On E-books for Chinese Studies

Xiaohe Ma
Librarian for Chinese Collection, Harvard-Yenching Library
2023/3/15
We establish a lot of platforms.
Erudition 爱如生 is a big collection of ancient books in electronic.
Duxiu 读秀 has many 包库 as contemporary books in electronic.
USING CHINESE EBOOKS FOR REFERENCE AND TEACHING IN ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

QIAN LIU, PH.D.

MARCH 15TH, 2023
EXAMPLE I:

“I am finishing a book on Cao Zhi’s poetry, and one of the poems I was just working on is 鰕鮃篇. In 曹集銓評 one of the lines of this poem is 鳳高念皇家. But based on the Song dynasty edition of Cao’s works, 趙幼文 says it should be 高念翼皇家…I’m not sure whether there is another Song edition I have not seen that has the character 翼.”
**EXAMPLE II:**

“I'm working on an article, and that was one of the comments for revision. I’m attaching my most recent draft and copying and pasting the (peer review) comments below…I was wondering if I could ask for your help again with access to *wenshi ziliao* regarding the Jiangxi period (1933-1934), especially children's experiences.”
EXAMPLE I:

CHI500: RESEARCH METHODS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY
A seminar introducing the intellectual foundations of Sinology and the practice of research in Chinese studies.

Chinese History
A New Manual, Enlarged Sixth Edition (Fiftieth Anniversary Edition)
By Endymion Wilkinson
EXAMPLE II:

Narrating Global Development

Spring 2022: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30pm-2:45pm
Durham Hall, Room 135

How have concepts of global development changed?

How is global development measured and visualized?

How is development work practiced?

How is meaning constructed and produced with narratives and discourses?

What is global development?

This Lab investigates the concept and practice of global development as a political, economic, and social practice. Faculty and students will consider the origins of concepts like “developed” or “under-developed,” First and Third World, and related global visions and global practices narrated in history, literature, theology, philosophy, film, government policies, and aid discourse. We will take a global perspective to help us explore issues of inequality, marginalization, and access to resources in Arizona, the United States and around the world. We will be driven by two essential questions: How are understandings of global development constructed and how is power derived from these narratives?
SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTENT

- MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COVERAGE
- HIGHLY-DEMANDED AND FREQUENTLY-REQUESTED BOOKS
- RARE EDITIONS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
- INFORMATION IS CURRENT AND RESOURCES ARE UPDATED REGULARLY
TECHNICAL ASPECTS

USABILITY FEATURES

- MORE SEARCHABLE AND FILTERABLE FOR TEXTS, IMAGES, AND DATA MINING PROJECTS
- KEEP THE INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL WORKS
- HIGHER RESOLUTION AND ZOOM LEVELS
TECHNICAL ASPECTS

- MORE COMPATIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE
- MORE USER-FRIENDLY FOR DOWNLOADING AND PRINTING
- AVOID UNCLEAR, MISSING, CORRUPTED CHARACTERS AND INCREASE ACCURACY
COST

- More affordable purchase prices and maintenance fees
- More flexible purchase plans
eBooks for Chinese Studies - Types, Use and Issues

SUSAN XUE (SXUE@BERKELEY.EDU)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
FORUM OF LIBRARIANS AND VENDORS ON E-BOOKS FOR CHINESE STUDIES
BOSTON, MARCH 15, 2023
Chinese eBooks – UC/Berkeley

**eBook Database/Platform – Contemporary and Modern**

- Chinamaxx Digital Library of e-Books 中文电子书集献
- China Economy, Public Policy, and Security Database 皮书数据库
- Chinese New Local Gazetteers 中国新方志库
- Chinese Literary & Historical Materials 文史资料
- China Statistical Yearbooks Database 中国经济社会发展统计数据库
- Shanghai Library - Books of Modern China 中国近代图书库
- CADAL 大学数字图书馆国际合作计划
Chinese eBooks – UC/Berkeley

**eBook Database/Platform – Classics**

- Chinese Classic Ancient Books 中国基本古籍库
- Chinese Local Gazetteers 中国旧方志库
- Scripta Sinica 漢籍電子文獻資料庫
- Diaolong Full Text Database of Chinese and Japanese Ancient Books 雕龙-中日古籍全文检索数据库
- Zhonghua Ancient Books Database 中華經典古籍庫
- Si ku quan shu 四库全书
- Zhonghua Zai Zao Shan Ben Shu Ju Ku 中華再造善本數據庫
- Complete Classics Collection of Ancient China 古今图书集成
- Encyclopedia of Taiwan and Encyclopedia of Taiwan Continuation 台湾文献丛刊
Chinese eBooks – UC/Berkeley

DDA / Librarian Selections

- Apabi 电子书, joint purchase (2006 - present, 15,312 titles purchased)
- Airiti eBooks – DDA, joint project 华艺电子书 (2013 - present, 1,500 titles purchased)
- CNPIEC eReading eBooks – DDA, joint project 中图公司电子书 (2017-2020, 989 titles purchased, agreement to be renewed)
Local Discovery

- Collection level records in library online catalogs for eBook database/platform
- Library A-Z database lists and LibGuides
- Catalog DDA titles and make them available in library online catalogs. As of the end of February:
  - Airiti: 8756 title (9299 vols), including purchased: 1289 titles (1443 vols)
  - CNPIEC: 5852 titles (5965 vols), including purchased: 784 titles (836 vols)
Advantages of Chinese eBooks

- Full-text or keywords search large collections to support research
- Availability of rare/difficult to locate books
- Convenience and accessibility
- Portability
Considerations for acquiring ebooks

- Fill the gaps in collections (classics, Minguo publications, archival packages)
- Supplement to print collections (新方志, 皮书)
- Collections/eBooks titles that support graduate and up level study/research
- Faculty/students requests
- DDA to supplement librarians’ selections
### UCB - 2020 Survey of New Students

**When you think about Library e-books how important are the following?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Not that important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having a robust collection of e-books</td>
<td>51 (4%)</td>
<td>144 (12%)</td>
<td>401 (34%)</td>
<td>569 (49%)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloading an entire book</td>
<td>28 (2%)</td>
<td>114 (10%)</td>
<td>434 (37%)</td>
<td>593 (51%)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloading selected chapters</td>
<td>39 (3%)</td>
<td>118 (10%)</td>
<td>439 (38%)</td>
<td>570 (49%)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading on my phone or tablet</td>
<td>54 (5%)</td>
<td>134 (12%)</td>
<td>423 (36%)</td>
<td>559 (48%)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlighting and/or annotating text</td>
<td>77 (4%)</td>
<td>134 (11%)</td>
<td>377 (34%)</td>
<td>578 (51%)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>77 (7%)</td>
<td>134 (12%)</td>
<td>377 (32%)</td>
<td>578 (50%)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues with Chinese eBooks

- Download limits, some copy/paste only, some can only print page by page
- Fewer new publications, eBooks are late than their print counterparts or are not available
- Variety of formats which affect accessibility and discovery (EPUB, PDF, HTML. Apabi CEB, Superstar PDG). Some needs special reader to read and download
- Overlap between databases or platforms, libraries need to deal with duplications from multiple vendors
- Withdrawal of eBooks without notification
- Pricing too high by some vendors
- Metadata are not standardized which affect local cataloging and discovery
  - Suggestion: Content providers need to provide at least KBART (Knowledge Bases and Related Tools) level metadata to knowledge base provider, such as ProQuest, OCLC to enable immediate access and discovery through library catalog
Questions to Consider for the Future

- Shall we continue with acquiring Chinese eBooks? - Yes
- Shall we consider e-Preferred practice for Chinese eBooks? – No at this point
- DDA or aggregated database? – Depending on content and needs
- Communication with content providers about metadata standards? – Continued efforts needed
- Balance between print and eBooks? – Big question but no clear answer
Thanks!!