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# Major Chinese Full-Text Electronic Information Resources for Researchers and Scholars

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# **Major Chinese Full-Text Electronic Information Resources for Researchers and Scholars**

## **Abstract**

China's electronic publishing industry has developed very rapidly over the past decade. China has become one of the electronic publishing centers in Asia and will continue to flourish in the future. Chinese electronic databases provide the most efficient way for scholars, researchers and students to perform searches as well as to provide information for businesses and governments. In this article, the author gives a brief overview of selected databases which represent a small portion of the Chinese electronic resources and hopes it will serve as a reference to Chinese scholars world-wide.

## **Overview of Electronic Publishing in China**

China started its research and development of CD-ROM technologies in the late 1970's. At that time, only a few products were available for scholars. When the Internet was introduced in China in 1987,<sup>2</sup> more and more print products were published online. Over the past ten years, electronic publishing has increased tremendously in China. By 2002, there were about 102 electronic publishers producing 4,713 different electronic publications.<sup>3</sup> Now China has become one of the electronic publishing centers in Asia. In the current global environment, more and more people are interested in China and want to learn about its rich history and latest economic reform. Chinese electronic resources provide the most efficient way to perform that research. Scholars, researchers and

students will benefit from a discussion of Chinese-produced databases currently available to conduct extensive research on all aspects of China, its history and place in the twenty-first century.

## **Aggregated Periodical Databases**

### **China Academic Journals (CAD)**

*China Academic Journals Database (CAD)*, also known as *Chinese Journals Full-text Database (CJFD)*, has collected more than 7,480 periodicals from Chinese academic journals on science/engineering, agriculture, medicine/hygiene, literature/history/philosophy, economics/politics/law, education/social science, and electronics/information science published since 1994 (some of them back to 1979). As of October 2005, there are about 15.5 million full-text articles in the database with 1.5 million added every year. The database can be searched by abstract, journal name, keywords, date, article title, author, journal title, ISSN, and full text. Figure 1 is a screen shot of CAD (English version).

(Insert Figure 1 here)

The title list of journals can be found at <http://online.eastview.com/titles/index.jsp>. The database also has an English language interface with more than 400 academic journals covering major social sciences and science and technology areas. The English version of the user's guide can be found at [http://online.eastview.com/help/User\\_Guide.pdf](http://online.eastview.com/help/User_Guide.pdf).

- **Database Producer:** Qinghua Tongfang Software Ltd. Co., based in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://www.thtf.com.cn/> (Chinese)

<http://www.thtf.com.cn/www/web/en/index.asp> (English)

- **Contact Information:** [http://www.eastview.com/contact\\_us.asp](http://www.eastview.com/contact_us.asp)

### **WanFang Data (China Online Journals COJ)**

*WanFang Data (COJ)* is a comprehensive database with a wide range of Chinese information from Chinese studies, medical and scientific research to business information.<sup>4</sup> All data are from 1997 onwards and updated weekly. As of December 2005, WangFang Data had 5,026 journals with about 5.26 million full-text documents. All documents in this database are categorized by the following five fields:

- Business/Economics (516 journals), Arts/Humanities (443 journals), Law/Politics (426 journals) and Social Sciences (750 journals)
- Health, Medicine and Biology (958 journals)
- Fundamental Sciences (747 journals covers mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, geosciences, and dynamics)
- Science and Technology (1,579 journals, covers a broad range of research topics including Aeronautics and Astronautics, Architecture, Atomic Energy, Automation and Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Energy, Environment and Security Science, Light and Handicraft Industry, Metallurgy, Metal and Metal Crafts, Mechanics and Instruments, Military Science, Mining Engineering, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Transportation, Water Conservation, and Wireless Electronics and Telecommunications)
- Agriculture (419 journals)

The database can be searched by author, article title, abstract, keywords, journal name, institution name, and full text. The advanced search allows the user to conduct a Boolean

search. Figure 2 is an advanced search screen shot of WanFang Data (COJ, English version).

(Insert Figure 2 here)

- **Database Producer:** Qinghua WanFangData Co., Ltd. Based in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://www.wanfangdata.com.cn/> (Chinese)  
<http://www.wanfangdata.com/> (English)
- **Contact Information:** <http://www.wanfangdata.com/about/about.asp#contact>

### **Chinese Scientific Journals Full-Text Database (CSJD)**

*Chinese Scientific Journals Full-Text Database (CSJD)* contains 12.7 million documents that were published in more than 8,000 periodicals in science, engineering technology, agriculture, medicine/hygiene, economics, education, and library and information science since 1989. The database grows by 1.5 million entries yearly. According to the Chinese Library Classification System,<sup>5</sup> all the documents are categorized into seven sections (science, engineering technology, agriculture, medicine/hygiene, economics administration, education science, books and intelligence) and twenty-seven subjects, such as Science and Engineering, Library and Information Science, Education Science, Environment and Safety Science, etc. The database can be searched by author, abstract, journal name, keywords, date, article title, journal title, institution. Figure 3 is a screen shot of *CSJD* (Chinese version).

(Insert Figure 3 here)

- **Database Producer:** Chongqing VIP Information Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of Science and Technology Department, Southwest Information Center located in Chongqing.
- **WebSite:** <http://www.cqvip.com/> (Chinese)  
<http://dx3.cqvip.com/en/index.htm> (English)
- **Contact Information:** <http://dx2.cqvip.com/serveCenter/service.asp>

## **Economy and Finance Database**

### **China InfoBank**

*China InfoBank* includes fifteen online sub-databases which collect information on economic news, business/law, statistics, media information, China and Hong Kong public companies, industry products, and government organizations.<sup>6</sup> The database has over 10 million articles and about 10 billion Chinese characters, accumulates 20 million Chinese characters per day, and is updated daily. The detailed sub-database information is the following:

- **China Economic News:** archive of economic news from publications and content providers in China.
- **China Business Report:** analytical reports by business analysts and professionals, reports on the Chinese macroeconomics environment and reports announced by the Chinese government.
- **China Laws and Regulations:** laws and regulations relevant to all industries and established cases since 1949.

- China Statistics: yearly and monthly statistical data on the socio-economic situation of the dynamic market and China's external trade performance since 1995 (some from 1949).
- Chinese Journal: articles collected from worldwide Chinese Web sites, including the world's important news, social issues, economic news, and financial data.
- China Listed Company: announcements and financial reports on China listed companies.
- Hong Kong Listed Company: announcements and information on Hong Kong listed companies.
- China Medical and Health: health and medical related news and information from various health related newspapers and magazines in China.
- INFOBANK Business Briefing: archive of China and worldwide news with political and economic significance since 1998.
- English Publications: archive of English news from Xinhua News Agency, China Daily and its Business Daily Update, etc.
- China Company Directory: information and contact details of over 270,000 companies.
- China Who's Who: Up-to-date information on scientists, politicians, government officials, bankers, entrepreneurs, etc.
- Chinese Government Agency: information on ministries and commissions of the state, city and local government.
- Proposed and On-going Engineering Projects in China: Information on proposed and on-going engineering projects covering a wide range of industries, each with

investment of no less than RMB (Renminbi, the currency of the People's Republic of China) 10 million. Details include a brief introduction to the project and the investors, key equipment in use or in demand, persons in charge and contact details.

- Glossary: explanatory vocabulary list of economic and financial terms.

Searching allows the user to key in specific strings of text to specify records for retrieval.

“Advanced search” provides options to limit a search by business category, corporate body, journal title, newspaper title, Boolean operators, etc. Figure 4 is a search result screen shot of China InfoBank database (English Publications sub-database).

(Insert Figure 4 here.)

- **Database Producer:** China INFOBANK Limited located in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://www.chinainfobank.com/> (Chinese)  
<http://www.chinainfobank.com/irisweb/english/homepage.htm> (English).
- **Contact Information:** <http://www.chinainfobank.com/irisweb/html/contact.htm>

## **Social Science Database**

### **Copying Press Information by Renmin University of China**

*Copying Press Information* database is one of the major Chinese social science databases in the areas of philosophy, politics, law, economy, culture and education, language writing, literature, art, history, and geography. since 1995 (with some coverage back to 1978). It compiles and processes literature of social science and human science published in more than 3,000 newspapers and periodicals in China. It is the most authoritative



domestic social sciences and humanities literature information repository. These publications are an important channel for foreigners who need the latest research findings of China's social science, as well as Chinese politics, economy and culture in the new era. The full-text database can be searched by author, abstract, journal name, keywords, article title, and journal title. Figure 5 is a screen shot of *Copying Press Information database* (in Chinese).

(Insert Figure 5 here.)

- **Database Producer:** Social Science Information Center of Renmin University of China located in Beijing.
- **WebSite:** <http://www.zlzx.org/zxjs.asp> (Chinese)  
<http://www.zlzx.org/english/index.asp> (English)  
<http://www.zlzx.org/japanese/index.asp> (Japanese)
- **Contact Information:** <http://www.zlzx.org/english/contact.asp>

## Newspaper Databases

### People's Daily

*People's Daily* began publication in June 1948 and has a current circulation of three million copies. It is the most influential and authoritative newspaper in China. According to UNESCO, it takes its place among the world's top ten newspapers. *People's Daily* offers the latest news dispatches of policy information and resolutions of the Chinese Government and major domestic news and international news releases from China. *People's Daily Online* (<http://www.people.com.cn>) was formally launched on January 1, 1997. It is now available in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, English, Japanese,

French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

**People's Daily Online Chinese Edition** releases news around the clock with a daily updating of 6,000 pieces of news from more than forty resources, including Politics, International, Opinion, Economics, Science-Education, Society, Information Technology, Environment, Military Affairs, Entertainment, Life, and Photography.

**People's Daily Online English Edition** has been available since January 14, 1998. It translates major news releases from the *People's Daily*, including new policies, resolutions and statements of the Chinese Government. Internet users can also find useful special columns of *People's Daily Online's* about the activities of Chinese leaders, basic facts on China, sports and places of interest in China. Figure 6 is a screen shot of the English version of *People's Daily Online*.

(Insert Figure 6 here.)

- **Database Producer:** People's Daily based in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://www.people.com.cn/> (Chinese)  
<http://english.people.com.cn/> (English)  
<http://j.people.com.cn/> (Japanese)  
<http://french.people.com.cn/> (French)  
<http://spanish.people.com.cn/> (Spanish)  
<http://russian.people.com.cn/> (Russian)  
<http://arabic.peopledaily.com.cn/> (Arabic)
- **Contact Information:** <http://english.people.com.cn/about/aboutus.html>

**China Core Newspapers Database (CCND):**

*China Core Newspapers Database (CCND)* collects more than 1000 newspapers published since June 2000 from every province in China. Currently, *CCND* has more than five million full-text articles and 1.2 million articles are added annually. *CCND* is divided into six series: Literature/History/Philosophy; Politics/Military Affairs/Law; Economics/Education; Social Science; Science/Technology; and Love/Marriage/Family/Health. It is updated daily via the Internet and monthly with CD-ROMs. The database can be searched by subject, author, article title, keyword, newspaper title, date, and full text.

- **Database Producer:** Qinghua Tongfang Software Ltd., Co., based in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://ckrd.cnki.net/grid20/Navigator.aspx?ID=3> (Chinese)  
<http://www.global.cnki.net/core%20news.htm> (English).
- **Contact Information:** [http://www.eastview.com/contact\\_us.asp](http://www.eastview.com/contact_us.asp)

## **Chinese Historical Resources**

**Siku Quanshu** (**The Complete Library in Four Branches of Literature**, Wenyuange Edition)

*Siku Quanshu*, or *The Complete Library in Four Branches of Literature*, was compiled between 1773 and 1782 under the edict of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644—1912). *Siku Quanshu* has collected 3,460 classical works with a total of more than 36,000 volumes, including philosophy, history, literature and art, political systems, social studies, economics, astronomy, geography, mathematics, and medical studies. These classics represent a major Chinese cultural legacy and the essence of Chinese civilization. *Siku Quanshu* is the largest encyclopedic collection of Chinese classical

works systematically compiled and provides an extremely valuable treasure for scholars on Chinese studies. Only the best works representing 5,000 years of Chinese culture and civilization were included in this collection. The database contains 4.7 million pages of scanned images of original scripts and provides full-text retrieval functions of over 800 million Chinese characters (professional version). Data is presented in both searchable full-text versions and scanned images of original scripts. Users can copy and paste the scanned images of original scripts and text data and make notes for personal use. Both stand-alone (182 CDs) and network editions are available for subscribers. The database can be searched by Siku category, book title, author and full text. A Japanese language professional version is also available. Figure 7 is a screen shot of a full-text search screen (in Chinese).

(Insert Figure 7 here.)

- **Database Producer:** Digital Heritage in Hong Kong
- **WebSite:** <http://www.sikuquanshu.com/> (Chinese)  
<http://www.sikuquanshu.com/en/main.asp> (English).
- **Contact Information:** [http://www.sikuquanshu.com/en/misc/contact\\_us.asp](http://www.sikuquanshu.com/en/misc/contact_us.asp)

### **SiBu CongKan (The Four Categories of Chinese Bibliography)**

The famous author and publisher Yuanji Zhang compiled *SiBu CongKan* at the beginning of the 20th century. He collected 477 categories, comprising 3,134 volumes of books with over 90 millions characters. *SiBu CongKan* or *the Four Categories of Chinese Bibliography* covers Classics (*jing*), History (*shi*), Philosophy (*zi*), and Literary Collections (*wenji*) according to traditional Chinese bibliography category. The Classics

section contains the texts of the thirteen Confucian Classics. It includes both the original texts and the commentaries and technical treatises on various Classical topics. The History contains a wide variety of texts, including general narrative histories, biographical texts, books on technical historical subjects, and many others. Philosophy is also a very broad category that includes books by or about philosophers in Chinese history. Works on the classical philosophies of Legalism, Taoism, and Mohism can be found in this section. The Literary Collection section includes works by Chinese political and social elites. The electronic version of *SiBu CongKan* reproduces the original books in electronic form and can be searched by author, title, characters and full text. The reader can also browse the database by the Category. Other features include summary notes, conversion between Western and Chinese calendars, and cross-searches between traditional and simplified Chinese. Figures 8 and 9 are the title search screen and the result of the search.

(Insert Figure 8 and 9 here.)

- **Database Producer:** Unihan Digital Technology Co., Ltd. based in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://www.unihan.com.cn/index.htm> (Chinese)
- **Contact Information:** <http://www.unihan.com.cn/zycp.htm>

## **Electronic Books**

### **SuperStar (Chao Xing) eBook**

SuperStar eBooks collects a broad range of books including those in politics, law, arts, science, medicine, military, history, geography, environmental protection, economics, agriculture, and languages. There are twenty-two subject areas and more than 810,000

titles (including foreign language books) in its collection at the time this article was written. It is the largest Chinese language eBook collection in the world. Users can purchase readers' cards to download books to read on personal computers using SuperStar's own reading software (software SuperStar Reader can be downloaded from the company's website at <http://www.ssreader.com/download/>). The eBook collection can be searched by book title and author. The advanced search is also available by searching the book's ISBN and date of publication. For frequently read books, the reader can add them to his/her personal profile. There are also about 5,000 free e-books from the website.

- **Database Producer:** SuperStar Company based in Beijing
- **WebSite:** <http://www.ssreader.com> (Chinese)
- **Contact Information:** <http://www.ssreader.com/about.html>

## **Summary**

Chinese electronic resources have and can change the way people do research. These searchable databases (most of them are Internet accessible) contribute significantly to expanded research possibilities and ones that are easily accessible. With China's economic boom and reform, Chinese electronic resource publishing will continue to flourish in the future. The explosion in Chinese database publishing creates vast new and exciting opportunities for scholars, businesses, governments, and other opportunity-seekers to study rare and current materials unique to China. The databases described above represent just a very small portion of these valuable electronic resources in China.

Descriptions given here should provide a point and reference for Chinese scholars worldwide.

## Notes

1. [All the Web Sites listed in the article were last accessed March 12, 2006.]
2. See <http://www.white-clouds.com/iclc/cliej/cl17zheng.htm> (accessed January 12, 2006).
3. Guangwei Xin , *Publishing in China: an Essential guide* (Australia: Thomson Learning, 2005), 114.
4. Zhifeng Zhou, "Comparison and Analysis of Three Electronic Full-text Databases of Chinese Periodicals in China," *Journal of Wenzhou Normal College* 25, no. 5 (October 2004): 107-111.
5. For an explanation of the Chinese classification System, see [http://newpage.lib.sjtu.edu.cn/english/virtual\\_reference\\_desk/introduction\\_to\\_chinese\\_library\\_classification.htm](http://newpage.lib.sjtu.edu.cn/english/virtual_reference_desk/introduction_to_chinese_library_classification.htm) (accessed March 12, 2006)
6. Yan Wang, Ying Liu and Xia Liu, "Comparative Analysis of Four Chinese Economic Information Databases," *Information Systems and Networks* 22, no. 5 (May 2004): 584-587.

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