

Research Guide: Ming-Qing vernacular novels

1. Research guides and bibliographies

Zhongguo Wen xue shi 中國文學史. Edited by 袁行霈. Beijing : 高等教育出版社. An introduction about Chinese literature from early Qin to late Qing. At each time period, it lists representative works and analyzes them in conjunction with historical background, which can give you a macroscopic perception of ancient Chinese literature.

Zhongguo xiao shuo shi lue 中國小說史略 2008. By Lu Xun 鲁迅. Project Gutenberg. It is the first monograph that systematically discusses the development history of Chinese novels, which discusses the origin and evolution from ancient legends to late Qing novels and evaluates representative novel writers and works from various historical periods in China.

Zhongguo su wen xue shi 中国俗文学史 1938. By Zheng Zhenduo 郑振铎. Shangwu yinshuguan 商务印书馆. Citing rich materials, this book elaborates on the emergence, development, and evolution of Chinese folklore from pre Qin to late Qing, which contains folk songs, dramas, novels, zaju, tanci and so on. It established the system of Chinese folklore history and can complement Lu Xun's Zhongguo xiaoshuo shi lue.

Zhongguo tongshu xiaoshuo shumu 中國通俗小說書目 1933. By Sun Kaidi 孫楷第. Beijing: 國立北平出版社. A bibliography of popular novels in ancient China from the Song Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty. It contains the title of the books and different versions. There are also bibliographies of doubt books, Japanese translations, Manchu translations, English translations and supplements.

Ming-Qing xiaoshuo mulu 明清小說目錄 1962. Tianjin: 天津市人民圖書館. A bibliography Ming-Qing novels and it is divided into ten categories according to Lu Xun's Zhongguo xiao shuo shi lue. It also concludes many Tanci fictions.

2. Primary sources and research tools

中华经典古籍库. 中华书局 established this database in 2014. This database can show both full text versions and scanned book and it has many authoritative modern version of ancient books.

中华古籍资源库. This database was built by Chinese national library and contains ordinary ancient books, Jiagu, Dunhuang documents, steles and rubbings, Western Xia literature, local Chronicles, genealogies, New Year pictures, old photographs, etc. Readers can view full-text images without registration and login, support single library search and multi-library search, basic search and advanced search. And it gives researchers a convenient way to look for primary materials.

Image Index of Global Chinese Ancient Books 全球漢籍影像開放集成系統. This database contains digital images of Chinese primary sources, and it also has the locations that hold them. It is a good way to find the original versions of Ming-Qing novels.

Ming Qing Women's Writings 明清婦女著作. A database on collections of women's writings mainly published during Ming and Qing dynasties. These digital collections comprise a total of 71,524 scanned images of texts and illustrations, and you can also search for women's social and marital status and biographical data.

Lin Yutang's Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage 林語堂當代漢英詞典. Lin Yutang is familiar with both Chinese and English and this dictionary is an authoritative reference book. By the online version produced by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, we can easily search for the Chinese characters and their English translation. Some Chinese characters have different meanings in different situations, and this dictionary provided us with different examples.

白话小说语言词典. 2011. Edited by 白维国. Beijing: Shangwu yinshuguan. This dictionary has about 50,000 or 60,000 definitions. It contains the colloquial vocabulary commonly used in ancient vernacular novels. It also contains nouns and primary sources, which can benefit researchers of vernacular novels.

CBDB. China Biographical Database which contains biography, sources, place names, official titles and institutions. If you search for a person, you can see basic information, kinship relationship, writing and source.

中國文學家大辭典. 1941. 譚正璧. 光明書局. It includes information on writers from the pre Qin period to the modern May Fourth Movement period. This dictionary gives us a brief introduction about a variety of writers and is a comprehensive collection of biographical and written materials related to Chinese writers.

3. Secondary sources

Ming Qing xiao shuo yan jiu 明清小說研究. By Jiangsu Sheng she hui ke xue yuan. Wen xue yan jiu suo; China Academic Journals. This journal focuses on the study of Chinese Ming and Qing novels and from it we can learn about the latest developments in the academic field of Chinese Ming and Qing novels.

Fin-de-siècle splendor : repressed modernities of late Qing fiction, 1849-1911. By Wang Dewei. This book views late Qing fictions as an emerging cultural field, which helps us to understand late Qing fictions.

Women and National Trauma in Late Imperial Chinese Literature. 2014. Harvard University Asia Center. By Li, Wai-ye.