

CCS

■ International Conference on Sinological Resources in the Digital Era

A. Background

The rapid spread of the Internet has greatly reduced the difficulties presented by physical distance, making it increasingly easy for libraries and archives to share their holdings digitally. Most institutions that collect Sinological materials are engaged in digitalization programs in some form and many have already produced substantial results. As a response to these developments, the Center for Chinese Studies and the National Central Library will host an international conference in order to facilitate exchange between institutions engaged in the digitalization of Sinological materials.

The primary goal of this conference is to showcase the results of digitalization projects in Taiwan, Mainland China and elsewhere in the world. We hope in this way to promote cooperation between libraries with an eye to making their holdings more widely available to the international community of scholars.

Taiwan has produced considerable results in the digitalization of Sinological materials. Many of these results are now being coordinated by a national program funded by the National Science Council. The program was established to facilitate the digitalization of archival material at a number of institutions, including Academia Sinica, the National Palace Museum, the National Central Library, National Taiwan University, the National Museum of History, Academia Historica, Taiwan Historica and the National Museum of Natural Science. These projects involve a wide range of materials, including rare texts, periodicals, newspapers, historical files, and museum collections closely related to the field of Sinology. In addition to this national-level program, many

individual research institutions, libraries and scholars have completed work on websites, databases and Internet-based teaching materials related to Sinology.

Internationally, a large number of research organizations involved with Chinese studies have already established websites, while leading libraries in North America, Europe and Asia have embarked on programs to digitalize their Sinological collections. For this conference, we have invited representatives from some of the most outstanding programs to share their experiences and results so that scholars in Taiwan can keep abreast of the latest developments in the field. Naturally, the conference will also help participants to achieve a better understanding of digitalization programs here in Taiwan as well.

It is our hope that by informing potential users of what materials are already available and helping libraries and other organizations target areas where digitalization efforts have lagged, we will be able to promote the effective use of research materials in the field of Sinology.

2. Conference Topics

- a. Collection and organization of Sinological materials
- b. Digitalization of Sinological research materials
- c. On-line learning with digitalized Sinological research materials
- d. The sharing and use of Sinological research materials

3. Dates: December 7-9, 2004

4. Location: National Central Library Conference Hall (20 Chungshan South Road)



