Preface for the Special Issue Entitled "The Formation of the 'Science for Human Services'"[1]

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This special issue is comprised of revised papers, which are part of papers published in connection with a two-year research project launched in 1999 as Project Research B1 of the "Human Services Workshop" (reorganized in 2000 as the "Science for Human Services") at the Ritsumeikan Institute of Educational Sciences, revised papers presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Japanese Psychonomic Society Open Lectures, which was jointly held with the aforementioned workshop and original research papers by research group members.

The Human Services Workshop is comprised of researchers in experimental psychology, clinical psychology, Behavior analysis, social psychology, social welfare and sociology, as well as the staff members of welfare facilities who are engaged in assistance activities and the managers of such facilities. Under the theme of "Is the paradigm of the 'Science of Human Services' viable?" they first introduced their conventional involvement in the practice of human services from an academic or organizational perspective and then, toward the formation of the Science for Human Services, strived to establish ways to promote collaboration between research and practice or among positions in organizations and new methodologies to solve the specific issues involved.

The concrete objectives of the workshop were twofold. The first was to create a kind of virtual text on unique principles inherent in interpersonal assistance or human services and the skills required for the provision of such services for people who wish to work in this field in the future or those currently working in the field. The second was to launch, on a trial basis, the "Welfare and Education Information Network" as an open verbal medium to address related issues that continue to emerge in this ever changing social situation.

As mentioned at the beginning, the name and organization of the Human Services Workshop were changed in 2000, becoming the Science for Human Services/Interpersonal Assistance Workshop. This was because the workshop (research project) was repositioned as one of the research organizations at a new center when its parent organization, the Institute of Educational Sciences, was reorganized as the Institute of Human

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Sciences upon designation by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as one of the core research centers for its Academic Frontier Project. The Academic Frontier Project at the Institute was named "Total Research on Human Environment Design for Human Services" and the Human Services Workshop was repositioned as one of the preparatory organizations for the "Human Environment Creation Project for a New Era," the core project of the Academic Frontier Project.

The objectives of the core project are to build a human service platform (HSP) that aims to accumulate and share interpersonal assistance-related information among subprojects of the Academic Frontier Project and through such efforts, to establish new methodologies for human services. While these two objectives somewhat overlap with the objective of the former research group, namely, the creation of a "Welfare and Education Information Network," they will be addressed on a larger scale and from a longer perspective.

In such a context, this special issue intends to introduce issues from each party involved. While researchers present tentative methodologies for human service practices based on collaboration between the basics and application or research and practice, practitioners present, centering on the field of disability, issues involved in providing services within existing systems and the more specific operational issues in the field where direct assistance is being provided, particularly those related to the support system for service providers working in the field.

The common challenge that has become evident through these efforts is to explore and establish methodologies to address personal and social institutional issues, not in a dividing or divisional manner as conventional disciplines of psychology and social welfare have done, but in a continuous and collaborative manner. That is to say, methodologies that cover the entire process from the personal, micro level to the institutional, macro level and aim to achieve the behaviors selected by service consumers via their own self-determination.

In an effort to establish the methodologies for collaboration, the first framework was presented at the time of the inception of the workshop. It was based on the concept that views the human services required at the forefront of interpersonal assistance as a function of three interlinked elements, namely, "assist (enjo)," "advocate (engo)" and "instruct (kyouju)." "Assist" here means to establish totally new human and physical environments in order to secure, in a substantial manner, the achievement of the behavior selected by the person concerned (or the opportunity to select the behavior). "Advocate" means verbal behavior requesting society's help in permanently establishing the aforementioned new assistance within the environment. "Instruct" means to help each individual's social adjustment while ensuring the new environments.

Based on the results of this special issue and centering on graduate students, efforts are being made in the core project of the Academic Frontier Project to classify

literature related to the selected topics (such as "self-determination" and "QOL," the core issues in human service activities) according to the functions of "assist," "advocate" or "instruct" in order to create database. While the main work of such efforts involves the systematic introduction of abridged translations of related papers, one purpose is to provide busy interpersonal assistance practitioners with information on specific methodologies and skills related to "assist" and "instruction" that have been introduced in advanced research and practices overseas. It is hoped that this information will be of use in solving the problems that they face in the field. Another purpose is to have students, who play a leading role in the creation of the database, experience the fact that their daily learning and research activities are functionally linked with the very forefront of human services at present and into the future.

Regarding the database, we plan to post ongoing practices being conducted in the welfare field in their original form on the Web, such as those introduced in this special issue, in order to invite suggestions from the outside and promote the exchange of various views. The purpose of this effort is to obtain wider social support beyond the limited human relationships among assistance providers?which is to say, an "advocate" activity?to help them maintain their advanced assistance skills at the forefront. Thus, the database aims not to simply introduce the three activities of "assist," "advocate" and "instruct" separately as knowledge, but to serve as a tool to promote functional links in the ongoing practice of interpersonal assistance.