SUMMARY OF MASTER'S DISSERTATION

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Title

Building a Reference Model for Policy Analysis

It has been noted that policy analysis has not yet been fully implemented into the process of policy making in Japan. This has been caused by a human resource system which requires the constant rotation of public administration staff within a few years, so that incentives for passing on details and results of past policy analysis to successors are low, leading to a lack of accumulation of reference material when carrying out further policy analysis. This study, therefore, proposes a reference model for policy analysis by first designing a reference database from the perspectives of a public administration staff member who need to carry out policy analysis, based on the theory that making reference to past research/analysis readily available is effective toward lowering the cost of policy analysis.

This Study is conducted as follows:
① Choose the necessary elements in a reference model by first building an action model for the implementation of policy analysis by public administration staff.

② Create a prototype of a reference model for policy analysis based on findings of ①.

③ Put the model built in ② to practice in order to examine to what extent reference to the model can be made and to examine if cutting down costs of policy analysis can be realized.

As a result, the following five conclusions are obtained:
(1) By visualizing the relationship between political issues and solutions, it is easier to grasp the overall picture of the political issue by lessening the chance of overlooking important reference material or time consumed in referencing unnecessary information.

(2) When reference to policy analysis as a result of visualization of political issues and solutions in (1) is made readily available, it is possible to reduce the amount of time required in finding and understanding the content of a reference material.

(3) By visualizing the inputs and outputs of policy analysis simulation in natural language, it is possible to reduce the amount of time required to find reference to similar analysis cases.

(4) By drawing up a list of databases of common reference to policy analysis in advance, it is possible to reduce time required in acquiring the necessary data.

(5) By providing a format which enables the storage of current analysis results in accordance with analysis performed in the past, it is easier to update data and models.

However, the necessary costs for the construction/update/maintenance of a database when actually putting said reference model into real use remains an issue to be resolved. There is a need to consider methods of automation (text mining, etc.) in future studies.

Key Word(5 words)
Policy Analysis, Reference Model, Reference Database, Structured Issue, Simulation