China through Western Eyes

— A Collaborative Digitization Project by HKU and PKU

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Today, I'll be talking about:

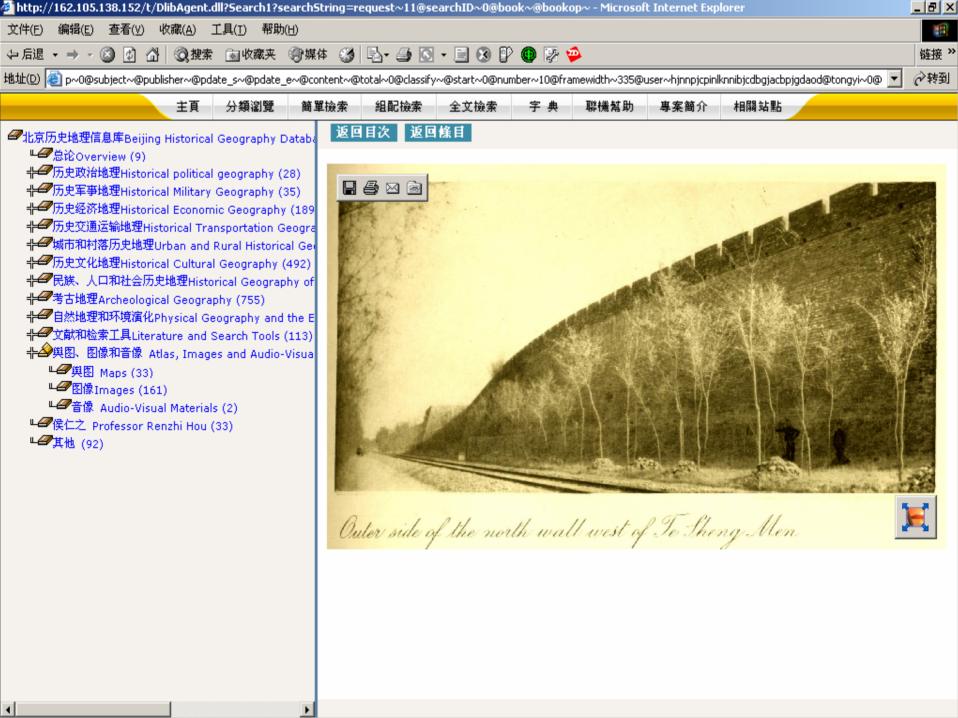
- 1. Origin of the Project
- 2. Related Collections in the Libraries at HKU & PKU
- 3. Scope of the Project
- 4. How the Work Will Be Done
- 5. Budget
- 6. Preliminary Work Done by HKU & PKU
- 7. Proposed Calendar of Events

- Successful construction of the Beijing Historical Geography Database the 1st joint project of PKU & HKU
 - 4 x 10⁷ words of fulltext
 - ■>100 maps
 - **■** >1000 images
 - several videos
 - 4,000 visits at PKU & HKU since June '04





明末海淀附近水道意想图(**1**:**10000**): 一幅,万分之一,侯仁之绘制



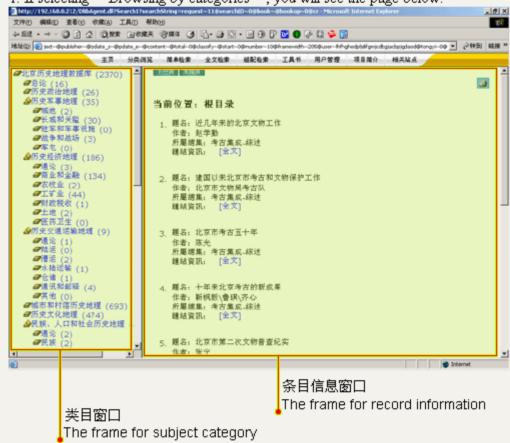
Beijing Historical Geography Database

- Features of the system software
 - Unicode platform
 - XML and RDF; Dublin Core
 - Multi-functional full-text search



(3)Major browsing interface (Classified browsing interfaces)

1. If selecting "Browsing by categories", you will see the page below:



The main menu bar in English version



(E).

编辑(E)

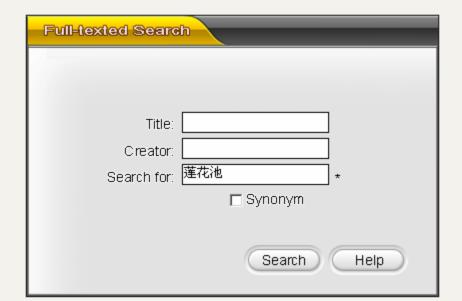
_查看(∀)

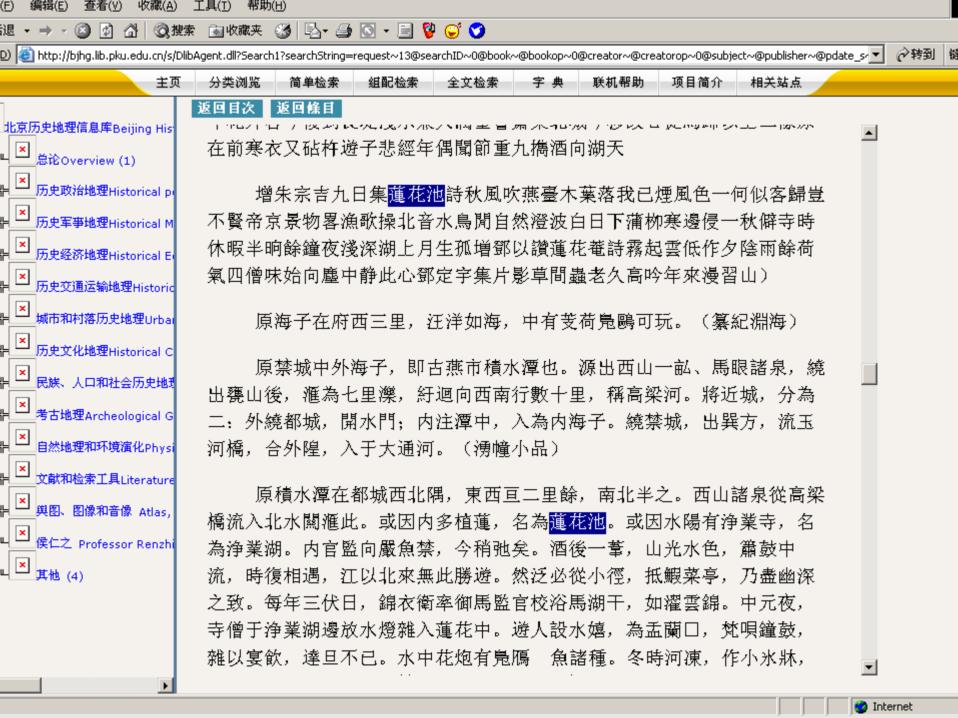
收藏(A)

Beijing Historical Geography Database

- Closely interconnected knowledge system
 - Related Language Search
 - -Related Semantic Search (synonym)
 - Knowledge tool

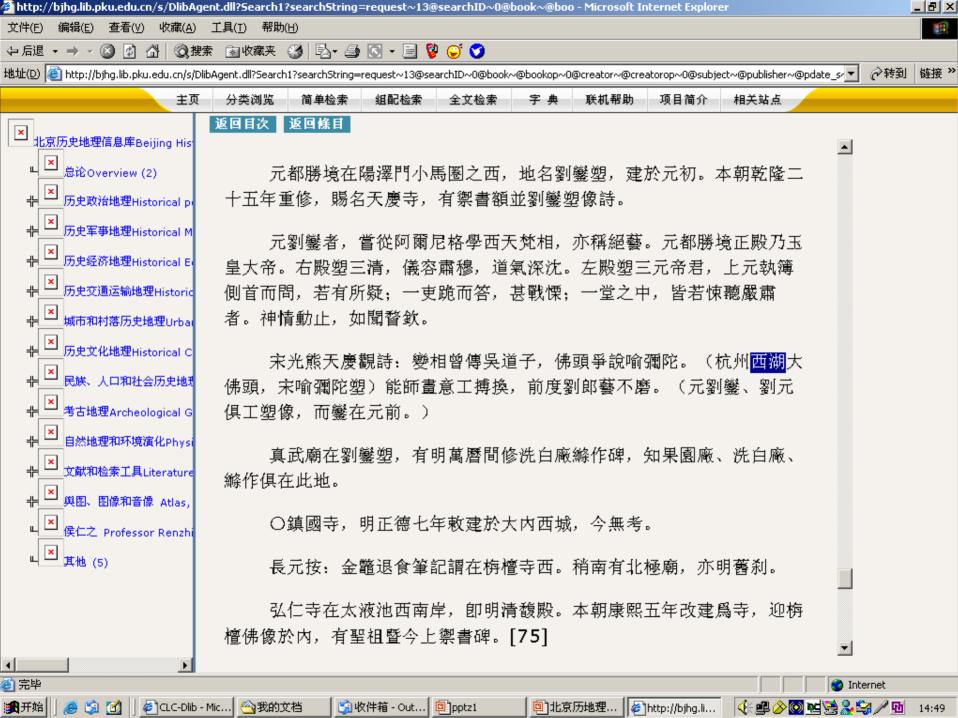


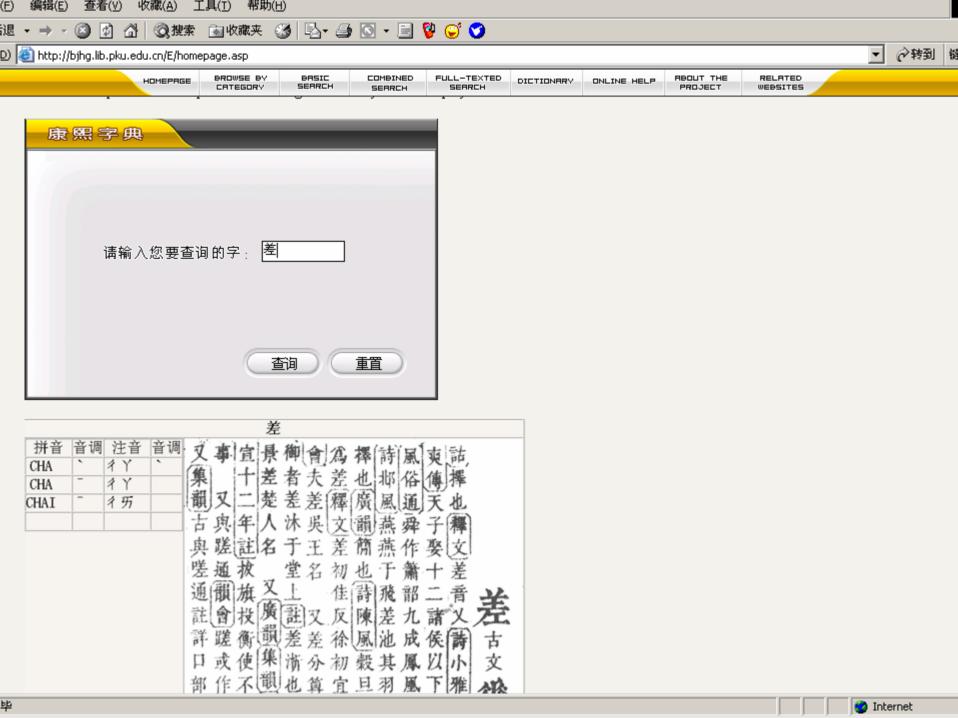












Beijing Historical Geography Database

- Different language interfaces suit the users' needs in different language environments.
 - Simplified Chinese
 - Traditional Chinese
 - English



項目簡介

北京歷史地理數據庫(一期)是由北京大學圖書館和香港大學圖書館共同開發的、集文字、圖像、音像和互聯網資源為一體的專題數據庫。本項目得到著名歷史地理專家侯仁之院士及北京大學歷史地理研究所的學術指導和幫助,由書同文數字化技術有限公司開發系統軟件並負責全部文獻的數字化。

項目緣起

2000年11月,侯仁之院士在北京大學圖書館報告廳為北京大學和台灣大學歷史地理專業師生作了「北京市都市發展與變遷」的專題講座。該講座深入淺出、論述精當,被海峽兩岸歷史地理學專家譽為經典。北大圖書館還為講座特別製作了多媒體資料,豐富和提高了歷史地理學科的時空表現力。講座之後,圖書館聽取了北大師生建議,決定利用先進的數字化及網絡技術,組織和加工與北京歷史地理相關的北大館藏文獻和其他信息資源,建設非商業性的、非贏利的北京歷史地理數據庫。香港大學圖書館的彭仁賢館長和譚惠康副館長也非常支持北大館的想法,他們以港大圖書館和北大圖書館的名義,向香港大學教研發展基金申請到30萬港元的資助,和北大共同開發和研製了本數據庫。

項目特色

『北京歷史地理數據庫』是一個研究型的專題數據庫,揭示的是與北京歷史地理相關的研究成果和信息資源,涵蓋了北京環境變遷、物產資源、經濟、政治、建築、聚落、道路交通、文物古跡、科學技術等方方面面。現提供三千萬字的全文資料、百餘幅地圖、千餘張圖片和少量影像資料供北大、港大兩校師生使用。

數據庫系統軟件使用的是書同文公司的「數碼翰林」。其功能豐富、操作簡易,具有如下特點:

- 采用Unicode文字平臺,實現中、英、日、韓等多文種並存的處理。
- 文獻底層采用了XML、RDF進行結構性標識,元數據采用Dublin Core進行組織,使其資源的再利用及數據交換共享性得到最好髮揮。





About the Project

Jointly constructed by Peking University Library and University of Hong Kong Libraries, Beijing Historical Geography Database (BHG Database, Phase I) is a subject-oriented database containing texts, images, audio-visual and internet resources. The project received scholarly guidance and assistance from Professor Hou Renzhi, an authority on the historical geography of Beijing and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Historical Geography Institute of Beijing University. Digitalization and software development were carried out by Beijing Unihan Digital Technology Co., Ltd.

Origin of the Project

Professor and Academician Hou Renzhi delivered a series of lectures on "Urban Development and Changes in Beijing" to faculty members and students specialized in historical geography from Peking University and Taiwan University in November 2000 at PKU library Auditorium. The lectures were insightful and yet easy to understand, and have been regarded as a classic by historical geographers across Taiwan Straits. PKU library prepared supplementary multi-media references for the lectures, allowing a vivid presentation of historic geographic materials. After the lectures, at the suggestion of the students at Peking University, PKU library decided to construct a non-commercial, non-profit BHG Database from the relevant library collections and information from other sources employing modern digital and networking technologies. The idea was supported by Dr. Tony Ferguson, Librarian of University of Hong Kong Libraries, and Mr. Lawrence Wai Hong Tam, Deputy Librarian of the university. They secured a grant of HK\$ 300,000 from HKU Foundation Seed Grants Allocation and joined PUL in developing the Database.

Characteristics of the Project

毕

Beijing Historical Geography Database is a research and subject-oriented database. It presents research achievements and information resources related to the historical geography of Beijing, covering Beijing's environmental changes, material resources, economy, politics, architecture, village, transportation, cultural monuments and relics, science and technologies, etc. Currently, it can provide 30 million words of fulltext, more than one hundred maps and one thousand images, and a few videos for users at Peking

China Studies in the West have become an area of great interest in both China and the West.

In the West

- One of the fastest growing disciplines;
- International students studying Chinese has been increasing by 15% every year.

In China

- Influence of the findings of by the findings of Western China Studies
- Centers for International China studies

Rich collections of China Studies in the West in the libraries of PKU & HKU

- Peking University Library
 - Collections of Western Oriental Studies
 - Originated from a special collection at Yenching University, which was a donation by James White Bashford;
 - **-10,000** volumes.

Miang Da 向达 (1900-1966)

- Thousand years of the tartars, 千年鞑靼史 Parker, E. H., New York: A.A.Knopf, 1924;
- Preliminary report on a journey of Archaeological and topographical exploration in Chinese Turkestan M. Aurel Stein, 1862-1943 斯坦因西域考古记
- Yuan Tongli 袁同礼 (1895-1965)
- China in Western literature, A continuation of Cordier's Bibliotheca Sinica (1921-1957), Far Eastern Publications, Yale University, New Haven, 1958

University of Hong Kong Libraries

- Morrison Collection
- contains 2,734 volumes and is part of the western rare book collection
- Becomes a part of collection of HKU since1925

- University of Hong Kong Libraries
 - Hankow Collection
 - **-** >4000 volumes

- >1000 volumes of the important pre-1911 works of China Studies by westerners, including
 - travel and exploration books by foreigners who came to China in the 16th century,
 - sinology works by foreign missionaries in the 17th and 18th centuries,
 - sinology works by experts and researchers from the late 19th to the early 20th century.

➤ Books will be digitalized in Beijing (cost factor).

- Digitalization companies will be contracted for the project.
 - rare books

- Books for the project will come from collections in PKU, HKU, National Library and other libraries in Beijing.
- ➤ Book selection and subject cataloguing will be done by invited professors from both PKU and HKU.

- Both PKU and HKU librarians will be responsible for technical plans, standards and quality control of the project.
 - software for digitization
 - software for fulltexted search database
 - indexing, subject headings, descriptive cataloging
 - synonym

Budget

Items	Quantity	Cost
		(yuan)
SCAN &	1000 volumes, 400 pages/per	450,000
OCR	book	
Full-text		100,000
search		
software		
Others	conferences, consulting,	190,000
	indexing, cataloging,	
	allowance for business trip etc.	
Total		740,000

Preliminary work

- >HKU's test
- >PKU's proposal for discussion



List of illustrations

Cook's house, Canton

Bird made of hard pottery? Length 6 1/8 in.

Doorway in Shanghai

Gateway, native city of Shanghai





(E)



The irregular lanes which function as streets, with the filth and noise of these overcrowded communities are intolerable to our race, and one,



Gateway, native city of Shanghai

therefore, finds at Shanghai, Canton, Tientsin, and

Preliminary work

- >HKU's test
- >PKU's proposal for discussion

Proposed Calendar of Events

- > 2004 Finalize proposal/participants
- > 2004-5 Seek funding
- > 2005 Begin digitization

Thank you!