From Collection Curation to Knowledge Creation: A Collaborative Project of Crowd-translating Titles of Ming Government Officials

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About

- Role Shifting: from collection curation to knowledge creation
- Digital humanities librarianship
- Direct utility to China Biographical Database (CBDB)
- Open access publishing
- Broad collaboration: cross-institution, inter-disciplinary & international
- Multi-pronged quality control

This is very, very helpful. I cannot thank you enough.

It is very impressive.

We are definitely in need of this dictionary.

明代職官中英辭典
Chinese-English Dictionary of Ming
Government Official Titles

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初版 First Edition
December 30, 2017
Collaborative Teams

Librarians

IT specialists

Scholars

Expert consultants
Librarians’ Initiation

Ying Zhang (UCI) project lead
Susan Xue (UCB) outreach coordinator
Zhaohui Xue (Stanford)
Xiaohe Ma (Harvard) until July 2016

Librarians
Consultants
Scholars
IT Specialists

- Identify bureaucratic official titles
- Develop crowd-translation system
- Reach out to scholars
- Coordinate English translations
- Compile & publish bilingual dictionary
Librarians’ Initiation - Outreach

- Scholarly conferences
- Email Listservs
- Individual contact
- Word of mouth through Ming scholar network
明朝官職名的漢英對訳クラウドソーシングによる翻訳：提携プロジェクト

当該プロジェクトについて

・主体者：米国の在住の中国研究図書館員で構成したチーム
・顧問団体：中国と米国の明徳研究専門家からの助言
・資金：米国のメロン財団(Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)による支援
・募集：報志の明徳歴史研究者からの投稿。約1,000官職名の対訳が必要

クラウドソーシングのウェブサイト：
http://mingofficialtitles.lib.uiuc.edu/#/

既登録研究者：アジア及び欧米諸国から約300名

漢英明徳官職名電子辞書：2017年7月末の、カリフォルニア大学の機関リポジトリe-scholarshipにオープンアクセス開始を目指す

対訳クラウドソーシング・コード：GitHubで無料ダウンロード可能

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참여자 역할

- 미국 대학도서관에 근무 중인 중국학자들로 구성된 팀
- 명간역명칭의 중국어-영어 사전 개발

참여 기간

2016년 11월 7일 - 2017년 7월 6일

참여 방법

단순하게 온라인으로 참여 가능

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Examples of to-be-translated Ming government official titles:

zhan shi fu zi de yuan zan shu
sheng shu zhang jin
wang xiang fu wen shi
wai si sheng xiang xian shi
ai ma si xiong tian shu ling
ji kao can dui shan
xiao miao shi lu yu xiu guan
shi yu lan
yue shi ying zhu ying guan cao

Right Vice Minister of the Court of Judicial Review
Supervising Secretary of the Office of Scrutiny for Rites
Lady of Talents
Instructional Official of the Eastern Palace
Acting Assistant Minister of the Court of Imperial Entertainment
Associate Administrator of the Affairs of the Chief Military
Erdute of the Directorate of Education
Examining Editor of the Hanlin Academy
Examiner Official of the Metropolitan Examination
Registrar in a Provincial Administration Commission
Acting Chief Minister of the Court of the Imperial Study
Office Manager of a Pacification Office
Ming Experts’ Consultation

Shouxian Gao 高壽仙 (Beijing Admin. College)
Thomas Nimick (US Military Academy)
Tailoi Ma (Princeton)
Martin Heijdra (Princeton)

- Offer comments and suggestions
- Help in promotion
- Review & select translation submissions
- Advise on the development of the dictionary
Scholars’ Contribution

- Submit English translations
- Blind peer-review others’ contributions
- Suggest other scholars
- Comment on Pinyin & Chinese titles
- Inform us of missing official titles
- Participate in hot topic discussions
IT Support

- Develop the expert-based crowd-translation system
- Maintain the system
- Make system source codes available for open access
Open Access Products
The Crowd-translation System

http://mingofficialtitles.lib.uci.edu/#/
The Crowd-translation System

- Scholar/ Admin accounts
- Sign Up & Login
- Browsing or searching for titles
- Profile for submission history
- Anonymous peer review & comment
- Contributor acknowledgement

Source codes at https://github.com/UCI-Libraries/Ming-Titles-Dictionary
The Bilingual Dictionary

- Open access at [https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2bz3v185](https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2bz3v185)
- Based upon historical documents
- Guided by expert consultation
- Easy browse and searching
- Hierarchical display
- Inclusive official titles in various forms, including formal, common, and alternate title names
- Open for addition and revision
The Household Administration of the Heir Apparent

35 該事 zhan shi
Supervisor

36 少詹事 shao zhan shi
Junior Supervisor

37 府丞 fu cheng
Assistant Supervisor
alt. 該事府丞 zhan shi fu cheng

38 主簿（主簿廳） zhu bu ting zhu bu
Recorder in the Recorder's Office

39 錄事（主簿廳） zhu bu ting lu shi
Manager of the Recorder's Office

40 通事舍人（主簿廳） zhu bu ting
tong shi she ren
Secretarial Receptionist in the
Recorder's Office

The Left Secretariat of the Heir Apparent

41 大學士 da xue shi
Grand Academician
alt. 春坊大學士 chun fang da xue shi

42 左庶子 zuo shu zi
Left Mentor

43 左諭德 zuo yu de
Left Adviser
alt. 左春坊諭德 zuo chun fang yu de;
春坊論德 chun fang yu de

44 左中允 zuo zhong yun
Left Companion

45 左贊善 zuo zan shan
Left Admonisher

46 左司直郎 zuo si zhi lang
Left Rectifier

47 左清紀郎 zuo qing ji lang
Left Recorder of Misdeeds

48 左司諫 zuo si jian
Left Remonstrator
Achievements

- Engagement in digital humanities research
- Improved understanding of Ming studies scholars and their research
- Enhancement of subject knowledge
- Contribution to digital publishing and open access
- Trust and appreciation from Ming scholars
- Librarians’ new roles
  - Research partner
  - Hybrid scholar
  - Innovator
  - Publisher
Challenges

- Methodological divergence
- Technological limits
- Budget constraints
- Competing time demands
- Inconsistency in reference sources
- Conflicts among collaborators
Next Steps

- Prepare usable output for CBDB
- Promote the two project products
- Improve and update the dictionary
- Further collaboration with CBDB
THANK YOU!