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CURRENT ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR CHINESE STUDIES
AN OVERVIEW

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I. Introduction

In January 1995, on behalf of the Subcommittee on Chinese Materials, Committee on East Asian Libraries, I conducted a survey on the eastlib listserver on electronic resources for Chinese studies. Subsequently, I sent out the survey to eight major Chinese libraries in Taiwan, mainland China, and Hong Kong. This survey was intended to obtain a picture of current trends and conditions in the development and use of electronic resources for Chinese studies in North America and Asia. In particular, it had the following objectives:

1. to come up with a union list of electronic resources dedicated to Chinese studies that are currently used by academic libraries in North America and Asia,

2. to investigate the current conditions of networking and electronic resources for Chinese studies on Internet and World-Wide Web (WWW),

3. to discover what barriers and problems might exist in building electronic resources for Chinese studies, and

4. to gather information on how the Chinese collections in North America and Asia can enhance their efforts in building more electronic resources for Chinese studies.

Altogether, twenty-nine academic libraries, including the twenty largest Chinese collections in the academic libraries in North America, participated in this survey together with eight major Chinese libraries in Asia. The Chinese libraries in Asia are the National Library of China (Beijing Library), the National Central Library in Taiwan, Beijing University Library, National Taiwan University Library, Fudan University Library, Wuhan University Library, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library, and the University of Hong Kong Library.

This survey focuses on electronic resources for Chinese studies. I excluded from this study general databases such as the MLA International Bibliography, Dissertation Abstracts, Social Sciences Citation Index, and ERIC, all of which provide coverage of China but are not dedicated to Chinese studies. Most of the electronic resources identified in this study are produced overseas.

Based on the reports from the thirty-seven libraries that participated in the survey, I compiled the following lists of electronic resources for Chinese studies. Due to the short
time for preparation, the lists only reflect what was reported in this survey. They are not meant to be exhaustive about all electronic resources that are currently available for Chinese studies. In order to disseminate the information quickly to librarians and scholars in the Chinese studies community, I did not verify each electronic database that was reported, but rather presented them as they were reported in the survey. Needless to say, if there are mistakes in these lists, the responsibility is mine.

I would like to thank all those librarians and colleagues who participated in this survey and, in particular, the other members of the Subcommittee on Chinese Materials: Tai-loi Ma (Chair), Martin Heijdra, Frances LaFleur, Yeen-mei Wu, Weiying Wan, and Chi Wang.

II. Union list of electronic resources for Chinese studies in North America

This union list consists of current electronic resources used in the libraries that participated in the survey as of the time this article was written. It contains the electronic resources for Chinese studies, including CD-ROM, full-text databases, and other search aids. The holding institution is placed in parentheses at the end of each citation.

1. China Daily (standing order beginning in 1994 for complete text and index to China Daily for IBM PC. English) (Columbia)

2. China Investment Guide (CD-ROM) (information on government policies, laws and regulations, statistics, functions, and addresses of government agencies, leading companies, projects offered for foreign investment, and other investment and trade-related issues) (UC-San Diego)

3. Chinese University of Hong Kong, University Service Centre Collection Catalog (Washington, Yale)

4. CDRCD (Chinese Dissertations Retrieval CD-ROM) 中華博碩士論文索引摘要檢索光碟 (The CDRCD contains indexes to and abstracts of 60,000 doctoral dissertations and master's theses from major universities in Taiwan, PR China, Hong Kong, the United States, and Canada from 1960 to the present. CD-ROM for IBM PC. Chinese) (UC-Berkeley, Columbia, Michigan)

5. Chung-hua min kuo ch'i k'an lun wen so yin kuang tieh hsi t'ung 中華民國期刊論文索引光碟系統 (Index to Chinese periodical literature on CD-ROM, over 256,000 bibliographic records for more than 1,255 periodicals and journals in all disciplines, from January 1982 to December 1992. CD-ROM for IBM PC. Chinese) (UC-Berkeley, Harvard, Michigan, Washington)

6. CN-MARC (Chinese Machine Readable Catalog) (on order) (A bibliographic database containing 150,000 (40,000 per year), produced by the National Library of China (NLC) For IBM-compatible machines. Chinese) (Michigan)
7. Educational Information Database (Information on Chinese universities, professors, and research projects. For IBM PC) (Columbia)

8. Erh shih wu shih ch'üan wen shu chü k'u 二十五史全文數據庫 (Twenty-five dynastic histories full-text database) (IBM PC or compatible) (UC-Berkeley, Harvard, Washington)

9. Hsien Ch'in liang Han ku chi chu tzu so yin ts'ung k'an 先秦兩漢古籍逐字索引叢刊 (ICS ancient Chinese text concordance series) (Washington)

10. Legal databases for PRC law (Washington - Gallagher Law Library)

11. People's daily 人民日報 (standing order beginning in 1994 for complete text of newspaper. IBM PC) (Columbia)

12. Ming ju hsueh 明儒學案 (History of Chinese thought in the Ming dynasty) (Washington)

13. Tang shih san pai shou 唐詩三百首 (Three hundred poems of the Tang dynasty) (Washington)

14. Wen hsin tiao lung 文心雕龍 (The literary mind and the carving of dragons) (Washington)

15. Who's who in China (CD-ROM) (Reference work of China’s current political figures searchable by name, title, institution, geographic area, etc. Includes more than 2,000 biographies of the most prominent people in China. For IBM PC or compatible) (UC-San Diego, Columbia)

In addition to these fifteen major electronic databases, the University of Washington Library also has the following full-text databases of Confucian and religious canons:

Chin kang ching 金剛經 (Diamond sutra), Ch'ü tz'u 楚辭 (Elegies of Ch’u), Chuang-tzu 莊子, Chung yung 中庸 (The golden mean), Po ching san lun 佛經三論 (Three studies on Buddhism), Hsin ching 心經 (Heart sutra), Hsun-tzu 荀子 (The book of Hsun Tzu), I ching 易經 (Classic of changes), Kuo yü 國語 (Discourses of the states), Lao-tzu 老子 (Tao te ching), Leng yen ching 楞嚴經 (Surangama sutra), Lun yü 論語 (The analects of Confucius), Meng-tzu 孟子 (The book of Mencius), Miao fa 聰anna hua ching 妙法蓮華經 (Lotus sutra), Pao-p’u tzu 抱撲子 (The master of preserving simplicity), Shang shu 尚書 (The book of documents), Sheng man ching 勝鬘經 (Srimaladevi sutra), Shih ching 詩經 (The book of songs), Shih san ching 十三經 (The thirteen classics), Ta ch’eng ch’i hsin lun 大乘起信論 (Awakening of faith), Ta hsueh 大學 (The great learning), Wu liang i ching 無量義經 (Infinite meaning sutra), Yuan chueh ching 圓覺經 (Perfect enlightenment sutra) (Washington)
III. List of electronic resources for Chinese studies currently used in libraries in Taiwan, mainland China, and Hong Kong

The following electronic databases for Chinese studies in this survey were reported by the eight Chinese libraries in Asia. The holding institution is indicated in parentheses after each database.

1. Erh shih wu shih ch‘üan wen shu chü k‘u 二十五史全文數據庫 (full-text database for IBM PC or compatible) (National Taiwan University Library)


3. Ch‘üan kuo kao hsiao hsi wen ch‘i k‘an lien ho mu lu shu chü k‘u 全國高校西文期刊聯合目錄數據庫 (National union catalog of serials in western languages, including those published in Taiwan and Hong Kong) (For IBM PC or compatible) (Fudan University Library)

4. Ch‘üan kuo k‘o chi tsun wang lu 全國科技資訊網路 (Sicnet) (National science network for IBM PC or compatible) (National Taiwan University Library)

5. Ch‘üan T‘ang shih tien nao chien so 全唐詩電腦檢索 (Tang poetry full-text database) (University of Hong Kong)

6. Chung wen k‘o chi ch‘i k‘an p‘ien ming shu chü k‘u 1989-中文科技期刊篇名數據庫 (Index to Chinese science and technology literature, covering more than 5,000 journals from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. More than 260,000 records are added annually. Frequency is biannual) (Beijing Library, Beijing University Library, Wuhan University Library)

7. Chung-hua min kuo ch‘u pan t‘u shu mu lu kuang tieh hsi t‘ung 中華民國出版圖書目錄光碟系統 (Chinese national bibliography on CD-ROM. For IBM PC or compatible. 350,000 entries) (National Central Library, National Taiwan University Library)

8. Chung-hua min kuo ch‘i k‘an lun wen so yin hsien shang ch‘a hsun hsi t‘ung 中華民國期刊論文索引線上查詢系統 (National Central Library)
9. Chung-hua min kuo ch'i k'an lun wen so yin kuang tieh hsi t'ung 中華民國期刊論文索引光碟系統(Index to Chinese periodicals literature on CD-ROM (covering 1500 journals), with author and titles indexes. 314,000 records, for IBM PC or compatible) (National Central Library, National Taiwan University Library)

10. CDRCD 中華博士論文索引摘要檢索光碟 (Chinese Dissertations Retrieval CD-ROM) (The CDRCD contains indexes to and abstracts of 60,000 doctoral dissertations and master’s theses from major universities in Taiwan, PR China, Hong Kong, the United States, and Canada from 1960 to the present. CD-ROM for IBM PC. In Chinese and English.) (National Central Library, National Taiwan University Library)

11. Chung-hua min kuo ch'i yeh kuan li wen hsien chai yao so yin hsi t'ung 中華民國企業管理文獻摘要索引系統(Abstracts of business management literature in the Republic of China (ROC). For IBM PC or compatible) National Central Library

12. Kuo li chung vane t'u shu kuan ch'i k'an lun wen so yin kuang tieh hsi t'ung國立中央圖書館期刊論文索引光碟系統 (CD-ROM database for IBM PC or compatible) (National Central Library)


14. Chung yang t'u shu kuan shan pen shu mu中央圖書館善本書目(Catalog of rare books in NCL) (26,000 records) (National Central Library)

15. Chung yang t'ung hsun she chien pao tzu liao中央通訊社簡報資料(Full-text database for IBM PC or compatible) (National Taiwan University Library)

16. Chung-kuo ch'i yeh kung ssu chi ch' an p'in shu chü k'u 1994—中國企業公司及產品數據庫(Database of Chinese companies and products) (Beijing Library)

17. Chung-kuo chi tu mu lu 中國機讀目錄 (China MARC, 1993– (Wuhan University Library)

18. Chung-kuo ch'i yeh 中國企業(Enterprises in China—available through TDC online search service) (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library)

19. Chung-kuo chuan li kung pao shu chü k'u 1985—中國專利公報數據庫 (Database of Chinese patents. Frequency, biannual) (Beijing Library, Fudan University)
20. Chung-kuo hua hsueh wen hsien shu chii k'u 1983-1993 中国化學文獻數據庫
(China chemistry abstracts, a Chinese-English database of articles, abstracts, patents, conference proceedings, and dissertations on chemistry published in China. 15,000 records are added annually.) (Beijing Library, Beijing University Library, Fudan University)

21. Chung-kuo ming sheng shih tz'u ta tz'u tien 中國名勝詩詞大辭典
(Dictionary of scenic spots and poetry) (Full-text database for IBM PC or compatible) 1994 (Wuhan University Library)

22. Chung-kuo tui wai mao i yu ho tso chih nan 中國對外貿易與合作指南
(Guide to Chinese foreign trade and joint ventures, covering Chinese laws on foreign trade, important Chinese companies, and addresses of foreign companies in China. In Chinese and English) (Beijing University Library)

23. Chung-kuo chiao yu hsing hsi k'u 中國教育信息庫
(Database on education in China, providing information about 1,075 colleges and universities and 2,900 vocational schools. Directories of faculty are included) Beijing University Library)

24. Chung-kuo fa lü chien so hsi t'ung 中國法律检索系统 (Chinese laws and regulations) (University of Hong Kong Library)

25. Beijing University Library on-line catalog (Chinese) 北大圖書館中文文獻書目數據庫
(Over 40,000 records in China MARC) (Beijing University Library)

26. Beijing Library on-line catalog (Chinese) 北京圖書館中文文獻書目數據庫
(Over 10,000 records) Beijing University Library)

27. Fa yuan tzu hsun hsi t'ung 法源資訊系統 (Full-text legal database for IBM PC or compatible) (National Central Library, National Taiwan University Library)

28. Hsing cheng yuan so shu ko chi kuan jen yuan ch'u kuo pao kao shu kuang tieh ying hsiang hsi t'ung 行政院所屬各機關人員出國報告書光碟影像系統
(Multimedia database of trip reports of personnel in the Administrative Branch for SUNSPARC machine) (National Central Library)

29. Hung lou meng tien nao chien so hsi t'ung 紅樓夢電腦检索系統 (Dream of the Red Chamber full-text database) (University of Hong Kong Library)

30. Kuo kung liang tang kuan hsi t'ung shih 國共兩黨關係通史 (History of the relationship between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party) (Full-text database for IBM PC or compatible) 1994- (Wuhan University Library)
31. Kuo chia fa lü fa kuei k'u 國家法律法規庫 (China laws and regulations) (CD-ROM) (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library)

32. Kuo li chung yang t'u shu kuan kung yung mu lu ch'a hsun hsi t'ung 國立中央圖書館公用目錄查詢系統 (National Central Library)

33. Kuo li chung yang t'u shu kuan cheng fu ch'u pan p'in mu lu hsi t'ung 国立中央圖書館政府出版品目錄系統 (Database of government publications in the National Central Library) (National Central Library)

34. Kuo li chung yang t'u shu kuan ch'i k'an lun wen so yin kuang tieh hsi t'ung 國立中央圖書館政府期刊論文索引光碟系統 (CD-ROM database of periodicals indexes in the National Central Library for NCR system) (National Central Library)

35. Li fa tzu hsun hsi t'ung 立法資訊系統 (Full-text database networked for the Legislative Branch) (National Taiwan University Library)

36. Mao Zedong thought research system, 1993 毛澤東思想研究系統 (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library)

37. Pei-ching kao hsiao t'u shu kung tso wei yuan hui lien ho pien mu shu chü k'u 北京高校圖書工作委員會聯合編目數據庫 (Catalog of the Commission of College and University Libraries in Beijing) 1993- (Providing bibliographic information on books published mostly in the Beijing area) (Beijing University Library)

38. Shih ch'ang ching chi hsueh ta tz'u tien 市場經濟學大辭典 (Dictionary of market economy) 1994 (Full-text database for IBM PC or compatible) (Wuhan University Library)

39. Ta lu Chung wen k'o chi ch'i k'an p'ien ming kuang p'an 大陸中文科技期刊篇名光盤 (For IBM PC or compatible) (National Taiwan University Library)

40. Tang tai wen hsueh shih liao ying hsiang ch'üan wen hsi t'ung 當代文學史料影像全文系統 (Full-text database of modern literature archives for SUNSPARC machine) (National Central Library)

41. Teng Hsiao-p'ing chien she yu Chung-kuo t'e se she hui chu i li lun yen chiu hsi t'ung 鄧小平建設有中國特色社會主義理論研究系統 (Teng Hsiao-p'ing's theory on building socialism with Chinese characteristics) (Full-text database for IBM PC or compatible) 1994 (Wuhan University Library)
42. Ts'ai ching chi shih tien tzu tsa chih 財經紀事電子雜誌 (Electronic journal of finance for IBM PC or compatible) (National Central Library, National Taiwan University Library)

43. Fu tan ta hsueh Chung wen t'u shu kuan ts'ang mu lu shu 复旦大学中文圖書館藏目錄數據庫 (On-line catalog of periodicals at Fudan University) (Chinese) (Fudan University Library)

44. Wu-han ta hsueh t'u shu kuan chi tu mu 武漢大學圖書館 機讀目錄 (On-line catalog of Wuhan University Library) 1989- (Wuhan University Library)

45. Shih san ching 十三經 (Full-text database of the thirteen classics) (University of Hong Kong Library)

IV. Network databases for Chinese studies on the Internet as reported in this survey

The second part of this survey concerns networking and electronic resources on the Internet and the World-Wide Web, as well as other dial-in bibliographic databases such as DIALOG. Among North American collections, such connections are either directly from the East Asian collections or branch libraries or via another site from within the university library system.

The following databases on Internet and WWW are reported as available to most North American libraries in this survey.

- Catalogs of some Overseas Chinese libraries in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore
- DIALOG, Lexis-Nexis, Datatimes, Dow Jones News Retrieval
- Taiwan Academic Network, Taiwan Business News, Chinese Times News
- Computer Network Center (China), Institute of High Energy Physics (China)
- British Library Document Supply Center
- CEAL homepage
- 全國圖書資訊網路(NBINet) (Taiwan)
- 科技性全國資訊網路 (Taiwan)
- 中央通訊社簡報資料查詢系統 (Taiwan)
- 電傳視訊 (Taiwan)
- 時報資訊即時新聞系統 (Taiwan)
- 立法資訊系統 (Taiwan)

Network software that is used at those libraries for accessing the Internet and the World-Wide Web databases are:

Netscape, Netscape under NCSA and Big-5 environment, Gopher, MELVYL-CJK, GLADIS-CJK, ROGER-CJK, JOINT-CJK (Chinese), Chollian (Korean), Nikkei telecom (Japanese, English), Telnet, TN3270, FTP, EWAN
V. "Want List" of electronic databases by some North American libraries

When asked what electronic databases they would like to acquire in the near future, many librarian respondents indicated that the following items are desirable for their services.

- Buddhist canons
- CDRCD (Chinese dissertation reference)
- China Daily (CD-ROM)
- Chinese national bibliography on CD-ROM
- Ch'iüan T'ang shih (Tang poetry)
- Chung-kuo mao i yü t'ou tschih nan (CD-ROM) (Guide to China investment and trade)
- Chung wen she k'o pao k'an ming shu chü k'u/Ch'iüan kuo pao k'an so yin (Index to Chinese periodical literature, Shanghai Municipal Library, 1995-)
- Encyclopaedia of laws and regulations of China (CD-ROM)
- Index to Chinese periodical literature on CD-ROM
- Jen min jih pao (CD-ROM) (People's daily on disc)
- Legal databases: PRC and Taiwan
- Newspaper full-text databases on CD-ROM
- Newswire service/on-line Asian news service
- Shih san ching (Thirteen Chinese classics)
- Who is who on CD-ROM

VI. New electronic databases for Chinese studies that are being developed overseas

Among the eight Chinese libraries in Asia, some reported that they are developing the following new databases for Chinese studies. The library that is developing the database is given in parentheses at the end of each citation.

1. Ch'üan kuo t'u shu kuan ming lu chi chien chieh (Directory of libraries in China) (Beijing University Library)

2. Chung-kuo che hsu eh she hui k'o hsu eh lun wen t'i lu (1990-1993) (Chinese social sciences abstracts) (Beijing University Library)

3. Chung yang jih pao 1928-1949 (Full-text database of Chung yang jih pao from 1928 to 1949) (Beijing University Library)
4. Chung wen ch'i k'an mu tz'u ying hsiang hsi t'ung (National Central Library)

5. DIALOG Chung wen so yin shu chü k'u (Index to DIALOG in Chinese) DIALOG 中文索引數據庫 (Fudan University Library)

6. Erh shih shih chi chu ming hsiueh che to mei chieh kuang p'an tzu liao k'u 二十世紀著名學者多媒界光盤資料庫 (Beijing University Library)

7. Fu tan ta hsueh ku chi shu chü k'u (Database of rare books held at Fudan University Library) 復旦大學古籍數據庫 (Fudan University Library)

8. Fu tan ta hsueh ch'i k'an p'ien ming wen chai shu chü k'u (Index to periodicals literature at Fudan University Library) 復旦大學期刊篇名文摘數據庫 (Fudan University Library)

9. Fu tan ta hsueh ts'ang ch'i k'an k'ao kung chu shu shu mu shu chü k'u (Catalog of reference book collections at Fudan University Library) 復旦大學參考工具書書目數據庫 (Fudan University Library)

10. I shu chia tso chia tien tzu hsin hsi k'u (Electronic database of artists and writers) 藝術家作家電子信息庫 (National Central Library)

11. Pei ta kuan ts'ang ch'i k'an t'i lu 1900-1949 (Catalog of periodicals held in Beijing University Library, 1900-1949) 北大館藏期刊提錄 (Beijing University Library)

12. Pei-ching ta hsueh po shih shuo shih lun wen wen chai shu chü k'u (Abstracts of dissertations and master's theses of Beijing University) 北京大學博士碩士論文文摘數據庫 (Beijing University Library)

13. Imaging databases of ancient maps of China and fine arts (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library)

VII. Conclusion

These lists summarize major electronic resources for Chinese studies that are currently in use in North America and overseas. Hopefully they create a full picture of current efforts being made to build electronic libraries for Chinese studies among the academic libraries of North America and Asia.