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THE CONTEMPORARY CHINA COLLECTION
IN THE ASIAN DIVISION
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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Beginning of the Chinese Collection in the Library of Congress

In June 1869 the Library of Congress (LC) received a donation of 10 works in 905 volumes of Chinese traditional stitch-bound books from the Tongzhi Emperor (同治皇帝) of China. This donation marked the beginning of the Library's Chinese Collection.

In 1879, the Library acquired the personal library of 2,547 volumes on classical literature, politics, law, and medicine of Caleb Cushing (顾盛)¹, the first U.S. minister to China who led negotiations resulting in the first treaty (Wangxia Treaty 望厦条约) between the United States and China in 1844.

The Development of China Collection in the Early 20th Century

The development of LC's Chinese collection has gone through many stages. In the early period of the twentieth century, many note-worthy acquisitions were acquired. These are:²

The William Rockhill Collection of 6,000 volumes was acquired in 1901-1902. Rockhill was an U.S. diplomat to China and a sinologist. The collection included many Manchu, Mongolian, and Tibetan books.

The Chinese Government, at the conclusion of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904, presented to the Library a generous gift of 198 works in 1,965 volumes on the subjects of history, geography, phonetics, music, medicine, and a set of *Imperial Encyclopedia of China* (古今图书集成.)

In May 1909, the Library received a shipment of 291 volumes of Chinese books and maps from the city of Shanghai in exchange for the United States documents forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at that city.³

The Dr. Hing Kwai Fung (冯景桂) Collection of 17,208 volumes was acquired in 1913-1915. It consists of works dealing chiefly with arts, archaeology, collective works, encyclopedias, lexicography, history, and physiography, etc.

Between 1915 and 1920, a Chinese scholar, Jiang Kang-hu (江亢虎), who possessed great knowledge of Chinese literature and was commissioned by the Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam, traveled to China frequently and collected over 2,000 volumes of local gazetteers, which have become one of the most valuable sources for the study of the early Republican period. Also, Mr. Jiang further expanded the gift-and-exchange of library materials between the libraries of the United States and China.⁴

Between 1915 and 1927, Dr. Walter T. Swingle, a botanist and an admirer of Chinese civilization, was instrumental in helping the Library to acquire some 413 official local gazetteers from China.

¹ *Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1901*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1901. p. 15.

² *Report of the Librarian of Congress and Report of the Superintendent of the Library Building and Grounds for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1915*. Washington, DC: Government Print Office, 1915. pp. 38-43.

³ Hu, Shu Chao. (胡述兆) *The Development of the Chinese Collection in the Library of Congress*. Boulder, Colo: Westview Press, 1979. pp. 53-54.

⁴ Wang, Peiwei (汪佩伟) 江亢虎研究 *Jiang Kang Hu Yan Jiu*. Wuhan: Wuhan Publishing House, 1998. pp. 152-153.

The Library acquired 29 volumes of the very famous Yongle Dadian (永乐大典) in 1923. The other twelve volumes were acquired at a later time.

In 1928, the Oriental Collection of the John Crerar Library in Chicago was acquired. It consisted of 666 works in 12,819 volumes, of which 85% were in the Chinese language, with the remaining volumes being in the Japanese, Manchu, Tibetan and Mongolian languages.

Also in 1928, some 22,100 volumes of the Wang Shu-nan (王树楠) family collection in Tianjin were acquired through the generous donation of funds by Andrew W. Mellon. The Wang collection not only brought to the Library a splendid array of the finest literary works of China, but also greatly enriched the Chinese collection in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and botany, in which the Library already possessed many valuable materials.⁵

In the 1930s, many exciting events took place during Dr. Arthur W. Hummel's tenure as the Chief of the Division of Chinese Literature (former name of the Asian Division.) Arthur W. Hummel's visit to China in 1912 and 1913 aroused his interest in Chinese culture and civilization. He returned to China in 1915 to study Chinese language, and read extensively the Chinese gazetteers, which provided him with great insight into the history, geography, customs, and beliefs of the local Chinese people. Subsequently he taught Chinese history and civilization at the Yenching School of Chinese Studies in Beijing from 1924 to 1927.

During the period when Dr. Hummel was the Chief of the Division of Chinese Literature from 1928 to 1954, the Chinese Collection developed steadily. Statistics show that the Collection increased from some 100,000 volumes in 1928⁶ to 291,000 volumes in 1954.⁷ For example, Mr. Hummel's travel to China in 1934 resulted in the addition of 7,721 volumes to the Collection. Materials added during these years cover all subjects of China studies with major attention paid to gazetteers and rare manuscript maps and atlases. In 1962, Dr. Hummel donated manuscript maps from his personal collection to the Library.⁸

During the 1930s, notable acquisitions also included Emil Krebs's private collection of 1,620 volumes in 1932 and 1,070 volumes of local gazetteers through Joseph F. Rock in 1937. Many of these local and regional gazetteers date back to the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Another unique collection that came to the Chinese Collection in 1938 was 493 volumes of books printed by missionary printer William Gamble. Donated by Rev. Gamble's family, this collection represents the early cultural contact between China and the United States through the missionaries of the American Presbyterian Mission who were active in Ningpo and Shanghai from 1858 to 1869.

The Library's tireless acquisitions efforts in early years have created one of the most valuable Chinese rare book collections in the world, and have established a rich collection for modern China studies. The focus of this article, however, is not on these precious holdings. Instead, it is on the Library's contemporary China collection.

The Development of the Contemporary China Collection

During the years of World War II, the U. S. Government Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisitions of Foreign Publications purchased some 5,000 volumes of Chinese publications in Chongqing in 1945 for LC,

⁵ Hu, Shu-chao. (胡述兆) *The Development of the Chinese Collection in the Library of Congress*. Boulder, Colo: Westview Press, 1979. p. 82.

⁶ *Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1928; Accessions to the Division of Chinese Literature*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1928. pp. 272-286.

⁷ *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, 1944-1963*. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1963. p. 22.

⁸ Li, Xiacong. (李孝聪) 美国国会图书馆藏中文古地图叙录. (*Ancient Chinese Maps in the Library of Congress*.) Beijing: Wenwu Publishing House, 2004. pp. 26-27.

which enriched the Chinese Collection with valuable sources that cover the Republican (Republic of China) period (1911-1949).

With the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the method and source of Chinese acquisitions for the Library were drastically changed by the termination of U.S. diplomatic relations with China. Due to the lack of communication between mainland China and the United States, the Library experienced great difficulty in acquiring Chinese materials directly from the Mainland. For this reason, from 1950 to 1972, most PRC publications received by the Library were purchased through dealers in Hong Kong. These purchases averaged 1,000 to 2,000 volumes per year through the 1950s, and less than 1,000 volumes through the 1960s.

Before 1945, the major emphasis for acquiring Chinese materials was on the securing of old Chinese books or classical literature. During World War II, the Chinese Collection was inadequate to supply current material for the immediate needs of the various federal government agencies, and these agencies had to rely on their own resources for obtaining Chinese materials. Thus, when Luther Evans assumed the post of the Librarian of Congress at the end of the War, greater emphasis was placed on the securing of current publications rather than the old classics.⁹

From 1949 to 1972, the closed-door policy of PRC made it very difficult to obtain Chinese materials from the Mainland just at a time when the Library had a shift of acquisition policy for the Chinese Collection by extending its efforts and avenues to obtain contemporary China materials.

After WWII, many federal government agencies had no more need for their Chinese materials. One of LC's vigorous efforts to collect Chinese materials in this period was to urge these agencies to donate their Chinese collections to LC. Therefore, a large transfer of Chinese materials from these agencies to the Library took place. More than 27,547 volumes were donated to the Library. In 1960, again a substantial transfer of 30,000 volumes was received from other government agencies. These two collections contain substantial research sources on various studies of the history of the Republic of China as well as the early establishment of the People's Republic of China, which added to the strength of the contemporary China collection.

Beginning in the early 1970s, after Nixon's visit to China and the resumption of US foreign relations with the PRC, the Library has made continuous efforts to improve the contemporary China collection. Although the key emphasis of collection development is on social science studies of post-1949 China, studies of developments between 1900 and 1949 that influenced the rest of the twentieth century were also of critical interest.

Apart from monographs that were obtained from various sources, there are major sources on contemporary China studies in the Chinese Collection. The following categories are notable:

(1) The largest newspaper collection outside of China.

More than 1,200 titles of newspapers were listed in *Chinese Newspapers in the Library of Congress; A Bibliography*, compiled by Han-chu Huang (黄汉柱) and Hseo-chin Jen (任学勤), 1985. The scope of this bibliography includes Chinese newspapers published during the period from the 1870s to 1984. The publisher of these newspapers may be official organs of the national government, or representative organs of provinces, autonomous regions, or municipalities. They may represent, or cater to, special groups, such as youth, women, minorities, or students; or they may specialize in certain subject fields, such as economics, history, education, commerce and trade, or science and technology.

(2) An unparalleled local gazetteer collection.

⁹ Evans, Luther H. "Research Libraries in the War Period, 1939-1945." *Library Quarterly*. 1947: 17:241-262.

According to the statistical records of the Library and the descriptions in *A Catalog of Chinese Local Histories in the Library of Congress* by Shih Chia Chu (朱士嘉), the collection had 3,479 titles in 1949 in more than 52,500 volumes. The efforts of several scholars and specialists in the early years have made this collection a most valuable source for the study of contemporary China.

(3) A comprehensive periodical collection.

In 1978, 6,400 titles were incorporated in *Chinese Periodicals in the Library of Congress*, 1st edition, by Han-chu Huang (黄汉柱). All these periodicals were published from 1868 to 1975.

LC's Efforts for Improvement

Growing internationalization, through corporate endeavors, political and financial restructuring, and networks of connecting technologies, makes it essential that the United States Congress develop and maintain a thorough knowledge and understanding of its world partners. The ability to interpret the histories and cultures of other nations, through their own languages, is critical in an interconnected world, especially with regard to Asia, whose languages pose particular challenges to native English speakers.

Emerging developments in China are already having a strong effect on the entire world. Being the congressional library as well as the national library, it is a part of the Congress' mandate that the Library's Chinese Collection remain a national resource for scholarship on China. Also, Congress ensures that the scholarship in the humanities and social sciences of LC's contemporary China collection receives the support needed to further American understanding of China in every aspect. Therefore, under the direction of Librarian of Congress Dr. James H. Billington, the Social Science Studies on 20th Century China Case Study Team was established in 1993.¹⁰

The case study focused on the Library's Chinese collections policies related to social science studies of post-1949 China. The Case Studies Team was chaired by Robert Worden, LC's Federal Research Division, with team members Chi Wang, head of the Chinese section, and representatives from the Law Library, Acquisitions, CRS, Scholarly Programs, and the Collections Policy Office. Its members also included China studies scholars such as Anna See-Ping Leon Shulman, Tai-loi Ma, June Teufet Dreyer, Madelyn C. Ross, James V. Feinerman, and Jonathan K. Ocko.

The focus of the Case Study Team was on the need for the Library's Chinese collections policies to be responsive to China's political and research trends, and in particular to anticipate the needs of congressional offices and other service units of the Library such as the Congressional Research Services, Federal Research Division, as well as those of other government agencies, and the scholarly community. The China Case Study Team had regular meetings, recruited local China studies researchers and scholars, and made strategic plans for the further development of LC's contemporary China Collection.¹¹

The China Case Study Team's findings were issued on October 1, 1995. They stated that "Through its own efforts and those of six paid consultants and from the responses of numerous inside and outside observers, there was found much praise and some criticism of the modern China-related collections. The collections are comprehensive for historical research but are falling short of the needs of researchers needing extremely current and reliable data, especially in the fields of business, law, national security, human rights, and politics, both domestic and international."¹²

¹⁰ "Questions for Soliciting Information for Social Science Studies on 20th-Century China Case Study." [A survey] Robert Worden. October 20, 1993.

¹¹ "Survey and Assessment of the Library of Congress Holdings on Modern China Economic and Business Issues." [A survey] Library of Congress. Social Science Studies on 20th Century China Case Study Team. July 10, 1995.

¹² "Social Science Studies in Twentieth-Century China: A Case Study." [A report] Library of Congress. Social Science Studies on 20th Century China Case Study Team. October 1, 1995.

The major external and internal factors contributing to this shortfall, as were found by the Study Team, include the following:

- Emergence of China as major world economic and political player and the need for more library research and analytical coverage.
- Publication boom in and about China and the need for more, better, and timely acquisitions and processing of these materials in all formats.
- Decline of Library budgets and staff resources.
- Inadequate coordination among Library staff involved in the acquisition, processing, maintaining, serving, and using of the China-related and Asia-related collections.

Immediately after the China Case Study Team's findings, the reports of outside consultants such as Anna Leon Shulman, June Teufel Dreyer, James V. Feinerman, Tai-loi Ma, and Madelyn C. Ross were carefully studied by LC's management and the China Area Specialists. Subsequently four strategic issues were identified:^{13, 14}

- Strategic Issue 1: Library-wide Needs
Identify and acquire materials in all formats supporting research on current as well as historical events about China.
- Strategic Issue 2: Integrated Library System, Digital, and Vernacular Information
Improve electronic access to and information about LC's collections as well as access and links to resources available worldwide.
- Strategic Issue 3: Location of Reference Materials
Establish a comprehensive, multi-language reference collection on China in the Asian Division.
- Strategic Issue 4: Increase Use of Collections
Promote the knowledge and use of the collections through expanded outreach programs.

Among many major follow-up actions taken after the China Case Study Team's findings, one was to establish a China Working Group with the authority to effect better coordination among the Library's acquisitions, processing, curatorial, reference, and research staffs in regard to acquiring, processing, maintaining, serving, and using China-related materials, both in the Chinese language and in other languages.

On February 27, 1998, the China Working Group established ten priorities:¹⁵

- Priority 1: (A) Improve acquisitions in specific areas, (B) Improve specific acquisitions techniques.
- Priority 2: Undertake collection evaluations.
- Priority 3: Improve automation support.

¹³ "A Survey and Assessment of Current Holdings in the Library of Congress Related to the Study of National Security Issues in Twentieth-Century China." [Recommendation paper] June Teufel Dreyer. June 1995.

¹⁴ "An Assessment of the Current Holdings and Research Trends on Social Science Topics in Twentieth Century China." [Recommendation paper] Ma, Tai-loi. (马泰来.) July 1995.

¹⁵ "Priorities Established by the China Working Group." [Committee Recommendations] Library of Congress. China Working Group. February 27, 1998.

- Priority 4: Foster a more cooperative working environment among those dealing with Chinese materials.
- Priority 5: Identify new sources for acquisition of special collections.
- Priority 6: Provide enough space for incoming materials added to collections.
- Priority 7: Encourage use of/publicize collections.
- Priority 8: Establish a cooperative program with other institutions for acquisitions/collection development.
- Priority 9: Provide a structured fund for electronic materials.
- Priority 10: Develop staff skills and make better use of existing and potential staff resources.

Chinese Local History Project

Another significant project for contemporary China studies worth noting is the Chinese local history project took place in 1995. The Library's Chinese local history collection was well established in the earlier years, and this tradition was continued for collecting local gazetteers in the pre-1949 era. In 1995, Dr. Richard Howard, the retired Assistant Chief of Asian Division, began to work with the Asian Division to build the contemporary China local gazetteers collection. Dr. Howard's efforts were continued after he left the project in 2003. This collection contains a wealth of information in regard to politics, society, geography, demography and economy of each locality in China in recent years. They are invaluable resources for the study of contemporary China.

Luce Foundation Contemporary China Project

After setting ten priorities in February 1998, immediate actions were taken by the top management of the Library. Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, searched for outside scholars to give accurate assessments of the Library's contemporary China collection. In the spring of 1999, Dr. David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and Director of the China Policy Program, George Washington University, was invited to review the contemporary China social science collection with the focus on Chinese foreign policy and international relations, American studies and Sino-American relations, Chinese Communist Party, domestic politics, military affairs and national security. Shortly after Professor Shambaugh's visit, Dr. Nicholas Lardy, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Program, the Brookings Institution, was also invited to review the economics materials in the Chinese Collection. Both of these scholars submitted their evaluation and recommendations to the Library for consideration in 1999.^{16, 17}

Dr. Shambaugh's report thoroughly examined the above-mentioned subjects of the Library's contemporary China social science collections. The LC officials, China experts, and area specialists studied it, and subsequently implemented it by taking various actions. Even today, these guidelines are followed for collection development of Chinese materials.

In May 1999, Judy S. Lu, and Mi Chu Wiens, Area Specialists of Chinese Section, Asian Division, proposed immediate action plans¹⁸ to improve the contemporary China collections via staff discussions within the Chinese Section, and made recommendations for a more effective collection development policy.

The recommendations and actions plans were made on August 16, 1999. They included the following areas:

- Acquire non-Chinese language materials about China and Chinese language materials not published in China

¹⁶ Shambaugh, David. *"The Library of Congress's Contemporary China Collection (Social Science): An Assessment with Recommendations."* [A report] March 15, 1999.

¹⁷ Lardy, Nicholas R. *"An Evaluation of Chinese Economics Materials in the Library of Congress."* [A report] October 6, 1999.

¹⁸ *"Memorandum: Action Plans for Improving the Contemporary China Collection."* Judy S. Lu and Mi Chu Wiens. May 20, 1999.

- Develop a comprehensive, multi-lingual reference collection on China
- Track serials and fill gaps
- Use staff and outside scholars to purchase materials while in China
- Develop science and technology collections by using the guidelines of China Working Group
- Develop collections in law, politics, and economics collections by using the guidelines of China Working Group,
- Develop yearbooks and Local History collections by using the guidelines of China Working Group
- Review all recommendations of China Case Study and implement them as appropriate

The report of Dr. Nicholas R. Lardy evaluated the holdings of the Chinese language materials dealing with the various subjects of economics studies, with a particular focus on banking and finance and foreign trade and investment.

On January 21, 2000, in his letter¹⁹ to Senator Tim Hutchinson, Dr. Billington stated that the reports of both experts gave specific areas for improvement. While the assessments were favorable in many respects, they also pointed out some areas where additional resources were required. Both the internal and external experts agreed that, given the huge size of China and the difficulty of obtaining certain types of publications through normal acquisitions channels, the single most important step for the Library to take was to establish bibliographic representatives in six cities (Beijing, Shenyang, Wuhan, Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangzhou) located in six regions of China.

In this letter, Dr. Billington also mentioned that the Library had requested the Luce Foundation to fund this project, and if the Luce Project proved successful, the Library would need to ask for Congressional support to continue this effort after the Luce funding expired. Fortunately, the Luce Foundation came to our rescue with a generous grant of \$500,000 to enable the Library to undertake a three-year pilot project.

Meanwhile, members of the Chinese Section set up a weekly implementation plan and goals to measure the collection development progress that was made. The staff of the Chinese Section and the members of the Chinese Acquisition Section also had regular brainstorming sessions to establish strategic plans for their acquisitions trips to China. The traveling costs were included in the Luce grant.

In 2001, three teams, with a China Area Specialist and an Acquisitions Specialist on each team, traveled to the six regions (each team traveled to two regions) to meet with the designated acquisitions associates and to discuss with them the subjects of interest and the terms of the contracts. The team members also used this opportunity to assess publishing trends in these regions. For the most part, the acquisitions associates were contemporary China studies scholars or library teams from universities such as Peking University, Wuhan University, and Zhongshan University²⁰, while the other associates were think-tank scholars²¹. During the three-year period the three teams traveled to China each year to ensure the smooth operations of the Luce Project partnership.

An acquisitions procedure was set up so that recommended book lists were reviewed and titles were selected. The selected materials were ordered from our regular book dealers in Beijing and Hong Kong. At the end of the year, the specialists jointly produced analytical statistical reports to give a clear picture of the quality and quantity of covered subjects, level of efforts, number of out-of-scope items or duplications, etc. to measure the success of the Luce Project.

After four years' operation with much planning, strategizing, monitoring, and analyzing, the Luce Project was completed successfully. The success of the project lay in the meticulous planning of the two responsible directorates of the Library of Congress, the generous funding from the Luce Foundation, the

¹⁹ "A Letter to Senator Tim Hutchinson." James H. Billington. January 21, 2000.

²⁰ Lu, Judy S, & Ho, Anna T. "Report on the South China Acquisition Trip of the Luce Contemporary China Project." March 14, 2001.

²¹ Wiens, Mi Chu & Ristaino, Marcia. "Luce Project Report, 2001." January 2001.

thoughtful choice of Luce Acquisition Associates in six regions of China, and the close cooperation in the execution of the plan by the Asian Division and the African/Asian Acquisitions and Overseas Operations Division (AFAOVOP).

Congressional Hearing

The next step was for LC to ask for support from Congress to continue this endeavor. But first, Congress had to be convinced that the Luce Project was a success.

On September 16, 2005, the U.S-China Economic and Security Review Commission held a Congressional hearing. The Chief of the Asian Division Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee and the Director of Collections and Services Dr. Carolyn Brown testified in the hearing. The five Commissioners inquired about every aspect of the collection development issues, from allocation of public funds to the format of resources. After the hearing, some of them came to review the newly acquired materials that were on display in the Asian Reading Room. They also observed online searching using several major Chinese full-text databases in the Asian Reading Room.

The collection maintenance aspect also interested them. They traveled to the book decks in LC's Adams Building where the Chinese Collection is kept. After receiving informative replies in the congressional hearing from the Library's officials, reviewing the large volume of books on display at the Asian Reading Room, and visiting the Chinese book decks, the Commissioners were mostly pleased with the updated information offered in the hearing and with the physical condition of the Chinese Collection stacks.

On September 16, 2005 the China Commission transmitted the hearing transcripts to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House. The transmittal letter contains the following recommendations to the Congress on the matter of the contemporary China collection:²²

- (1) The Commission recommends that Congress appropriate the funds requested by the Library of Congress to continue the successful Chinese language materials acquisition process that was initiated with the Luce Foundation grant, and/or that Congress appropriate funds for and direct the Library of Congress to establish an office in China, as it has done in six other developing nations, in order to facilitate critical acquisitions of materials that are available only within China's borders.
- (2) Provide travel money for four acquisition trips to China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan each year to be undertaken jointly by area specialists from the Chinese and Mongolian Area Team and the Chinese Acquisitions Section.
- (3) Provide special acquisition funds for the purchase of contemporary Chinese publications and digital databases on nine major subjects.

The contemporary China collection of the Library endured the test of the congressional hearing. It reassured us that the current system for collection development and acquisitions works, but of course, there is always room for improvement.

Special Materials in the Contemporary China Collection

²² U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. "A Transmittal Letter to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House." October 25, 2005.

China experts and scholars realize that studies of contemporary China materials should not overlook sources from Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. In fact, the Library has paid attention to these sources even during the early years. Apart from 200,000 volumes of monographs that have been acquired from Mainland China in recent years, there are special collections in LC's Chinese Collection that are excellent sources for research:

- (1) The early P.R.C. collection includes (a) 800 rolls of microfilm of newspaper clippings produced by the Union Press in Hong Kong and other sources recording the political and social changes of the period of 1949-1980. (b) 5,000 copies of government documents of the Chinese Government reflecting the government policies of 1966-1980.
- (2) The contemporary Taiwan collection includes 45,000 monographs on all aspects of social studies of Taiwan that were published in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mainland China, and elsewhere in the past ten years. Additionally, a collection of Taiwan presidential elections of 2000 and 2004 that consists of unpublished "gray literature" was also added.
- (3) The Hong Kong Ephemera Collection includes published and unpublished materials that recorded the historical event of the change of sovereignty of Hong Kong from Great Britain to China as well as social studies materials during that period. A large collection of local newspaper clippings covering the period of 1996 to 2002 was a gift to LC from the American Consulate of Hong Kong.

Electronic Resources

To meet present and future needs for contemporary China studies, seven major electronic resources have been subscribed.²³ We have acquired *Ren min ri bao dian zi ban* (the *People's Daily* Electronic Version), 1946-2006, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI)'s China Academic Journals Database and China Core Newspapers Database, China Data Online, Wanfang's Academic Conferences in China Database and Dissertations of China Database; access to a 100,000-title social sciences e-book database from Superstar Digital Library (超星数字图书馆), and an online version of *Si ku quan shu*, Wen yuan ge edition (四库全书文渊阁版.)

In December 2005, the Asian Division acquired exclusive use of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) of Chinese Civilization in Time and Space (CCYS) and Taiwan History and Culture in Time and Space (THCTS) from the Academia Sinica (中央研究院) in Taiwan. These two databases give researchers a very useful online tool in locating geographic areas of China and their related local histories and links to other databases.

An Up-to-date Contemporary China Collection

Today, LC's contemporary China collection has been developed to have unparalleled depth and breadth in all aspects of contemporary China studies from areas that include Mainland China, Taiwan, and Chinese overseas. It consists of 990,000 monographic volumes, 14,850 serial titles of which 4,033 are active titles, 19,000 rolls of microfilm that cover 800 entries of monographs, 500 periodicals, and over 200 newspapers, along with several major online resources. Currently, the collection is growing rapidly and has gained in stature as a national asset for the United States as well as one of the principal contemporary China collections in the world.

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