



Searching for Chinese history journals online

Chinese history journals online

Ka Wai Fan

Chinese Civilisation Center, City University of Hong Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong

603

Abstract

Purpose – Based on the author's experience, this paper aims to provide tips for finding Chinese history journals on the web.

Design/methodology/approach – After reviewing a total of four portals, the author points out the challenge faced by searchers. The author provides six searching tips, including terms, databases, organizations, institutes, universities and publishers, for finding Chinese history journals online.

Findings – By following the hints provided by the author, most Chinese history journals can be found online and readers will be able to find full-text articles or citations that will facilitate their research. In addition, examples are given to show how to catalogue online Chinese journals when building up an electronic library.

Practical implications – Contains very useful hints for librarians and researchers planning to build up an electronic library for China studies.

Originality/value – This paper offers practical help to librarians and researchers building up web sites or electronic libraries for China studies.

Keywords History, Electronic journals, Catalogues, China

Paper type Viewpoint

Introduction

With an economy scheduled to surpass Japan's in the next decade, a growing political influence, and artists, writers, and performers appearing with greater frequency on international stages, China's significance has never been greater. If such early innovations as the compass, gunpowder, silk textiles, paper, and moveable-type print established the country's importance centuries ago, a huge manufacturing capacity and the remarkable hybrid of socialism with a market economy continue to hold the world's attention. The most modern of research tools can help us to see the continuities between tradition and modernity in contemporary China.

The worldwide web is increasingly used in conjunction with research, to share information, and to publicize projects and organizations (Herring, 2001). At the same time, the ability to sift through the ever-increasing amounts of information made available online to find reliable and accurate data is becoming more important every day. More scholars, researchers, and students obtain academic information from internet resources every day to further their own research. Fairly quickly they understand that the rigorous standards of academic scholarship cannot be satisfied by a simple Yahoo! search: the vast quantity of undifferentiated material such a search yields must frustrate those longing for truth.

Instead of relying on the well-known commercial search engines, scholars turn to websites maintained by academic institutions that guarantee a degree of reliability. Sites maintained by academic journals permit one to search for the newest research



information, whether in Chinese, English, or Japanese. Such sites also help scholars obtain more information about which journals might be appropriate publishers of their own work. In what follows, tips, based on my experience, are provided for finding Chinese history journals on the web. The URLs for the portals, journals, databases and organizations are provided in Appendix 1.

Four portals

After trying a number of Chinese history searches on a range of academic sites, I have concluded that four popular portal sites – one Chinese and three English – are very good. The Shixue Lianxian site, maintained by Professor Liu Zenggui of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, was established in March 1997. Liu has divided online Chinese history resources into 15 categories, of which one is journals. In addition to providing links to Chinese history websites in Chinese, English, and Japanese, Shixue Lianxian provides links to online journals of world history and Chinese history, though unfortunately the journals are only categorized by language and it only has 25 Chinese history journals.

The second portal, Asian & Pacific Studies Electronic Journals, is part of the World-Wide Web Virtual Library. The site provides links to 121 journals, addressing the entirety of Asian studies, not only Chinese history. The site lists all journals in alphabetical order: thanks to the large number of titles, this is quite time-consuming and a bit frustrating for the novice researcher.

The Internet Guide for Chinese Studies, edited by Hanno Lecher, is also part of the World-Wide Web Virtual Library. The site provides links to ten journals in its history category, identifying comprehensive journals first and then the journals that focus on specific periods, in chronological order. It is often helpful to search through the listings in the non-history categories, since many specialized journals publish material of interest to scholars of history.

A portal maintained by Professor Chen Shuang (PRC scholars), Guo Shi Tan Wei, provides links to a number of PRC journals and helpfully identifies their focus with categories such as “Ming-Qing period”, “historical geography”, and so on.

The classification of history journals is not always easy. Many publish articles from a range of periods and few are rigorous about publishing only in such neatly defined fields as economic history and intellectual history. A single journal might just as easily be called a history journal as a sociology journal. As a result some portal sites list only a small number of journals in their history section. Secondly, while many journals publish research on Chinese history, the journals’ names rarely include the word “history”. If you are not already familiar with the journals it can be challenging to identify those that might be useful. Finally, journals devoted to Chinese history are published in many different areas, in different languages, using different writing systems, all of which must be interpreted by the computer one uses to view the sites: this can be a challenge.

Searching tips

Terms

While in Asia the materials for which you will be searching are always categorized under “history”, in Western countries you will need to consider such rubrics as “East

Asian”, “Asian studies”, and “sinology”. I have listed below a number of the leading English-language journals publishing Chinese history articles:

- *Asian Studies Newsletter*;
- *Newsletter of East Asian Art and Archaeology*;
- *The European Association of Chinese Studies Newsletter*;
- *East Asian History*;
- *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*;
- *European Journal of East Asian Studies*;
- *Journal of Asian History*;
- *Asia Major*;
- *Journal of Asian Studies*; and
- *Artibus Asiae: The Journal of Asian Art and Archaeology*.

On Japanese websites, “*Tōyō shi*” and “*Toho shi*” mean East Asian history and Oriental history, respectively. At most Japanese universities Chinese history is studied in the “Department of *Tōyō shi*”. The most prestigious Chinese history journal in Japan is *Tōyō shi kenkyū* (*East Asian History Studies*). (Fan, 2003) I have listed below a number of the leading Japanese-language journals publishing Chinese history articles:

- *Eastern Studies*;
- *Toho Gakuho*;
- *The Journal of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko*;
- *Acta Asiatica: Bulletin of the Institute of Eastern Culture*;
- *Oriental Culture*;
- *The Memories of the Institute of Oriental Culture*; and
- *The Journal of Oriental Researchers*.

When searching for Chinese history journals on Chinese websites, it is essential to include the term “history” in the search. Additionally, there is no reason not to add “culture” and “studies”. In Hong Kong three journals largely devoted to Chinese history all have the word “culture” or “studies” in their titles: *Chinese Culture Quarterly*, *Journal of Chinese Studies* and *Journal of Oriental Studies*. Finally, including in one’s search the names of imperial China’s dynasties, such as Han, Tang, Song, Ming, and Qing, also produces fruitful results.

Databases

Online databases available by subscription are another excellent means of locating Chinese history journals. WangFang Database provides subscribers with full-text searchability of a large number of Chinese-language journals. While most of this site’s offerings are in the science field, the text of eight history journals, including *Qingshi yanjiu* (*Studies in Qing History*) and *Shi xue yue kan* (*Historical Monthly*), is also available to subscribers; tables of contents may be searched by non-subscribers for free.

China National Knowledge Infrastructure permits journal articles published in mainland China to be searched for a fee. The journals are categorized according to topic and some contents are available to the public for free. If one searches the site from a computer at a subscribed library, journal articles can be downloaded and printed. (Note that the subscriber must first download the CNKI reader software.) By my count, the database includes more than 65 history journals, such as *Zhongguo shi yanjiu* (*Studies in Chinese History*) and *Lishi yanjiu* (*History Studies*).

PerioPath: Index to Chinese Periodical Literature was created and is maintained by the National Central Library, Taiwan. PerioPath collects articles published between 1994 and the present in approximately 2,600 Chinese-language and Western-language periodicals published in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. A total of 157 Chinese history and geography journals are divided into 25 categories. The database is searchable by article title, author, class code (i.e. category), keyword, journal title, and publication date. The site provides access to most of the important Chinese history journals published in Taiwan, including *Xin shixue* (*New History*), the *Newsletter for Ming Studies*, and *Ming-Qing Studies*.

JSTOR (Journal STORage), funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is a digital archive of over 100 core scholarly journals. It covers 15 subjects, mainly in the humanities and social sciences. Users at participating institutions can search, browse, save, and print any article from the collection. JSTOR's Asian studies section includes three Chinese history journals: *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, the *Journal of Asian Studies*, and the *Far Eastern Quarterly*.

Organizations

The aim of historical associations is to bring together scholars who share research interests, to organize meetings, to publish professional newsletters and journals, and to exchange scholarly information. Websites maintained by historical organizations often provide links to their online journals. Below are listed the names of the leading academic associations that address Chinese history, followed by the titles of the journals they publish.

- Association for Asian Studies – *Journal of Asian Studies* and *Asian Studies Newsletter*;
- American Oriental Society – *Journal of the American Oriental Society*;
- The Society for East Asian Archaeology – *The Journal of East Asian Archaeology*;
- The Society for the Study of Early China – *Early China*;
- The Early Medieval China Group – *Early Medieval China*;
- The T'ang Studies Society – *T'ang Studies*;
- The Society for Sung, Yuan, and Conquest Dynasties – *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies*;
- The Society for Ming Studies – *Ming Studies*;
- Group for Ming Studies – *Ming shi yanjiu* (*Studies in Ming History*);
- The Japan Association for Modern China Studies – *Gendai chugoku* (*Modern China*);

- International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine – *East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine*;
- The Society for Historical Studies of Chinese Women – *The Journal of Historical Studies of Chinese Women*; and
- The International Institute for Asian Studies – *The International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter*.

Institutes

In mainland China and Taiwan there are official academic institutes devoted to the study of history. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (*Zhongguo shehui kexue yuan*), located in Beijing, has an Institute of History and an Institute of Modern History. The Institute of History publishes *Zhongguo shi yanjiu* (*Studies of Chinese History*) and the Institute of Modern History publishes *Jindaishi yanjiu* (*Studies of Modern Chinese History*). A group at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (*Zhongguo kexue yuan*), the Institute for the History of the Natural Sciences, publishes *Zi ran ke xue shi yan jiu* (*Studies in the History of the Natural Sciences*) and *Zhongguo ke ji shi liao* (*Chinese Historical Materials on Science and Technology*).

Taiwan's preeminent research institute, *Zhongyang yanjiu yuan* (Academia Sinica), has two history institutes, the Institute of History and Philology and the Institute of Modern History, where scholars research China's past from the ancient period to the Chinese Revolution. The former publishes the *Bulletin of the Institute of Philology and History* and *Past and Present*; the latter publishes the *Bulletin of the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica*, *Research on Women in Modern Chinese History*, and the *Newsletter for Modern Chinese History*. The Center for Chinese Studies, also based in Taiwan, publishes several renowned journals, including *Chinese Studies* and the *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies*. Both in Taiwan and in mainland China, art museums publish their own journals: the most important are the journals published by the *Gugong Bowuguan* (Palace Museum) in both areas.

Universities

In Taiwan many university history departments publish their own journals. Often the tables of contents of these journals can be viewed online and in some cases articles can be read and downloaded without charge. A partial list of Taiwanese universities that publish history journals includes National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, Soochow University, National Cheng Kung University, National ChengChi University, National ChungHsing University, and National Chung Cheng University. Hong Kong's Lingnan University publishes its *Lingnan Journal* online free of charge.

Publishers

For business purposes, publishers see to it that their journals have websites. The portfolios of a number of big publishers, including The Netherlands' Brill, have a staggering array of titles in the China field: *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity*, *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Historiography East and West*, *Journal of East Asian Archaeology*, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *T'oung Pao*, and *Nan Nu: Men, Women and Gender in Early and Imperial China*. Cambridge

University Press publishes the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *The China Quarterly*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* and *Modern China Studies*. All of these titles can be searched on such subscription databases as Ingenta, SwetsWise and Academic Search Premier Publications.

Conclusion

Most Chinese history journals can now be found online, and by following the hints given above readers will be able to find full-text articles or citations that will facilitate their research. Chinese history journals can be divided into four types:

- (1) newsletters;
- (2) non-specialized;
- (3) period specific; and
- (4) thematic (for example, addressing disciplines such as archaeology, gender, history of science, medicine, religion, and historical geography).

Within each of the types are journals published in English, Chinese, and Japanese. Librarians designing online research resources for history researchers are encouraged to look carefully at online subscription services to avoid redundancy and gaps in their services. Since many journals are available online free of charge, librarians concerned with keeping costs down should encourage researchers to use these. When adding online journals and databases to the library catalogue, librarians ought to include the following: title, language, publisher, URL, e-mail, database (and whether the library is subscribed), and description. The description should indicate whether the website provides full-text searchability and readability or table of contents only, which issues are available and the date and number of the most recent issue (see Appendix 2).

References

- Fan, K.W. (2003), "Review on Japanese web sites for Chinese history", *The Electronic Library*, Vol. 21 No. 6, pp. 587-90.
- Herring, S.D. (2001), "Using the world wide web for research: are faculty satisfied?", *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, Vol. 27 No. 3, pp. 213-19.

Appendix 1. Websites

Four portals

- Asian & Pacific Studies Electronic Journals
URL: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVAsian/AsianE-Journals.html>
- *Guo shi tan wei*
URL: www.xiangyata.net
- Internet Guide for Chinese Studies
URL: www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/
- *Shixue Lianxian*
<http://saturn.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~liutk/shih/>

Terms

- *Acta Asiatica: Bulletin of the Institute of Eastern Culture*
URL: <http://kiyo.nii.ac.jp/articles/ncid/AA00016800.html>
- *Artibus Asiae: Journal of Asian Art and Archaeology*
<http://inside.bard.edu/~louis/artibus/>
- *Asia Major*
URL: www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~asiamajor
- *Asian Studies Newsletter*
URL: www.aasianst.org/catalog/nl.htm
- *Chinese Culture Quarterly*
URL: www.cciv.cityu.edu.hk/publication/jiuzhou/content.php
- *Contemporary China Studies*
URL: <http://modernchina.rwx.jp/magazine.htm>
- *East Asian History*
URL: <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/eah>
- *Eastern Studies*
URL: www.tohogakkai.com/tohogakumokuroku.htm
- *European Journal of East Asian Studies*
URL: <http://iris.ingentaselect.com/vl=1138569/cl=40/nw=1/rpsv/cw/brill/15680584/contp1.htm>
- *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*
Database: JSTOR, www.jstor.org/journals/00730548.html
- *Journal of Asian History*
URL: www.indiana.edu/~jahist
- *Journal of Asian Studies*
URL: www.aasianst.org/catalog/jas.htm
Database: JSTOR, www.jstor.org/journals/00219118.html
- *Journal of Chinese Studies*
URL: www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/journal
- *Journal of East Asian Archaeology*
URL: <http://iris.ingentaselect.com/vl=1138569/cl=40/nw=1/rpsv/cw/brill/13876813/contp1.htm>
- *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*
URL: <http://iris.ingentaselect.com/vl=1138569/cl=40/nw=1/rpsv/cw/brill/00224995/contp1.htm>
Database: JSTOR
- *Journal of Oriental Studies*
URL: www.hku.hk:8400/chinese/jos
- *Journal of Tang Studies*
URL: www.tangrf.org/index03.htm
URL: www.china10k.com/simp/main/book/book19.htm
- *Newsletter East Asian Art and Archaeology*
URL: www.umich.edu/~hartspc/NEAAA/issue75/75NEAAA.html
- *Newsletter for Modern Chinese History*
URL: www.sinica.edu.tw/imh/book/bk-china.html

- *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies*
URL: http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/paper_b.html
- *Oriental Culture*
URL: <http://kiyo.nii.ac.jp/articles/ncid/AN00170835.html>
URL: www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/pub/bunka.html
- *The European Association of Chinese Studies Newsletter*
URL: www.soas.ac.uk/eacs/news1/index.htm
- *The Journal of Oriental Researchers*
URL: <http://kiyo.nii.ac.jp/articles/ncid/AN00170019.html>
- *The Journal of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko*
URL: www.nii.ac.jp/kiyo-portal/sokuho/articles/VAN00169858.html
- *The Memories of the Institute of Oriental Culture*
URL: <http://kiyo.nii.ac.jp/articles/ncid/AN00170926.html>
- *Toho Gakuho*, Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University
URL: www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/db/gakuho.html
URL: <http://kiyo.nii.ac.jp/articles/ncid/AN00167025.html>

Databases

- China National Knowledge Infrastructure
URL: www.cnki.com.cn/index.htm
- JSTOR
URL: www.jstor.org/jstor/
- New History
Database: PerioPath
URL: <http://saturn.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~huangkc/nhist>
- PerioPath: Index to Chinese Periodical Literature
URL: www2.read.com.tw/cgi/ncl3/m_ncl3
- WangFang Database
www.wanfangdata.com.cn
- *Zhongguo shi yan jiu*
URL: www.china10k.com/simp/main/book/book2.htm
Database: China National Knowledge Infrastructure
- *Zhongguo shi yan jiu dong tai (Newsletter for Study of Chinese History)*
URL: www.cass.cn/y_qkzz/qkzz_06lk/qkzz_06_05.htm (Introduction page)
URL: www.china10k.com/simp/main/book/book3.htm (table of contents, 2000 only)
Database: China National Knowledge Infrastructure

Organizations

- American Oriental Society
URL: www.umich.edu/~aos
- Association for Asian Studies
URL: www.aasianst.org
- *Bulletin of the Sinological Society of Japan*
URL: <http://kiyo.nii.ac.jp/articles/ncid/AN00195246.html>
URL: <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/ssj3/utf8/mokurokuJ.html>

- *Early China*
URL: www.lib.uchicago.edu/earlychina/publications/ecjournal
- *Gendai chugoku*
URL: <http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jamcs/back-number.html>
- Group for Ming Studies
URL: <http://staff.pccu.edu.tw/~chihhowu/>
- *Early Medieval China*
URL: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/cchenna/journal
- *East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine*
URL: www.uni-tuebingen.de/sinologie/eastm
- *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies*
URL: www.humanities.uci.edu/eastasian/SungYuan/JSYS/
- *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
URL: www.umich.edu/%7Eaos/frntmtr.htm
- *Late Imperial China*
URL: www.press.jhu.edu/journals/late_imperial_china/
- *Ming shi yanjiu*
URL: http://staff.pccu.edu.tw/~chihhowu/new_page_20.htm
- *Ming Studies*
URL: <http://cla.umn.edu/farmer/ming.htm>
- *Modern China: An International Quarterly of History and Social Science*
URL: www.sagepub.com/journal.aspx?pid=59
Datbase: JSTOR
URL: www.isop.ucla.edu/eas/modchina/
- *T'ang Studies*
URL: www.colorado.edu/ealld/tss/Tang.htm
URL: www.tangrf.org/data/articles/a02/103.html
- The Early Medieval China Group
URL: www.usc.edu/isd/archives/arc/libraries/eastasian/china/earlymedieval.html
- The International Institute for Asian Studies
URL: <http://iias.leidenuniv.nl>
- The International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter
URL: www.iias.nl/iiasn/newslet.html
- The Japan Association for Modern China Studies
URL: <http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jamcs/index.html>
- *The Journal of Historical Studies on Chinese Women*
URL: <http://homepage3.nifty.com/chinesewomen/backnumbers.html>
- The Society for East Asian Archaeology
URL: www.ancienteasia.org/archives/seaa.htm
- The Society of Historical Studies on Chinese Women
URL: <http://homepage3.nifty.com/chinesewomen/hyoushi.html>
- The Society for the Study of Early China
URL: www.lib.uchicago.edu/earlychina/

EL
23,5

612

Institutes

- *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology*
URL: www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~bihp/
- *Bulletin of the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica*
URL: www.sinica.edu.tw/imh/book/bk-pub2-1.html
- *Chinese Studies*
URL: http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/paper_b.html
- *Palace Museum Journal*
URL: www.dpm.org.cn/china/phoweb/asp/yuankan.asp
- The Center for Chinese Studies
URL: <http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/>
- The Chinese Academy of Social Science
URL: www.cass.net.cn/webnew/index.asp
- The Institute for History of the Natural Sciences
URL: www.ihns.ac.cn/
- The Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica
URL: www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/
- The Institute of Modern History Academia Sinica
URL: www.sinica.edu.tw/imh/index.html

Universities

- History Department, National Chen Kung University
URL: www.ncku.edu.tw/%7Ehistory/chinese/
- History Department, National ChengChi University
URL: www.history.nccu.edu.tw/
- History Department, National Chung Cheng University
URL: www.nchu.edu.tw/%7Ehistory/page1.htm
- History Department, National Taiwan University
URL: www-ms.cc.ntu.edu.tw/~history/
- History Department, National Taiwan Normal University
URL: www.his.ntnu.edu.tw
- History Department, Soochow University
URL: www.scu.edu.tw/history
- *Lingnan Journal*
URL: <http://lib1000.ln.edu.hk/etext/lnuj/>

Publishers

- Brill
URL: www.brill.nl
- Cambridge University Press
URL: <http://uk.cambridge.org>

Appendix 2. sample descriptions

Example 1

Chinese Studies

Language: Chinese and English

Publisher: Center for Chinese Studies, Taiwan

URL: <http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/paper.html>

E-mail: lckeng@msg.ncl.edu.tw

Description: Full-texts free download from Vol. 18 No. 1 (June 2000) to Vol. 21 No. 2 (December 2003). Tables of contents from all issues.

The Center, managed by the National Central Library, promotes Chinese studies, encourages cooperation and exchange among Sinologists in Taiwan and abroad, and provides research services. *Chinese Studies* is an international periodical with a focus on Chinese literature, history, and philosophy, written in both Chinese and English. *Chinese Studies* is a semi-annual publication, with issues coming out each June and December. Its content consists of articles, issues, and book reviews.

Example 2

Journal of Asian Studies

Language: English

Publisher: The Association for Asian Studies

URL: www.aasianst.org/catalog/jas.htm

E-mail: jasianst@umn.edu

Database: JSTOR (URL: www.jstor.org/journals/03636917.html), subscribed

Description: Selected articles free download. Tables of contents from Vol. 60 No. 1 (February 2001) to Vol. 63 No. 2 (May 2004).

The Association for Asian Studies, publisher of the *Journal of Asian Studies*, is the largest society of its kind in the world. The Association aims to “facilitate contact and an exchange of information among scholars to increase their understanding of East, South, and Southeast Asia”. *Journal of Asian Studies* publishes articles on topics involving the history, arts, social sciences, philosophy, and contemporary issues of East, South, and Southeast Asia, and has a large book review section.

(Ka Wai Fan is a full-time Lecturer in the Chinese Civilisation Center at the City University of Hong Kong as well as a part-time Assistant Professor in the School of Chinese Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his PhD, MPhil, and BA all from the Department of History, Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research interests include the history of Chinese medicine and ancient Chinese history. He has written several publications on both Chinese medicine and Chinese history. He can be contacted at: cikwfan@cityu.edu.hk)