

Electronic Resources for Chinese Studies

8/5/2004, 8:30-11:30 am; Instructor: Calvin Hsu

Purpose

The course seeks to implement the vision as expressed in the program statement of the summer institute below:

Systematic training on Chinese reference tools [is] essential to the success of practitioners of East Asian librarianship.

In view of the fact that about half of the participants are either new members to the profession and/or librarians experienced in specialized fields such as cataloging or art museums, a significant portion of the time will be spent on basic training in key electronic resources for Chinese studies. Participants fluent in these resources are encouraged to share their experiences.

Although the course will explore some issues related to electronic resources, major aspects such as user education and electronic collection building will likely be discussed in courses on instructions and collection development respectively.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, participants hopefully will be able to:

- Identify key electronic resources for Chinese studies
- Select proper electronic tools for specific information needs
- Develop skills in using electronic tools for information services
- Use Web search engine effectively
- Explore important related topics such as search strategies, etc.

Topics

- Overview
- Source-finding tools
 - Union catalogs
 - Abstracts & indexes
 - Full-text databases
- Fact-finding tools
- Statistical information
- E-libraries
- Web search engines
- Websites
- Related topics: search strategies, bibliographic software, etc.

Reading materials

- Document databases construction in China in the 1990s: a review of developments (*Meng Liansheng. The Electronic Library*. Oxford: 2000. Vol. 18, Iss. 3; pg. 210, 6 pgs)
- WebCat: [user guide](#); [quick reference](#)
- RLIN: [help file](#); [command search help file](#)
- [User's guide to "China Academic Journals"](#)
- [Finding information on the internet: a tutorial](#) (UC Berkeley)
- [中文搜索引擎比较研究](#)

Questions for discussions

- What kind of electronic resources would you like to see developed?
- What features in specific electronic resources (e.g. CAJ or U-M CDC statistics databases) would you like to see improved?
- How do you use Web search engines in your (reference) work?
- For complicated searches on specific topics, librarians sometimes conduct test searches before contacting users to offer an answer. In that answer, is it better to include the result of your test searches, or should you only point out the proper search tools that they can use?