

NO MORE LOSING ACCESS: CHINESE SERIALS IN A CHALLENGING TIME

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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

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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).

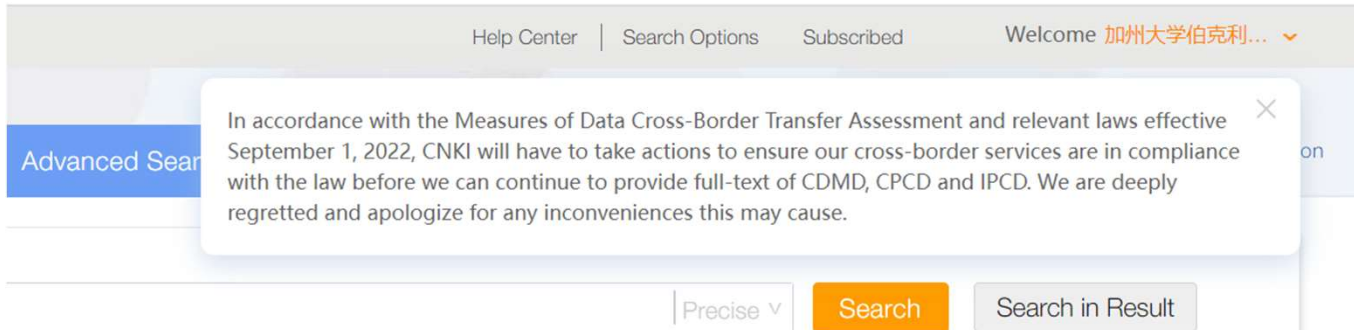
- isolated articles (from any time period) of an additional 391 journals’ content is temporarily suspended from public view (of which 305 titles are from series F; 23 titles are from Series G; and 47 titles are from series H).

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.



CNKI website
announcement



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 lose 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 losing e-access actually means losing 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

PRESENTATION TITLE

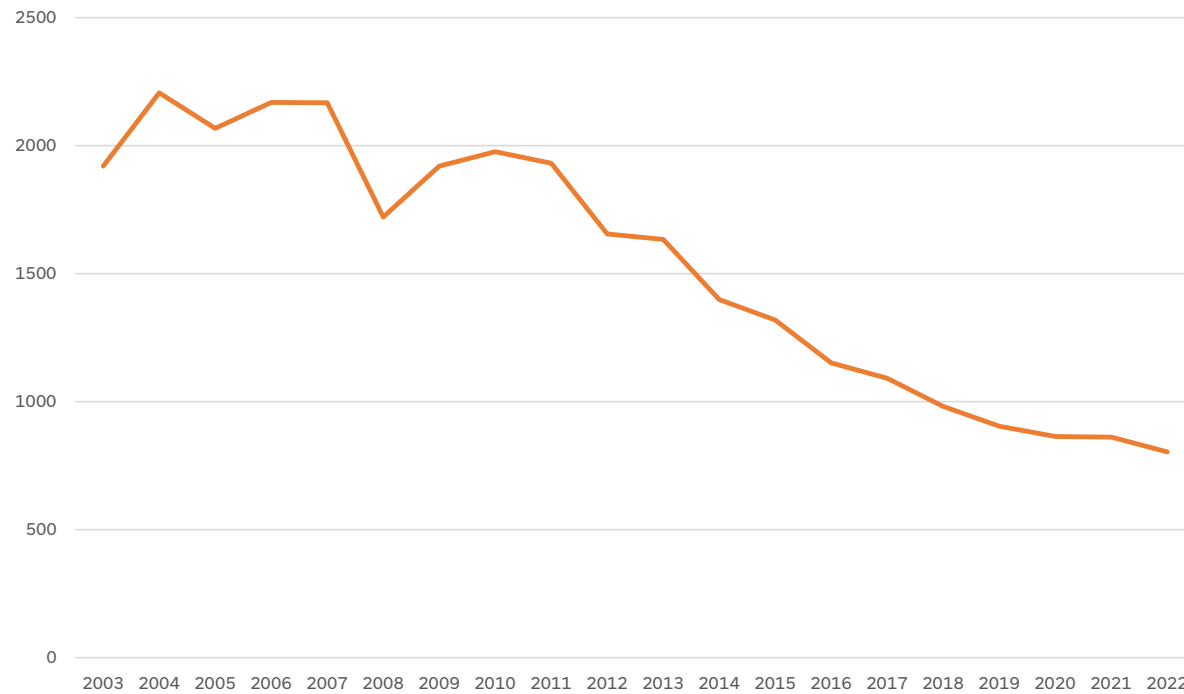


SITUATION FOR CHINESE JOURNALS

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

	顶级	%	权威	%	核心	%	Subtotal	%
AMI report	22	100%	55	100%	605	100%	683	100%
UC Libraries	9	41%	18	33%	72	12%	99	14%
IVY Libraries	18	81%	39	71%	314	50%	371	54%



中国人文学社会科学期刊
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?

Title	Grade	ISSN	Corp author	Starting	UC	IVY	Note
出土文献	核心	2096-7365	清华大学出土文献与保护中心	2020	1	1	Frequency change
云冈研究	核心	2096-9708	山西大同大学	2021	0	0	
日本侵华南京大屠杀研究	核心	2096-4587	南京大屠杀史与国际和平研究院 南京大屠杀史研究会	2019	1	1	
台湾历史研究	核心	2097-0080	中国社会科学院近代史研究所	2021	0	0	
中国非物质文化遗产	核心	2096-8795	中国艺术研究院 中国非物质文化遗产保护中心	2020	0	0	
艺术学研究	核心	2096-6997	中国艺术研究院	2019	0	0	
外语教育研究前沿	核心	2096-6105	北京外国语大学	2018	0	0	
语言学论丛	核心		北京大学中国语言学研究中心	2022	1	0	Frequency change
马克思主义哲学	核心	2096-9961	中国社会科学院哲学研究所	2020	0	0	
武大国际法评论	核心	2096-3777	武汉大学国际法研究所	2017	0	0	Frequency change
中国应用法学	核心	2096-322X	中国应用法学研究所	2017	0	0	
公共管理评论	核心	2096-7713	清华大学公共管理学院	2019	0	1	Frequency change
供应链管理	核心	2096-7934	中国物流学会	2020	0	0	
比较教育学报	核心	2096-7810	上海师范大学	2020	0	0	Frequency change
社会保障评论	核心	2096-3211	中国社会保障学会	2017	0	0	
统计学报	核心	2096-7411	山西财经大学	2020	0	0	Frequency change
文献与数据学报	核心	2096-6695	中国社会科学院图书馆	2019	1	1	
新闻与传播评论	核心	2096-5443	武汉大学	2018	0	0	
当代美国评论	核心	2096-4021	中国社会科学院美国研究所	2017	0	0	

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.



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER: SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- 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?