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# Introduction to the Global Integration Of Chinese Ancient Books

The subject of the Global Integration of Chinese Ancient Books (hereinafter referred to as the Integration project) is the Chinese ancient books stored outside mainland China. The project encompasses, digitizing rare and superior editions absent from Mainland China collections, and compiling a thorough database for convenient access and use. The ultimate aim is to build a comprehensive archival system for these documents, so as to provide textual support for sinological work around the world, and to facilitate international cooperation and exchange in related fields.

### The origins of the Integration project

In 2010 Shandong University launched the Zihai Compilation and

Research Project (hereinafter referred to as the Zihai project). It is ratified by The National Office for Philosophical and Social Sciences as a major project of the National Social Science Fund. The main



content of the Zihai project is to compile and research books in China and abroad related to philosophy and other non-canonical content. After 8 years' work, there have been fruitful achievements attracting extensive attention in China and abroad. As of July 2018, 420 volumes have been published, comprising 1,118 ancient books and writings.

Based on the success of the Zihai project, Shandong University initiated another project in November 2013—the Global Integration of Chinese Ancient Books. The Project's main task is to seek out, copy, digitize, compile and research Chinese ancient books scattered abroad, and finally construct an open-access database for all.

# Academic Teams and Investigation/Cataloguing Works

#### Domestic academic team

Up till now, 23 domestic teams from 14 top-class universities and academic institutes have been set up including:

Peking University, Nanjing University, Fudan University Nanjing University, Sun Yat-sen University, Sichuan University, Xiamen University, Tsinghua University, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, National Library of China, Zhonghua Book Company and so on.

The Integration project has signed letters of intent with 8 world-class universities, and has established intention to engage in cooperative research with 52 libraries globally.

The Integration has also built a full-time database development team. The database reflected our intention to allow access to the achievements of the Integration from the whole society, to exhibit the profound culture connotation, and to support academic research and cultural transmission.

#### **Overseas academic team**

#### The Global Consortium for Chinese Studies

То promote the implementation of the Integration project, Shandong University initiated the Global Consortium for Chinese Studies (hereinafter referred to as the GCCS). The GCCS was co-founded by prestigious



sinological research institutes around the globe. It is a non-profit academic platform open to all scholars specializing in Chinese studies. The aim of GCCS is to advance Chinese studies.

Institutes already signed to serve as co-founders of the GCCS include:

• International Sinology Research Center, Shandong University

• Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, National Taiwan University (NTU)

• Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole, the University of Hongkong

Academy of East Asian Studies, Sungkyunkwan University

• Faculty of Arts--Research Unit Area Studies, University of Leuven

• Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, the University of Tokyo

• Research Center of the Extreme-Orient at University of Paris Sorbonne

• Department of East Asian languages and literatures, Yale University

• Needham Research Institute, Cambridge University

The Integration has established partnership or researched cooperative intention with more than 50 libraries including:

•The British Library

- Bibliothque Nationale France
- Russian State Library
- Housabunko Library
- Seikado Library
- National Archives of Japan
- National Diet Library, Japan
- The Mausoleum Department of the Imperial Household Agency
- Bavarian State Library
- The Far East Library
- Library of Congress
- The Academy of Korean Studies

Library

#### • .....

As our digitization and compilation efforts continue, our membership will grow.

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#### Partners to investigate ancient books and documents:

#### Japan

There are 150 public libraries, 100 university libraries, 70 temple libraries and other unique libraries in Japan, with a totally number of more than 5 million Chinese ancient books. A team involving professors from the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Daito Bunka University and librarians from more than ten libraries will be set up to investigate and catalogue these books systematically.

#### **Hong Kong**

Chinese ancient books scattered in Hong Kong are mostly stored in public libraries and university libraries. Since 20th Century, predecessor scholars such as Jao Tsung-I has begun the cataloguing already. Now within the framework of the Integration, scholars from the University of Hong Kong will organize a team to complete the cataloguing of all Chinese ancient books stored in HK by means of revising and supplementing the present catalogue, and making new catalogues. They will successively complete the catalogues of all libraries in Hong Kong

#### Mongolia

There is a large number of ancient Chinese books and books written in Mongolian, Tibetan, and Manchurian, which is not only a significant part of the world cultural heritage, but also an important compliment for the Chinese ancient books stored in mainland China. Now the Chinese ancient books compiling work team in Mongolia has been set up already and they will conduct preliminary research into the catalogues of the National Library of Mongolia, Mongolia National Archives Bureau, the Municipal Archive Bureau of Ulan Bator, the Municipal Library of Ulan Bator, and other reputed universities and archive bureaus in Ulan Bator and in other provinces of Mongolia. The team will record the findings for all books written in Chinese, Tibetan, Mongolian and Manchurian in preparation for future cataloguing.

#### **European Countries**

The investigation and cataloguing of Chinese ancient books stored in European countries are progressing smoothly. The manuscripts in Chinese language stored in the British Library (BL) have been catalogued by Shandong University in cooperation with the British Library. For the Chinese ancient block-printed editions stored there, there is an extant but out-dated C.C. system. A team of experts is on their way to the BL to update it, and digitize the editions absent in mainland China with the BL's help.

The Bibliothque Nationale France (the BnF) stores the Chinese books previously collected by Maurice Courant and Paul Pelliot. We have completed the catalogue of the Maurice Courant collection, and we will cooperate with BnF to catalogue the Pelliot collection.

The Russian State Library (situated in Moscow) stores Chinese ancient books originally kept by the Dalian Library of South Manchuria Railways Co. and the missionary groups of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Our teams have completed the cataloguing of the NLR's Chinese ancient archives. Next we are planning to catalogue the Chinese collections stored in Saint Petersburg State University and the National Library of Russia (the NLR, situated in Saint Petersburg), where the ancient Chinese collections mainly came from the missionary groups of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

#### USA

In the beginning of 19th century, missionaries brought Chinese books to the North America. In the first half of 20th century, many libraries there started their own East Asian libraries and the number of Chinese books of all kinds sky-rocketed. After World War II, the center of sinology moved from Europe to the US, and by now the Chinese ancient collections in the US are on a par with those in Europe. The Integration project is now collaborating with Zhonghua Book Company to revise and compile Chinese collections in libraries in the US.

Apart from the institutes above, we are also progressing with the cooperation with the Far East Library in Sweden, Bavarian State Library in Germany, and libraries in Australia. Cooperation with these institutes will commence soon in the future.

## **First Batch of Sub-projects**

#### **Investigating and cataloguing projects:**

• Cataloguing of Chinese ancient books in St Petersburg State University

• Cataloguing of Chinese ancient books in the Far East Library

- Cataloguing of Chinese ancient books in Tsurumai Library, Japan.
- Cataloguing of Chinese ancient collections in State Library of Berlin, Bavarian State Library, Universit ä Heidelberg Library

• Cataloguing of Chinese ancient collections in the Universität Leipzig, University of Gottingen, Universität Hamburg, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

• Investigating and cataloguing of the Chinese ancient collections in Institute of Advanced Chinese Studies at College de France, Lyon Municipal Library

• Cataloguing of the BL's Chinese ancient collections

• Investigating and cataloguing of Chinese ancient books and early Chinese documents stored in Australia

• Investigating and Cataloguing of Chinese ancient books in the University of Washington Library and University of California, Berkeley Library

• Cataloguing of Chinese Ancient books in Tsurumai Library, Japan.

• Cataloguing of Chinese Ancient books in Daito Bunka University, Japan.

#### **Collation projects**

• Collation of Wan Shi Jia Ji

- Collation of Yuan Xue Pian by Hu Zanzong
- Collation of *Nong Shu* by Wang Zhen
- Collation of Xu Tan Zhi Quan
- Elaboration of Chu Bai'an Du Lv Zi Bi Ji Bu Ding

#### **Research projects**

• A Chronicle of Russian Sinology

• Research of documents on Chinese opera and folk songs stored in France

• Translation and study of Leon Vandermeersch's sinological works.

• The Cataloguing of Chinese Ancient books in Tsurumai Library, Japan.

The Global Integration of Chinese Ancient Books is a project undergoing constant modification. All academic investigation and research work are open to the participation of sinologists worldwide. We welcome all scholars who are dedicated to study of Chinese ancient books s to join us. In joint efforts we shall complete this great endeavor that will benefit the entire academic world.