Building Chinese Special Collections in the Digital Age

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- What Makes Them SPECIAL?
- How Have We Been Doing So Far?
- Where Are We Heading For?
- What Are On the Road?
- How Should We Move Forward?

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SPECIAL Collection-Characteristics

- **S**pecific focus
- **P**eculiar
- **E**phemeral
- **C**onservation emphasis
- **I**mportant
- **A**rchival value
- **L**ocality

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The Status Quo

- Driven by faculty projects & donation opportunities
- Multi-faceted resource needs
- Isolation among digitization projects
- “Buy” more; “sell” less
- Lack of technical support & technological competence

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Visions and Trends

- Continued importance & increased usage
- Extension of collection scope & addition of born-digital materials
- Local digitization & global utilization
- Enhanced integrity & improved discoverability
- New form of research & new area of service

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Challenges and Opportunities

- Too many choices→ Focuses & strengths
- Collection growth→ Funding/space options
- Resource diversity & complexity → New expertise/standards
- Rising user expectations → Restructuring & repurposing
- Universal access → copyright/ethical issues
- Backlogs → Finding aids

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Actions to Take

Collaboration

Training

Technology Innovation

Standardization

Marketing

Thank you!

Questions?

Comments?