Spatial information is often closely related to temporal information, and therefore, various geoinformatics studies associated with temporal data have been conducted. Tracking analysis is the most popular study using spatiotemporal data. Visualizing temporal changes of spatial distribution is typical as well. These kinds of analyses are also frequently used and important in some of the scientific fields under the humanities, such as historical and archaeological studies. Spatiotemporal information in the humanities, however, is sometimes ambiguous. Additionally, the basic data and procedures for analyzing information are not necessarily well prepared. To solve these problems, it is necessary to establish basic data and procedures and to gather applicable case studies.

This special issue, entitled “Time and Space,” focuses on studies relating to spatiotemporal information, especially in the humanities, and contains papers in two categories. The first refers to papers associated with the construction and utilization of spatiotemporal data. These papers focus on themes of basic theory and data construction. Application of spatiotemporal information to the Linked Data is also one of the major concerns in this category. Since the Linked Data has become widespread in recent years, it is to be expected that the results of these studies will be used for future research activities in the humanities.

The second category refers to papers associated with studies based on spatiotemporal information contained in documents or relics. For example, the field notes of a researcher or old maps are popular data sources in area studies and historical studies. Although the target geographical areas of these studies are limited to specific countries or regions, I believe that the results demonstrate good practices in the analysis of spatiotemporal information for the humanities and that these practices can be applied to other geographical areas, as well.