A Study on the Effect of Universal Access to the Information Space for the People in Community Activities
-Based on the IC cards Usage of the Social Experiments and the Evaluation-

Ch. Takashi Kobayashi (Assistant Professor, School of Political Science and Economics, Tokai Univ.)

[SYNOPSIS]

The target of universal access to the Internet is to guarantee to collect and present useful information whenever for everybody from anywhere without relating to social classes and region. The universal access enables that inhabitants accurately grasp the environmental information. The universal access is a premise of the ubiquitous society. If the residents were able to grasp the environmental information of the familiar region and inform regional information, it would promote the recognition of the necessity of improvement in urban space, such as crime prevention, disaster prevention, etc., and large effect would be given for the citizens' activities.

This study clarified the user image of IC cards from the investigation to Japanese municipalities that are promoting the public IC cards such as the basic resident register cards. Especially, in Yamato City, Kanagawa, Japan, the IC cardholders are over 40% of the population. This study investigated the effect on the Internet access expansion to information space and community activity. And we also review the relationship between citizen and administration on the social system making process of the activating of IC card system. At the time of introduction stage of the basic resident register card, civic organizations or mass communications pointed out the uneasiness to security for personal information or privacy protection. This survey looked up to the acceptability of those public IC cards from the investigation.

As mentioned above, this study clarifies the influence for which the universal access to the information space by the citizen using the IC cards to the city planning activities.