

Morten Schlütter  
The University of Iowa  
Department of Religious Studies

### **Electronic Databases of Secular Sources Useful for the Study of Chinese Religion**

Rev. 2, November 2007.

This is a preliminary list, with some discussion, of different databases of Chinese primary sources with full-text search functions (collections that do not allow for full-text searches are not included). Please help make the information presented here more complete; send corrections and additions to [morten-schlutter@uiowa.edu](mailto:morten-schlutter@uiowa.edu).

Some of the information in the following is based on Peter Bol and Hilde De Weerd, *Song Research Tools* ([sunsite.utk.edu/songtool/index.html](http://sunsite.utk.edu/songtool/index.html)); and Endymion Wilkinson, *Chinese History: A Manual*, Cambridge, Mass., 2000, published by the Harvard University Asia Center for the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

#### FOUR MAJOR DATABASES:

There are currently four major databases of Chinese primary sources available; each contains thousands of texts, including historical, philosophical and literary works and anthologies, in addition to local gazetteers, miscellaneous writings (*biji* 筆記), encyclopedias, and some Buddhist and Daoist texts.

*Wenyuange Siku quanshu dianziban* 文淵閣四庫全書電子版

<http://www.sikuquanshu.com>

A well-functioning database of the 3,471 texts included in the imperial *Siku quanshu* project (completed in 1782). In addition to being fully digitized, in the “professional edition” each page from the original has been photographically reproduced so that users can check the original (and find page numbers). The intranet version subscribed to by a number of US universities only works in Internet Explorer on a PC (not functional on a Macintosh).

*Zhongguo jiben guji ku* 中國基本古籍庫

[http://www.er07.com/article/news\\_index.jsp?typeId=23](http://www.er07.com/article/news_index.jsp?typeId=23)

(---<http://www.cn-classics.com>, the official website for this database, is currently not operating)

This database was developed at Beijing University and is by far the most comprehensive: with 10,000 individual works and collections it is three times larger than the *Siku quanshu*. It includes photographic images of the original texts as well as full-text search capabilities, and appears to be based on early print editions. Unfortunately, access to the database is prohibitively expensive at 1 million yuan (US\$134,000+), and currently it seems no US educational institution subscribes to it.

*Zhongyang yanjiuyuan Hanji dianzi wenxian* 中央研究院漢籍電子文獻

<http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~tdbproj/handy1/>

The *Scripta Sinica* from the Academia Sinica in Taiwan offers access to a number of texts not included in the *Siku quanshu*. Some text collections can be accessed for free (most notably the 25 dynastic histories, but also a small collection that includes the Japanese monk Ennin's 圓仁 (794-864+) Chinese diary); the bulk of the database, however, is for subscribers only. Most of the digitized texts are from modern punctuated editions, and matches give exact references to the printed source editions.

—An Excel file entitled *Sui zhi Songdai yishou ziliao dianzihua yilan* 隋至宋代一手資料電子化一覽 which lists historical works dating from the Sui through the Song dynasties contained in each of the three databases above can be found at <http://www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~twsung/data/02/data02frame.php>.

*Guoxue baodian* 國學寶典 <http://www.guoxue.com/>

This is a subscriber database that is somewhat larger than the *Siku quanshu*. Texts included have modern punctuation and are in abbreviated characters; there are no page numbers or references to print editions. CD-ROMs with select collections are sold separately (PC only). A subset of the database is available for free at the website, although it is difficult to search individual texts or even to find them. Some collections important for Chinese religious studies are included, such as the *Quan Tang wen* 全唐文 and the *Zutang ji* 祖堂集 (can be accessed for free at [www.guoxue.com/wenxian/wxji/qtw/ml.htm](http://www.guoxue.com/wenxian/wxji/qtw/ml.htm), and [www.guoxue.com/fujiaopoem/zutangji/ztjml.htm](http://www.guoxue.com/fujiaopoem/zutangji/ztjml.htm), respectively).

#### SMALLER, BUT IMPORTANT, COLLECTIONS:

*Sibu congkan dianziban* 四部叢刊電子版

<http://www.unihan.com.cn/book/sortinfo.asp?ClassID=4>

This is a digitization of the 1919-1936 *Sibu congkan*, a collection which is well-known for its photographic reproductions of the earliest available editions of the texts included. Users can shift between scanned images of the original print version and the digitized text. Available in a single user edition on CD-ROM or through online subscription.

*Zhongguo lidai shike shiliao huibian* 中國歷代石刻史料匯編

<http://www.unihan.com.cn/book/sortinfo.asp?ClassID=4>

This is a very valuable database of over 1000 collections of stele inscriptions, which can be viewed both as digitized text and original scanned images. Available on CD-ROM (PC only, about \$750).

*Shitong* 十通 <http://www.unihan.com.cn/book/sortinfo.asp?ClassID=4>

The Ten encyclopedic histories of institutions, an important collection of sources for Chinese institutional history, ranging from the Tang through the Qing, digitized by the same company as the two collections above, and presumably with the same features.

古今圖書集成 <http://www.ttsgroup.com.tw/cebook.htm#>

Synthesis of books and illustrations past and present, produced 1726-1728. Available, it seems, on both CD-ROM, on-line and intranet. NOT SEEN, MORE INFORMATION NEEDED.

National Palace Museum Online Image Database

<http://www.airiti.com/npmoln/>

This database offers high-quality images of items held by the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan. The collection includes 1500 paintings and 490 pieces of Buddhist art with inscriptions and seals highlighted. For larger institutions the first year subscription fee is \$8100, and \$2700 in subsequent years.

#### OTHER USEFUL (AND FREE) PROJECTS:

*Gugong "Hanquan" gudian wenxian jiansuo ziliao ku*

故宮【寒泉】古典文獻全文檢索資料庫

<http://210.69.170.100/s25/index.htm>; <http://libnt.npm.gov.tw/s25/index.htm>

A freely accessible small collection of important texts such as the *Zhuzi yulei* 朱子語類, provided by the Palace Museum in Taipei. The digitized texts are from modern punctuated editions.

*The Ming-Qing Women's Writings Digitization Project*

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/mingqing/chinese/index.htm>

Over 100 texts included, can be searched in a number of different ways.

*Yifan shuku* 亦凡书库

<http://www.shuku.net/dblx/html/0/8-2-0.html>;

<http://www.yifan.net/yihe/novels/cnovel.html>

Has a number of digitized traditional novels and plays, in simplified characters with modern punctuation. Not easily downloadable or searchable. No references to printed editions.

*Chinese Philosophical Etext Archive at Wesleyan University*

<http://sangle.web.wesleyan.edu/etext/index.html>

Text related to Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism. Most can be found elsewhere, but here freely accessible.

*Dianzi ban Hanji wenku* 電子版漢籍文庫

<http://www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/%7Edokisha/text-archive.html>

Not many texts here, and most can be found elsewhere in better editions, but they can be downloaded in zipped format (such as the novel *Roupu tuan* 肉布團).