Digitisation of Collections on East Asia in European Libraries

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1. Introduction

2. Projects
   a. Berlin State Library
   b. Bavarian State Library, Munich
   c. National Library of the Czech Republic
   d. Bibliothèque nationale de France
   e. Chinese rubbings from European collections
   f. Bodleian Library, Oxford

3. Objectives and challenges
Digitisation – a standard method for providing worldwide access to printed and handwritten information

A c t o r s  i n  t h e  f i e l d  o f  r e t r o - d i g i t i z a t i o n :
• Google Books: mass digitization project of an industrial scale
• Libraries: subject-related or material-specific approach
Since 1951 in charge of the Special Subject Collection East and Southeast Asia (SSG 6.25) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and since 2005 of the East and Southeast Asia Virtual Library - CrossAsia
Initiating digitization project: SSG 6.25 digital
(11.2009 – 6.2013)

Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)

Title corpora:
5. Tibetan collection Waddell: 328 titles, 30.000 pp.

-> All in all there will be more than 2.75 Mio pages being digitised
Reconstruction of the pre-war Old East Asia Collection (2013/2014)

Funding: German Bundesministerium für Kultur und Medien

Title corpora:
1. Cataloguing of pre-war Berlin East Asian holdings now in Krakau
   -> virtual re-unifying of collection via OPAC reference (ca. 1600 shelfmarks)
2. Digitising a greater selection of dislocated Berlin East Asian titles (to be decided)
Workflow:

- Each digitised object has catalogue entry in OPAC catalogue
- Each object moves through the same GOOBI workflow
Presentation and access:

- **OPAC and presentation platform for the digitised objects of the Berlin State Library** ([http://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de](http://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de))
- **CrossAsia** ([http://crossasia.org/](http://crossasia.org/))
- **ZVDD** ([http://www.zvdd.de/](http://www.zvdd.de/))
- **BASE** ([http://www.base-search.net/](http://www.base-search.net/))
- **Google**

In the near future also in:

- **WorldCat**
- **Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books (Taiwan NCL)** ([http://rarebook.ncl.edu.tw/rbook.cgi/frameset4.htm](http://rarebook.ncl.edu.tw/rbook.cgi/frameset4.htm))
• PDF download

• Standard metadata file accompanies each object (METS download)

• Standardized interfaces for download of metadata (OAI-PHM: http://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/oai/)
Further needs:

• switch between books read from left to right to those read from right to left

• presentation of large objects (e.g. picture scrolls, maps)
Data enrichment:

- revised catalogue entry
- pagination (labelling images with actual page number and with 卷 for orientation and reference)
- structural data such as table of content, chapter titles, illustrations, book cover etc.
Objective: incorporating the historic collection of the Berlin State Library into the national and international services of the East Asia Department and its Special Subject Collection

Currently: more than 700 East Asian titles (230,000 images) and 3,400 Western titles (630,000 images) have already been digitised.
Digitisation of Chinese rare books and manuscripts (2011-2013)

Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)

Nearly 200 titles in ca. 5,000 volumes:
• ca. 20 printings dating from the Song and the Yuan
• more than 100 printings from the Ming
• ca. 20 Jesuit printings from the Qing
• 30 Chinese manuscripts (e.g. Dunhuang manuscripts), etc.

More than 400,000 digital images will be produced.
Digitisation

- Scan process
- Use of workflow management system and database for digitisation process (ZEND)
- Quality control of every single image
- Capturing of structural metadata (table of contents)
• juan zhi 19 zhi juan zhi 22 (巻之十九至巻之二十二)
• juan zhi 23 zhi juan zhi 26 (巻之二十三至巻之二十六)
• wu xing zhi wu shu tu (五行植物属图)
• fu jian (附絮)
• juan zhi 27 zhi juan zhi 31 (巻之二十七至巻之三十一)
• juan zhi 32 zhi juan zhi 35 (巻之三十二至巻之三十五)
• fu jian (附絮)
Webaccess

- Digital Collections and OPACplus of the Bavarian State Library
- WorldCat
- Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books (Taiwan NCL)
- Virtual Libraries (CrossAsia, Europeana)
- ZVDD
- BASE
- Google
Digital East Asia Collections

http://ostasien.digitale-sammlungen.de
http://eastasia.digital-collections.de

• Website in German, English, Chinese
• Two search modes: systematic search and simple search
• PDF download
• Use of zoom technology
唐类函

王安重订

[图像显示：一幅传统的中文书法作品，内容为《唐类函》的封面，文字为竖排，字体为楷书，书名和作者信息清晰可见。]
<table>
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Date of publication

- Title
- Author / Person

Period of publication
Period of publication | 15 | 1524

10 hit(s) in 0.031 sec.

Wen xian tong kao (文献通考): 1
Ma, Duanlin <ca. 1254 - ca. 1323> (馬端臨) - Ying xu zhai (暝旭齋) - Vonwort 1524 (嘉靖三年序, [姚明刊本])

Wen xian tong kao (文献通考): 2
Ma, Duanlin <ca. 1254 - ca. 1323> (馬端臨) - Ying xu zhai (暝旭齋) - Vonwort 1524 (嘉靖三年序, [姚明刊本])

Wen xian tong kao (文献通考): 3
Ma, Duanlin <ca. 1254 - ca. 1323> (馬端臨) - Ying xu zhai (暝旭齋) - Vonwort 1524 (嘉靖三年序, [姚明刊本])

Wen xian tong kao (文献通考): 4
Ma, Duanlin <ca. 1254 - ca. 1323> (馬端臨) - Ying xu zhai (暝旭齋) - Vonwort 1524 (嘉靖三年序, [姚明刊本])

Wen xian tong kao (文献通考): 5
Ma, Duanlin <ca. 1254 - ca. 1323> (馬端臨) - Ying xu zhai (暝旭齋) - Vonwort 1524 (嘉靖三年序, [姚明刊本])
Currently access to more than 200,000 single images; further content constantly added

From 2013 onwards: Website will also contain digitized versions of Chinese, Japanese and Korean printings from the 17th – 19th century, created in the context of the Public-Private-Partnership between the Bavarian State Library and Google

Google: digitisation of ca. 1 Mio. volumes of the Bavarian State Library dating from the 17th to the 19th century, including a significant number of titles on East Asia
Infoportal Kramerius
(http://kramerius.nkp.cz/kramerius/)

Digital library, project of the National Library of the Czech Republic (NL CR)

- started in 2002
- Number of digitised books: 16,126
- focused on Czech national heritage, however includes some publications concerning China
Infoportal Kramerius

• Publications in Chinese and about China (mainly in Czech)

• Format of digitised files: DjVu

• To view the files download free DjVu Browser Plug-in by the Lizardtech company here: http://www.caminova.net/en/downloads/download.aspx?id=1

• Project will be continued: digitisation of repository library (Hostivař) with 170 books in Chinese language
• Digitisation of Chinese printings and manuscripts (from 17th century)

• Presentation in Gallica ([http://gallica.bnf.fr/](http://gallica.bnf.fr/))

• cf. Nathalie Monnet (BnF):
  Ancient Books, New Resources: Online Access to the Ancient Chinese Collections at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, EACS 2012, session 4 from 11:30 to 13:00
Cataloguing and digitisation of more than 10,000 rubbings from:

- Société asiatique
- Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient
- Institut des hautes études chinoises
- Guimet Museum
- Rietberg Museum
- Bodleian Library
- British Library
- British Museum
- Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm
- National Galery Prague
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<td>Shaoxing, temple de Confucius</td>
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• From 2013: Digitisation of ancient Chinese collection (19th century Protestant Missionary Collection etc.)

• Access: Chinese Catalogue of the Bodleian Library (http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/oriental/allegro.htm), special platform planned etc.
Objectives:
• preserving cultural heritage
• providing convenient and timely access

Challenges:
• improvement of visibility
• integration into established and widely used search environments
• ensuring long-term preservation
• coordinating the various digitisation initiatives at an international level
• financing of further projects
Thank you.

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