

Research Field: Early medieval and medieval Chinese literature and culture

Digitized Primary Text

Chinese Text Project 中國哲學書電子化計劃. An open-access digital library with a large amount of pre-modern Chinese text available. Created by Donald Sturgeon. First publicly released in 2005, the website keeps having more content added (some of the books also have the images of their original copies) and there are also more and more ways to exploit the website such as using it as text mining tools. Yet since a lot of the sources are digitized by the OCR technique, the accuracy of the text needs to be double checked.

<https://ctext.org/zh>

Scripta Sinica 漢籍全文資料庫. The database is launched and maintained by 中央研究院歷史語言研究所. It is a database of traditional Chinese texts. Its categorization follows the four traditional sections of “jing,” “shi,” “zi,” “ji,” with two groups of *congshu* collections added after them. The database includes 1471 titles of classical Chinese works. It is reliable and trustworthy in terms of its accurateness. For each text the database would provide page numbers of the version that they based on, so it is convenient for scholars to cite and check against the physical work. Yet this is a database that focuses more on history materials, and is not as comprehensive in terms of literary works.

<https://hanchi.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/ihp/hanji.htm>

Chinese Classics Ancient Books Database 中華經典古籍庫. Launched and maintained by Zhonghua shuju 中華書局, one of the biggest and most authoritative publishers of Chinese classical works, this database is a good place to find some of the authoritative modern editions of books published by Zhonghua shuju and some of the website's collaborating publishers. The interface of the website is neat and easy to use. The text is also relatively reliable with page numbers for citation and double check.

<https://publish-ancientbooks-cn.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/docShuju/platformSublibIndex.jsp?libId=6>

Diao Long Database of Chinese and Japanese Ancient Books 雕龙中日古籍全文检索数据库. A database collaborated by experts from both China and Japan. For me it is an easily accessible database especially in terms of searching for Siku 四庫 and Dunhuang 敦煌 materials. The digitized text and the original image of the text can be put and read side by side.

<https://huntenq-com.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/ancientc/ancientkm?@@0.9923430814516971#kmtop>

全球漢籍影像開放集成系統. A website that collects images of Chinese rare books. It makes the search more efficient by connecting the search results to institutions that digitize images of rare books. It is helpful when we look for different versions/editions of one certain text.

<https://guji.wenxianxue.cn>

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Dictionary

漢語大詞典 (**Dictionary of the Chinese language**). 1986–94. Eds. by Luo Zhufeng 羅竹風 (1911–1996) et al. 13 vols. Shanghai: Shanghai cishu chubanshe. A supplementary volume of correction, 漢語大詞典訂補, is published in 2010. This dictionary is considered as an authoritative and comprehensive Chinese dictionary that records meanings of words throughout the history. Each entry includes pronunciations of the characters, the definitions and explanations, and examples where the words are used in different periods and occasions.

<https://webcat.library.ubc.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=699759>

Zdic 漢典. An online Chinese dictionary, handy to use. Sometimes the source of the meanings is not clear, so it is better to double check with other dictionaries.

<https://www.zdic.net>

A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese. 2022. By Paul W. Kroll. 3rd ed. Leiden: Brill. A Chinese English dictionary specializing in pre-modern Chinese, specifically during the medieval period. Although the scale and size of the dictionary is limited, the meanings it provides are regarded as accurate and precise. It is a helpful source to resort to for classical Chinese translation.

<https://webcat.library.ubc.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7670576>

Digital Dictionary of Buddhism (DDB). An online dictionary for Chinese ideograph-based Buddhist terms. Developed and maintained by Charles Muller and others. Entries include the pronunciations, basic meanings, and more detailed explanations of the words. Dictionary references will also be provided for further information.

<http://www.buddhism-dict.net/ddb/>

Handbook

The Cambridge History of Chinese Literature. 2010. Eds., Stephen Owen and Kang-i Sun Chang. 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. An introduction of Chinese literature with chapters written by various scholars. Each chapter is structured differently based on the problems discussed in the field and the scholars' choice. This book is a nice overview of the current scholarship of Chinese literature in the Sinology world.

https://gw2jh3xr2c.search.serialssolutions.com/?sid=sersol&SS_jc=TC0000716229&title=The%20Cambridge%20History%20of%20Chinese%20Literature%2C%20Vol.%20I%20%3A%20To%201375

The Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE-900 CE). 2017. Eds., Wiebke Denecke, Wai-Yee Li, and Xiaofei Tian. New York: Oxford University Press. Organized thematically, the handbook covers topics of Chinese literature between 1000 BCE–900 CE. It is a reflective work on how Classical Chinese literature has been told and constructed. A nice work to consult for certain literary phenomena such as manuscript culture or studies of anthologies.

<https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/28107?login=true>

An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911. 1996. Ed. and tr., Stephen Owen. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. A selected translation of a wide range of Chinese literary works from early China to 1911. Under a chronological frame, each chapter is divided either by themes, genres, or authors. Apart from the translation, Owen also writes introductions and comments on the literary and cultural context.

<https://webcat.library.ubc.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=2043491>

Literary Information in China: A History. 2021. Eds., Jack W. Chen et al. New York: Columbia University Press. Divided into three levels— words, document, and collection— the book view and organize Chinese literature from the perspective of information, which provides a new method of structuring the huge body of knowledge of Chinese literature.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/chen19552?saml_data=eyJzYW1sVG9rZW4iOiJmZTllNWYyNi05MjUxLTQxMDktOTBmMi0xNjVhNDEwN2I3MDAiLCJpbnN0aXR1dGlvbklkcyI6WyIxMjliMTFjOS00YWE5LTQzY2UtYWQzZS0xMmUyYTE4YmU3ZWUiXX0

Ancient and Early Medieval Chinese Literature: A Reference Guide. 2014. Eds., David R. Knechtges, and Taiping Chang. 4 vols. In *Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section Four, China*. Boston: Brill. A reference book for information on Chinese literature from pre-Qin through the Sui Dynasty. Each entry is either about a literary figure/group, a piece of work, or a literary phenomenon. Apart from giving an introduction about the entry, each entry also provides a bibliography of related research and translations. It is a nice place to go to for information on topics in the ancient and early medieval Chinese literature studies.

Early Medieval Chinese Texts: A Bibliographic Guide. 2016. Eds. Cynthia Chennault, et al. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

Biography

唐五代人物傳記資料綜合索引. 1982. Eds., Fu Xuancong, Zhang Chenshi, and Xu Yimin. Beijing: Zhonghua Shuju. This is an index of biographical information of people in the Tang and Five Dynasties period. The book consults over eighty types of sources, including both orthodox histories and anecdotal writings. Although the index is not very intuitive to use and might not be exhaustive in terms of the scope of historical figures it includes, it is still a reliable reference work to refer to.

China Biographical Database Project (CBDB). Developed by Harvard University, this database provides biographical information of people primarily from the 7th through the beginning of the 20th century. It is a handy starting point to go to for biographical information of historical figures. The social relationship network and kinship network can also be helpful and inspiring for our research. The searching result can be confusing and inaccurate sometimes, so it is better to check the original sources for confirmation and further research.

Journal

T'oung Pao 通報. One of the most established journals in the sinology world. Primarily focusing on pre-modern Chinese studies.

<https://brill.com/view/journals/tpao/tpao-overview.xml>

Journal of the American Oriental Society (JAOS). Widely covers the literatures and civilizations of the Near East, North Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Inner Asia, the Far East and the Islamic World.

https://aos-site.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=510948&module_id=527823

Tang Studies. Journal of the Tang Studies Society. Focusing on topics related to Tang China, including literature, linguistics, history, religious studies, and art history.

<https://muse-jhu-edu.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/issue/50545>

Early Medieval China
Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies
Asia Major
Asian Studies
Journal of Chinese Religions

Scholarship

Early Medieval Literature

Sound and Sight: Poetry and Courtier Culture in the Yongming Era (483-493). 2010. Meow Hui Goh. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010.

Tang literature

Tangdai wenxue congkao 唐代文學從考. 1997. Chen Shangjun 陳尚君. Beijing: Zhongguo shehui kexue chubanshe.

The Great Age of Chinese Poetry: The High Tang. 1981. Stephen Owen. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

The Late Tang: Chinese Poetry of the Mid-Ninth Century. 2006. Stephen Owen. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

The Making of Early Classical Poetry. 2006. Stephen Owen. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2006.