

THE INTERNET AND CHINESE LAW RESOURCES ¹

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Introduction

This paper attempts to use the Internet as a means to access and explore information and resources all around the world for Chinese law materials. Topics discussed includes search engines and some useful Chinese Studies WWW sites for research purposes. It is intended for people who use the Internet for research, and would like to gain more knowledge on the Chinese law resources provided by the Internet. The information included in this paper is based on the author's experience in providing Information Literacy Program for Chinese Studies postgraduates and faculty members in the University of Melbourne Library and using Internet resources as part of the author's everyday routine.

Search Engines

The Internet has become a vast, global storehouse of information. The only problem is: how do you find what you're looking for? Search engines index each word within Internet documents. When Internet users pose a query to a search engine, it matches the query words versus the records it has in its databases. The search service responds by giving a list of all the Web pages in its index relating to those topics. The most relevant content will appear at the top of the results. Below are some useful and popular search engines for searching Chinese web sites.

Nihao Directory - Law

(<http://www.nihao.net.cn/search/catelay2.asp?CategoryID=21102>)

- Provides English and Chinese version
- A Yahoo style subject directory in GB code
- Supports Chinese simplified character search
- Links to English search engines: Yahoo, AltaVista, Excite, etc.
- Links to useful legislation-related China law web pages

Whatsite - Law (<http://www.whatsite.com/politics/law/>)

- A search engine for Chinese web sites
- Supports Big5, GB codes and English
- Supports traditional and simplified character search

¹ This is an edited version of the online article at URL:

<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/asian/Internet-Law-Chi-Resources.html>

- Provides several levels of searches, standard search, free text search, near search and Boolean search
- Links to 84 Law pages in Taiwan

Yahoo Chinese - Law (<http://chinese.yahoo.com/Government/Law/>)

- Provides Chinese Big5 and GB version
- Supports Chinese character search
- Provides links to Yahoo Taiwan, Yahoo Hong Kong and Yahoo Singapore and linking sites in Chinese all over the world
- Yahoo Chinese provides searchable subject directory, particularly useful for looking up regional information
- A useful search directory for China law by category

Zhaodaole - Law

(http://www.zhaodaole.com.cn/gb_chinese/dir/law/legal_publications/index.html)

- Provides Chinese and English version
- Provides searchable subject directory in GB code
- Supports Chinese simplified character search
- Provides useful links to legislated-related law web pages in China and Hong Kong
- Provides links to download Chinese software from the Internet

Internet and Chinese Law Materials

In this paper, it is aimed at providing information on Chinese law resources available for free access from the Internet. These materials are full text law databases, law journals, newspapers, government gazetteers and new publications. On the other hand, there are links to Chinese Studies Internet guides, bibliographic databases, online libraries for Internet users searching more law-related information.

Legislation-related resources

Guo jia fa lu fa gui ku (<http://www.qis.net/chinalaw/lawchin1.htm>)

This is a searchable full text database of PRC law published since 1949. The system supports GB code. This page is a sub-page of Chinalaw Web (<http://www.qis.net/chinalaw/index.html>) which provides information about Chinese law and the legal system in the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC), Hong Kong and Macau.

China Law Databases

(<http://www.lawhk.hku.hk/dbmenu/ChinaLaw.shtml>)

It is a sub-page of Law-On-Line / Asia-Pacific On-Line. It contains four databases for free access. These databases are useful resources for Chinese Law. The databases are in Chinese GB Code.

- (1) Beijing Law
(<http://www.lawhk.hku.hk/dbmenu/chinlawlocal.shtml>)
It is a searchable full text database of local Beijing law.
- (2) Law Periodical Contents
(<http://www.lawhk.hku.hk/tex/chjournal.shtml>)
It is a searchable index to three major Chinese law journals:
Zhongguo fa xue ; Fa xue yan jiu. Boolean search is provided for
types of law and publication date.
- (3) Government Reports
(<http://www.lawhk.hku.hk/dbmenu/report.shtml>)
Under this category, it provides reports of the following areas:
 - Government Reports
 - Report of the People's Congress, 1986-96
 - Report of the Supreme Court, 1986-96
 - Report of the People's Procuratorates, 1986-1996
- (4) Chinese Legal and Social Statistics, 81-94
(<http://www.lawhk.hku.hk/dbmenu/statistic.shtml>)

The Internet Law Library (<http://law.etext.org/1.htm>)

It is a sub-page of Law Revision Counsel, US House of Representatives, USA. It provides rich and useful links to laws in China, Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong. The language is in English.

- (1) Internet Law Library - China (<http://law.etext.org/57.htm>).
It contains Laws of China, Taiwan and Tibet in the areas of
Constitution, commercial law and human rights practice, etc..
- (2) Internet Law Library -Hong Kong (<http://law.etext.org/64.htm>)
It contains Basic law of Hong Kong, Court of final appeal decision and
human rights practice, etc.

*Government Information Centre Hong Kong Special Administrative
Region of the People's Republic of China* (<http://www.info.gov.hk/>)

This page contains information of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Government
and its related organisations. It is in English and Chinese. It is an important
web page for the Laws of Hong Kong. Sub-pages related to law include :

- (1) Basic Law (http://www.info.gov.hk/basic_law/index.htm). It
contains the full text of the Basic law of Hong Kong.
- (2) Judiciary (<http://www.info.gov.hk/jud/eindex.htm>)
- (3) Legislative Council, Hong Kong, (<http://legco.gov.hk/>).
It contains Laws of the Council and Bills since 1998.
- (4) Department of Justice
(<http://www.info.gov.hk/justice/chinese/index.htm>)

This sub-page includes the legal systems of Hong Kong (<http://www.info.gov.hk/justice/system/1/index.htm>) and the Laws of Hong Kong databases (<http://www.info.gov.hk/justice/laws/index.htm>)

Development of the Internet for Asian Law (DIAL)

(<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/dial/>)

It provides links to legislation-related resources on the Internet from many countries including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and search the full text of these resources.

(1) China - Peoples Republic

(http://www.austlii.edu.au/links/World/Countries/China_-_Peoples_Republic/)

This page covers the following legislation-related area in China: The Courts, Education, Intellectual Property, Lawyers, Parliament, Legislation.

(2) Hong Kong, China

(http://beta.austlii.edu.au/links/World/Countries/Hong_Kong,China/index.html)

It provides links to the following area in Hong Kong: Courts, Intellectual, Legislation, Privacy, Education, Law Reform, Parliament and Treaties.

(3) Taiwan (Taipei, China)

([http://beta.austlii.edu.au/links/World/Countries/Taiwan_\(Taipei,_China\)/index.html](http://beta.austlii.edu.au/links/World/Countries/Taiwan_(Taipei,_China)/index.html))

This page covers Courts, Parliament and Legislation of Taiwan.

Legal Data Bank, Taiwan, Republic of China

(<http://www.law.com.tw/tblaw.html>)

It is a very useful full text database of Taiwan Laws including its constitutions and legal systems. The database is in Chinese Big5 code.

The Chinalaw Web (<http://www.qis.net/chinalaw/>)

The Chinalaw Web is sponsored in part by the China Law Society, an academic organization for the promotion of the study of Chinese law at the University of Maryland School of Law. It is to provide information about Chinese law and the legal system in greater China. The Chinalaw Web includes an in-depth analysis of the four different legal jurisdictions in China; the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China, and the Portuguese Colony of Macau. The site includes translations of Chinese laws and regulations from mainland China (PRC) and Taiwan (ROC), Hong Kong SAR law, and Macau Law, as well as over thirty legal articles on various topics related to Chinese law.

Chinalaw (<http://www.chinalawinfo.com/>)

This page is maintained by the Law School of Peking University. It covers Contents and Index of China Government Gazetteers, Current contents of law journals published by Peking University, Law cases, Legal firms in China, Popular China laws, Questions and answers, Fulltext China Law database and What's new.

Chinese Law Journals and Newspaper

People's daily Online (<http://www.peopledaily.com.cn/>)

It contains 16 full text current daily newspapers and popular journals published in China. The system supports Big 5 and GB codes. Archives files are dated back to 1997. Searches are available using Chinese, English and Japanese JIS. However searches in English and Japanese provide the news headlines in the searched language.

People's public guard daily Renmin gongan bao
(<http://www.cpd.com.cn/>)

Law journal current contents = Falu kanwu yaomu
(<http://www.bm.fz.fj.cn/law/fkym.htm>)

Peking University Law Journal = Zhongwai faxue, 1997-98
(http://www.chinalawinfo.com/kanwu-cgi/show_kanwu.cgi?fx)

Legal Daily Online (<http://www.legaldaily.com.cn>) 1999-

Book news

Joint Publishing Company Hong Kong - Law book news
(<http://www.lawhk.hku.hk/jpcbook/jpclaw.shtml>)

It is an annotated bibliography of new law materials published in China.

China International Book Trading Company - Law book news
(<http://www.tsgcibtc.com/chinese/book/law02.htm>)

It is a list of newly published China law materials provided bibliographic details for purchasing purpose.

Internet Guides for China Law

Internet Guides for China Studies - Law (<http://sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/iglaw.htm>): the China WWW Virtual Library. This page is maintained by Hanno Lecher, University of Heidelberg, Germany. The page is part of the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library which provides comprehensive links to China Studies mainly in the areas of arts and humanities, arranged in the order Library of Congress Classification Scheme. Links are ranked and it is an important page for China law hompages. Highly recommended as a starting point of research.

Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)

(<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~felsing/ceal/welcome.html>)

This page is maintained by CEAL. It provides information guides to China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and Asia in general. Under each country, there are links to law home pages. It also provides links to other US East Asian library collections. Highly recommended.

Chinese Studies WWW Virtual Library - Law

(<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections//asian/chihp.html#LAW>)

This page is maintained by Bick-har Yeung, University of Melbourne Library. This page is specially tailored for the research and teaching needs of China law at the University of Melbourne Highly recommended to the students of the University of Melbourne.

Bibliographic databases

Australian National Chinese-Japanese-Korean Service (ANCJKS)

(<http://cjk.nla.gov.au/>)

The Australian National CJK Service is a national bibliographic database for Chinese, Japanese and Korean materials. It is available to users via library subscription. It helps library users to search monographs and periodicals titles in law areas held in their library as well as other libraries in Australia, using CJK characters, romanisation in Pinyin or Wade-Giles in their search terms and seeing CJK characters in their search results. WinMASS CJK is the recommended software to input and display characters. The database contains 1 million bibliographic records and 312,000 items of library holding data. It is an important online bibliographic tool for compiling bibliography in CJK languages and for obtaining holding information for interlibrary loans.

Uncover (<http://uncweb.carl.org/>)

Uncover is a bibliographic database providing access to tables of contents to over 18,000 multidisciplinary journals, containing brief descriptive information of over 8,800,000 articles which have appeared since Fall 1988. Chinese articles are indexed in English translated titles. Free search is available to users and users can order fax copies of the articles from this database. It is a useful tool for bibliography compilation.

Online libraries

Online Libraries (<http://online.anu.edu.au/Asia/Chi/ChiLib.html>)

This page is maintained by Darrell Dorrington, Australian National University. It provides links to library online catalogues in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Taiwan and other significant international Chinese collections. Internet connections to mainland and Taiwan sometimes is very slow. It is very useful for searching for Chinese materials for interlibrary loan purposes. The Fung Ping Shan Collection of the University of Hong Kong Libraries under HK, Hytelnet HK list is a good

collection to start with when looking for Chinese resources outside Australia.

East Asian Collection and Libraries - CEAL

(<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~felsing/ceal/eastcoll.html>)

This page is maintained by CEAL. It provides links to major American East Asian library collections, among which the Harvard Yenching Library Collection is one of the best Chinese research collections in the US.

European Sinological Libraries (<http://www.uni-kiel.de/easl/loclib.html>)

This page is maintained by Matthias Kaun and is a sub-page of the European Association of Sinological Librarians. It provides links to major European Sinological libraries, including Great Britain.

Library of Congress (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/catalog/>)

The Chinese Collection of the Library of Congress is the largest Chinese collection outside China. It is a web-based online catalogue. Chinese character display is not supported. Wade-Giles romanisation is adopted in the database.

Conclusion

Chinese Internet resources developed in Mainland China and Taiwan has been slower in developing Internet communications. The existing barriers affecting Internet users daily are described as follows:

- (1) Slow response time : Accessing Taiwan and Mainland web pages from Australia is very slow . Both China and Taiwan should improve their Internet communications to meet the Internet demands.
- (2) Changes of URLs: China web pages tend to change URLs frequently and new URLs are not indexed. It has been a problem for web page maintainers and Internet users to access the new URLs.
- (3) Search functions : A lot of searchable databases and search engines only provide a simple search function , some full text databases have no search function at all. This makes it very difficult for Internet users to search for relevant information for their research topics.

Accessing the Internet is quick and handy. In recent years there have been more global projects on web-based Chinese law databases, and more legislation-related Chinese web pages. The Internet is a breakthrough in the dissemination of information. Keyword and Boolean searching provides timely and accurate matching. Internet documents can be downloaded or printed in the office without visiting the library. However, it is difficult to catch up with the growth speed with the Internet resources and also to judge what are useful for the Internet users. As a result, Chinese librarians or law librarians have to work harder to keep themselves up to date with what is new in these areas.

Bibliography: "The Internet and Chinese Studies Resources", Bick-har Yeung.
(<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/asian/Internet-ChiResources.html>)