

# Exploring the Use of Generative AI for Cataloging Chinese-Language Materials: A Case Study Using ChatGPT

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# KU libraries' Chinese collection and cataloguing issues



## East Asian Collections

Location: Watson Library and other subject-based branch libraries

Total #: about 300,000

monographies, periodicals, series

Has one Chinese language cataloguer



## Spencer Research Library

Special collection (zines, posters, pamphlets, etc.) and rare books (old Chinese books, published before or in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century)

No Chinese language cataloguer for Chinese special/rare collections

# Research questions

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Can GenAI help us with  
cataloging-related tasks?

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If it can, how can it  
support our work?

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If it cannot, what are the  
barriers?

# Research methods/tools

## Why Chinese science fiction?

- Special collection of Science fiction in Spencer Research Library
- Chinese science fiction in general East Asian collection

## Why ChatGPT?

- One of the most common and widely used Gen-AI tools

## Four areas of the assessment:

- (1) accurately reading and interpreting Chinese text;
- (2) generating bibliographic metadata aligned with cataloging standards;
- (3) describing special-collection materials;
- (4) supporting librarians who have limited language expertise or limited cataloging training.

## Targeted user groups:

- (1) catalogers with limited knowledge of Chinese language;
- (2) subject librarians with limited training and experience in cataloging rules and metadata standards.

# ChatGPT & Cataloging Chinese Monographs: One cataloger's experience

Expectations

What happened



How I use AI effectively



# Subject Librarian's perspective



Is the pinyin romanization correct?



Is the information of the author/editor correct?



Is the information about the book correct?



What about alternative ways of romanization of people's name?

```
-040 \\$aa-cc---
=050 00$aPN3433$b.B3618 2008
=082 04$a809.38762$223
=245 10$aBan ren ban yu zhi shen :$bcong Weiersi dao Haiyinlai'en ,
si · Gang, Guo Jianzhong zhu bian.
=246 31$aBan ren ban yu zhi shen
=264 \1$aBeijing :$bBeijing Daxue Chubanshe,$c2008.
=300 \\$a545 pages :$billustrations ;$c24 cm
=336 \\$atext$btxt$2rdacontent
```

*Record and romanization generated by ChatGPT*

- ◆ Chinese Transcription (exact characters)  
未名·科幻之路  
半人半鱼之神  
从威尔斯到海因莱恩  
[美] 詹姆斯·冈恩 郭建中 主编  
北京大学出版社

- ◆ Pinyin Romanization (ALA-LC)  
Wei ming · ke huan zhi lu  
Ban ren ban yu zhi shen  
Cong Wei'ersi dao Haiyinlaien  
[Mei] Zhanmusi · Gang'en ; Guo Jianzhong  
Beijing Daxue Chubanshe



```
099 ##$aASF$aGunn D7
130 0#$aRoad to science fiction.$lChinese.$kSelections
245 00$6880-01$aBan ren ban yu zhi shen :$bCong wei mi si dao hai yin lai en /$c(meì) Zhanmusi Gang'en, guo jian zhong zhu bian.
246 3#$6880-02$aCong wei mi si dao hai yin lai en
250 ##$6880-03$aDi 1 ban.
260 ##$6880-04$aBei jing :$bBeijing da xue chu ban she,$c2008.
300 ##$a12, 357 pages ;$c26 cm.
336 ##$atext$btxt$2rdacontent
```

*KU libraries' record*

# Different ways of romanization

Example 1:  
Taiwanese author

Example 2:  
Japanese book  
about Chinese artist



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## Example 1: Taiwanese author

An exhibition catalog by the artist: **Chen Ching-Yao** 陳擎耀

*Photo from Chen Ching-Yao's Official Instagram account: @chingyaochen*

My apologies that the image is not clear enough. The author on the cover page is: 陳擎耀 Chen Ching-Yao

No worries at all — thanks for the clarification 🌱

Given the author name 陳擎耀, here are the **full set of reasonable romanizations**, laid out cleanly.

👤 Author: 陳擎耀

### 1 Common / Author-used form

- Chen Ching-Yao

(This matches what you provided and is very likely the author's preferred English name.)

### 2 Mandarin Chinese romanization systems

#### Hanyu Pinyin

- Chén Qíngyào

#### Wade-Giles

- Ch'en<sup>2</sup> Ch'ing<sup>2</sup>-yao<sup>4</sup>

#### Tongyong Pinyin (Taiwan)

- Chen Cingyao

#### Yale (Mandarin)

- Chén Ching-yào



### 3 Possible mixed or legacy spellings (commonly seen in Taiwan contexts)

These are **not** “wrong”, just hybrid or older practices you may encounter in catalogs, exhibition texts, or CVs:

- Chen Chingyao
- Chen Ching Yao
- Chen Qing-Yao
- Chen Ch'ing-yao

### 4 Character-by-character breakdown (for reference)

- 陳 → Chen / Ch'en
- 擎 → Qing / Ch'ing / Ching
- 耀 → Yao / Yao<sup>4</sup> / Yao

This explains why “**Ching**” appears instead of “**Qing**” in Wade-Giles-influenced or personal-name romanization.

If you're cataloging or citing this:

- **Best choice for authorship field:** *Chen, Ching-Yao*
- **Add variant forms** if your system allows (especially *Chen Qingyao*).

If you want, I can help you draft:

- an **RDA-authorized access point**
- a **WorldCat-style authority note**
- or a **short justification note** explaining the romanization choice (very librarian-core 😊)

Just say the word.

Full conversation with ChatGPT:

<https://chatgpt.com/share/69a0a853-2b60-800d-a123-0107f95fd3f2>



MARC System

Leader 00233nz a2200097n 4500

005:

008 260219 nb \_ a c a n n a a b a \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ a a a \_ \_ \_ \_

Tag	I1	I2	Subfield Data
040			⊥a KU ⊥c KU
039			⊥b mi
100	1		⊥a Chen, Qingyao, ⊥d 1976-
400	1		⊥a Chen, Ching-Yao, ⊥d 1976-
400	1		⊥a 陳擎耀, ⊥d 1976-

*Record created by KU's Japanese Librarian: Michiko Ito*

Japanese romanization:  
Chen Chinyao (チェンチンヤオ)

# Chen Ching-Yao Exhibition: War and Art

## 陳擎耀

84th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War II  
開戦84年

2025.7.12 (sat) – 8.31 (sun) 田川市美術館

休館日：月曜日（7月21日、8月11日は開館）、7月22日、8月12日  
開館時間：9:30-17:30（入館は17:00まで）  
観覧料：一般 800円（700円） 高大生 400円（300円） 小中生 200円（100円） 美術館無料

※1. 3月20日以上の団体および田川市在住者（要身分証明書）の料金  
※身体障害者手帳、療育手帳、精神障害者保健福祉手帳の交付を受けている方とその他障がい者無料  
※土曜日は高校生以下無料  
主催：田川市美術館 協賛・助成：中興民間（公益）文化館 協力：臺北州立美術館  
©71 チェン・チンヤオ（陳氏台北に譲与）2025年 西澤薫

祖父は自分のことを「日本人」、父は「中国人」と思っていたが私は「台湾人」である。



戦争 と 美術

チェン・チンヤオ展

—なぜ、中国人画家は日本人満洲引揚者を描いたか—  
(いち・きゅう・よん・ろく)

『王希奇の  
一九四六』  
ワンシーチー

鈴木宏毅 *Suzuki Hiroki*  
高橋礼二郎 *Takahashi Reijiro*  
〔著〕

社会評論社

## Example 2: Japanese book about Chinese artist

- 王希奇, Wang Xiqi, is a Chinese painter born in the 1960.
- “1946” is the title of his painting.
- The book is a study of his works.
- Based on the title page of this book, the romanization of 王希奇’s name (ワンシーチー) should be: **Wan Shīchī**
- No pinyin romanization has been found in the book.



can you give me a Marc record of this book under under RDA, LC-PCC Policy Statements, NACO practice, and ALA-LC Romanization Tables. then I can import the record into MarcEdit.

## MARC21 Bibliographic Record (RDA / PCC / NACO)

</> Code

```
=LDR 00000nam a2200000 i 4500
=001 TEMP0001
=005 20260302000000.0
=008 250302s2024 ja ||||| |||| 00| 0 jpn d
=040 \\$a DLC$b eng$c rda$c DLC
=041 0\\$a jpn
=245 00$a Ōshi Chī no "1946" /$c Suzuki Hiroki, Takahashi Reijirō cho.
=246 30$a 王希奇の「一九四六」
=264 \\1$a Tōkyō :$b Shakai hyōronsha,$c 2024.
=300 \\$a 1 volume :$b illustrations ;$c 21 cm
=336 \\$a text$b txt$2 rdacontent
=337 \\$a unmediated$b n$2 rdamedia
=338 \\$a volume$b nc$2 rdacarrier
=500 \\$a Title from title page.
=546 \\$a Text in Japanese.
=600 10$a Wang, Xiqi,$d 1926-$x Criticism and interpretation.
=700 1\\$a Suzuki, Hiroki,$e author.
=700 1\\$a Takahashi, Reijirō,$e author.
=710 2\\$a Shakai hyōronsha,$e publisher.
```

Full conversation with ChatGPT:

<https://chatgpt.com/share/69a5f3c3-521c-800d-8f8a-6d16a6e1389e>





- The Japanese romanization is not following the title page
- The birth year of the painter is incorrect
- Might have other incorrect information

## Notes on Key Decisions (so you can tweak confidently)

### Romanization

- 王希奇 → Ōshi Chī

- 王 = Ō
- 希 = shi
- 奇 = chī

(per ALA-LC Japanese tables; long vowels retained)

- 鈴木宏毅 → Suzuki Hiroki
- 高橋礼二郎 → Takahashi Reijirō
- 社会評論社 → Shakai hyōronsha

### 245 / 246

- Romanized title in 245 (required under ALA-LC practice)
- Original-script title properly given in 246 30

### 264

- Second indicator 1 for publication
- Place normalized to Tōkyō (macron per ALA-LC)

### 600

- Treated as a critical work on Wang Xiqi, not authored by him
- Birth year 1926– is standard authority form for 王希奇

### No ISBN

- No 020 included because none is visible

(Correct PCC practice — do not add placeholders)



100	1	鈴木宏毅, ♯d 1944- ♯e author.
100	1	Suzuki, Hiroki, ♯d 1944- ♯e author.
245	1 0	王希奇の「一九四六」: ♯b なぜ、中国人画家は日本人満洲引揚者を描いたか / ♯c 鈴木宏毅, 高橋礼二郎著.
245	1 0	Wan Shīchī no "Ichī kyū yon roku": ♯b naze, Chūgokujin gaka wa Nihonjin Manshū hikiagesha o egaita ka / ♯c Suzuki Hiroki, Takahashi Reijirō cho.
246	1	Ō Kiki no "ichi kyū yon roku"
264	1	東京都文京区: ♯b 社会評論社, ♯c 2025.
264	1	Tōkyō-to Bunkyo-ku: ♯b Shakai Hyōronsha, ♯c 2025.
300		xvi, 207 pages: ♯b illustrations (some color); ♯c 21 cm
336		text ♯b txt ♯2 rdacontent
337		unmediated ♯b n ♯2 rdamedia
338		volume ♯b nc ♯2 rdacarrier
504		Includes bibliographical references (pages 201-202)
600	1 4	王希奇, ♯d 1960-
600	1 0	Wang, Xiqi, ♯d 1960-
650	0	<a href="#">War in art.</a>
650	0	<a href="#">Refugees in art.</a>
650	0	<a href="#">Japanese</a> ♯z <a href="#">China</a> ♯z <a href="#">Manchuria.</a>
650	0	<a href="#">Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945.</a>

*Record created by KU's Japanese Librarian: Michiko Ito*

### MARC21 Bibliographic Record (RDA / PCC / NACO)

```

</> Code
=LDR 00000nam a2200000 i 4500
=001 TEMP0001
=005 20260302000000.0
=008 250302s2024 ja ||||| |||| 00| 0 jpn d
=040 \\$a DLC$b eng$c rda$c DLC
=041 0\\$a jpn
=245 00$a Ōshi Chī no "1946" /$c Suzuki Hiroki, Takahashi Reijirō cho.
=246 30$a 王希奇の「一九四六」
=264 \\1$a Tōkyō :$b Shakai hyōronsha,$c 2024.
=300 \\$a 1 volume :$b illustrations ;$c 21 cm
=336 \\$a text$b txt$2 rdacontent
=337 \\$a unmediated$b n$2 rdamedia
=338 \\$a volume$b nc$2 rdacarrier
=500 \\$a Title from title page.
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=700 1\\$a Suzuki, Hiroki,$e author.
=700 1\\$a Takahashi, Reijirō,$e author.
=710 2\\$a Shakai hyōronsha,$e publisher.

```

*Record created by ChatGPT*

# Observations from these two examples

- ChatGPT makes mistakes
- Need expert knowledge of both the cataloging and subject librarians to identify the mistakes
- Need to do research to verify if the information ChatGPT generated is correct or not
- Need experience and knowledge to make decisions when creating an original record

# Further questions and concerns



How can ChatGPT be used as a bridging tool to help fill the knowledge gaps between cataloging librarians and subject librarians?



Is this tool as efficient as we assumed?



Do we need to spend time to create a workflow for this type of tasks? If we do, how?



Will other GenAI tools work better? is it possible to create a small-scale, project-specific GenAI system, such as, using Google AI Studio?

# Thank you

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