NO MORE LOSING ACCESS: CHINESE SERIALS IN A CHALLENGING TIME

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Special CCM Session: Crisis vs. Responses
Seattle, March 13, 2024
OUTLINE:

• Unexpected “crisis”: keep disrupting Access to Chinese e-Resources
• Problems and challenges
• What are we missing?
• Better late than never: solutions for the future
UNEXPECTED “CRISIS”: KEEP DISRUPTING ACCESS TO CHINESE E-RESOURCES

- In the last two years, several Chinese e-resources have seen takedowns of content due to copyright issues (Duxiu e-books, CNKI-CAJ journals and articles)
- In the case of China Academic Journals (CAJ) the takedowns were a result of an investigation of China’s State Administration for Market Regulation.

Service Announcement

January 27, 2023

Specifically:

495 of the total 10,110 journals appearing in CAJ are impacted. Of these 495 publications:
- pre-2022 content has been temporarily suspended from 104 journals (of which 52 titles are from Series F; 9 titles are from series G, and 34 titles are from series H).
- isolated articles (from any time period) of an additional 391 journals’ content is temporarily suspended from public view (of which 305 titles are from series F; 23 titles are from Series G; and 47 titles are from series H).

A title list detailing the impacted journals can be found on East View’s website at https://www.eastview.com/20230124-temporarily-suspended-journal-list/.

East View notice on 1/27/2023
UNEXPECTED “CRISIS”: KEEP DISRUPTING ACCESS TO CHINESE E-RESOURCES

• Additionally, in March 2023, the Cybersecurity Administration of China (CAC) imposed new oversight requirements on specific content types appearing in the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI).

• From April 1st, 2023, full text downloads of four content types (dissertations/theses, conference proceedings, patents, and statistics) have been temporarily suspended.
UNEXPECTED “CRISIS”: KEEP DISRUPTING ACCESS TO CHINESE E-RESOURCES

• In April 2023 we also learned that Fang Zheng 方正 was taken over by a Chinese insurance company which decided to no longer invest in the library service subsidiary Apabi. Which effectively means that libraries worldwide stand to loose access to more than 32,000 e-book titles.
UNEXPECTED “CRISIS”: KEEP DISRUPTING ACCESS TO CHINESE E-RESOURCES

Libraries have received the irritated responses of users:

“I've seen worrying information about restrictions to the CNKI databases outside of China. I've heard but not been able to confirm that subjects related to law will be affected in particular, which would be quite bothersome for me.”

“CAJ seems completely unavailable now. As things become more difficult, we will rely upon you all the more heavily.”

“I think it's time we spoke out about this, and this is a problem for anyone who is using non-English sources.”

“...but right now, I don't think any of the articles is readable or downloadable! It prompts that the ‘product is not within the valid period.’”
PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES:

All these cases have some common denominators:

- In many cases libraries have stopped to acquire the print equivalent to the e-resources they have purchased, so that loosing e-access actually means loosing all access.

- For e-access, libraries are more inclined to pay for access as a service even in cases where they purchase “perpetual access” to e-resources.

- Libraries shy away from requesting digital copies of the licensed material for local hosting and solely rely on access provided through their providers.
FOCUS: THE CASE OF CHINESE JOURNALS
SITUATION FOR CHINESE JOURNALS

- In many cases libraries have stopped to acquire the print equivalent to the e-resources they have purchased, so that loosing e-access actually means loosing all access.
>> many libraries have drastically reduced or even completely stopped all of their Chinese print journal subscription or heavily rely on fluctuating gifts.

- Libraries are more inclined to pay for access as a service even in cases where they purchase “perpetual access” to e-resources.
>> Even though perpetual access is part of many of the e-purchasing agreements we have seen that this does not guarantee access.

- Libraries shy away from requesting digital copies of the licensed material for local hosting and solely rely on access provided through their providers.
>> Local hosting of digital copies of the licensed material would to large extend solve the problem, but this is expensive (infrastructure, labor) and could only be achieved with a shared responsibility approach.
WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

Example of change of print journal titles in Chinese: UC Berkeley
## WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

### Lost Chinese core journals: example of one assessment method

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AMI 综合评价报告（2022 年）

中国社会科学评价研究院
2023 年 1 月
WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

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UC and IVY libraries’ Holdings of 19 newly added core journals (2017-), each group has 4 titles only
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER: SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

EXAMPLE: CHINESE SERIALS IN RECAP (RESEARCH COLLECTIONS AND PRESERVATION CONSORTIUM)

Steps:
- Collecting and consolidating information on current Chinese serial subscriptions from the mainland from all partner libraries

- Analyze distribution of current subscriptions and discuss the intended outcomes

- Clearly define responsibilities for partner libraries and agree service levels

- Agree title list for commitments to subscriptions and retention

- Agree practical ways for documentation (MARC 583) in the local records

Ongoing:
- Annual check of current subscriptions and update to the list of commitments
ADDENDUM ON CHINESE SERIALS TO THE RECAP (RESEARCH COLLECTIONS AND PRESERVATION CONSORTIUM) MOU

Four libraries
- Columbia East Asian Library
- Harvard Law Library
- Harvard Yenching Library
- Princeton East Asian Library

have committed to jointly subscribe, retain and share access to 1,350 mainland Chinese journals in print. The commitment is documented as an addendum to the ReCAP MOU.

Public commitment list: https://tinyurl.com/vckmukky

> Similar work is ongoing on the IvyPlus Level and within the UC system.
• Don’t put all your eggs in one basket! Try to have alternative accesses to other e-resources (other subscribed databases + Open access resources, such as 国家哲学社会科学学术期刊数据库).

• Verify library’s active print journals, consolidate shared holdings within a consortium (Ivy Plus, UC Shared Print Project, Big Ten Academic Alliance) and engage in existing or new initiatives for collaborative collection development and preservation.

• Be committed to strategic local or regional preservation and resource sharing projects (such as ReCAP, WEST (Western Regional Storage Trust) projects) and advocate for the inclusion of Chinese materials into existing agreements.

• Catch up with subscriptions of important new journals

• Call for national and international collaborations in shared print journals and comprehensive e-indexing holdings?
THANK YOU!

Questions and Comments?