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Committee on Chinese Materials' Initiative to Access Free Chinese Studies E-resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic forced North American universities to physically close and offer online courses from March 2020, the CEAL Committee on Chinese Materials, in collaboration with the Committee for Information Exchange of the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians, started the Initiative of Free E-resources for Chinese Studies During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Yao Chen and Chengzhi Wang first reached out to all the major database providers and publishers mainly in the Greater China Area to offer free access to useful databases to support online courses and research in North American universities to the end of June 2020. Thanks to the generous support from vendors in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the U.S., over 200 selected databases were offered. The free access greatly assisted online teaching, learning, and research. As the pandemic continued and with university classes still taking place online for the fall term, free access to these databases was extended to the end of 2020. Many other committee members especially Yurong Y. Atwill and Stephen Qiao contributed greatly to the initiative. The committee is now working out new acquisition models with vendors in the hope of making Chinese studies databases as affordable as possible for all interested libraries.

Submitted by Chengzhi Wang