CLAIMS

1. A system for use with a plurality of sets of decks of playing cards, each of the sets being shuffled in a unique order and having a cut card, the system comprising:

a card shoe apparatus including:

a card housing unit configured to house respective ones of the sets of shuffled playing cards and the cut card, wherein which of the sets is housed in the card housing unit is changed over time;

an opening configured to enable a drawing of the cards from the card housing unit one by one; and

a card reading unit configured to read card information from each of the cards;

a display unit configured to display a result of a card game; and

a control unit comprising at least one processor configured to, for each of the sets housed in the card housing unit:

identify, based on information from the card reading unit, drawings of the cut card to determine a respective period during which the respective one of the sets is used with the card shoe apparatus until the respective set is replaced by another of the sets; and

determine and output a relationship between (a) a number of all of a plurality of instances of the card game played using the respective set housed in the card housing unit of the card shoe apparatus, and (b) a time period during which the plurality of instances of the card game were played.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a database communicably connected to the control unit, wherein the control unit is configured to transmit to the database for storing at least one of the following items of information:

an identification of a game table used for gaming;

an identification of a dealer present at a game table;

a start time of the respectively determined period during which the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus;

an end time of the respectively determined period during which the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus;

the respectively determined period during which the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus;

a pit or a card room where the respective set was stored before being delivered to a game table;

a time period after an end of game play using a first one of the sets until a start of a new game using another one of the sets;

a time period from a start to an end of a game played; and

a purchase or procurement of the respective set.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the control unit is configured to identify one or more specified events that occur during use of the shuffled playing cards respective set; and

the specified events include at least one of the following:

a reading error in the card reading unit;

a drawing error when a card is attempted to be withdrawn from the card shoe apparatus when no card should be drawn according to rules of a card game;

a determination of a winner/loser of each card game during the use of the shuffled playing cards for that game; and

an improper shuffling of playing cards housed in the card shoe apparatus.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein occurrence information of the one or more specified events is transmitted to a main computer.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the respective set and/or the cut card have a respective uniquely identifiable card ID as an ID code that is associated with the respective set, and the card shoe apparatus identifies the ID code.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the control unit is configured to perform, based on the determined respective period during which the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus, at least one of the following:

determine a respective average number of error occurrences during the respective period during which the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus; and

monitor one or more respective tendencies of a plurality of results of a plurality of card games during the respective period during which the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus.

7. The system of claim 5, further comprising:

a database communicably connected to the control unit, wherein the control unit is configured to transmit to the database for storing at least one of the following items of information in association with the ID code of the respective set:

an identification of a game table used for gaming using the respective set;

an identification of a dealer present at a game table using the respective set;

a start time of use of the respective set;

an end time of the use of the respective set;

the determined respective period during which for the respective set is used with the card shoe apparatus;

a pit or a card room where the respective set was stored before being delivered to a game table;

a time period after an end of game play using the respective set until a start of a new game using another of the sets;

a time period from a start to an end of a game played using the respective set; and

a purchase or procurement of the respective set.

8. The system of claim 5, further comprising:

a transmission apparatus configured to externally transmit occurrence information of one or more specified events with the ID code, wherein the one or more specified events include at least one of the following: a reading error in the card reading unit;

a drawing error when a card is attempted to be withdrawn from the card shoe apparatus when no card should be drawn according to rules of a card game;

a determination of a winner/loser of each card game during the use of the respective set for that game; and

an improper shuffling of the respective set.

9. The system of claim 5, wherein the ID code is obtained by a communication means.

10. A method of controlling a system for use with a plurality of sets of decks of playing cards, each of the sets being shuffled in a unique order and having a cut card, the method comprising:

controlling, by a control unit comprising at least one processor, a card shoe apparatus, wherein:

the card shoe apparatus includes:

a card housing unit configured to house respective ones of the sets of shuffled playing cards and the cut card, wherein there is a change over time with respect to which of the sets is housed in the card housing unit;

an opening configured to enable a drawing of the cards from the card housing unit one by one; and

a card reading unit configured to read card information from each of the cards; and

the controlling comprises:

identifying, based on information from the card reading unit, drawings of the cut card to determine a respective period during which the respective one of the sets is used with the card shoe apparatus until the respective set is replaced by another of the sets; and

determining and outputting a relationship between (a) a number of all of a plurality of instances of a card game played using the respective set housed in the card housing unit, and (b) a time period during which the plurality of instances of the card game were played.