“2021: Holy Cow!”

Assoc. of Asian Studies Annual Meeting

CEAL Library Technology Forum

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Agenda

一。 The Year of COVID

二。 The Real Scope of Data

三。 Platform vs. Off-Platform

四。 Notable Data Projects EVIS is Supporting

五。 New Possibilities = New Questions
一。The Year of COVID

- It’s been a year now. But it’s STILL “the year of COVID.”
- Incredible disruption of academic life. Chaos for staff, students, supply, budgets.
- Special challenges for the EAL:
  - many bedrock collections of EAL are in print
  - sudden problems with print supply (earliest waves impacted suppliers in E. Asia)
  - and when print getting through; problems for physical matriculation
- Incredible resilience of libraries!
  - Rapid shift to e-resources: e-journals, e-books, wherever alternatives exist
- Exposes relatively high challenges for EAL compared to many areas of library
  - Strong reliance on print, special technical needs, specialized staff needs
二。The Real Scope of Data

- The “real” scope of data is not:
  - What the library has
  - What is held by library in a given format

- The real scope is: what do scholars want to exploit, and by what means?

- There is always a solution. Barriers that technology can now easily solve:
  - Distributed availability
  - Language barriers
  - Breadth or depth of coverage
  - Persistence of data
  - Availability of data for specific use cases

- For EVIS, scope includes, but is not limited to on-platform data packaged by our various partners (China and elsewhere). Activity is roughly split between furnishing “ready” (on-platform) data and custom solutions.

- Traditionally, Government sector has led the way (custom procurement, off-platform use). But now TDM, non-consumptive use, artificial intelligence are commonplace—and imperative—in Academia as well.
三。Platform vs. Off-Platform

Platform-presented data
- Volume of products continues to grow; technologies tending to follow more homogenized standards
- But “disconnects” are now mostly not limitations of technology, but in application of technology:
  - Compatibility with specific standards/technologies in a given market
  - Intellectual property practices
  - Standards for completeness and presentation of content
  - Business rules (and, in some contexts, specific government policies) vis-à-vis areas of increasing importance to western libraries, including perpetual access, TDM, and other licensing issues

Off-platform custom presentation of content
- New frontier. AI is here to stay – the new possibilities are staggering.
- Use of content from individual platforms in a single context; overcome limitations of those individual platforms/products, overcome human language and other barriers.
- BUT: who facilitates this? Where is it curated for the long term?
- WHAT IS A LIBRARY’S / LIBRARIAN’S ROLE?
四。Notable Data Projects

- Newspapers
  ![Newspapers Image]

- Journals
  ![Journals Image]

- Humanities/Historical
  ![Humanities Image]

- Various STEM
  ![Various STEM Image]
四。Notable Data Projects

NEWSPAPERS
四。Notable Data Projects

HISTORICAL HUMANITIES CONTENT

China Biographical Database Project (CBDB)
四。Notable Data Projects

JOURNALS: MASS ANALYSIS
四。Notable Data Projects

Various STEM
New Possibilities = New Questions

Sustainability?
- technical persistence AND financial sustainability
- Long-term use licenses?

Repeatability?
- Data drives scholarly inquiry and experiments.
- And experiments must be repeatable to be academically valid. Big questions about curation and re-use. This also involves original content owners.

Responsibility?
- More equal distribution between STEM and humanities
- Archiving? Who and how?

WHO?
New Possibilities = New Questions

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Responsibility?
- More equal distribution between STEM and humanities
- Archiving? Who and how?

: Requests the data?
: Can procure the data?
: Will negotiate license?
: Will present the data?
: Will have access? Now? Later?
: Will warehouse the data?
고맙습니다!
谢谢！
Thank you!
谢谢！
どうもありがとうございました！

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