From serendipity to 3D and national-level databases

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It has been more than a decade since I started developing my own theories on creative performance and building a pathway to fulfill the goals.

The initial idea was to do science in a sustainable fashion while avoiding “the curse of innovation”. The task has always been overwhelming, ten years throughout, given the fact that it would have to be performed in a developing country’s context [1]. And, as doing science is related to the challenging job of getting the works published, it is inevitable that the barriers to the publishing world would have to be overcome [2].

In 2017, the idea of building a national database on academic productivity in the humanities and social sciences in Vietnam was sparked. It was performed successfully in the same year, and our major publication for that was published in the year 2018 [3]. The database, and the first SciComm platform associated with it, was created under the national research project, with a grant from the Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (Nafosted).

At first, it seems so curious for such scientific achievements to have come very fast. But looking more carefully, one could see that they have not.

The idea of the above-mentioned national database on the HSS was serendipity-based and had the foreseeable advantage in strategic terms (such as serving to build a sustainable and productive research team [4]). Nonetheless, without the proper mindsponge application, a serendipitous research idea could

have died quickly [5]. Moreover, to maintain a research team that is capable of doing many works while aiming for increasing quality, proper cultural values will need to be institutionalized over time until they become a set of core values [6].

Fortunately, I have come across the method of how to implement these overwhelming tasks since the early 2010s. The process for understanding and building the method has culminated in a peer-reviewed publication in the *International Journal of Transitions and Innovation Systems* in 2014 [7]. We term this “the 3D information process of creativity”. And this identifies the scientific process as both an entrepreneurial venture and a process of team creative performance.

That is how the first national database [3], and several dozens of research publications, were produced by our research team at AISDL (A.I. for Social Data Lab).

And the saga has not stopped here with the SSHPA in [3].

In 2020, we also had fulfilled our commitment to building the first database on mathematical research by Vietnamese mathematicians, called the SciMath Database. This project has still been going, in line with an agreement between Prof. Ngo Bao Chau and me since 2017, with the first technical report for Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics (VIASM) being produced in late 2020. Given its properties such as long-term (nearly 80 years), comprehensive (eleven thousand publications), and so on, etc., we have regarded this as the first national database in this critically important scientific discipline in Vietnam and as a landmark achievement of our working method based on serendipity/mindsponge/3D information process of creativity.

And this is how I stumbled upon the opportunity of initiating the second national database during a two-hour lunch with Prof. Ngo Bao Chau in 2017.

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