Selected Resources for the Study & Research on Local Gazetteers

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Union catalogue

1. 中國地方志聯合目錄
   - The standard union catalogue of Chinese local gazetteers published before 1949.
   - Lists 8200+ titles from 190 libraries, museums, and archives in mainland and Taiwan.
   - Includes almost all types of local gazetteers Haihui discussed except for mountain, river, temple and scenic (名胜) gazetteers.
   - Provides not only bibliographic notes such as title, author and edition, but also locations of holding institutions, which you may not find in other union catalogues.
   - Arrangement follows PRC’s official sequence of provincial-level administrative divisions. Not by pinyin or stroke. So you may have to look through the whole list in the TOC to find a province.
   - Includes a title index, arranged by four corners and by stroke.

2. 中華民國臺灣地區公藏方志目錄
   - Union catalogue of local gazetteers in public collections in Taiwan.
   - Lists 4600+ titles from 12 institutions in Taiwan such as National Central Library, National Palace of Museum, Academic Sinica, etc.
   - Include not only original editions, but also reprints, microfilms, and gazetteers from congshu collection. For original editions, locations of holding institutions are given.
   - Also include reprints and new printings in PRC.
   - Has an appendix of Japanese gazetteers of places in Taiwan.

3. 中国新编地方志目录
   - Lists nearly 4000 titles at provincial, city and county levels from mainland except for Xizang.
   - Does not include gazetteers of special topics, administrative units, towns and villages [专业志、部门志、乡镇志].
• Arrangement again follows PRC’s official sequence of provincial-level administrative divisions.
• No index.

4. 中國大陸各省地方志書目查詢系統

• Developed by Academic Sinica in Taiwan.
• Not only include info in #1, but also add new publishing info
• Cannot replace the print version as bibliographic info may not be as complete as the #1.

Dictionaries

1. 中國地方志辭典 and 中国方志大辞典

• Both include entries of gazetteer titles, terms used in gazetteer compilation, editorial offices for local gazetteers, famous gazetteer compilers and editors, major catalogues of gazetteers in mainland China, US and Japan, and regulations of gazetteer compilation.
• In different arrangement: 中国方志大辞典 is better organized.
• 中國地方志辭典 also includes other important materials related to gazetteers, such as major research works and papers on gazetteers; prefaces/colophons/editorial notes from selected gazetteers; etc.
• Supplement each other.

2. 中国方志通鉴

• Recent published dictionary.
• Provides a detailed history of gazetteers.
• Includes detailed info about organizational structure, compilation, and publishing of new gazetteers.
• Also includes more comprehensive and better organized list of reference books, research works and journals on old and new gazetteers.

3. 中国历史地名大辞典 (2 vols)

• Regarded as the best historical place-name dictionary by Chinese historians.
• Consulted with many prestigious experts, such as Tan Qixiang.
• Includes 70,000+ entries.
• Provide careful notes on for each historical place name, including origins of the place name and quotations from reliable historical sources. Also provides modern names as of 1994.
• Have a good number of entries on place names in the border areas. E.g. 800+ Tibetan historical place names.
• Last but not least, incorporate recent archaeological discoveries + research works on place names.

4. 中国古今地名大词典 (3 vols)

• Includes historical, modern and contemporary place names from ancient period to June 2004.
• 60,000+ entries.
• Provides sources for historical place names, but most of them are not detailed as the 1st one.

5. 中国古今地名对照表

• A handy reference useful to quickly trace historical changes of a place name.
• Entries primarily derive from 辞海
• The table format is based on 大清一统志
• Does not provide any sources.

6. 中华人民共和国地名大词典 (5 vols)

• Enlargement and revision of a 32-volume 中华人民共和国地名词典 in 1980s and early 1990s.
• Largest and most comprehensive place-name dictionary covering PRC as of 1994.
• 180,000+ entries. Provides pinyin pronunciation for each entry.
• The first three volumes are the core of the dictionary: place names in provinces, cities, towns, and villages. The fourth volume is about natural features 自然实体 (mountains, rivers, etc.). The fifth volume is about historical monuments, protected sites, and scenic spots 名胜古迹.
• Does not indicate sources. Probably from on-the-spot investigation and book research (according to Wilkinson).
Annotated Catalogues & Bibliographies

1. 中國古方志考
   - Annotated bibliography of 2000+ gazetteers at national and local levels from Qin to Yuan periods.
   - The majority of titles listed in the book are no longer extant. Useful for doing research on gazetteers published in earlier periods.

2. 中国地方志详论丛书
   - A series of 22 annotated catalogues of local gazetteers from individual provinces and municipalities such as Shanghai, Shanxi, Jiangsu, etc.
   - Some catalogues also include new gazetteers such as the one on Shanghai.

3. Geographical Sources of Ming-Qing History
   - Includes an annotated list of 686 topographical and institutional gazetteers such as gazetteers of mountains, temples, rivers, lakes; academies, etc.
   - Titles are mostly from China. Some are from Japan, UK, US and Canada as well.
   - For each title, lists publishing history, approximate contents and length, as well as locations of holding libraries or modern reprint collections.

4. 中國地方志總目提要 (3 vols)
   - Annotated catalogue of 8557 gazetteers.
   - Most titles come from 中國地方志聯合目錄.
   - Similar to 中國地方志聯合目錄, includes almost all types of local gazetteers Haihui discussed except for mountain, river, temple and scenic (名胜) gazetteers.
   - For each provincial-level region, provides a short overview of history and development of local gazetteers in this area.
   - For each entry, includes not only detailed bibliographic notes, but also short biography of compilers or editors, historical development, value, and editions. Does not provide locations of holding institutions.
5. 中國地方志總目提要 (1949-1999)

- An annotated catalogue of 3402 new gazetteers published from 1949 till the end of 1999 in mainland.
- Two useful appendixes: 1) a catalogue of new gazetteers published in Taiwan from 1945 to 2000, and 2) a list of newly published catalogues of mainland’s old gazetteers in Taiwan.

6. 中国新编地方志总目提要 (vol.1)

- Includes 1173 new gazetteers from 10 provinces, independent municipalities and autonomous regions (Tianjin, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Shandong, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, and Shanxi 陕西).
- Include both official and internal or informal publications.

Research Guides

Both Zurndorfer and Wilkinson’s research guides are the most important and standard ones for the Chinese studies. Most of you may have already heard of them, so I will not explain in detail here. I just want to bring your attention to the new edition of Wilkinson’s guide. It provides a bigger section on gazetteers with recent sources and online databases.

Reprint series

The two standard series collected by many libraries in US and worldwide are 中國方志叢書 and 中國地方志集成.

1. 中國方志叢書

- Reprint collection of gazetteers published by 台灣成文出版社 in the 1960s and 1980s. popular outside PRC.
- Includes three series. The 3rd series is not completed. The first two series include 1370+ titles.
- Consists of 7 regions such as 華中、華北, etc. 
2. 中國地方志集成

- Published by 江苏古籍出版社 (later renamed as 凤凰出版社) starting in 1991.
- Arranged by province and municipality.
- Includes one special series on villages and towns.
- Overlap with 中國方志叢書. Need some investigation for the percentage, perhaps 30-40 or higher.

There are also reprint series on rare gazetteers from earlier periods like Song and Yuan dynasties or from major library collections in China.

3. 宋元方志叢刊 (8 vols; 中华书局，1990)

- Reprint of 41 gazetteers from 10 provinces and municipalities such as 上海、陕西、山东、江苏、浙江、安徽、河南、福建、湖北、广东等.
- Includes later editions as well.

4. 宋元珍稀地方志叢刊 (四川大學出版社 since 2007.)

- 甲 (4 titles)、乙 (4 titles)、丙编 (12 titles).
- Compiled and punctuated by 四川大學歷史地理研究所.
- Includes a preface to each title to discuss the author, compilation method, value, shortcomings, edition, etc.

5. 著名图书馆藏稀见方志丛刊

- 国家图书馆出版 since 2005
- Reprint of gazetteers from university and public libraries. Such as 復旦大學圖書館藏稀見方志叢刊, 上海圖書館藏稀見方志叢刊, etc

Last but not least, some reprint series also focus on specialized gazetteers like mountains and rivers, temples, etc.

6. 中華山水志叢刊 (75 vols; 北京: 线装书局，2004))

Reprint of 319 mountain and river gazetteers from National Library of China


7 and 8: Overlap a great deal.

**Purchase decision:**

1) Title and edition is more important than the series. It may be already in your library, even though you do not have the series in the library.
2) Punctuation: If it is by prestigious scholars, you may want to purchase.

**Databases**

There are two commercial databases on gazetteers you may consider to acquire.

1. **中国方志库**
   - Has 2000 titles. Will include 10,000 gazetteers when finished.
   - Ranging from Song Dynasty till the Republican Period

2. Wanfang: new gazetteers

3. In addition, you may also find Qing provincial gazetteers from the *Siku Quanshu* database, such as 湖廣通志, 山西通志, 江西通志, etc. For this online version offered through East View, you need to install a client program to use the database.

**Last but not least, you can get some full-text content through 中国地方志 website.**

- Official website of 中国地方志指导小组办公室.
- Links to local offices which include full text of new gazetteers, yearbooks, etc.