

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA PROJECT ON CHINESE SERIES ANALYTICS

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Series (cong shu) are important resources for Chinese studies, and Asian Collections of the National Library has a significant collection of these series. During September 2001 to January 2002 a project was carried out to add National Library holdings to individual titles in some of these big series. As with all Chinese materials, we search on ANCJK and RLIN for bibliographic records, and in the rare cases of the absence of records a simple one is created. Altogether four series have been completed, resulting in over 4,750 holdings added to ANCJK.

The first one of these four series is *Zhongguo fang zhi cong shu*, published by Cheng Wen Publishing House of Taiwan during 1970 to 1983. This series is made up of seven subseries or regions, and contains reprints of local gazetteers of China published from the Ming dynasty to the Republican period. There are over 2,000 titles in this series.

The second is *Jin dai Zhongguo shi liao cong kan*, published since 1966 by Wen Hai Publishing House also of Taiwan. It is made up of three subseries (zheng bian, xu bian and san bian), each of which contains 1,000 volumes. The third subseries is still being published, the latest received being v. 850 published in 1996.

The third is *Si bu cong kan*, for which the National Library owns the original set published by Shang wu yin shu guan (The Commercial Press) in the 1920s and 1930s in Shanghai. 680 titles in this series have been catalogued.

Last but not least is *Cong shu ji cheng chu bian*, published also by Shang wu yin shu guan in Shanghai during the 1920s. The Library does not have a full set of this series in its original imprint, but did acquire some additional volumes reprinted by Zhonghua shu ju in 1991. Having catalogued this series we now have a clear count of 731 titles we have in this series.

This project has been a very useful experience for everyone. We found that it is much easier to work with publishers' catalogues of the titles in each series, or published indexes to the series. Also RLIN is an excellent source of records for older series such as *Si bu cong kan*, especially after so many large Chinese collections in the United States have been retrospectively catalogued.

Before this project all the individual titles were searchable by title only in the Chinese card catalogue in Wade-Giles in the Asian Collections Reading Room. Access to these materials has now been greatly improved, with our holdings on both ANCJK and our local catalogue.

For further information please contact me at the National Library of Australia,
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