenomena, which include earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In Rikkokushi, a total amount of information increases with time except for the period between 792 and 833 A.D., where 77% of original descriptions were lost by war or fire. The total amount of information in the final part (Nihon Sandai Jitsuroku) is twelve times more than that in the beginning part (Nihon Shoki). Information about natural phenomena shows similar tendency of increase. The total amount of information also varies coincidentally with changes of document editors.