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Committee Activities

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Chinese Materials 2007 Forum on Chinese e-Content

Minutes

7:00 pm-9:05 pm, Friday, March 23, 2007
Wellesley Room, Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA

OPENING REMARKS BY DR. ZHIJIA SHEN

Dr. Zhijia Shen, Chair of Committee on Chinese Materials (CCM) and Director of the East Asian Library at the University of Washington, welcomed everyone to the forum. She first acknowledged Wanfang Data/OriProbe Information System for sponsoring the event and the importance of the endorsement. She then introduced CCM members to the audience.

Next, Dr. Shen explained the rationale for the forum and its agenda. The forum will focus on two-types of e-resources, namely e-books and e-dissertations. As we have witnessed the fast growth of e-resources, issues and concerns of using them have grown among the East Asian librarians and their users. Six major vendors/e-content providers from mainland China, Taiwan, and United States were invited to address the issues and concerns. As the second consecutive forum organized by the CCM, the forum was recognized as a good venue that provides personal communication among librarians, e-content providers and users. Each presenter was allowed about 20 minutes for his or her presentation, including the questions & answer session that followed at the end of each presentation.

Finally, Dr. Shen introduced the presenters and the order of presentations. They were Wanfang Data, Transmission Books & Microinfo Co., Ltd, Tsinghua Tongfang, Superstar, OCLC, and Beijing Founder Apabi eBooks & D-Lib.

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

ACCESSING CHINESE DISSERTATIONS THROUGH WANFANG DATA—DATABASES AND SERVICES

Presented by Danny Liu, Wanfang Data

Wanfang Data, one of major Chinese e-content providers is a sub-organization of Institute of Science & Technology Information of China under the Ministry of Science and Technology. Wanfang provides a variety of digital resources including journals, dissertations, policy & law records, which together form a package known as Chinese Studies Online. The package integrates the sub-databases mentioned above into one interface that can be searched simultaneously. The holdings and time coverage, however, vary from one to another. As of March 2007, Journal Database holds 1,749 journal titles from 1997 to present; Dissertation Database holds 845,135 titles from 1986 to current, and Policy & Law Database holds 170,461 records from 1949 onwards. Newspapers and Statistical Data will be added to the package as a new feature.

The Dissertation Database of Wanfang is the most comprehensive collection in its kind holding a total of 845,135 dissertations and theses, 701,424 of which are full-text; 230,495 are in Humanities and Social Sciences. Some titles date back to 1977. The database is updated monthly. An A to Z browse list of subject categories, universities, and degrees is available. Keyword searching in the full-text, title, author, abstract, supervisor, institution, majored field within hits is offered. Graphics in colors can be displayed. The major differences of Wanfang dissertation database from others is that Wanfang is the official database of China's dissertations from key and major universities, and its number of dissertations and

theses are two to three times greater in comparison with others. In order to secure the sources of dissertations and theses, Wanfang signs copyrights with both individuals and institutions.

International standards & protocol are adopted such as OpenURL, SRW (Search Retrieve Web Service for cross-database search within integrated library catalog), Refworks and Endnote.

A flexible subscription to either full package or individual databases is available in order to accommodate different needs.

Questions & Answers

Q. Refworks can't display Chinese characters. You mentioned that Dissertation database is Refworks enabled. Are you sure Refworks can display Chinese characters?

A. Yes, I am pretty sure that Refworks can display Chinese characters because Refworks wants to work with Wanfang to produce a product called RefWanfang, a direct link from Wanfang's product to Refworks.

Q. But Chinese characters in OCLC's records disappeared when records exported to Refworks.

A. We will investigate that.

Q. Should we work with you or Refworks to resolve the problem?

A. Work with us.

Q. Are the archives available?

A. Yes, archives are available.

Q. What about People's Daily?

A. We put People's Daily onto our web site, and this is current solution. Now we are also talking with Jiefang Daily to see if it is possible to host it either in Canada or in US. We have the original data in the Wanfang/OriProbe Data Information Services, and it is up to us when we will host the data.

Q. For the dissertations, copyright used to be an issue with universities. Should we still be concerned about the copyright for dissertations?

A. In terms of copyright, it is always a concern and an issue in China. There are no alternative solutions. We have to work with institutions as well as with individual authors to resolve that.

Q. In the Exhibit Hall this afternoon, several exhibitors all claimed that they have the copyright over the People's Daily. Who really owns the copyright?

A. Different vendors have different sources, and we know which is good and reliable. The main issue here is that the copyright of People's Daily has to be authorized by the People's Daily Press. No one besides Wanfang has that authorization in writing.

TBMC: EASY ACCESS TO CHINESE DATABASE

Presented by Kris Hsu Shu Chuan, Transmission Books & Microinfo Co., Ltd. (TBMC).

TBMC, a pioneer of Chinese database producer and distributor, was founded in Taipei, Taiwan in 1981. Four products have produced by the company, which are Ancient Chinese Work Series, Taiwan Study Series, Newspaper Series, and General Study Series. The Ancient Chinese Work Series includes Yongle Northern Tripitaka 永乐北藏, Kangxi Dictionary 康熙字典, Si Bu Cong Kan 四部丛刊, The Study on the Dream of the Red Chamber 红楼梦研究, Database of Articles and Images from the National Palace Museum's Periodicals 故宫期刊图文数据库. The Taiwan Study Series includes Taiwan Nichinichi Sinpou 台湾日日新报数据库, The Collection of Documents on Taiwan 台湾文献汇刊, Taiwan Chronicle 台湾日志数据库, Multimedia Database

of Taiwan History 台湾史知识库, and Multimedia Database of Taiwan Culture 台湾影音数据库. The Newspaper Series includes Taiwan News Smart Web 台湾新闻智能网, Newspapers Full-Image Database 全报影像光盘数据库, Taiwan TV News Video Database 台视新闻影音数据库, Udndata 联合知识库, and Knowledge Management Winner 知识赢家. The General Study Series includes The Commonwealth Magazine Knowledge Base 天下知识库, Industry and Economy Journal Database 产经期刊全文, Taiwan Cuisine Database 台湾饮食文化, and Chinese Encyclopedia Dictionary 中文百科大辞典.

The presentation, however, highlighted three products. First, the *Yongle Northern Tripitaka* 永乐北藏, contains Buddhist publications from all over the world for the past 600 years, rectified by 136 Buddhist academic specialists. Second, the *Study on the Dream of the Red Chamber* 红楼梦研究数据库文本篇, includes collections of various text editions, as well as collection of journal articles on Hong Lou Meng. Third, *Collection of Documents on Taiwan* 台湾文献汇刊数据库, contains historical documents on Taiwan from various libraries, archives and civil organizations in Mainland China, and comprises more than 600 titles, pieces of personal writings, and local historical records. The database complements the *Series of Documents on Taiwan* 台湾文献丛刊, and there is no overlapping between the two collections.

In general, searching and browsing are very easy. Keyword search in various fields and export options including downloading, emailing, and printing are available. Users can manipulate texts by highlighting, writing notes on margin, and book marking, and those notes and highlighting will be available for next visit. Viewing pages is made even easier with new technology called flipper-view. This function works with all the media formats of the databases such as CD-ROMs, Intranet, or Internet.

Questions & Answers

Q. Can you apply that new flipper-view technology to view newspapers?

A. No, because the file size is too large to view by the flipper. They are working on similar technology to view newspapers.

Q. Will the databases support simplified character searching?

A. The character of journals included in the Hong Lou Meng database is simplified originally. As to others, TBMC has not yet provide switch between traditional and simplified characters.

Q. Can you talk about the Journal Databases in the General Study Series?

A. All databases in the Series are independent from each other. For instance, there are databases of Education, Finances, etc. Most of journals or newspapers are included in the General Study Series.

Q. After TBMC received authorization of Yongle Northern Tripitaka 永乐北藏 from the Ministry of State, how much time and how many staff were involved completing the digitization?

A. We had a small working group to do the project and it took three staff about six months to a year to complete the project.

Q. Can you talk about other newspaper databases in Taiwan?

A. Other databases like Taiwan News zhi hui database contains ten major newspapers, but they are not full-text, only headlines. The Udndata 联合知识库 (联合报系) is a full-text newspaper database; the full-text goes back to 1951. The news database is updated daily at 9:00 am. Another full-text newspaper database is Knowledge Management Winner 知识赢家 (中时报系). However, the number of titles included and updating frequency are not as good as the Udndata.

THE THICK AND HEAVY E-BOOKS OF CNKI 中国知网
Presented by Newman Yan. Tsinghua Tongfang

Tsinghua Tongfang has made a great effort in past two years to upgrade China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI)'s interface to better facilitate the access to the various resources. CNKI comprises six groups of materials: Dissertations, Journals, Reference Works, Yearbooks, Newspapers, and Conference Proceedings. The focus, however, of the presentation was on yearbooks and reference works.

Chinese Yearbooks Database (CYFD) is a new category in the CNKI's resources. By 2008, there will be 2,150 titles. By the end of 2007, CNKI should include 1,582 titles made up of about 6 million entries covering from overall statistics to industry statistics produced by both National Statistic Bureau and local government agencies. At present, there are about 1,000 titles in the CNKI, 300 of which are national statistical yearbooks, with the rest are produced by local provincial, municipal, or county governments. Every entry, table, chart, or graphic in a yearbook is indexed for more precise searching results. Simple, advanced searches can be performed, and browsing by subject category or within a book is possible.

Chinese Reference Works Online (CRWO) is a recently introduced category with a focus on works in subject areas such as Literature, History, Language, Religion, and Social Science. At present, 1,200 titles published in Mainland China have been included. By the end of 2007 there should be 8 million entries including 700,000 images from 1,500 volumes of dictionaries, thesauruses, encyclopedias, atlases, and chronologies. Searching and browsing is easy and intuitive. Cross-database searching in the integrated interface retrieves related entries from Newspaper or Dissertation databases. A notable feature is the "See also" reference which leads the searcher to annotations on the same term found in other reference works.

With regard to copyright, publishers exclusively hold these over yearbooks, and over about 90% of reference works, while copyrights for dissertations are usually held by universities, advisors, or authors.

The CNKI databases are compliance to international standards, such as XML metadata, PDF, Z39.50, OpenUrl, and Unicode etc.

Questions & Answers

Q. Are the tables of yearbooks downloadable?

A. Yes, downloadable.

Q. What is the format of the tables that are in yearbooks right now?

A. Right now the charts, tables, and graphics in yearbooks are scanned, not yet in Excel format.

Q. Will Reference Work be paid differently from CAJ?

A. Yes. CAJ is subscription based service, and the Reference Work Database will be a purchasing based service. As you may know, 30% of the sales will be paid to the publishers.

Q. The definition of reference works in China and North America are somewhat different. The reference works included might not be suitable for research, and you may want to consult researchers and scholars for what titles to be included as the database is targeted to the researchers and scholars.

A. Yes, certainly.

Q. In North American, how many libraries are using Reference Work Database and Yearbook?

A. These are all new products of Tsinghua Tongfang, and hence not yet on the market.

Q. We are Tsinghua Tongfang's long term user through the integrated interface. Our users can view the citations, but can't access the full-text. I was told that Tsinghua Tongfang is going to have pay-for-view service model; can you elaborate on that?

A. I think we could label those can't-be-downloaded articles with a distinguishing mark.

THE LATEST ON SUPERSTAR E-BOOKS AND E-SERVICE

Presented by Jason Han, Superstar Digital Library

The presentation will focus on ChinaMaxx and Duxiudsr, plus some new technical features on interfaces of ChinaMaxx.

As of this year, ChinaMaxx contains over 780,000 full-text books covering 22 subject areas mainly in Humanities and Social Sciences. A great effort was made to bring ChinaMaxx into compliance with international standards and to allow seamless transmission of data between Superstar servers and library bibliographical systems in North America. Two interfaces have been developed for ChinaMaxx to facilitate different needs, one for general users to access e-books and an Admin interface for librarians who do the selection. The interface for general users offers an easy keyword searching in author, title, and publisher and browsing by categories. Two options are available for viewing full-text, IE-Basic Reading Function and Reader-Full Reading Function. For librarians, Admin interface offers the same searching and browsing functions. The process of selecting and ordering on that interface is easy, and MARC records are supplied upon request. Two service models are available: per-title cost based model which provides perpetual access to licensed books, and annual subscription based model which provides access to entire database.

Duxiudsr is the largest search engine for Chinese books containing 1.6 million full-text titles on various subjects, 16 million journal articles. About 100,000 new titles are added every year. The dsr stands for document searching & reference service. Within the Duxiudsr, keyword searching in title field, table of contents, and in full-text is a powerful method to locate wanted materials as well as for answering reference questions. The search terms are highlighted. Document Delivery for selected pages is available. A virtual reference desk answers inquires within 12 hours.

Questions & Answers

- Q. Please clarify one point, is the price \$3.95 for a volume or a title?
A. \$3.95 for a volume.

OCLC'S GLOBAL STRATEGY AND CHINESE E-CONTENT Presented by Andrew H. Wang, OCLC

This presentation focused on strategy rather than products. OCLC is neither a commercial company nor a government agency. OCLC, in fact, is a nonprofit, global library cooperative and a library membership organization. For the presentation, three of OCLC's global strategies were highlighted: Service, Technology, and Information.

With regard to Services, OCLC made a great effort to be globalized. It serves 55,000 libraries in 110 countries from Asia to South America, from Europe and North Africa to North American.

In terms of technology, OCLC is not only using technology, but is staying ahead of technology. OCLC is taking the libraries to the web because that is where users are today, and the library is no long on the ground with four-walls around. Therefore OCLC developed new products, which are Open WorldCat and WorldCat.org. These two products are similar but not identical. Statistics shows that world-wide 99% of users go to Google or Yahoo for information; only 1% goes to an OPAC. Another aspect of technology is the integration of information. The format in which the content resides is no longer a concern for users, and what matters is locating wanted materials. Users are interested in information, not format. OCLC is working with librarians to change this mismatch. How can we best serve users in the 21st century who do not care about the information container or format? The vision here is to use the technology to overcome geographical barriers, to remove the barriers of containers because containers become barriers. Tomorrow's vision is that the container becomes meaningless.

OCLC goes international not only to export its products or contents to other countries, but to internationalize contents, that is to include Chinese, Japanese, and Korean contents. So far, OCLC has

signed agreements with Apabi, DragonSource, Kinokuniya and others. In May, OCLC will introduce Japanese e-book and other e-contents.

Due to limited time, a question and answer session was not offered.

UPDATES ON APABI EBOOKS AND SERVICES THROUGH APABI

Presented by Sijia He, Beijing Founder Apabi eBooks & D-Lib

The presentation first presented an overall view of the recent development and changes of the company. In April 2006, the Beijing Founder Apabi eBooks & D-Lib became an independent company. In 2007, the company published over 300,000 titles of ebooks. E-publishing including e-books and e-newspapers for both computer and cell-phone readers are the company's focus. The company launched a reading platform—www.idoican.com.cn— to facilitate online readers. Users of e-content are growing fast in China. In 2007 over 3,000 institutional users and 30,000,000 individual users use Apabi e-books and e-newspapers, and major consumers of e-books and e-newspapers are elementary/middle schools and university libraries. And more publishers joined e-publishing. In 2006 around 50 publishers started to launch e-book publishing business.

Following, the presentation focused on collaborative projects of the companies. Currently Apabi works with over 450 book publishers and 70 newspaper publishers producing e-contents. Apabi also collaborates with museums, yearbook, and reference publishers to extend its e-content coverage. To meet the increasing needs of mobility, Apabi also cooperates with manufacturers to develop reading hardware, such as handheld readers, cell-phone reader, and PC based readers.

The 2007 forum of Chinese e-content ended because an alarm sounded and all in attendance were required to evacuate the meeting room.

Prepared and submitted by Su Chen and Dianna Xu for CCM