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A Note from the Editor

The new year comes with a new number of BEASL which offers caleidoscopic prospects of projects heading to completion in the near future: Marc van der Meer shows us how ChinaBase developed into a tool for cooperation between Sinological libraries. Please notice his generous offer of a temporary solution how to use the Leiden catalogue even now!

A special pleasure to read (and in the not too far future to use) is another important database created at the Sinologisch Instituut in Leiden: ChinaVision. Started by Professor Zürcher in 1988 it was lavished with care and attention by Prof. Zürcher, his assistant Dr. Ellen Uitzinger, and their collaborators ever since. Han Feenstra had the difficult task to set up the hardware and software devices necessary to feed in, manage, and store information comprising images, text, and reference literature in vast quantities. ChinaVision today is the only existing database on Chinese culture which shortly will be accessable in the institute's library as a research tool for students and researchers.

As new media enter the library and decisions about systems do not only affect individual institutions but any kind of future cooperation, it is of vital importance to know choices made by important libraries in the field. Therefore a message from Australia is included in this issues' part on Automation and is commented on by Thomas H. Hahn in his "Introduction to JOIN and MASS."

Vivid memories from the EASL visit in 1993 are brought back when reading Yu Dong's account of the Chinese holdings of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. Do you remember Pelliot's handwritten catalogue? The maps?

Getting prepared for this year's meeting in Zürich means to read Kathi Thölens introduction to the Chinese Library in Zürich!

Libraries in China, their problems and their achievements in Computerizing Information Management were the topic of two conferences held in Beijing in 1994 and which were attended by our long-time member Claudia Lux. See her report for details.

Finally I should like to thank Thomas H. Hahn for taking the effort to compile a list of China related CD-ROMs available. It is thus accessible also for those who have not yet been provided with an Internet connection.

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AUTOMATION

Marc van der Meer

ChinaBase - an Online Catalogue for Dutch Sinology

Like everyone else, the Sinological Institute at Leiden University, the Netherlands, has a long list of "wishware", to use a modern term for an Xmas list. One of the items on the shopping list: an online catalogue for the Chinese library. In the course of 1994, this particular wish started growing into something very real. If you're interested in how this came about, what is still in store for the future, and how you may benefit, please read on.

The Sinological Institute is the only place in the Netherlands where material is collected for the sake of scientific research on China and Chinese culture. The library is divided into two separate collections, one western-language, with about 20,000 volumes, and one Chinese (including Japanese sinological works), with about 220, 000 volumes. There is a library staff of eight, some thirty researchers and twohunderd students.

The catalogue of the western language collection has been automated since 1991, through cooperation with the Central University Library and Pica, the Dutch Centre for Library Automation. At that time it was not possible to incorporate Chinese characters into the Pica-system.

Pica is a non-profit organization that renders services to libraries and other information centres in the Netherlands (and recently also in Germany). These services range from developing software for bibliographic use to organizing networks for cooperation and lending. At this moment, the majority of all major Dutch universities, colleges, public libraries and national documentation centres are member of the Pica-thing. All members share the same cataloguing system, of which the central database now has about 9 million titles.

Because of the strong position Pica has in the Dutch academic library world, it was obvious from the start that connecting to the Pica-database was the preferred way to automation for the Sinological Institute. At first though, this did not seem possible for any time in the near future, because of the difficulty adopting the programme to Chinese characters. Therefore, the library began to explore other ways to connect to online databases. Extensive contacts were established with the Research Library Group (RLG) and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), both US-based, and the possibilities of connecting to either organization's database were explored.

In the meantime, though, the people at Pica did not sit still, and more or less surprised us when, early in 1994, they presented us with a Chinese version of their standard library software. It was only a very rudimentary version, with limited capabilities, but nevertheless a very promising start.

When we had recovered from the first shock, we started testing it. Formally, we still are in the testing phase, but the programme has proved to be stable, and has already been upgraded from an "experiment" to a "test". Together with the University Library and the Faculty of Letters, the Institute has made a request for extra funding from the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research. If the funding is granted, next year we will start a three-year project to further develop the software, and fill the online catalogue.

We are planning to input all books we acquired in recent years, plus "older" books we feel might be of special interest, and all of our periodicals. We will not only input all data ourselves, but also try to use data from other databases like RLIN or OCLC. Since converting these data will cause problems and headaches, we are glad that, again, the technicians at Pica will take care of this side of the issue. The nice thing is that, even if we get no extra money, all the work will still be done, although it will take much more time.

As all this may seem quite normal to you, for us it has been a most exciting development. And it is something you could benefit from as well. When the catalogue and its software are fully developed, anyone with an Internet connection can login into the catalogue and perform online searches. I have to mention, however, that this will not be possible before the project is well under way, say before 1996 of 1997. In the meantime, we have come up with a temporary solution in the form of a small programme, with which we can offer the catalogue on diskette to any interested institution. (The programme runs on any DOS-machine.)

I would like to end with a note on the use of the catalogue. It's first use, of course, is to provide both local and external users with a better tool to find what they're looking for. In a broader context, the catalogue could be a means for cooperation. When I visited the workshop on Chinese and Computer in Heidelberg this year, I was happily surprised to find out there are so many different places in Germany where Chinese studies are being done. What a great opportunity for cooperation. Here in Leiden, there is a very distinct feeling of isolation when the library is concerned, since we are the only one in Holland that collects Chinese material.

In the Netherlands, Inter Library Loan and the fast delivery of copied magazine articles for "regular" material has taken a flight in recent years. Confronted with a growing gap between means and costs, cooperation is the only way libraries can try

to sustain the level of service they are accustomed to. The position of European libraries for Chinese material may be even more difficult than that of regular libraries, but cooperation may be much more benificial. I hope that, by making the Dutch sinological collection more easily available for "outsiders", we will further cooperation between European centres of Chinese studies.

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Han Feenstra
System administrator of the ChinaVision Project

The ChinaVision Database

The name ChinaVision stands for "Visual Documentation and Presentation of the History of Chinese Culture". This project started officially in 1991 at the Sinological Institute of Leiden University. Project leader is Prof. Erik Zürcher. The project focuses on four closely interrelated aspects. Firstly, the systematic collection and contextual ordering of visual information concerning the history of Chinese culture. Secondly, the development of a method of analysis and classification relevant to the culture, resulting in the formulation of SinoClass. Thirdly, the development of the ChinaVision visual database. And, lastly, the active presentation of the visual information to students and researchers.

This article will focus on the electronic visual database. Since July 1991 the project has been working on the development of "an automated system enabling the description, storage, retrieval, and manipulation of visual information". This visual database will be made available to students and scholars as a support for teaching and research. SinoClass, an hierarchical, analytical classification scheme for a non-Western material culture, will be integrated in the database. This scheme, consisting of more than 8,000 entry levels, has just been basically completed and will be

published in the near future.

In this article I will deal with, successively, the source and nature of the data, the hardware and configuration of the system, the architecture of the software, the text (the description of the image) and the image.

The Data

In this stage of development the prime source of data is the slide collection of the Sinological Institute. The systematic collection and active presentation of visual information started long before 1991. Prof. Zürcher made a start by making visual presentation a major tool for teaching Chinese history to junior students. This resulted in a collection of some 20,000 slides. For the presentations the slides are grouped in clusters, arranged on themes and complexes. Each cluster represents a very general subject which is of essential importance in Chinese history, for example "China and the Outer World", "The Written Word" and "The Imperial Institution". In each series interlocking elements of Chinese culture are logically explained. Thus "The Written Word" not only explains Chinese calligraphy or the invention of printing, but the relative status attached to literacy and literati, the examination system and other aspects are tied in as well. Thanks to generous financial support from various quarters (the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the Netherlands Foundation for Scientific Research, the Dutch Ministry of Education and several other organizations) it has been able to develop into a major project in the field of Chinese studies.

The entire collection, including the slides not selected for the presentations, is documented on cards. These cards, actually numbering even far more than the slides, are the result of thoroughly checking for images the very rich collection of books and magazines of the Sinological Institute. Other sources of visual data are museum collections and the illustrations and photographs produced by the project itself. This continuously growing "database" of slides and cards became increasingly unwieldy and unmanageable. Once slides and cards are combined in an electronic database, the potential of the collection can be fully exploited: The automated database offers unique possibilities for education and research.

The Configuration

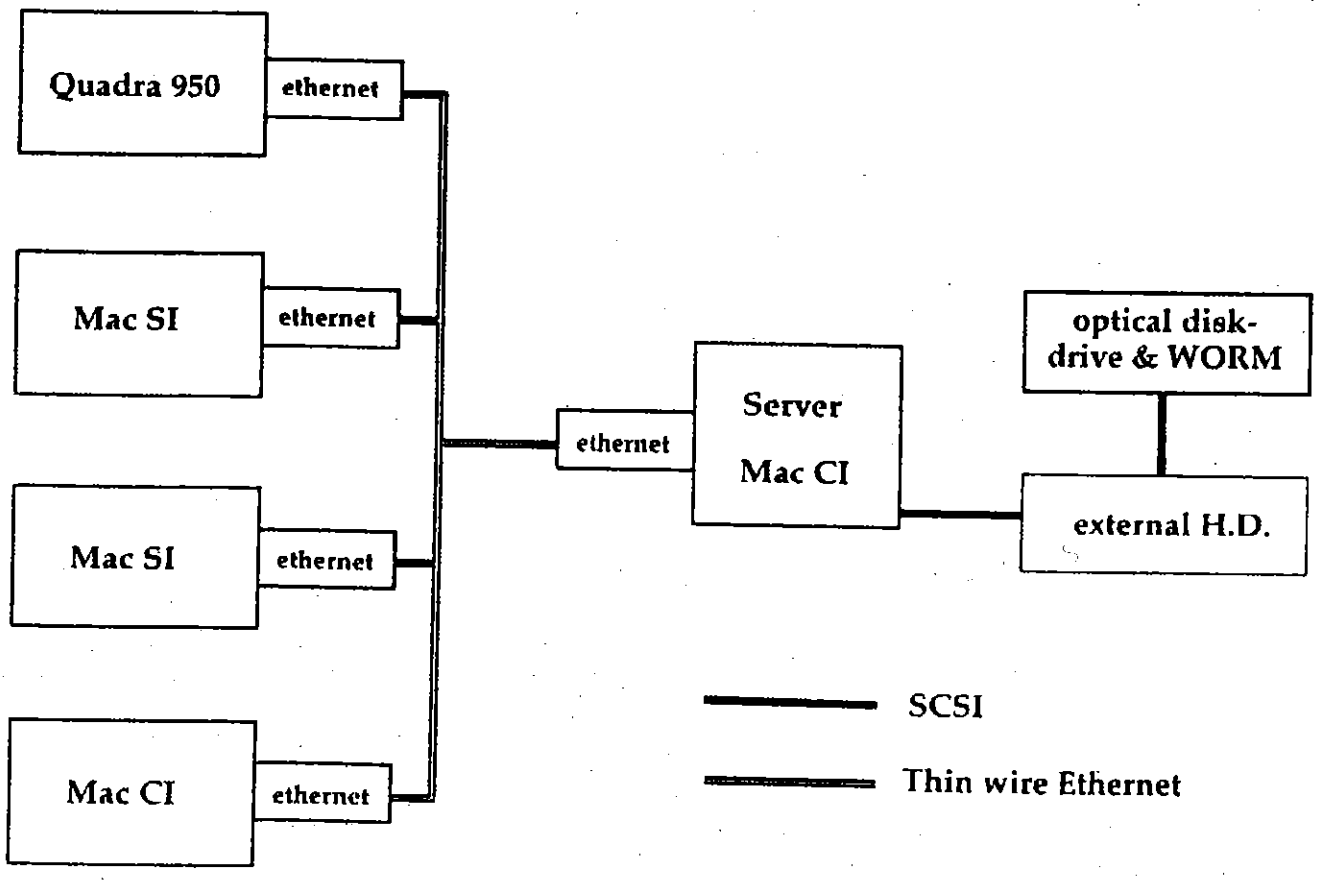
Let me first briefly introduce the present database configuration. I will include the tradenames of the various products. Not for commercial reasons, but only because it

is relevant information for the interested reader. For a numb er of considerations we choose Apple Macintosh as hardware platform. The main reason is simply that the software we selected was based on Hypercard, an Apple application. Also, Apple has successfully solved the problems of digital data compression and retrieval. Finally, Apple is an user-friendly system and an internationally accepted hardware platform.

The configuration consists of the following elements (see figure 1):

figure 1

HARDWARE CONFIGURATION



Workstations: For the input of text files and for retrieval of both text and image we dispose off one Macintosh IIci and two Macintosh IIsi, with 68030 processor and 8 MB RAM. The most powerful machine of the database is a Macintosh Quadra 950 with 68040 processor, 68 MB RAM and two external hard disks (236 MB and 520 MB). It can be used as a retrieval station, though its main function within the database is serving as scanning and colour input station. Within the project, however, this machine is primarily used for producing new images with graphic applications like Photoshop.

Server: The ChinaVision database is archived and administrated on the server for which we use a Macintosh IIci with 68030 processor and 8 MB RAM. The storage media are directly connected to this computer.

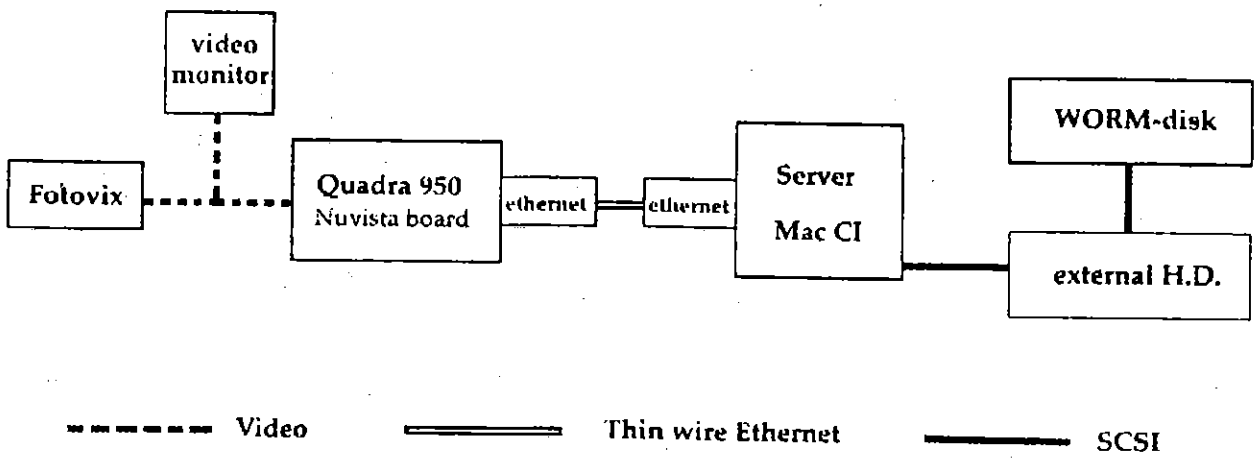
Network: EtherNet, an AppleTalk network, provides the connection between the various stations of the database.

Monitors: The retrieval stations have high-resolution RGB monitors (pixel depth 8-bits per pixel, resolution 72x72 pixels per inch). The Quadra is connected to a Supermac 19" monitor (resolution 72x72 pixels per inch, pixel depth 32 bits per pixel). For checking the quality of the scanned images, a Mitsubishi PAL video colour monitor (pixel depth 32 bits per pixel) is used.

Linked to this configuration are various storage media and scanning devices. These are mainly used for the images. The input of images is fairly simple (see figure 2).

figure 2

IMAGE INPUT



The slides are digitised with a film-video recorder (Tamron Fotovix). This device "grabs" the image on 72 dots-per-inch (using a NuVista graphic board). We manually put the image in focus and balance the colour. The image is compressed (using QuickTime, type Photo-JPEG) and stored on a double-sided WORM-disk (Write Once Read Many) using an optical disk drive. The compression factor varies, depending on the image, in general somewhere between 5 and 30 x. The size also differs, from, e.g. 85 K up to 260 K. This image is what we call the view, a full size image. When saving the large image, automatically a small image is processed. This small image, called thumbnail, is stored, together with the description, on an external disk connected to the server. The average size of a thumbnail is 40 to 50 K. Since it is not compressed, it can be retrieved very quickly. We have two external disks; one Quantum 200 MB and one Fujitsu Extern 1.0 GB. This should provide us with ample storage space for the near future. We have two optical disk drives (Reflection Systems) to our disposal, so we are able to make back-ups of the WORM-disk. The other scanning devices (slide scanner, A3 colour scanner, A4 colour scanner) are used for processing new images.

Software and Architecture

How is the image linked to the text? What software do we use? All the functions related to handling documents, both text and image, are comprised in the colorArchIS software. ArchIS stands for Archival Information System. This module for electronic document management was developed by Softcore Creative Technology (headquarters in England). In 1994 our system was upgraded with the latest version, ArchIS 3.2.1 (in Apple System 7.1). The user interface is provided by Hypercard. This Apple application is a system of stacks. A stack consists of interlinked cards. Each card can have several layers and fields, which are activated by buttons. The layers and fields can contain information; text and image are typed or "pasted" on the cards. There are several ways of going from one card to another, depending on the number of buttons. Indexing and making queries is fairly simple, in theory one can search on every single word or number put on a card. In the ChinaVision database Hypercard is customised to our specifications.

The other main components of the software architecture are an application handling the documents and a set of servers. In our data base the document handling application is called ArMan, Archive Manager. It runs in the background on every workstation and looks after all the interactions with the archive. Input, viewing, editing and even scanning, compressing and printing is managed by this application

and an appropriate set of drivers. If an user wants to access the shared database and archive, he/she has to log on to the server. This server application, called ADDBServer, runs continuously on the server Macintosh. The Archive Server controls the access to the ChinaVision system and the documents. The Document Server provides access to the media for all the workstations in the network.

Within the system, on the server Macintosh, reside two essential folders (a collection of files). Information about users, media and the actual documents is stored in ChinaVision Archive. All the information about the images is stored in a folder called ChinaVision Database.

Maybe this survey of the ChinaVision system so far prompts more questions than answers, but hopefully it does give one an impression of the (inner) structure of the system.

Now we go back to the outer structure, to what a user will see on the screen. We have views, stored on a WORM-disk, thumbnails, stored on an external harddisk and text, also stored on an external harddisk. And we have a Hypercard document of 548 K which is called Chinavision.

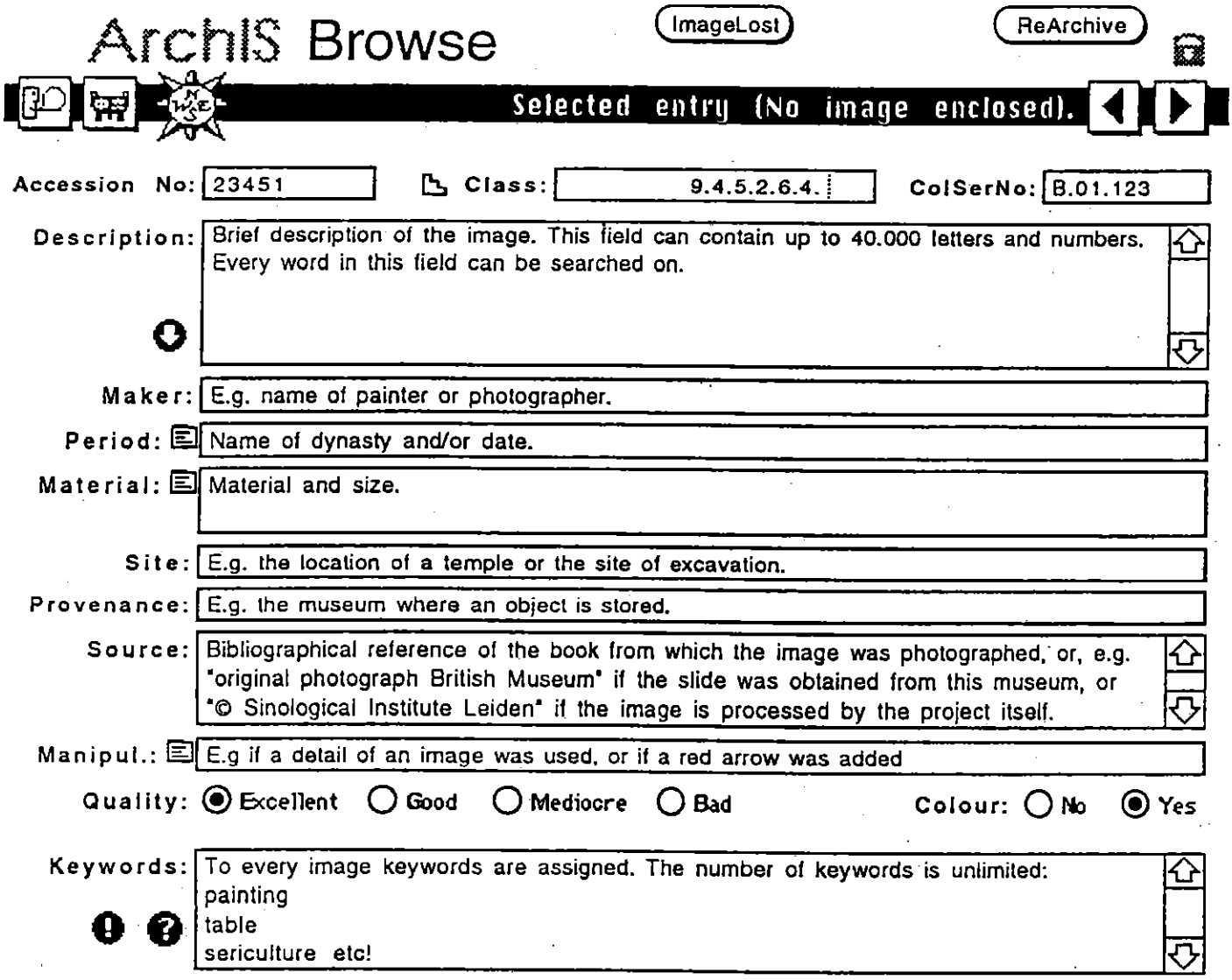
The Text

Starting up this document leads to the appearance on the screen of a card, the so-called query card. This card enables the user to search, allowing the input of words in several fields. These fields correspond to fields of the browse card. Each browse card contains the description of an image in the ChinaVision database.

The printed card (see figure 3) is an example of a browse card, showing the various buttons and fields. In the fields I have typed a short description or indication of how they are used for the input of text. The largest is the description field. This field is followed by a number of smaller fields: maker, period, material, site, provenance, source, manipulation, quality and colour. Manipulation, period and material contain pop-under menu's. Clicking a button prompts a list from which the user can select the right one.

Description and source have scroll bars, allowing the user to enlarge the fields. Note that this version of the card contains a number of buttons and fields that may not be shown to the future user.

figure 3


ArchIS Browse
ImageLost
ReArchive
Selected entry (No image enclosed).
Accession No: 23451
Class: 9.4.5.2.6.4.
ColSerNo: B.01.123
Description:
Brief description of the image. This field can contain up to 40.000 letters and numbers. Every word in this field can be searched on.
Maker:
E.g. name of painter or photographer.
Period:
Name of dynasty and/or date.
Material:
Material and size.
Site:
E.g. the location of a temple or the site of excavation.
Provenance:
E.g. the museum where an object is stored.
Source:
Bibliographical reference of the book from which the image was photographed, or, e.g. "original photograph British Museum" if the slide was obtained from this museum, or "© Sinological Institute Leiden" if the image is processed by the project itself.
Manipul.:
E.g if a detail of an image was used, or if a red arrow was added
Quality: Excellent Good Mediocre Bad
Colour: No Yes
Keywords:
To every image keywords are assigned. The number of keywords is unlimited:
painting
table
sericulture etc!

The card concludes with the field for keywords. This is a vital field. To every image keywords are assigned. The number of keywords is unlimited, the field can be enlarged with a scroll bar. An image that contains a painting representing a woman and a girl picking mulberry leaves may be described with the following keywords: *woman, child, girl, sericulture, tree, mulberry, basket, painting, costume, footwear, headgear, cap etc*. The hierarchy is kept as simple as possible.

Every *building* will have the keyword *architecture*, both *sampan* and *junk* do have the keyword *boat*. Keywords can be abstract: e.g. Confucianism, eroticism, popular religion, architectural principles *etc*. Specifications regarding the material can be listed here as well: e.g. scroll, stone, bronze, wall painting. A menu, activated by a button, allows the user to find out which keywords are indexed.

The browse card of the ChinaVision database contains a number of other essential fields. Every card has an unique accession number, assigned at the moment of making the entry. Since most of the entries are slides used in presentations, it is possible to put in the code of the slide, called ColSerNo. For example: WW.01.124 represents slide no. 124 from the first part of the Written Word series. B.03.002 is slide no. 2 from the third part of the Buddhism series. Both accession number and presentation number can be searched on.

Finally, a field named Class provides access to the SinoClass structure I already referred to in the introduction. This field contains the code assigned to the image according to the SinoClass analytical classification system. Clicking the field prompts the meaning of the code, indicating the user where to locate the image in the context of Chinese culture.

Linked to each browse card are a comment card and a Chinese character card. The comment card provides ample space for all information not directly relevant to the description of the image. Since the comment card is not indexed, the amount of information on it does not affect working speed of the system. The character card is designed for giving transcriptions (Wade-Giles) and unabridged characters of Chinese words. A Chinese font is integrated in the extensions of the system.

As I already mentioned, these fields also appear on the query card, except for the colour, material and manipulation fields. Only the description field is fully indexed, otherwise indexing would take to much of the system's memory and capacity and considerably reduce speed. The other fields can be searched on for only the first 40 characters. This, combined with the usage of "*" should be enough to specify the wanted site, source or keyword.

The Image

The images can be consulted in various ways. Both from the query card and from the browse card view and thumbnail can be retrieved. It is possible to have the thumbnails of all the found folders appear at the same time on the screen. Because one can vary the size of the thumbnails, one can, for example, either have four or a hundred thumbnails in the screen window. With the scroll bar one can browse through the thumbnails. Selecting a thumbnail brings one to the browse card or to the full size image. The full size view fills the whole screen and looks best on the 32-bit Mitsubishi monitor. It is possible to enlarge the image on the screen, so that one can examine the image in detail. Views (16,7 million colours) can be retrieved on the 8-bit depth screens, though the quality will be far from optimal. The thumbnails (256 colours) can be retrieved at any time from any card. The views, however, are compressed and stored on several double-sided WORM-disks. Since we do not have a jukebox, the views can only be consulted if the right side of the right disk is manually inserted. Therefore we choose to have the thumbnails stored in the largest size possible. This will reduce the need to see the full size image.

Prospects

A database is never complete, and ChinaVision certainly is not. In 1995 the first version of the database will be accessible to students and scholars in the library of the Leiden Sinological Institute. Some 10,000 slides have been described at the moment, mainly coming from the selections made for the presentations. Buddhism, the Written Word, the Imperial Institution, Historical Survey, China and the Outer World, the Chinese City, these are the themes covered so far. This thematic approach is a result of the structure of our slide collection. The description, though, is not affected by the themes. Each slide is described as an unique image, apart from its meaning within the presentation. An object oriented approach will be adopted as well. The ChinaVision Project could do this by systematic enlarging its slide collection. However, co-operation with other institutions with relevant collections (not necessarily on slide) will be more efficient. Museums and libraries dealing with Chinese studies often possess unique collections, built-up and managed by specialists. We hope and expect that in the near future ways and means may be found to associate these institutions with the project, to the benefit of all parties involved.

Then the ChinaVision database will contain a first choice of data, supported by a well-founded base. At the time, we just begin to get used to this idea. How and when an international visual database will function, is still a matter of discussions and

research, not to mention funds. Also, the present configuration and storing methods will have to be upgraded from time to time. Though both data and base seem to be subject to never-ending developments, we are confident that the ChinaVision database is an unique starting point.

This brief introduction of the ChinaVision database will hopefully give you an impression of what has been achieved so far. For more information, please contact

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Linda Groom

A message to CJKLIB from Australia*, dated 8th of Sep. 1994, concerning "Software vendor for CJK Project announced"

"The Deputy Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Eric Wainwright, today announced that Innovative Interfaces has been selected to provide software for the Australian National CJK (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) Project. INNOPAC software was selected because of the quality of its OPAC and bibliographic database functions, its ability to load data in various national MARC formats, its flexibility and Innovative Interfaces' good record of customer support. It is expected that the system will be operational by early 1995.

The National CJK System will provide a database of bibliographic records for Chinese, Japanese and Korean material with full support for CJK scripts. The database will initially contain half a million bibliographic records, from sources including LC, ABN, OCLC, RLIN and JapanMARC. The CJK System will be the Australian national union catalogue for CJK items, will provide copy cataloguing, and will serve as an OPAC for libraries that do not have CJK script capability in their local systems.

A new feature of the CJK System's installation will be the use of the MASS software for the input and display of CJK characters. MASS is a friendly, windows-based package that runs on PCs and Xterminals allowing users to input CJK characters using a standard qwerty keyboard. It uses Unicode as its internal code set and optionally supports a number of other character sets such as Greek and Jawi (an Arabic script). Innovative Interfaces will integrate MASS with INNOPAC as part of the implementation of the CJK System. This will bring to three (ETen, Join and MASS) the number of CJK input software packages supported by Innovative. MASS is a product of the Institute of Systems Science of the National University of Singapore.

The initial users of the system will be librarians and researchers at the Australian National University, Griffith University, Monash University, Murdoch University, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, University of Sydney and the National Library of Australia.

A number of other Australian and overseas libraries have expressed interest in using the system and client numbers are expected to grow rapidly during 1995.

Access to CJK will be through the Internet as well as a gateway from ABN, however, gateway users will be restricted to a Romanised view of the CJK database. Charges for new users are expected to be on a subscription basis, rather than a per-

minute or per-command basis, and various levels of subscription will be available. For further information please contact Linda Groom."

Linda Groom
National CJK Project Manager
National Library of Australia

*The message is reprinted here with the consent of Linda Groom. TH

Thomas H. Hahn

Introduction to JOIN and MASS

For quite a number of years now people have been discussing software packages that allow inputting, displaying and processing of east asian scripts, such as Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) scripts. Systems in use among colleagues are Twinbridge, ET (YITIAN), Kuoqiao (Kuochiao), Zhongwentalk (for Apple MacIntosh), Chinese Windows, HuaDa, the HuBo-system and others. Basically two codes are in use in Europe, *i.e.* BIG-5 with 13000 Chinese characters, and GB2312-80 (or -89) with about 6.500 characters.

The intermittant conversion of these codes is possible, though has its pitfalls. In this context would it be of didactic value only to argue that ONE coding and perhaps ONE software to treat CJK-scripts (plus additional characters needed, e.g. sanscrit *etc.*) might be of benefit to the academic community? The time may well be near to consider the options and software solutions described below. As I can foresee over the next three or four years some colleagues and scholars will quite naturally adopt platforms that simultaneously allow working with a number of Asian scripts within the same file, the same document, or the same bibliographic record. Thus the following introduction to MASS and JOIN not only intends to make people familiar with these rather new systems, but also to "symbolically" open up the road to online databases by sketching a rough outline of how a platform for a bibliographical tool in form of an online OPAC can be constructed, representing a database that the community can use AND share over the Internet, through Gopher and WWW.

1. JOIN CJK Language Systems (Series C)

JOIN Computer Co., Ltd, is a Taiwan based software engineering company that some time ago already developed a CJK system that supports the American National Standard ANSI/NISO Z39.64, better known as EACC (East Asian Character Code, 1989).

On a second and more advanced level, JOIN comprises four basic codes, namely CCCII, GB, JIS and KIPS/KSC5601, plus conversion programs and tables to convert Chinese script from simplified into complicated characters and *viceversa*. Thus a platform of multi-linguality is created that supports exactly 53.940 Chinese characters, Japanese Kanji (JIS C 6226) and Korean Hanja (2.392 Hanja of KIPS and 4.888 Hanja of KS C 5601). The system can interface with other East Asian language modules, besides western script (incl. Umlaute and other European variant characters). A character generator allows the active contruction of about 2000 new characters when required. The system comes with a specially designed display card "to accommodate the high-resolution scrolling requirements" (display is 24x24 pixels per character). Three different character generator cards are offered, one with 22. 000 Chinese characters and Japanese, one with 33.000 Chinese characters, Japanese and Korean coding, and a third one with 53.904 Chinese characters, Japanese Hiragana, Katagana and Kanji, plus Korean Hangul and Hanja.

The system requirement to run this software is an IBM-AT 386, 486, 586 (Pentium) or any other Intel/AMD CPU. The operating software should be MS-DOS 3.3 or above. Input is done phonetically and/or graphically by Wade-Giles, PinYin, Yale, McC-R for Korean, Romaji for Japanese, Chang-Jie, Simplified Radical etc. Various dictionary and code conversion drivers are included. Terminal emulation for AT&T, DEC VT100 and other UNIX platforms can be provided, too. JOIN is in use as a CJK-input system together with INNOPAC at libraries in Taiwan and has distributing agencies in Canada, Australia and the United States.

2. MASS (Multiple Application System Software)

Developed by the Institute of System Science at the National University of Singapore, MASS is the product that was chosen by the Australian National CJK Project Coordinators for CJK character processing. Its sole serious rival in the field was JOIN, the software introduced above.

As far as I can see MASS, with regard to supported codes (including UniCode), input methods *etc.* is very much the same as JOIN. What obviously convinced the

colleagues in Australia was its userfriendliness (MASS has a multilingual input facility for the novice and for the expert user called MINE), the openness of the system itself and the developers kit that can be purchased with it.

MASS, as JOIN, includes as a standard feature an in-build editor to process multilingual texts and is also designed to be used on UNIX platforms (for example SUN OS 4.1.x, IBM RISC/6000 AIX 3.2.x, HP-UX 9.x *etc.*) as well as on IBM compatible PCs (by mid-95).

An impression of how MASS may look like on a UNIX screen under UXterm can be viewed over Internet (using Mosaic on an AIXTERM for example) by accessing **http://www.lss.nus.sg/public/ISS_RND/NLP/PROJECTS/mass.html**). Lately an announcement concerning a free demo file of UXTERM was circulated to various lists and people with a potential interest (the site is: **ftp.iss.nus.sg; directory: /pub/iss/projects/uxterm**). It is difficult in this context NOT to speak about prices, but let me just state that they are affordable even if no national project is wrapped around them.

Now, with these facts in mind, I should like to point out why these systems may correspond to the needs of European colleagues. Let us assume that there are institutions with a common interest in sharing work, like cataloging *congshu*, updating periodical holdings of various sorts, and so on. Be it on a national or an international level, one would always wish to use a platform that can be accessed quickly, preferably by many users at the same time, over telecom lines that are inexpensive (JANET, WIN, InterNet) and paid by others, usually by the parent institutions or national committees. This platform would invariably have to be UNIX, in one form or another. The library system software INNOPAC by Innovative Interfaces Inc., Cal. (comprising the selected modules 1. "Cataloging", 2. "Circulation Control", 3."OPAC", 4."Serials Subscription Control" and 5. "Acquisition") that our Australian colleagues had the wisdom (plus the money) to choose (and which I myself rate as the best system there is on the market), unfortunately has a hefty pricetag attached to it. (But was this not the case with TOTALS as well, a closed system used at the Bavarian State Library in Munich, alas NOT available or accessible over the Internet, a fact I personally find hard to accept when looking at the possibilities the budget for the undertaking would have permitted!). For precisely that reason it may never be in use in any institution with an East Asian collection of repute in Europe (unless Innovative Interfaces Inc. would invent and market something like a "Small Innopac", similar to the proper "WenJin" and the "Small WenJin" of the Beijing Tushuguan).

Ruling out INNOPAC, what is left? Perhaps Allegro-X, or OLIX, or a Chinese niche

in PICA (not a CJK-niche, if I view the situation correctly), or even the McDonald-Douglas system...? One solution could indeed be Allegro-X, a software always full of surprises that leaves a maximum of freedom in configuring one's own front end. Matched with MASS or JOIN and installed on a powerful UNIX machine a basis could be created that would meet the requirements and needs stated above: shared cataloging, an OPAC available online from anywhere in the world, the possibility to update serials holdings and much more (such as providing WWW-links to other, related catalogs, information resources and software repositories in the form of anonymous ftp-servers). In my view every country in Europe should have at least ONE such UNIX installation, be it a combination of Allegro-X plus MASS, or ASIA-X (if the developers have such a thing in mind) plus JOIN, or "Small InnoPac" plus MASS/JOIN. The British China Library Group, the French and the German (newly established) counterparts may well find it a wise thing to spend some time pondering how, where and by what means such a system center could be set up and brought to life. Maintenance work, updating of software, adjustments and backup or security measures of various sorts would have to be taken into account and deviced.

In short: a long-term UNIX concept for CJK-libraries is the media that in my view would bring EASL members closer together, help establish and support co-operative efforts (considering the fact that some Chinese collections operate WITHIN a CJK environment, thus form an integrated part of well developed Japanese and Korean departments and in some instances cannot come up with "singular" solutions for online cataloging but have to find ONE common platform for the whole East Asian section, the UNIX/CJK systems would be the ONLY solution).

One may be lured by the fact that all these systems also run (or will run) on ordinary Intel PCs, but pursuing such a strategy would mean to disregard the co-operative aspect and lose many of the positive spin-off effects that come with using a UNIX system.

Munich had the opportunity to take the lead in this aspect - the chance was not taken up - perhaps it was not realized at all then?!. Full CJK-online display of bibliographical data and (even fulltext-) databases as required today and in demand tomorrow, both by scholars and by those of us that have taken up the profession of providing information as such is only possible along the lines and with the components described above.

CHINESE COLLECTIONS IN EUROPE

Yu Dong

The Chinese Collection in the Vatican Library

The Chinese Collection of the Vatican Library contains about 4.000 titles of Chinese books, maps, epigraphy, paintings and calligraphy, documents, as well as periodicals.

The collection contains about 3.600 book titles (prints and manuscripts), of which 2.000 titles are dated before 1911, 600 titles between 1912 and 1949, and 1.000 titles were published after 1949. Moreover, there are 1.500 volumes of "Yingyin Wenyuange Siku quanshu 影印文淵閣四庫全書" published in Taiwan in 1983. The earliest title is an incomplete manuscript of the Buddhist scripture "Da fang guangfo huayan jing 大方光佛華言經", of which only three volumes remain. This manuscript is an original copy by Liang Wan, chief of the treasury office Dianruiyuan 典瑞院 of the Yuan 元 imperial government in 1345 or 1346. All volumes were written with gold dusk on dark blue paper and are bound in accordeon binding. They consist of an introduction, an illustration, and the text.

The most essential components of the Vatican's Library's Chinese collection are the works early Catholic missionaries, comprising 250 titles of books and many duplicates. The library also holds a collection of Giovanni Vacca, which contains some manuscripts and a lot of Chinese books of the Late Qing period.

Another important part of the collection is the maps. Over 60 maps are preserved, mainly geographical and celestial maps of early missionaries, such as Ricci's "Kun yu wan guo quantu 坤與萬國全圖", printed in 1602, Schall's coloured stellar map "Chidao nanbei liang zong xingtu 赤道南北兩總星圖", as well as a large number of regional maps of the Late Qing Dynasty.

About 30 early rubbings of epigraphy are preserved in the Vatican Library. In addition to Buddhist inscriptions, there is a portrait of Confucius, and an early rubbing from the Nestorian monument "Da Qin Jingjiao Zhongguo bei 大秦景教中國碑" of the Tang Dynasty.

Old documents about the activities of missionaries in China, include manuscript copies of imperial edicts, official documents concrning the anti-Christian persecutions and documents about the Chinese Rites Controversy. There are also some ancient Chinese paintings and calligraphies, photo albums of the Late Qing and Republican

periods, and ivory carvings.

Periodicals include 10 titles of the Late Qing, 47 titles of the Republican period, and a small amount of contemporary material from Taiwan. All of these are incomplete.

All Chinese titles are shelved in various collections, according to different accession sources. The main collections are "Barberini Oriente", "Borgia Cinese", "Vat. Est. Oriente", "Raccolta Prima", and "Racolta Generale".

The "Borgia Cinese" collection was a part of Cardinal Stefano Borgia's collection that entered the Vatican Library in 1902 with a large number of Latin and Greek manuscripts. In this collection there are about 50 titles of ancient Chinese manuscripts and prints, containing several rare manuscripts and maps.

The most ancient and the richest manuscript collection of the Vatican Library is the "Fondo Vaticano", which contains over 60 titles from the Far Easr marked "Vat. Estr. Oriente", most of which are Chinese imprints, such as dictionaries and Chinese grammar works written by European sinologists and missionaries, as well as Buddhist publications of the Late Qing period. Of special interest are two volumes of the "Xu zizhitongjian jieyao 續資治通鑒解要", printed in the *jiaqing* era or even earlier, which entered the Vatican's collection before 1580.

The "Raccolta Prima" is the earliest print collection of the library, containing more than ten titles of old Chinese books. Today most of them have been transferred to the "Fondo Palatino".

Regular books in general are preserved in the "Raccolta Generale", in which there are quite a number of rare Chinese editions of early missionaries, such as the great astronomical encyclopaedia "Xin fa li shu". This part of the collection has a classification of more than 20 divisions. A great quantity of Chinese works in this collection is registered as "Raccolta Generale Oriente".

Two different catalogues of the Chinese collection have been in use until now, one being Pelliot's inventory of 1922 of ancient Chinese works (17 th-19th century), the other being the libray's card catalogue of the entire Chinese collection, filed in order of titels and authors.

Kathi Thölen

The Chinese Library of Zürich

The Chinese Library, together with the European-language and the Japanese

Library, forms part of the Library of the East Asia Seminar of the University of Zürich. It is the largest library in Switzerland that systematically and extensively collects media in the Chinese language and, therefore, does not only serve the Seminar's immediate needs but is open to all institutions and interested individuals. (The second sinological center - with a smaller library - is located in Geneva.)

History

The first chair in Sinology at the University of Zurich was established in 1941. Professor Eduard Horst von Tscharner held this post until 1962, and he began to loosely collect Chinese books from 1949 on. But only in 1964, under the newly elected Professor Robert P. Kramers, did systematical collecting of Chinese media start. During the Cultural Revolution contact between Switzerland and China was not entirely interrupted which enabled the Chinese Library to keep on collecting books.

Holdings

As of 1993, the Chinese library comprised 56'700 volumes (16'208 monograph titles), a total of 531 scientific journals and magazines (29 on microforms) and 16 newspapers (3 current subscriptions). 200 of the journals and magazines are currently subscribed to, among them also some in Japanese.

Besides collecting different kinds of material issued on microforms the Chinese Library has also started to purchase other non-book materials (tapes, videos, slides, maps etc.), but this still is a small-scale enterprise.

Staff

The Chinese Library is staffed with 3 librarians sharing 150 job percentage.

Main points of interest

The Chinese Library makes an effort to collect all works of fundamental interest to the study of the core fields in Sinology, including reference books and dictionaries. However, due to a limited budget, the library is forced to give priority to those fields taught at or researched in the institute, i.e. subjects concerning its philological orientation. Therefore, collecting material in the fields of classical and modern literature, philosophy and religion, history and language is emphasized. Among the minor fields of interest are archaeology, ethnology, minorities, geography. Books on art and art history are acquired on a very modest scale since the well-known Rietberg Museum, in collaboration with the Chair of East Asian Art, plays a leading role in this respect.

Catalogues

The user can access the holdings of the Chinese Library through several different off-line channels, i.e. card catalogues:

- for monographs in Chinese two physically separate catalogues, one for titles, the other for authors' names. Transcription used is the Wade-Giles system.
- for sinological material in Japanese there are separate titles' and authors' catalogues
- for journals, magazines and newspapers there is a titles' catalogue in Pinyin

Automation

The librarian's work itself has, up to a certain degree (on-line cataloguing), already been automated, but users are still confined to the various off-line card catalogues. Plans to improve this situation are to be implemented in the near future, i.e. the extensively used and fully automated Allegro-C system will be adopted, which should include access to the data for users.

CONFERENCES

Claudia Lux

BISCIM '94 and ITIS '94 - 2 Seminars 1 Goal: IFLA '96

BISCIM '94 (4th Beijing International Symposium on Computerized Information Management, Oct. 14-18, 1994)
"Impact of Information Technology on Information Management"

Session One: "Impact of Information Technology"

Information on CD-ROM-use in China and multimedia were the main topics. One of the most interesting papers was "Challenges and opportunities for Information Retrieval Today" by Zeng Minzu and Chen Yu from the Beijing Document Service. China's computer-based information-retrieval still shows a lot of shortcomings

compared to the rapid development of information management in other fields.

The authors pointed out that retrieval techniques have not yet overcome the level of string matching. In China there are neither information-retrieval systems (IR-systems) based on statistical techniques which handle text as morphologiacal units nor IR-systems based on natural language processing techniques. Most of them are compact information systems with local retrieval services only. The majority of these IR-systems provide access to bibliographic information only, but no full text, no financial, and no chemical information. Many of these systems do not have a user-friendly interface. There are even cases when one has to know the command-language in order to gain access.

Libraries and information centers tend to develop their own IR-system in accordance with the mainframes they are connected to, and thus there is a lack in appropriate standards.

The authors stressed the challenges and opportunities of development regarding social requirements, hardware-oriented platform, retrieval techniques, user interfaces, IR networks and IR for electronic databases. They proposed special research projects on Information Retrieval in China. One of the main problem they mentioned is that on-line retrieval and networking have been severely obstructed by bad telecommunication services and old-fashioned computers on which they are operated.

The plans for developing China's telecommunication were presented during a special evening session by the vice-minister of China's Ministry of Post and Telecommunication (MPT), who presented a paper on the Chinese Highspeed Information Network Action and explained the plan of the future national information infrastructure (Chinese Information Super-Highway).

A highlight of these plans is that Cable & Wireless (UK) will upgrade the phone box network in Beijing and will also construct a 3.000 km optical fibre cable system to connect Beijing with Hongkong. (The agreement was announced in the Financial Times on Oct. 13th, the very day before BISCIM started).

Session Two: Information Highway and Information Networking

Main topics of this part of the conference were papers on the Information Highway and INTERNET presented by participants from Australia, Japan, U.S.A., Canada, Switzerland, UK, Germany, Iran. An e-mail was sent from Qinghua University-Library to the US by one of the American guests. This was only possible because she knew the IP-address! E-mail messages, as it was told, may be sent out of the country via one access-point in Beijing exclusively. Scientists who want to receive e-mail from

foreign countries have to pay for every message addressed to them!

Session Three: Information Management and Related Issues

Session 3 was started with a highly interesting speech given by Sun Beixin, deputy director of the National Library of China. She explained the main data resources provided by the NLC for resource-sharing: Chinese MARC, Chinese character attribute database as well as authority control database.

Other papers were about special problems of library automation in China, e.g. the Shanghai Library Computer Mangement System, Chinese Thesaurus, Hypertext and some knowledge based and expert systems.

Some Chinese libraries and information centers like ISTIC are in the process of installing business-services in order to earn money. There were some interesting remarks on how these services are run in China, especially how the marketing is done and how a librarie's income may be increased. Research on this was carried out by Margaret Evans and Graham Matthews from England, who spent some time in China. Their "Marketing Approaches to Business Information Provision for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in China" shows that all of the enterprises being investigated are in desperate need of investment, product information, and information on marketing. The colleagues notice a lot of chances in the development of business information services in China.

In discussing the marketing problems of information services Chinese librarians stated that access to information is distributed unequally, especially with respect to certain databases. In China there are links to 600 international and 800 domestic databases, but few libaries and universities have access to databases like STN or DIAOLG. Even if they do have access they may not be able to use them because they lack the money.

Discussions about the INTERNET which is free as yet thus always leads to the point that Chinese libarians could find a lot of databases and library catalogues from the US, England, and Australia at no costs at all for their students. Again the problems of telecomunication have to be considered at this point.

During the BISCIM conference an exhibition on library and information techniques was held in the ISTIC building. It was not only visited by 100 participants of the seminar but by hundreds of library and information experts from the whole country, especially the region of Beijing. In addition to international databases, some Chinese library systems were shown and a lot of CD-ROM techniques and products, like the CD-ROM of the *Renmin ribao* 人民日報, were presented. Nowadays, in universities

libraries CD-ROM is used very often, because it is much cheaper than using online-databases provided by western countries. Until now though, the students are not allowed to use CD-ROM themselves. All requests are handled by information retrieval experts among the librarians.

BISCIM '94-Preprints (complete English version) are available from ISTIC, Beijing.

ISTIS, the International Seminar on Information Technologies and Information Services took place in Shanghai from Oct. 20-24,1994.

While BISCIM '94 was held in English, the conference languages at ISTIS were English and Chinese. The organization of the conference lay in the hands of the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) in cooperation with the China National S & T Commitee and the Ministry of Culture of China. The excellent organization and the high standard of presentation especially by young Chinese students of Library Science are very promising preconditions for IFLA '96.

150 guests from China and from abroad took part in the seminar. Main sessions as well as three sessions with specific topics had been set up. The contributions were made in English or Chinese and were translated simultaneously.

All papers presented are published in the two volumes of proceedings. The Chinese Collection (A) contains 90 Chinese papers and 40 abstracts of papers which had been presented in English. The English Collection (B) contains 40 papers and 90 abstracts of papers which originally had been written in Chinese. (Proceedings of the International Seminar on Information Technologies and Information Services, Oct. 20-24, 1994, Shanghai. Beijing, 1994).

Session One: General Research

Papers of Chinese contributors dealt with China's Information Industry and Market and the libraries' role in the development of economy. Future problems for public libraries in the new market oriented information society of China were discussed by Zhang Qiang of Chongqing Library.

Public libraries in China are no longer totally subsidized and some of them are confronted with severe economical problems. Because of the new market orientation public libraries have to find their way in marketing their services. But many librarians quit their jobs in public libraries. The process of change and modernization in the libraries is too slow to keep up with the economic development and market requirements. Libary staff should have the opportunity to be the first to gain information literacy and create training centers for information literacy in public

libraries.

Like in Europe Information and Library Sciences have to be taught as cross-disciplines, Jiang Ji from Fujian Provincial Library stated. Study, training and even the mental adjustment of librarians in China to the new information age were other topics of interest.

Session Two: Information Technology

Bai Guoying of the Documentation and Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences gave a talk about the Chinese Library Classification Science heading towards the 21st century, envisioning the integration of different routes of library classification.

Some of the first electronic publications produced in China - e.g. Chinese poems of scenic spots and historical sites- are processed by Wuhan University and were presented by Chen Guangzuo.

Xie Qingjun, Chen Zhaozhen, Zhuang Deming and Zhou Yamin from Taiwan explained how a Chinese electronic edition of the Buddhist Canon is produced. The Buddhist Canon had been chosen because of its detailed catalogue organized in a tree structure which was very convenient for the programmers. On a computer the detailed catalogue may be easily used for retrievals and comparisons of contents, objects or sentences of the scripture.

Problems of International Standardization of Bibliographic Description (ISBD) in China were discussed along with evaluation methods for information resources. Special papers on information retrieval, databases, and automatic indexing as well as computer systems and networking problems gave a picture of the current discussion in many Chinese libraries and documentation centers. Resource sharing is successfully practiced in Shanghai, the coastal regions of Guandong province and in the Zhangguancun district of Beijing. Li Minghua from Hangzhou Library reported about these examples of cooperation between library and information circles.

Session Three: Information Service

In their analysis of information services in China, Wu Weici and Luo Zhiyong from Peking University stated a lack of information supply services. They considered the information which has been stored in existing databases and circulated on computer networks as still very poor. China is in the phase of transition from non-profit S&T information services based on documentation to an information service industry based on database and networking technology. Improvements in management and administration of information centers as well as better marketing in this field are

essential.

Other papers given during ISTIS discussed the problem of the commercial electronic information services and information consultation services for middle size and small scale industries which might be developed by university libraries and by libraries of the Academy of Science. Just as some specialized libraries developed a phone service for their reader as a new feature.

BISCIM and ITIS have shown that the problems of Chinese libraries are the same as everywhere else: to keep up with the technological development and its new possibilities is very hard in practice and seems to have no end.

REVIEWS

Thomas H. Hahn

On reading Wang Hsu-Kuang's article on "CJK OPAC at the Unversity of Oregon" (Committee on East Asin Libraries Bulletin, No.100. (Oct.1993), PP. 16-34.)

The East Asian Dept. at the University of Oregon has adopted a system to catalog and retrieve bibliographic records everybody in the field should be familiar with by now. The system is called INNOPAC and can be compared to the TOTALS system installed at the East Asian Dept. of the Bavarian State Library in Munich, a system which serves as an agent for importing records from RLIN and as an OPAC for the public. The difference between Oregon and Munich appears to lie in the fact that while online cataloging is possible with INNOPAC, it is the policy of the Bavarian State Library that cataloging straight into TOTALS is neither desirable nor really feasable in terms of manpower and technical expertise.

However, I am not so much concerned about comparing various systems but rather would like to make a few comments on what our American colleague Wang has to say about the functions and the effects of the INNOPAC-installation and raise some questions.

There is no doubt that the benefits of a CJK OPAC are crucial to "improving bibliographical control and resource sharing" (p.16). The problem is what amount of control does the user (grouped in "*neihang* 內行" and "*waihang* 外行", *i.e.* the catalogers and system administrators on the one side and the students and teaching

staff on the other side) of such a system have? We will come to that issue at a later point, but let me just point out that obviously there are some unforeseen surprises in store for us. That the administration`s (ideological - financial) contribution to the (very expensive) installation is "indispensable" (p.16) goes without saying.

More important indeed is the "record exporting feature", as Wang puts it, supplied by OCLC to download records online into whatever system is fit to process them. INNOPAC is designed to handle MARC records and fully supports EACC as well as CCCII, so it has no problem in dealing with three-byte coded characters. The display of vernacular script is arranged on a 24 x 24 dot matrix level, a display format vastly superior to the usual 16x15 dots per inch used with standard software such as Chinese YITIAN etc. According to Wang every PC can be converted into a CJK INNOPAC workstation, with the side-effect of loosing its capability of displaying CJK-script. It is interesting to note that while downloaded records from OCLC are represented in numbers or alphanumeric sequences with at least four digits that very much look like the assignments to their respective codeplans in the EACC character set and thus could (if the assumption made above is correct) still make some sort of sense (see figure 1, p.18), the Heidelberg experience with an EACC code transplanted from its natural "habitat", *i.e.* not displayed on an RLIN multi-script workstation (MSW) but imported to a normal PC with VGA display results in "weird" code sequences with ASCII values higher than 127.

It would be of value to users (cataloguers as well as students or researchers) to see which status a record has, that is, what type of record (a completed record, an error record, an unfinished record *etc.*) is displayed. The idea behind this is to have all records that lack vernacular script (the Oregon experience left me with the impression that there are millions of non-vernacular records that actually describe CJK-materials) be grouped together, save them parallel to the working database, hire a part-time staff, have the records updated as a separate entity and re-import them again into the source database (or merge them to the originals). In OCLC records (and records directly catalogued into INNOPAC) I have not detected the expression of such a field.

One of the friendly features of the system is the choice of input methods: I have counted seven input modes for Chinese alone (out of a total of 13; figure 13, p.20). These options should cater to everybody`s needs. These methods include Pinyin and Wade-Giles input modes, but there is a drawback pointed out by Wang when she talks about "Current Limitations of the System (p.31-33)":... due to the gigantic character set used by INNOPAC (CCCII includes more than 40.000 characters) it is very difficult to retrieve a record with a title that may sort a variant form of a

character (in title search mode). The sheer mass of "shu" in first tone or "yi" in fourth tone cannot be narrowed down by using a Cangjie stroke as a secondary qualifier, which is possible in OCLC CJK and in Munich's TOTALS system.

The essential part of such a system as INNOPAC (or indeed TOTALS and any other OPAC that deals with CJK-materials) is its innate "spirit" to supply information - information on available titles, on their status, their nature, their size, form, state of preservation, number etc. Basically one might asume that what goes into it in terms of catalogued information also can "come out", *i.e.* might be retrieved again. Alas, with many systems that is not the case. When entering information the cataloguer has to comply to a multitude of rules and regulations, here specifically AACR2. To translate these filtered bits and pieces of data into machine readable form the user of INNOPAC or of any other major automated CJK-system has to accustom himself to MARC standards. As a rule romanized information (as of Chinese titles) is entered in non-aggregated Wade-Giles. There is no indication that any American CJK-system is seriously reflecting the ISO standard romanization of Pinyin. As far as I can see INNOPAC, according to Wang's demonstrations and representations of full form records, does not support the notion of inputting at least the title in Pinyin, as discussed by the Library of Congress and CEAL subpanels during the 1992 meeting in Washington. Technically speaking I have no doubt that INNOPAC might supply this feature (including to-screen-export, indexing *etc.*) when relevant people of the trade will ask for it as an integral part of the format. Yet it is open to debate whether the individual cataloguer/data technician will be allowed to "insert" and define such a field himself and "bend" AACR2 and MARC guidelines that obviously are not comfortable melting pots for such provisional (and transitional) practices. The notions of local flexibility, technical control and independence so much craved and treasured by the European "masters" of ALLEGRO-C are indeed difficult to reconcile with the autocratic and rigid structures of such "given" systems as INNOPAC, OCLC, RLIN or TOTALS. It is also doubtful whether non-aggregated title words will allow a keyword search with the same precise result sets as a search in which aggregated Pinyin or Chinese characters are used. This, however, cannot be attributed to INNOPAC or "the" system itself; rather, it is obvious that the form of bibliographical description determines the precision of the retrieval process. Thus it must be said that as long as input conventions do not change retrieval tools will not get any better. Still, it is my hope that even in the big systems search-result-sets eventually may become more transparant and "readable" (browsable index display, short title display *etc.*), thus complying to the rules of "fuzzy" retrieving logistics. I have seen and used INNOPAC at the Fu Ssu-nien Library at the Academia Sinica. Judging from this

experience there is a good chance that the "dinosaur" systems (RLIN, OCLC etc.) will hatch and nourish something that in the end will prove to be superior to its parents. Although I am suspicious about the enthusiasm employed by Wang in her conclusions (p.33: "it is the first and best CJK OPAC at present...") I must admit that INNOPAC is a system that must be taken seriously. Surprisingly it still carries the very cumbersome and "un-natural" 880 field linkages for vernacular script and other heritages from the early days of CJK automation development! As an "Allegrologist" I have principal problems with the lack of system control and the surprises the user is in for when fiddling around with data in INNOPAC (one example is given by Wang herself: the 880 field links were circumvented and instead vernacular script was entered into a second 245 title field, a second 100 field fo the author *etc.*, a method Wang calls "Enhanced bibliographical record with parallel vernacular fields" which allows simultaneous display of vernacular and romanization not possible before). Nevertheless, these problems do not prevent me from recommending the system as a very sophisticated retrieval tool especially for those importing large amounts of data from such sources as RLIN or OCLC.

Viewed in this light I must admit that the strategical intention in writing this short article is to convince the major CJK-libraries in Europe to seriously evaluate INNOPAC and include it in their quest for the perfect system. Our Australian colleagues, after long deliberation, have opted in favour of INNOPAC (in conjunction with MASS) and will thus be in a position to implement a very powerful system that will carry them a long way into the future. A short note on the Australian solution is given by Linda Groom in in this issue of BEASL.

Review of Ken Lunde's "Understanding Japanese Information Processing" (O'Reilly & Ass., Sebastopol, Ca, 1993, xxxii, 435p.)

It is sometimes necessary to make a detour in order to reach a goal. Sinologists labour hard to acquire the wisdom and the expertise of theologians to gain full philological control over "their own" texts like the classics (corrupt as they are) or the apocrypha (chanwei). They use the methods deviced by long traditions of scholars of the Bible to penetrate cryptic thoughts and sentences, to uncover hidden meanings and endless quotations from sources now lost. Not many are the fields where those studying China, its people, history and thought do not borrow methodological tools from other scholarly disciplines. It appears as if scholarship on many other subjects of human learning are far advanced when compared to sinology. The knowledge

accumulated in foreign, still somewhat related fields represents a great challenge to the seeker.

This certainly is the case with Ken Lunde's excellent book on Japanese Information Processing. It can serve as a modell for our own concerns, namely: compiling a book on CHINESE information processing, a work long overdue and in dire want to all of those in the west who are plagued by terms like CCCII, Chinese telnet, phrase boxes, cangjie and the like.

Let us have a closer look at how Lunde (who works for Adobe Systems by the way) structures the very diverse matter and how he successfully informs the reader without causing confusion. First, two tables of contents are given: a "rougher" one, and a very detailed one. According to the detailed table of contents I can immediately determine that p.92 allows me to have a glimpse at Unicode Zones, and should I only happen to be interested in questions of coding, I thus get a fast and full-view (comprising thirty different topics related to coding) at the ground covered.

The first two chapters are devoted to basic concepts and terminology, the Japanese writing systems, the various types of characters that can make up a sentence in Japanese and related basic facts. The language employed by Lunde is straightforward, "interactive", that is, it addresses the reader directly, tells him/her what to do, where to look up more information on a certain issue, what to expect from a specific chapter and what not. In times where books go into print with titles like "Why I hate Excel V" and other fancy or allegedly "catchy" covers, Lunde's wording is close at the readers ear, but not too close.

If in chapters 1 and 2 we are still on the runway, one could say that with chapter 3 we are really taking off and reach the skies, *i.e.* are introduced to electronic standards, codes and character sets (naturally including JIS, but touching upon BIG5, GB2312-80 etc.). Encoding methods and specifications are explained in the next, the fourth chapter (again with some coverage of BIG5 and GB). The theoretician will close the book here and sigh at the many varieties of unified and ununified character sets. The practitioner, on the other hand, may call these chapters drab reading (although they supply fundamental insights) and will move on to the next sections. Here the various input techniques to produce kanji or non-kanji characters are grouped together under the (logical) heading Japanese Input (chapter 5), while under Japanese Output (chapter 6) such matters as postscript fonts for kanji, Japanese publishing system hardware and software recommendations are discussed. The author (more or less convincingly) argues that "using outline fonts for Japanese output is the best choice for high-quality output" (p.152). A heavy bias towards Adobe products is evident in this chapter, combined with the underlying assumption

that the reader is sitting in front of a MacIntosh computer. Indeed, needless to say that a Mac environment is ideal for processing graphic character representations such as Chinese or Japanese characters. Also needless to say is that as a librarian I am more concerned with fast input techniques and less interested in the controversy over catalog cards being printed with truetype or postscript fonts (p.153). However, for a librarian who by some ill luck has set foot in the lands of code conversions or must study the behaviour of codes within a variety of operating system environments like MS-DOS, UNIX *etc.*, chapter 7 is a must. It gives the algorithms for Shift-JIS to JIS conversions and handles seven-bit and eight-bit encodings, even shows how to "repair" damaged JIS encoded files (that somebody might have transmitted over the Internet and that arrive without the escape sequences essential for JIS). More general, but also helpful are the various software tools that handle Japanese characters. Programms like Canna (for Unix), KanjiTalk (Apple Mac), ANS (Amiga) and VJE-(gamma, for DOS) are grouped with text editors (MOKE for DOS etc.), operating systems and terminal programms. This is a useful, though extremely short look at the most common programms and input tools now on the market.

Chapter 9 finally deals with e-mail and Japanese on the Internet or Bitnet. The author hints at the fact that various news groups do carry Japanese characters in their messages, and explains how to display these characters in which environment. The same appears with Chinese newsgroups, by the way, like some Hong Kong or Taiwan news folders that are available over the Internet and that are entirely unreadable if one has not taken the precaution of converting the codes before telneting into these (usually up-to-date) news archives (a Chinese telnet version is available free of charge from Taiwan Chiao-t'ung University).

Lunde's book is supplemented by a number of appendices, the most useful of them (besides having the full JIS X 0208-1990 code table) being the address book for ftp-sites and sources as well as mailing lists. For those who have Internet access and want to scan the networks for useful files and information materials to service readers in the library and scholars at their desk the addresses given by Lunde represent a good starting point to venture into the world "out there".

Coming to a conclusion I must say that Understanding Japanese Information Processing displays a stunning amount of knowledge and expertise on the subject. It is not, as indicated in the preface (p.xxv), a "reference manual for internationalization or localization", i.e. covering an issue that is pressing when viewing UNICODE and other efforts to "internationalize" automated information. Also, as a sceptic I must object to the goal that this book may "become the definite source for information relating to Japanese information processing issues". I believe

that in a world that changes as rapidly as ours nowadays this goal is unattainable. However, the basic facts, the "unmoveable blocks" of information are all wrapped up in a neat bundle and will still hold valid for quite some years. My real problem with this book is that I as a trained sinologist now envy the japanalogists for being able to consult such a fine and exhaustive source while a comparable volume on the issues related to Chinese information processing is nowhere near in sight.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

A Bibliography of China related CD-ROMs

compiled by Thomas H. Hahn

This bibliography contains CD-ROMs concerning China as I have come across them during recent months. A second bibliography listing full text databases or other China related material on diskette is presently compiled.

The tagging scheme used for the records is as follows:

1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE
3. ISSUE AGENCY
4. DISTRIBUTION
5. FREQUENCY OF UPDATES
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
7. NETWORKABLE YES/NO
8. CODING OF CHARACTERS
9. NUMBER OF CDs
10. PRICE
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION

Depending on the presentation of details and specifications given in the information leafs not all fields stated above could be filled for the respective CD-ROM. Thus many entries listed below lack one or the other "tag", because no information could be obtained.

The arrangement of items is rather at random, and not in alphabetical or subject order. As the bibliography grows readjustments and a re-grouping may be a wise thing to do.

This bibliography is also sent out to the subscribers of CJKLIB, and in addition it will be stored in the WWW EASL directory (**http://www.urz.uni-heidelberg.de/11/subject/hd/fak8/sin/easl**, choose the directory "Materials and Bibliographies") for online updating and maintaining (the plan is to update the list every three months).

Should readers/users observe errors in the present list or have more

detailed information on those items listed here or on newer versions and releases I would be grateful for notification.

China Related CD-ROMs

1. NAME:	CHINESE DISSERTATION REFERENCE CD
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE:	(presumably 1993)
4. DISTRIBUTION:	FlySheet Information Services; Taipei, Taiwan; Fax: 008862 7193040
6. TECH. REQUIREMENTS:	IBM compat.; DOS 3.1+, 1 MB RAM
9. NUMBER of CDs:	one

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: a bibliography of dissertations written in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the People`s Rep. of China (how complete is difficult to say, though); comprises about 60.000 entries.

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1. NAME:	INDEX TO CHINESE PERIODICAL LITERATURE
2. DATE of 1st ISSUE:	August, 1993
3. ISSUEING AGENCY:	National Central Library
4. DISTRIBUTION:	B400, 10F-1, Lane 609, Sec.5, Chung-Hsin Rd. San-Chung City, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC; Fax: 008862 999-3431
5. FREQUENCY OF UPDATES:	semiannualy
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:	IBM compat., 386 CPU or higher, 350K RAM and 3.5 MB ext. mem (EMS); DOS 5.0 or higher; HD with 23 MB of avail. space; CD-ROM drive compat. with ISO 9660; chinese input/output system ETEN YITIAN) 3.0 or higher.
7. NETWORKABLE:	yes (26 users and more)
8. CODING of CHARACTERS:	BIG-5
9. NUMBER OF CDs:	one
10. PRICE:	starting from 2750 USD for a single user licence up to 5950 USD for 26 or more users. Rate is per year (includes two issues).

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: Powerful tool to investigate articles printed in over 1400 journals in Taiwan for the years 1981 to 1993. Over 300.000 bibliographical entries. Retrospective conversion for the years 1970 to 1981 is under way. Browsing by subject, authors, keywords etc. Downloading possible.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: SINOCAT

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1994
3. ISSUE AGENCY: National Central Library
4. DISTRIBUTION: FlySheet Information Services; Taipei, Taiwan; Fax: 008862 7193040
8. CODING OF CHARACTERS: CCCII and BIG-5
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: integrated library system PLUS 200.000 records and title entries for books published in Taiwan (unfortunately no exact dates given on the handout). Comes with the classifcation scheme of the NCL, the standard bibliographic format used at the NCL, the regulations for cataloging, and the overview over the subject headings used in Taiwan. Serves as the first National Bibliography of Taiwan on CDROM.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: CHINA DAILY (Zhongguo Ribao)
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1993
3. ISSUE AGENCY: Silver Information Engeneering, P.R. of China
4. DISTRIBUTION: CIBTC, CNPTIC or China National Sci-Tech Information Import & Export Corp., 9D7F, Real Estate Building, Renminnan Road, Shenzhen 518001, P.R. of China; Fax: +86 755 2252385
5. FREQUENCY OF UPDATES: every three months
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compat.; 640 KB RAM; Super VGA card with 512K VRAM; HD drive with 4 MB available; DOS 3.1 or higher; Microsoft CD-ROM extensions 2.1 or higher (*i.e.* MS-Windows 3.1);
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one (?)
10. PRICE: subscription rate per year: 799.-USD (price taken from CIBTC advertisement)
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: most widely read English newspaper in China; image storage; retrieval of daily news; headings (?), personal names (?) in headings; articles can be transfered to printer.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: PEOPLE'S DAILY (Renmin Ribao)
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1993/94 (for 1993: April 1994)
3. ISSUE AGENCY: China Educational Publications Shenzhen Import & Export Corp.
4. DISTRIBUTION: China Educational Publications Shenzhen Import & Export Corp.; 19D, Huaken, Shennan Road, C.; Shenzhen 518031, P.R. of China; Fax: +86 755 3351634

5. FREQUENCY OF UPDATES: yearly (?)

6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compat.; 386 CPU or higher; 4 MB RAM; CD-ROM driver according to MAC Lever II standard; MS-DOS 5.0 or higher, Windows 3.1 (chin. or engl.), laser printer with at least 2 MB RAM; I recommend installation of jukebox as permanent repository.

9. NUMBER OF CDs: in all 92; (covering the years 1946-1992)

10. PRICE: 172.000 RMB, or 19.800 USD; four packages available (1946-1957; 1958-1965; 1966-1977; 1978-1992); packages between 4.500 and 7.200 USD, depending on number of disks; subscription rate per year: 700 USD (taken from CNBTIC advertisement)

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: full-text (or, rather: image) database of one of the most important daily newspapers in China; it is the official newspaper of the CCP; search and browsing facilities; downloading of articles or whole pages to printer; highly recommendable, though expensive (obvious item for a grant application!)

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: ZHONGGUO YOULIN (CHINA STAMP FOREST)

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1993

4. DISTRIBUTION: CNPTIC, CIBTC

8. CODING OF CHARACTERS: GB2312-80 or ISO 10646

9. NUMBER OF CDs: one

10. PRICE: 99 USD

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: repository of stamps issued by China since 1878 up to 1992; includes interesting features such as recordings of historical personages (soundblaster recommended!), music etc. Nice "fun" disc or, of course, a "must" for the stamp collector.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: DONGFANG (THE ORIENT)

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1993

4. DISTRIBUTION: CIBTC, CNPTIC

8. CODING OF CHARACTERS: GB2312-80 or ISO 10646

9. NUMBER OF CDs: one

10. PRICE: 59 USD

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: Tourist guide through Asia and, specifically, China; includes description of 42 chinese cities (climate, history, geography, population, hotels, communication and traffic etc.), maps; also covers Indonesia, Macao, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Korea etc.; aimed at travel agencies, I guess.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: ZHONGGUO DANGDAI MEISHU XIANXIANG
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1993
4. DISTRIBUTION: CIBTC, CNPTIC
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one
10. PRICE: 39 USD
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: includes 100 paintings of 10 contemporary chinese artists such as Wang Yuping, Nie Ou, Du Hua, Ma Lu, Shen Ling, Sun Weimin etc. This disk is the first release of several CDROM to follow on the subject.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: ZHONGGUO JIAOYU XINXIKU (CHINA EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION DATABASE)
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1993
3. ISSUE AGENCY: Higher Education Press, New Technology Center
4. DISTRIBUTION: Vanda Union Industrial; Hong Kong office: Fax +852 3051793/3515027; Taipei office: Fax +8862 5044769/6322315; US office: Fax +1 510 2266099
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compat.; MS-DOS 3.31 or higher; 386 CPU or higher; SVGA display with 1MB DRAM; CD-ROM drive according to ISO 9660 standard
8. CODING OF CHARACTERS: GB2312-80 or ISO 10646 (some passages bilingual: chin.-engl.)
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one
10. PRICE: 699 USD
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: CDROM containing exhaustive information on the system of higher education in China, incl. for example the cv's of hundreds of chinese professors and teaching staff (plus listing their most important publications!), the legal code and regulations governing the examinations and the bestowal of academic degrees; enumerates schools, universities, technical colleges, complete with history of the institution, phone number of offices; overview over language training institutions.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: THE FORBIDDEN CITY
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: end of 1994
3. ISSUE AGENCY: Commercial Press, Hong Kong, and Sino United Electronic Publishing Ltd.
4. DISTRIBUTION: Commercial Press, Hong Kong (Shangwu Yinshuguan)
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: taken from the three volumes "Palaces of the Forbidden City" (1982), "Treasures of the Forbidden City" (1983), and "Daily Life in the Forbidden City" (1985); interactive CD-ROM !; over 90 minutes of audio-visual sequence, with over 1000 images; available in Cantonese, english or chinese.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: EVERYDAY LAW COMPENDIUM FOR HONG KONG (XIANGGANG RIYONG FALU DAQUAN)
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: Sep. 1994
3. ISSUE AGENCY: Commercial Press, Hong Kong
4. DISTRIBUTION: Commercial Press, Hong Kong (Shangwu yinshuguan)
5. FREQUENCY OF UPDATES: yearly (?)
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC or compat.; 386 CPU or faster; DOS 3.3 or above; Chinese System ET (YITIAN) 3.5 (feidie 5 hao); CD-ROM drive and MSCDEX V 2.2 or higher; VGA screen
8. CODING OF CHARACTERS: BIG-5
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: based on the hardcover edition by the same title; updated materials to mid-1994; incl. civil law, criminal law, business, legal terms in engl. and chinese, major treaties of the Law of Hong Kong, land and environment, employment and industry safety, person, welfare, education, taxation etc. Chinese and English indexes!

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1. NAME of Database: CHINESE MACHINERY & ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: presumably 1993
3. ISSUE AGENCY: China Education Publ.
4. DISTRIBUTION: Chinese Machinery Press (Beijing)
5. FREQUENCY OF UPDATES: annually
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: IBM compat.; 640 KB RAM
7. NETWORKABLE: yes
9. NUMBER of CDs: one
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: lists chinese machinery plants and firms producing electric appliances etc.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: THE TRADING MASTER IN CHINA
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: PROJECTED (1995 ?)
4. DISTRIBUTION: Vanda Union Industrial; Hong Kong office: Fax +852 3051793/3515027; Taipei office:

Fax +8862 5044769/6322315; US office:
Fax +1 510 2266099

9. NUMBER OF CDs: one

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: detailed information of all companies that have import/export licences; details about chinese customs law, investment rules, customs duty rates etc; aimed at business people

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: THE CHINESE LITERATURE ENCYCLOPEDIA

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: projected (1995 ?)

4. DISTRIBUTION: Vanda Union Industrial; Hong Kong office:
Fax +852 3051793/3515027; Taipei office:
Fax +8862 5044769/6322315; US office:
Fax +1 510 2266099

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: no information available to me; Chinese version only.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: TOUR CHINA SERIES

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: projected (1995 ?)

4. DISTRIBUTION: Vanda Union Industrial; Hong Kong office:
Fax +852 3051793/3515027; Taipei office:
Fax +8862 5044769/6322315; US office:
Fax +1 510 2266099

9. NUMBER OF CDs: sixteen

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: tourist guide through the chinese provinces

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: CHINESE ANTIQUES

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: projected (1995 ?)

4. DISTRIBUTION: Vanda Union Industrial; Hong Kong office:
Fax +852 3051793/3515027; Taipei office:
Fax +8862 5044769/6322315; US office:
Fax +1 510 2266099

9. NUMBER OF CDs: one

11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: including jade, bronzes, paintings, furniture, ceramics, weapons, porcelane.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: CHINESE SOCIAL CUSTOMS

2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: projected (1995 ?)
5. DISTRIBUTION: Vanda Union Industrial; Hong Kong office: Fax +852 3051793/3515027; Taipei office: Fax +8862 5044769/6322315; US office: Fax +1 510 2266099
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: overview of social customs in China

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: 25 DYNASTIC HISTORIES
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: around 1990/91
3. ISSUE AGENCY: Academia Sinica, Institute of History and Philology
4. DISTRIBUTION: same as issue agency
7. NETWORKABLE YES/NO: yes
8. CODING OF CHARACTERS: Shift BIG-5, in 1994 converted to BIG-5 (perhaps not implemented on the older CDs)
9. NUMBER OF CDs: one
10. PRICE: no specs given (priceless...!)
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: the official and standard histories, comprising around 40 million characters. Note that this version of the 25 史 is not officially available, but since its existence is well known I thought to include it in this overview.

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: Juren zhi sheng - Mao Zedong
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1994
3. ISSUE AGENCY: Shenzhen Shi xian ke yule chuanbo youxian gongsi, Zhongyang danganguan, Zhongyang wenxian yanjiushi
4. DISTRIBUTION: Zhonghua Book Co., Hong Kong and (perhaps?) CIBTC and CNPTIC
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: soundblaster or related audio equipment for IBM compatible PC; loudspeaker or headphones straight from the CD drive
9. NUMBER OF CDs: 2
10. PRICE: 400 Hong Kong $
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION: selected speeches of Mao Zedong dating from 1949 to 1956

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE: Juren zhi sheng - Deng Xiaoping
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE: 1994

3. ISSUE AGENCY:	Shenzhen Shi xian ke yule chuanbo youxian gongsi; Zhongyang danganguan; Zhongyang wenxian yanjiushi
4. DISTRIBUTION:	Zhonghua Book Co., Hong Kong and (perhaps?) CIBTC and CNPTIC
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:	soundblaster or related audio equipment for IBM compatible PC; loudspeaker or headphones straight from the CD drive
9. NUMBER OF CDs:	1
10. PRICE:	200 Hong Kong $
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION:	selected speeches of Deng Xiaoping dating from 1978 to 1985

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1. NAME OF CD-ROM DATABASE:	Juren zhi sheng - Zhou Enlai
2. DATE OF 1st ISSUE:	1994
3. ISSUE AGENCY:	Shenzhen Shi xian ke yule chuanbo youxian gongsi; Zhongyang danganguan; Zhongyang wenxian yanjiushi
4. DISTRIBUTION:	Zhonghua Book Co., Hong Kong and (perhaps?) CIBTC and CNPTIC
6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:	soundblaster or related audio equipment for IBM compatible PC; loudspeaker or headphones straight from the CD drive
9. NUMBER OF CDs:	1
10. PRICE:	200 Hong Kong $
11. SHORT DESCRIPTION:	selected speeches of Zhou Enlai dating from 1949 to 1975

last update: 29th of Dec. 1994

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