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LIBRARIANS AS INFORMATION PROVIDERS: CONSTRUCTING THE 
"CENTER OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION STUDIES"
ON THE INTERNET*

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1. Rationale of the project

The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) is an important historical event and a complex cultural phenomenon in the history of China in the twentieth century. While scholars around the world have been studying the Cultural Revolution from a wide variety of perspectives over the past two decades, literature on the Cultural Revolution has been scattered, and many valuable resources are hard to obtain. To fill this gap in research and to promote global studies of the Cultural Revolution, the Web Center of Cultural Revolution Studies has been launched. This research project is funded primarily by the University of Pittsburgh and the Ohio State University, and undertaken by four East Asian librarians: Yongyi Song and Dajin Sun (University of Pittsburgh), Guoqing Li (Ohio State University) and Liana Zhou (Indiana University at Bloomington). This web site will collect a wide range of resources for Cultural Revolution studies, ranging from first hand materials to a bibliography of studies.

It is the authors' hope that this online research Center will serve as an information clearinghouse for all types of research on the Cultural Revolution and be accessible via the Internet to all scholars around the world who are interested in or are engaged in the study of contemporary China.

2. Structure and Content

The trial home page has been designed to appear as a opened book with the cover on one side and the name of the Web site and the Table of Contents on the other side, all made to fit onto one screen for a simple, clean look. (See Figure 1)

Materials included in the virtual center are organized according to the following categories.

*About the Center
A brief introduction to the project.

*This paper was originally presented March 13, 1997 in Chicago during the meeting of the Committee on Library Technology of the Council on East Asian Libraries, Association for Asian Studies.
*Heretical Thoughts in the Cultural Revolution

"Heretical thoughts" refers to the ten major thoughts denounced by the Chinese Communist Party as "counter-revolutionary" or "reactionary". Important articles representing these thoughts have been selected and arranged under ten headings. All the texts are in Chinese GB code.

*Official Statistics on the Cultural Revolution

Collected here are statistics concerning such items as economic conditions during the decade, diplomatic relations established from 1968 to 1976, and the Cultural Revolution in the provinces.

*Bibliography of Cultural Revolution Studies

Efforts have been made to compile a comprehensive bibliography of publications in different languages. An alphabetic index is displayed in one frame, which will always stay on top of the screen for patrons' convenience. Works in non-roman languages are listed in both romanization and vernacular script.

*Cultural Revolution in Literature: a Selected Bibliography

The bibliography is classified by subject. Similar subject bibliographies with annotations will be compiled later.

*Oral History of the Cultural Revolution

Collected here are certain personal narratives and recollections of the Cultural Revolution.

*Major Events in the Cultural Revolution

The Cultural Revolution went through successive distinctive stages. The documents of the major events associated with these stages depict the power struggle and ideological conflicts among the CCP leaders and ordinary Chinese people. These documents are divided into eleven categories.

* Victims of the Cultural Revolution

This section presents a list of those who were persecuted to death during the Cultural Revolution, including CCP leaders, cadres, students, and ordinary citizens.

*Introduction to the Cultural Revolution collections in major East Asian libraries

This brief review of collections on the Cultural Revolution in East Asian libraries in the United States is intended to provide a guide for those who wish to use these collections for scholarly research. Five libraries/collections are currently listed.

*Other Related Resources on the World Wide Web

Collected here are resources related to the Cultural Revolution currently available on the Internet, ranging from artifacts, posters, book reviews, movie reviews, to conference notes, short bibliographies, project profiles, and a virtual museum. They vary in format and value. Those links are gathered here to let people explore them for themselves. (See Figure 2)
3. A few thoughts

While librarianship is still a discipline dedicated to finding, filtering, organizing, evaluating and presenting information, the introduction of the World Wide Web into libraries is changing the way libraries provide services. Using the Web, information can be updated instantaneously, be kept as current as possible, and be accessed by patrons from wherever they have access to the Internet and a Web browser. The Web Center of Cultural Revolution Studies is the authors' first attempt to utilize this technology to provide information effectively and efficiently, not only for local use, but for scholars all over the world as well.

In view of the documentary nature of this site and research oriented patrons, several rules guided its construction:

a. Include only a few primary items on the home page for simplicity and clearness.
b. Pages should be independent to allow for easy downloading or printing.
c. Limit the use of in-line images and minimize scanning documents as images to allow for quick display.
d. Use navigational landmarks, such as index bars or content columns, up-to-top and return-to-previous buttons.
e. Point to the software patrons may need to use, since many documents are in vernacular characters and different coding systems co-exist.

The authors believe that dedicated resources are essential to the successful development of a library site. Currently, we are concentrating on collecting and compiling documents. In the future, a search engine will be needed for better service. Other possibilities for improvement include use of multimedia, for example audio oral histories or videos of historical events. We realize that we may face some difficulties, such as finding appropriate applications, and securing production facilities and technical staff to produce and convert audio/visual information for the web.

This Web site is still under construction. Materials in some categories are not available yet but will be provided in the near future. Comments and suggestions are welcome.
WWW Center of the Cultural Revolution Studies

a test-mirror site at

http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu/CultRev/

Please send your comments and suggestions about this test-mirror site to

E-mail: li272@osu.edu, Tel: 614.292.9597, Fax: 614.292.7859
310 Main Library, 1858 Neil Ave. Mall, Columbus, OH 43210, USA
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Other Related Resources on the World Wide Web

- **Artifacts from the Cultural Revolution**
- **Books in Reviews:**
  - *The Cultural Revolution: Facts and Analysis*
  - *The Red Mirror: Children of China's Cultural Revolution*
  - *Red Azalea*
  - *The Youth of China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution*
  - *Scarlet Memorial: Tales of Cannibalism in Modern China*
- **China and the Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969** (a short bibliography)
- **Chinese Community Forum: Special issues on Cultural Revolution**
- **Conferences on Cultural Revolution**
  - *China Study Group 30th Anniversary Symposium*
  - AAS '96 Annual Conference Sessions
    - 43: Resistance and Repositioning in Post 1949 China
    - 142: Capitalist Sprouts, Socialist Tails, and Cultural Revolution Nostalgia
  - AAS '97 Annual Conference Session
    - 70: *The Chinese Cultural Revolution: A Retrospective View*
  - China's Cultural Revolution: political causes and social consequences
- **CPAS Project: China's Cultural Revolution** (Center for Pacific Asia Studies, Stockholm University)
- **Cultural Revolution Posters**
- **Cultural Revolution Songs**
- **Movie Review**
  - 'To Live' gets a handle on a nation's chaotic history
- **The Virtual Museum of the "Cultural Revolution"**
- **10 Years of Chaos** (a real story with photos)
- **华文文摘 增刊 文革专集** (HX WZ Special Issues)
  - (GB Code) [Vol. 1] [Vol. 2] [Vol. 3] [Vol. 4] [Vol. 5] [Vol. 6] [Vol. 7] [Vol. 8] [Vol. 9] [Vol. 10] [Vol. 11] [Vol. 12] [Vol. 13] [Vol. 14] [Vol. 15] [Vol. 16] [Vol. 17] [Vol. 18] [Vol. 19] [Vol. 20]

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