

ONLINE NEWS

Details are provided below on some of the online services available over the Internet or by dial-up access. Much of the information was obtained over the Internet, and is reproduced here with the consent of the original authors.

ANU INFORMATION SERVICES AND ADD-ON (Asian Document Delivery On-Line)

To find ANU Asia-related information services, telnet to info.anu.edu.au. Select Local ANU databases from the main menu, then item 16, coombspapers, then item 6 coombsarchives. There are several items of interest on the next menu - asian-pacific-economic/, contemporary-china-centre/ and east-asian-history/.

ADD-ON is an Australian National University (ANU) Library initiative operating since November 1992 as a pilot project.

ADD-ON provides access to titles and contents of selected Chinese and Indonesian language journals published in China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong) and Indonesia respectively.

The tables of contents of Chinese language journals have been translated into English, since they are not available at this stage in Chinese script. Pinyin romanisation is used throughout.

Asian content on Carl UnCover

As readers may know, Carl Uncover is a database and document delivery service that is available over the Internet; users can search for named journals or journal articles and order a faxed copy, quoting Mastercard, Visacard or American Express account numbers.

The University of Hawaii currently contributes 900 titles to UnCover; approximately 400 of those titles are published in or about Asia.

If they have an English table of contents, contents for East Asian titles are entered. There are probably more Chinese titles than Japanese or Korean. For all Asian titles subject specialists are relied on to suggest titles; however, since some specialists may only be interested in a narrow subject area, coverage can be uneven.

UnCover is a basic index. There is no authority control for any personal name. The UnCover inputters are students with strong Chinese and Japanese backgrounds, and can therefore be expected to understand the form of Chinese, Japanese and Korean names. Instructions for entering names are "when in doubt, input the name as it appears in the journal". If authority control were

applied, the time to input the data would increase so much that it would not be cost effective to maintain contributions to UnCover.

For those persons interested in Pacific subjects and can access the University of Hawaii computer, the Library maintains a specialized Hawaii/Pacific Journal Index. It is similar to UnCover in looks but unlike UnCover (which by policy never looks at a journal prior to 1988/89) HP Journal Index indexes back to vol. 1 no. 1 or 1905 (a system constraint). This index has proven extremely popular and is heavily used by Australian and New Zealand Universities as well as many of the Pacific Islands schools and governments. In this index you will find references to Asians and their influence on Pacific Island nations.

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Twenty Five Dynastic Histories Full Text Database

The database for the Twenty-Five Dynastic Histories has been in operation at the University of Washington in Seattle, since January 1990. It was produced by the Institute of History and Philology and the Computing Center of Academia Sinica in Taiwan. The database has 39,504,428 characters, making it the largest in sinological studies.

The database uses a free text retrieval system, which means that any character or sequence of characters is retrievable in a short time. Along with the ability to compile statistics on any given document, there are features of this system that set it apart from existing manual tools of study. For instance, a linguist could use the statistics feature methodically to study sentence structures, grammar, and word usage. Perhaps the greatest advantage of the database is its speed and thoroughness.

Dial-up remote access is possible for those with the necessary hardware and software package. Access through the network connection is still waiting to be developed.

Those who are interested in utilizing this database may write directly to Yeen-mei Wu, Assistant Head/China Librarian, East Asia Library, Gowen Hall DO-27, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. Her e-mail address is ymwu@u.washington.edu

Chinese script on OPACs

Over the Internet it is possible to connect to certain library online public access catalogues (OPACs) that support CJK (there are about a dozen such systems installed -- the most established one is in Hong Kong at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Chinese characters can be displayed and even input remotely.

The OPAC at HKUST uses INNOPAC software, supplied by Innovative Interfaces, Inc. in Berkeley, California, USA. The same product is also in use at some of the Academia Sinica libraries in Taipei.

On the internet, users need to be on an X-terminal or sun station running cxterm using the BIG5 character coding method, or a PC running some terminal emulation package (such as PROCOMM) and a Chinese font system such as ET (E-TEN), which uses the BIG5 two byte codes for CJ characters. Note that simplified characters are not included unless an extension character set to ET's BIG5 set has been installed. Another acceptable Chinese font system is one from JOIN Computer Company (which uses CCCII and/or REACC three byte codes for CJK characters).

For people interested in the technical side, the input device needs to send all eight bits. If you are seeing the CJK characters, then your display device is receiving 8 bits. If you can't input CJK characters, then your inputting device is not sending all 8 bits. Make sure it is set to do so. Also, make sure any computers and networks that you go through are sending all 8 bits. Most UNIX machines, for example default to sending only 7 bits. Execute the UNIX command `stty pass8` to make sure it is sending 8 bits (under some circumstances, you may need to use `stty -istrip`). Sun file servers have another command for this. If going through a terminal server, check its settings. If necessary, ask for advice from your computer center people.

The telnet address for HKUST is `ustlib.ust.hk`

Steve Silberstein
Innovative Interfaces Inc.
John McRae
Cornell University
June 1993

As stated above, access to Chinese script is through a system or software which gives the user a Chinese environment. It is possible to access Chinese script on the HKUST OPAC with the Chinese word processor ET or Kuo Chiao 6.0 (from Taiwan), or CCDOS or UCDOS (from China). Under these circumstances it is possible to type in Chinese characters and search for the materials in Chinese; results can be displayed in Chinese or Roman script.

It should be noted that display problems can occur when there are differences between the structures of the simplified and traditional characters being displayed through Kuo Chiao. This problem occurred when trying to display mainland Chinese publications. If a character cannot be displayed, it appears as a big square.

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Chinese Studies Information Available In CCIC

The Chinese Community Information Center (CCIC) of Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars has set up an information base. Yuan Jiang is managing the anonymous file transfer protocol (ftp) service at this site, address: ifcss.org One of the directories, china-studies/, is devoted to data related to China and Chinese studies.

Texts available are in English (ASCII) and Chinese. There are basically two kinds of Chinese electronic format (equivalent to ASCII code): GB code and Mainland Chinese standard, also used in Singapore. (One derivative of GB code is HZ code, popular on Internet.) Big5 code, a Taiwan de facto standard, is also used in Hong Kong.

There are numerous items available from centers in Taiwan over the Internet. There is also some news (English and Big5 coded Chinese) available from a Hong Kong newspaper. Currently, there are many Chinese classics, such as Confucius, Mengtzu, LaoTsu, 300 Tang Dynasty Poems, which are free of copyright. In addition to modern poems and literary works. The files are in the process of being reorganised by subject and have already been considerably expanded.

It is hoped to add more information, such as census data and economic statistics. If you have any material which is in electronic form, please contact Yuan Jiang concerning adding more information to the service.

The Internet address is ifcss.org or 129.107.1.155. It has a large collection of Chinese software under the software/ directory, which can be downloaded using ftp. For further information about ftp, send email to ftp-info@ifcss.org

Date: Thu, 1 Apr 93
From: jiang@ifcss.org (Yuan Jiang)

CD-ROM of Chinese theses and dissertations

A CD-ROM of Chinese theses and dissertations is being offered by CD Document Inc. in Taipei entitled "Chung hua po so shih lun wen chien so kuang tieh"; it indexes and abstracts 60,000 works, including some from mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The price until July 31 is US\$3980 (\$6950 after that date), excluding installation and service. If bought in Taiwan, the price is NT\$198,000 with installation and service included. The annual update costs NT\$90,000 (no USA price quote yet). To date, 19 academic libraries in Taiwan have purchased this CD-ROM, ISO standard 9660.

To run, a PC 286 or upwards is needed with colour or monochrome monitor, 2MB or more RAM, and a 40 MB or larger hard disk. In addition, the ET Chinese system (Big-5 code) must be purchased separately. Searching is by menus or commands, with Boolean operations available. Abstracts are keyword indexed and fully searchable.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. Chi at the CD Document Co. (Fei1-tzu1-te2 tzu1 hsun44 kung1 ssu1) on (02)7189262, Taipei, Taiwan.

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The Ohio State University Libraries
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Newsgroups on Internet related to East Asian studies

Listed here are some newsgroups relating to East Asian studies that are available over Internet. Where known, the addresses for sending messages to the group and to the database file server are supplied. Email to subscribe should be sent to the file server rather than to the group. Some groups are moderated, which means that an editor will screen out unsuitable messages. Please note that these addresses are reported second-hand, and have not all been tested.

Early Modern Japan Network (group)

emjnet@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu

Eastlib (East Asian librarians) (group) (database)

eastlib@mento.acs.unc.edu
archive@mento.acs.unc.edu

Association of Japanese Business Studies (group)

AJBS-L@pucc.princeton.edu

Chinese Computing Net newsgroup (group) (database)

ccnet-l@uga.cc.uga.edu
listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu

Chinese studies (group) (database)

china@pucc.princeton.edu
listserv@pucc.princeton.edu

Japanese through electronic media (group) (database)

jtem-l@uga.cc.uga.edu
listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu

Japanese teachers and instructional technology (group) (database)

(archives)
Owner: Hideo Tomita

jtitt-l@psuvm.psu.edu
listserv@psuvm.psu.edu
Listowner@psuvm.psu.edu
tomita@vax001.Kenyon.edu

Japanese language discussion group

(group)
(database)

nihongo%finhutc@mitvhma.mit.edu
listserv@mitvhma.mit.edu

Chinese electronic journals

China News Digest (CND) offers the following services:

- (1) Global edition (CND-G) carries news of general interests. It is published daily on weekdays, and sometimes on weekends as well.
- (2) Regional services carry information about activities of local Chinese student organizations, job/immigration information and other information possibly of special interests to local Chinese communities. Currently CND offers three regional services: CND-US for U.S., CND-Canada for Canada and CND-EP for European/Pacific countries. These regional services are normally published one to two times a week.
- (3) Chinese language service carries selected Chinese articles. It is published once a week. The Chinese name of the service is Hua2 Xia4 Wen2 Zhai1, while the English name is CND Chinese Magazine (CND-CM).
- (4) CND has also prepared several "packages" (A "package" is a collection of files about a special topic, for users' easy retrieval). Most of them are related to the common concerns of Chinese students and scholars in the U.S. (Several of them may be of interests to people elsewhere as well). [

These services are set up on the US BITNET network. To access Bitnet from Australia, you need to know the equivalent Internet address. For information concerning the full range of services, instructions and addresses, send the message INFO to CND-HELP@CND.ORG (in lower case).

You should also note the requirements for reading Chinese script as described earlier.

information downloaded from: cnd-info@cnd.org

