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This paper aims to explore the current status of Internet Resources on Chinese studies among East Asian Libraries in the US. The author examined Internet Resources on Chinese Studies at the websites of 35 libraries by collecting data on the number of unique links, the kinds of websites included, the arrangement and classification of resources, the content and commonalities of the most frequently cited websites. Lists of link popularity are also compiled to illustrate the current status of Internet Resources on Chinese Studies. Finally, a number of recommendations are proposed for further research.

**Headings:**

Chinese Studies -- Internet Resources

Internet -- College and University Libraries

Websites -- Evaluation

East Asian Libraries

Internet Resources on Chinese Studies in East Asian Libraries of US, an Analysis of  
Links, Content and Organization

by  
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## **Introduction**

With the rapid growth of information technology, Internet has been proving its vast capacity to provide scholarly resources. In the academic world, the popularity and utility of the Internet for current, informal personal and professional communications are so well acknowledged that Internet resources have gradually become indispensable part of information resources on academic library's website. "Some faculty, staff and students genuinely enjoy cruising the net and serendipitously discovering useful information resources" according to Demas (1995), but many other researchers may not have the time browsing endless pages or feel frustrated with many incomplete and poorly-maintained sites. Thus, academic libraries are taking the initiative to assist their patrons in making effective use of the Internet resources and integrate them into library collections. It is becoming a trend among academic and public libraries that besides traditional OPAC (library online catalog), libraries also start to provide access to web-based "ready reference" tools on their institutional web pages.

Special collections such as East Asian Libraries or collections housed under the big "umbrella" of institutional libraries also create new pages dedicated to Internet resources. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in sinology studies on university campuses in the United States, inspired by the expanding trade relations with China and China's increasing economic and political influence in the world. Courses in Chinese studies have been added to the curricula of many universities, forming the nucleus of

their Asian studies programs. To meet such great knowledge demand, Chinese bibliographers who traditional serve the liaison between library and the academic program are also keeping up the paces in times of information explosion. They have expanded their role in selecting print material to adopting web-based resources. According to the statistics released by Internet World Stat (2005), after English (32% of web visitors) the most-requested languages on the world are Chinese (13%). Facing the ocean of Chinese language websites, some Chinese bibliographers in East Asian Libraries in the U.S. have taken on great responsibilities of sifting through the mishmash of information and sorting out valuable resources worth delivering as part of library resources. With the use of Chinese language processing devices, some priceless primary resources, such as collections of ancient texts and images are disseminated as open source information. Building up Internet resources of Chinese studies and constantly enriching it has been an ongoing project for many East Asian Libraries in US.

This paper aims to explore the current status of Internet Resources on Chinese studies among East Asia Libraries in US academic institutions. It attempts to find out what role it plays in the libraries' websites and how those WWW sites are selected, organized and presented by these libraries. Finally, a brief list of most frequently selected website will be "sorted out" along with the common characteristics found among them. It is in the author's hope that the methods for developing efficient identification, evaluation and organization of Internet resources for Chinese studies inducted from this study will not only inspire more Chinese librarians to continue exploring this particular area, but also

guide our patrons to better identify and utilize Internet resources by themselves when conducting research on Chinese studies.

## **Literature Review**

### *Internet Resource and Academic Library*

Internet has provided access to a larger range of information that could ever be made available in one given library. It is being used as an efficient medium for accessing, storing and dissemination of information worldwide. Baldwin (2000) in her study reflected back to the early 1995 and recounted the historical event that a group of librarian from the University of Michigan, School of Information developed a virtual-library, called the Internet Public library in response to the proliferation of unorganized resources on the World Wide Web. She commented on this event as a breakthrough team response to rapidly developing changes in the information world.

“Internet resource guide” have been appearing regularly in College & Research Libraries News and other library science leading journals. Louis Rosenfeld, founder of the Clearinghouse for Subject-Oriented Internet Resources Guides at the University of Michigan, edited a monographic series covering the areas of health and science, humanities, social science, business, and law. Other numerous websites by the name “best of the Web” can be found frequently as a collection of works on the Internet. Just like Demas (1995) depicted that “Internet is like gold mine...and also characterized as a flea market. One must sift through a chaotic mishmash of information lacking standards,

quality control, or guidelines to find just a few nuggets”, Internet resources are fluid, prone to change and lack of structure (Klopfer, 2005).

Nowadays, when browsing many academic library websites, users usually find web-based “ready reference” tools on their reference section pages. Among these tools, online dictionaries, telephone directories and books of quotations are popular with the public and with librarians, according to Sowards (2005). He further pointed out the challenge of identifying high-quality ready reference resources had been welcomed and embraced by librarians. Another form of Internet resources appearing on academic libraries is subject guide. For example, biology, chemistry, English literature are some of the most frequently seen subject guides compiled by librarians. Morville and Wichhorst (1996) described this category in their article that “Building a subject-oriented Internet resource guides is a challenging and time-consuming, yet highly rewarding experience. Librarians can provide a valuable service to their universities and to the global Internet community...As the quantity of Internet information resources continues to grow exponentially and one by one the search engines and Internet directories are crippled by information overload, these topical guides will become increasingly valuable in helping users to find information resources on the Internet.” Khode and Kumar (2004) also addressed on current Internet resources adopted by academic libraries, particularly those sites freely available on the web which include e-journals, e-books, online databases, encyclopedia, and virtual libraries. They argued that the rapidly increasing cost of books, journals and other reading materials and libraries’ shrinking budgets are playing big part in driving Internet to become a useful tool for accessing free information sources.

*Internet Collection Guidelines*

Samuel (1995) and his colleagues proposed in their article the methods for developing efficient and systematic identification, evaluation and selection of Internet resources. They believed that the principles and practices of selection can equally “serve to integrate this emerging electronic milieu into collection development strategies.” They generalized the following guidelines in the early age of Internet before other literatures addressed on this aspect “ 1) Testing traditional collection development methods against large bodies of networked resources; 2) Analyzing each resource to discover the extent of its conformance to time tested selection methods and the anomalies it presents; 3) On the basis of large body of actual selection decisions, detecting patterns, devising categories, and generalizing new selection criteria and methods as necessary.”

Since the including Internet resources as the important part of libraries’ websites, literatures have long been trying to establish selection criteria. Sowards (2005) concluded from published criteria for web-based ready reference resources that the combination of traditional principles of library collection development and new principles derived from web page design formed the current widely acknowledged criteria for Internet resources.

Four factors gathered by Sowards from RUSA MARS

(Reference and User Services Association Machine-Assisted Reference Section) were

“Quality, depth and usefulness of content; Currency of content; Uniqueness of content and Authority of producer” While these factors can generally apply to print format

resources, the following five factors reflect issues raised by the online medium as

synthesized by Sowards - (1) the site’s nature of being free resources; (2) the site’s being

easy to access and use; (3) the site's being efficient to access; (4) the site's being used appropriately as a medium;(5) the site's having effective customer service.

Six web site evaluation standards proposed by Collions (1996) have gained considerable attention in this field, which are "content, authority, currency organization, search engine and accessibility". Similarly, King's paper (1997) is organized around five major "considerations" which are "authority, agenda, scope, currency and accuracy". The author addressed on " authority" by suggesting the website should be " an internationally known not-for-profit organization or expert" and further commented on " agenda" that people need to ask if the sponsor is selling something or advocating an "idea or philosophy"? King emphasized that end-users must be educated to undertake their own evaluation of Web resources because, unlike material in the collection, there has been no preliminary education by a librarian.

Smith (1997) in his article proposed a set of criteria for evaluating Internet information resources. He offered a "toolbox of criteria" organized by "scope, content, graphic and multimedia design, purpose and audience, reviews, workability". A list of twenty-six specific criteria were distilled from this "toolbox" and checked against the criteria used by ten Internet evaluation site, including the Argus Clearinghouse, the Internet Public Library, and the Magellan Internet Guide. Besides the most common criteria, Sweetland's study (2000) tends to emphasize ease of access and aesthetic rather than traditional quality measures such as authority, reliability, and content.

### *Chinese Internet Resources*

In this paper, Chinese Internet resources refer to the Internet resources written in Chinese, regardless the publishing locations because Chinese is being spoken in many countries and regions in the world and used by the largest group of population world wide.

However, as the major lands of language and cultural origin, China and Taiwan form the backbone of Internet publishing on Chinese studies. A brief history of Internet development in China and Taiwan provide the background knowledge on the proliferation sinological research material via Internet. The first connection of China with Internet was established in March 28, 1988 between ICA Beijing and Karlsruhe University in Germany, initiated by Professor Werner Zorn and Professor Yufeng Wang (Zorn, 2005). The first Internet publication, the History of the Relationship between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party, was put online by Professor Guangzuo Chen at Wuhan University ( Zheng, 2001). In Zheng's presentation, she recounted several historical facts – In 1995, Shenzhou Xueren (Chinese Scholars) became the first periodical in mainland China that published an electronic edition. By 1998, more than 300 Chinese electronic newspapers and periodicals had been published in China. Nowadays, 34.82% of current periodicals published in China have online edition.

Taiwan has been actively participating in world Internet publishing. According to Ciolek's study Asia Web Watch in 1998, Taiwan was the second biggest exporters of electronic information in East Asia. (Japan ranked no.1 and South Korean followed Taiwan). The statistics showed that there were 176,836 Internet hosts in Taiwan in contrast to 16,322 hosts in mainland China. This also can be based on the fact that

Taiwan puts online more WWW documents than the total number of pages about itself. For every page about Taiwan there are nearly nine pages created in Taiwan ( Ciolek, 1999) In Ciolek's own words " it seems to be actively engaging the world" . In June 2002, Taiwan government proposed "Two-Trillion and Twin-Star" program to create the digital content one of the industries with annual production value of over NT\$1 trillion. The e-publishing and digital archiving are two big components of this program, which includes e-news, e-magazine, e-books, professional database and versatile application of digital archiving. The Internet and World Wide Web opened up the channels for dissemination of Sinological research materials world-wide. China has more than twenty national networks which connect to networks of other parts of world. CHINAPAC, CHINADDN, and CERNET are some of the most widely adopted networks (Shen, 1998). These networks speed up the exchange of documents between China and US. US researchers can easily access to the online catalogs of Chinese libraries at their own comfort or browse and find information from any website of Chinese domain. Shen mentioned the Taiwan Academic Central (TAN) provides World Wide Web access to the Academia Sinica, the National Central Library, and a variety of other web servers. Shen also commented that "the situation is similar in other Chinese language speaking communities and research institutions all over the world."

#### *East Asian Libraries in US*

"Although the history of several East Asian research collections can be traced back to the late nineteenth century, there was no significant growth of East Asian collections until the 1930s." (ACLS, 1977) After World War II, East Asian studies rapidly expanded among

US universities, which directly accelerated development of library research collections. Wu's paper (1996) gave a historical view on the origin of many East Asian libraries - Yale started in 1878, Harvard in 1879, UC-Berkeley in 1896, Cornell in 1918, Columbia in 1920, Princeton in 1926, and Chicago in 1936, their collections experienced growth at an exponential rate after 1945. Many university libraries such as those at Michigan, Hoover, and UCLA started to build up East Asian collections to meet the increasing scholarly needs of information on China, Japan and Korea (Wu, 1996). The development of East Asian research libraries in the US has been so phenomenal, according to ACLS's report, that during a 45-year period since 1930, East Asian libraries doubled their holdings almost every ten years.

Tan and Gee (2003) stated in their study that courses in Chinese history and culture added to the curricula formed the nucleus of Asian studies programs. As the importance of Chinese collections in East Asian libraries have been recognized and emphasized due to a growing global interest in sinology studies, the volume of Chinese collections in most East Asian libraries are dominantly larger than other East Asian language materials. Kamada (2002) in her article raised the concerns that East Asian libraries were getting increasing pressure to become more cost-efficient facing the university wide budgetary restraints, especially in public universities. According to Kamada, "serving customers in East Asian collection is inherently more costly than serving a larger number of customers in mainstream academic programs ... many resources are spent on running the East Asian collections, yet it benefits only a small group of people on campus."

Chinese collections as the majority of most East Asian libraries are affected inevitably in time of financial shortage. She further suggested that, other than getting funding support from outside the library, East Asian libraries should find ways within resource constraints to improve the cost-efficiency of the library processes. As a matter of fact, many East Asian librarians, including Chinese studies librarians have found alternatives to expensive print materials and proprietary electronic resources. Many free Internet resources with excellent quality in terms of content and usability have been collected by East Asian librarians to supplement the existing collections and enhance the patrons' searching experience. Troost (1997) argued that East Asian libraries need to "maintain a core collection of electronic links just as they maintain a core collection of books and serials." She also expressed her concerns that significant problems associated with creating such pages will arise as "it's time consuming to create web pages, monitor sites, evaluate contents and maintain the links".

### **Methodology**

In March 2006, the author undertook an analysis of Internet resources on Chinese studies appearing on websites of member libraries of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL). CEAL has been the professional organization for the East Asian studies librarians in North America since its formation in 1958. For the census of Chinese studies resources on the web, the author looked at 35 East Asian libraries' websites which are alphabetically listed on CEAL's official website. For practical reasons, the author gave credit to the corporate bodies that initiated and created the web resources. Therefore, the counted entry was domain-specific. For example, the site ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest, as

defined by this criteria, was Scripta Sinica [www.sinica.edu.tw](http://www.sinica.edu.tw) (中央研究院汉籍电子文献), maintained by the Academia Sinica Computer Center. This is a gateway to many sites of sub-categories. The different URLs under Sinica's domain may appear as [www.sinica.edu.tw/~tdbproj/handy1/](http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~tdbproj/handy1/), [saturn.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~wennu/ww.htm](http://saturn.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~wennu/ww.htm), [www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/index\\_page.htm](http://www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/index_page.htm).

The Appendix A identifies the top 100 Internet resources on Chinese studies most frequently included on East Asian library sites in this web survey. The URLs of government's official websites are grouped and counted as one site to represent the domain. For example, the following sites on the Chinese government's web domain are counted as one entry in the Appendix A - [www.nlc.gov.cn](http://www.nlc.gov.cn), [www.saac.gov.cn](http://www.saac.gov.cn), [www.drc.gov.cn](http://www.drc.gov.cn). The same practice applied was the Taiwan government's websites, such as [sticnet.stic.gov.tw](http://sticnet.stic.gov.tw), [www.vac.gov.tw](http://www.vac.gov.tw), [www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw). To illustrate how the specific governments' websites are collected and distributed, the author compiled another list (Appendix B) for the ranking of sites within a particular government domain. Then, domain extensions that were studied in this analysis are presented with detailed statistics in Appendix C. Finally, a general review is given on the method of resources classification.

## **Results and Discussions**

Navigating different sites of East Asian libraries proves to be an interesting journey full of little surprises. Before this web analysis, it is assumed that every CEAL member library had a web section on Internet resources on Chinese studies if they had Chinese

collections. After a thorough navigation, it is found that out of 35 East Asian libraries, ten libraries don't have pages of Internet resources on Chinese studies. Among these libraries, some were prestigious institutions with top programs in Chinese Studies. Some were libraries with relatively small collection in Chinese materials, but who placed more emphasis on East Asian studies. The rest of them have very simple web pages with only information on collection history, scale and contact information, and did not address on Internet resources.

Of the libraries with special sections contributed to Internet resources on Chinese studies, 70% had more than 100 titles; the remainder of them each collects fewer than 20 titles. The first round of data processing showed that 2,175 sites are collected by 25 libraries. A total of 664 different sites (domain-wise) are identified. It was found that titles are not reliable in differentiating sites because identical titles may direct to different sites. Therefore, a truncated URL (as explained previously) is unique domain as shown in Appendix A. [ccs.ncl.edu.tw](http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw) (汉学研究中心) appears 88 times in the studied websites. This topped the ranking list. The second most frequently referred site was [www.gov.tw](http://www.gov.tw) (电子化政府入口网) which appeared 86 times and represents all the sub-categorical sites with the domain name of "gov.tw". The entry [www.sinica.edu.tw](http://www.sinica.edu.tw) (中央研究院) also represents a group associated sites.

A significant number of governments' websites were being generalized into their representative entry. Therefore, to offset the shortcoming of over generalization, Appendix B was created to identify the individual site emanating from the governments'

websites of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. This is accompanied by frequency data. As a result, [www.nlc.gov.cn](http://www.nlc.gov.cn) (中国国家图书馆/中国国家数字图书馆) ranks highest among all China governments sites. [www.info.gov.hk](http://www.info.gov.hk) (中华人民共和国香港特别行政区政府网) and [www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw) (国立故宫博物院) are two most popular ones linked from Hong Kong and Taiwan governments' websites respectively.

In terms of domain extension, resources with dot-edu URLs dominated the list accounting for 763 out of 2,175 entries. The distribution of top level domain extension is described in the following Chart1.

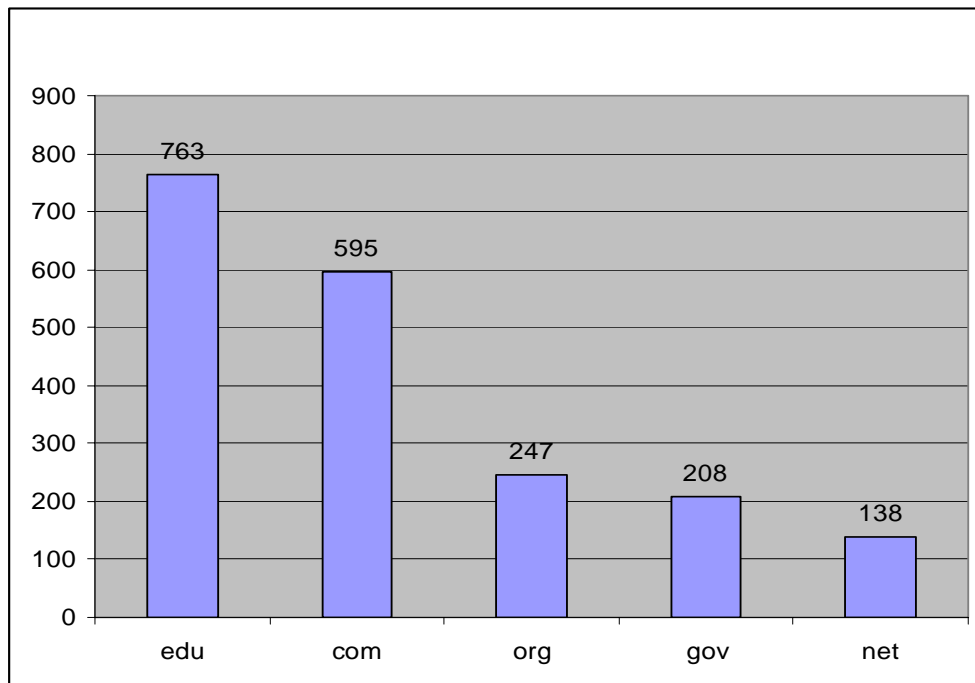


Chart 1. Distribution of Domain Extensions

Another consideration in analyzing these Internet resources was how they were organized. Were they classified in specific categories, such as full text database, index, e-journals? Were these categories based on format or subject? If there were no categories, were they arranged alphabetically? The analysis found that seven out of 25 libraries with Internet resources on Chinese studies didn't categorize their collections (Chart 2). Among these seven libraries, four didn't alphabetize the collection either. Another interesting finding was that all these seven libraries appeared to have notably fewer Internet resources than their peers. The number of collected websites ranged from three to ten.

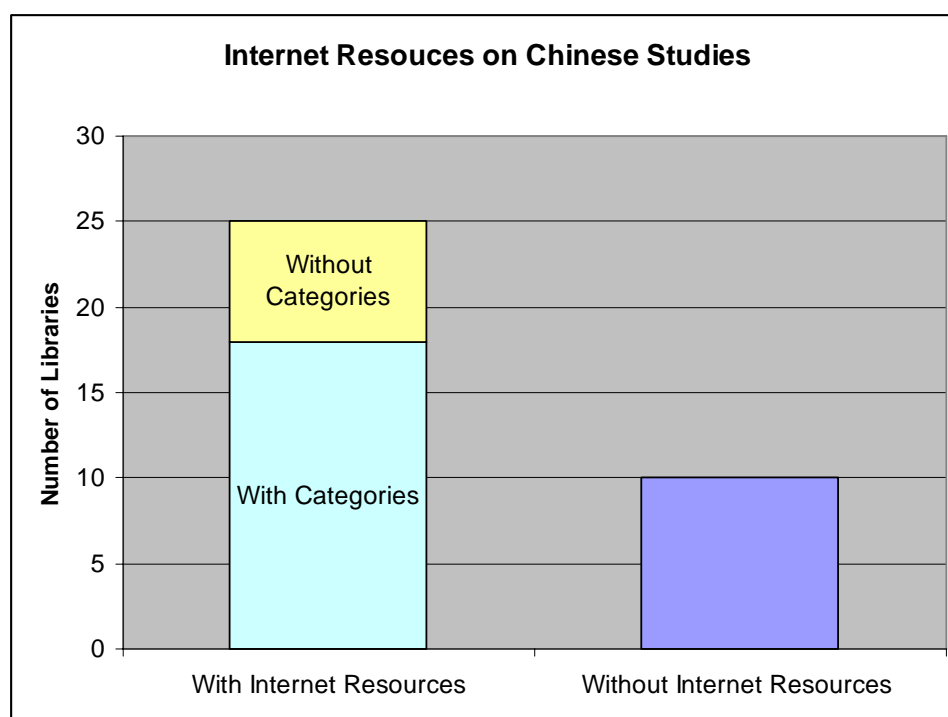


Chart 2 Internet Resources on Chinese Studies

This study found that every library in the category of “with Internet Resources “on Chinese studies and “with categories” has a unique way of organizing websites. Unlike

print materials catalogued by these libraries using unified subject heading, these Internet resources were uncatalogued and lacked authority control on subject classification.

Consequently it was unrealistic to categorize the resources collected by these 25 libraries into groups with one method. This study found that three libraries grouped their Internet resources by subject only most commonly in History, Economics, Arts, Politics etc. Two libraries grouped websites by format, such as full text database, bibliographic index, periodicals and online newspaper. The remaining 13 libraries had a combination of the two methods. Table 1 and 2 identify subject and format respectively adopted by the libraries.

| <b>By Subject</b>            |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| General                      | General and Multi-Subject Sites |
| Business and economics       | Economics                       |
| Travel and Business          | Economics/Finance               |
| Environmental studies        | Environment                     |
| Bookstores and Vendors / ILL | Books and Bookstores            |
| Publishers                   | Document Delivery               |
| Book Publishers and Vendors  | Chinese Book Reviews            |
| Education                    |                                 |
| Development Studies          |                                 |
| Religion and Philosophy      | Religious Studies               |
| Buddhism                     | Taoism                          |
| Philosophy                   | Confucianism                    |
| Government and politics      | Laws and regulations            |
| Politics                     | Government Information          |
| Government and Organizations | Law                             |
| Politics / Government / Law  | Law, Legislation                |
| Directories and Organization |                                 |
| History                      | Art History                     |
| Arts and Culture             | Art/Film/Culture                |
| Calligraphy                  | Dunhuang Studies                |
| Inscription & Rubbing        | Archaeology                     |
| Cultural Revolution          | Culture                         |
| Cultural and History         |                                 |
| Literature and culture       | Language & Linguistics          |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Literature                       | Language/Linguistics/Literature                          |
| Classics                         | Language   |
| Arts / Language / Literature     | English Translations of Chinese Classics                 |
| Online Chinese Readings          | Class Reading Materials for UVA Chinese language program |
| Writing                          |  |
| Sociology                        | Anthropology   |
| Genealogy                        | Social Science   |
| Ethnic Studies                   |  |
| Women Studies                    | Women  |
| Art and architecture             | Architecture   |
| Arts                             | Music  |
| Art, Music, Film, Drama, Theater | Visual Resources   |
| Cinema                           | Film studies   |
| Cinema & Film & Theater          | Images   |
| Statistics                       | Statistics/Public Opinion Polls                          |
| Government and Statistics        | Data, Statistics   |
| Libraries                        | Museums  |
| Libraries/Archives/Museums       |  |
| Discussion Groups                | Research Centers and Scholarly Forums                    |
| News and current events          | Media  |
| News                             |  |
| Maps                             | Geography and Maps                                       |
| Geography                        | Geography, Maps, Travel                                  |
| Country and Region Facts         | Calendar Converter                                       |
| Tools ( Dictionaries, Calendars) |  |
| Taiwan                           | Taiwan Studies   |
| Taiwan Cinema & Film & Theater   |  |
| Grants and Foundations           |  |
| Science, Technology, Medicine    |  |
| Biography                        |  |
| Chinese Romanization Systems     |  |
| Specialized Topics               |  |
| Tibet                            |  |

Table 1 Classification Cluster of Internet Resources by Subject

| <b>By Format</b>                       |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Full text database in Chinese language | Selected Full text Databases |
| Sites with on-line Full-Texts          | Full-text Classics           |
| Bibliographies and Catalogs            | Bibliographies               |
| Bibliographical Indexes                | Indexes and Database         |
| Journal Indexes, Table of Contents     | Periodical Indexes           |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Periodicals and Periodical Indexes/Full-text | Periodicals and Periodical Indexes/<br>Citation Indexes |
| Subject Database                             | Electronic Texts and Databases                          |
| Journals and Magazines                       | Electronic Journals and Newspapers                      |
| e-Book Collections                           | e-Journals  |
| Online Journal                               |   |
| Catalogs                                     | Library Catalogs  |
| Library Websites                             | Online Libraries  |
| E-libraries                                  | Library Resources                                       |
| Research Institutions                        | University / Research Institutions                      |
| Academic Centers and Associations            | Institutions ( universities, libraries, etc)            |
| Dissertation and Thesis                      | Dissertations   |
| Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, etc             | Dictionaries  |
| Online Subject Dictionaries                  | Encyclopedia  |
| Dictionaries / Maps                          |   |
| Newspapers and Websites                      | English Online News                                     |
| Online News and Newspapers                   | Journals and Newspaper                                  |
| Electronic News & Journals, Media            |   |
| Search Engines                               |   |

Table 2 Classification Cluster of Internet Resources by Formats

The categories were grouped in gray and white area in the tables for ease of viewing.

They reflect the reality that Chinese studies librarians are using different terms that refer to the same subject , classifying subjects at different levels of specificity and mixing subject and format. The different methods of organizing websites are subject to the content creators' (i.e., Chinese studies librarians) decision and preference in organizing information. Categorizing websites either by subject or format is done to facilitate patrons finding of information.

### **Content Analysis**

A number of “most frequently cited sites” were studied and analyzed against the “general guideline” of website selection generalized from the literature. It is hoped that

commonalities could be found, which would shed light on Chinese studies librarians' attempt to compile Internet resources in this subject area.

(#1) [ccs.ncl.edu.tw](http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw) – Center for Chinese Studies 汉学中心

It is hosted and managed by the Taiwan National Central Library. The Center's mission is “to promote Chinese studies, encourage cooperation and exchange among Sinologists in Taiwan and abroad, and provide research service” (<http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw>) The most popular link from the sites is the one holding full text of “*Chinese Studies*” ( Journal) and “*Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies*”. The following factors highlight the reason of its popularity –

*Authority* – authoritative, Taiwan National Central Library

*Scope* – clearly stated

*Accessibility* – free on the web, easy to navigate

*Content* – free, authoritative and accurate

*Service* – available consulting sources

*Currency*- frequently updated

(#2) [www.gov.tw](http://www.gov.tw) – 电子化政府入口网

This is the official website of Taiwan government – “the e-government entry point of Taiwan.” (<http://www.gov.tw>) The websites contain multi-levels and facets of contents, e.g., “Economy and Finance”, “Society and Culture” “Science and Technology”, “Laws and Regulation”, “Statistics” and “International Cooperation” etc. Under the umbrella of “gov.tw”, [www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw) (National Palace Museum) is the link that ranks highest.

*Authority* – authoritative, Taiwan government

*Scope* – clearly stated, a wide range of content as mentioned above

*Accessibility* – partially free, easy navigation, fine graphic design and presence of sitemap

*Content* – rich, authoritative, and accurate

*Service* – available

*Search feature* – powerful search engine

*Currency* – daily updating

(#3) [www.sinica.edu.tw](http://www.sinica.edu.tw) – Academia Sinica 中央研究院

Academia Sinica was founded 1928 and stands as the most prominent academic institution in Taiwan. It's directly affiliated with the Presidential Office of Taiwan. It aims to undertake in-depth academic research on various subjects in the science and humanities and promote international cooperation and scholarly exchange. “Hanji Electronic Documents” is the most frequently linked sub-content of Academia Sinica, covering 19 classic works of Chinese literature freely accessed by the public.

Judged against the criteria for web selection in literature, it has the following favorable features,

*Authority* – authoritative, Presidential Office of Taiwan

*Scope* - promote internal integration of research activities in the three research disciplines (mathematics and physical sciences; life sciences; and humanities and social sciences)

*Accessibility* – 90% are free, some are registration based; self-explanatory navigation system

*Content* – authoritative and accurate

*Service* – available contact information

*Search feature* – basic and advanced searching

(#4) [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn) – The official website of PRC government 中华人民共和国人民政府门户网站

This is the official government website of People’s Republic of China (PRC). It provides authoritative and comprehensive A-Z information on the PRC as well as current news. It also serves a gate to many organizations’ websites under the supervision of central government. Among numerous “gov.cn” links, [www.nlc.gov.cn](http://www.nlc.gov.cn) (National Library of China / National Digital Library of China) has the highest frequency of being cited. The perceived reasons of being cited often are as following,

*Authority*- PTC government

*Scope* – clearly stated, A-Z information on PRC, gate to sub organizations of central government

*Accessibility* – free

*Content* - authoritative and accurate

*Service* – available contact information

*Search feature* – powerful search engine

(#5) [www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk](http://www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk) - The Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) of Chinese University of Hong Kong 中国研究服务中心

“Once hailed as the "Mecca for China Studies", the Universities Service Centre was established in 1963 to serve Western academics and budding scholars engaged in the study of contemporary China. It prides itself on one of the most extensive and accessible Collection of a great variety of materials on contemporary China.”

(<http://www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk>) Some featured collections include 250 provincial and national newspapers and close to 1,500 periodicals from the 1950s, more than 1300 regional and statistical yearbooks. Online resources house the Paper Collections, China Databank, USC Publication etc, which are freely available to the public. Several factors contributing to its high visibility are as following,

*Authority* – authoritative, The Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) of Chinese University of Hong Kong

*Scope* – clearly stated as mentioned above

*Accessibility* – free, easy navigation system

*Content* – authoritative, rich, unique and accurate

*Service* – available both online and offline

*Currency* – constant updating

The five top ranking entries listed above share common characteristics which agree with many key points from the literature. Three out of the five websites are hosted by educational institution and the remaining two are the entry point to official governments’ websites, which self-evidently reflects the importance of the information, its authority

and legitimacy. All of these sites clearly state their scope in very distinctive parts of their homepages. None of these sites are subscription-based, essential for being integrated to East Asian library collection. The contents consist chiefly of primary resources fundamental to sinological research. Search engines are imbedded in some of the websites which can enhance users' searching experience. Finally, users could easily locate these websites' human contact information with fairly intuitive navigation system.

### **Conclusion**

This web study attempted to identify the current status of Internet resources for Chinese studies and the existing patterns of Internet collection development of 35 East Asian libraries in the US. Through systematic counting of URLs and human analytical review a number of findings arose from the study.

Internet Resources for Chinese studies have increasingly become an inseparable part of East Asian library collections. However, the presence of Internet resources is not as dominant as assumed. The study shows that 71% libraries have web sections on Internet resources for Chinese studies. The remaining 29%, including some very prestigious institutions with strong programs of Chinese studies, don't have Internet resources on their websites. Further qualitative study is suggested in response to this phenomenon. The quantity of Internet resources housed by the libraries varies and is sharply divided. Seventy percent collected more than 100 titles and 30% had links ranging from 5 to 20. It may be due to the scope of each library website and librarians' perception on Internet resources.

In terms of information organization, it was found that among those libraries with Internet resources, 72% adopted certain types of classification. Three major classification methods were used: subject, format and a combination of the two. More than half the libraries with Internet resources categorize the websites by both subject and format. However, most combine the two methods in one comprehensive list, which may leave users questioning the originated concept of classification. Various terms describing subject and format are employed by the libraries. Table 1 and Table 2 illustrate how terms could be varying among different libraries. Concept borrowed from cataloging practice, the use of controlled heading, is highly recommended for Internet resources. A large portion of linked websites URLs has the extension of “.edu” (35%). This is followed by extension of “.com”( 27%). This clearly shows that East Asian libraries are preferably relying on resources of Chinese studies emanating from educational organization. They are viewed as the most trusted resources because of the publicly acknowledged information legitimacy.

This study was limited in several ways: (1) dead links were not thoroughly checked except those expressed in their originally IP addresses. (IP addresses were individually checked to find the correspondent addresses by domain names). (2) The ranking list (Appendix A) may not thoroughly reflect the link frequency because the URLs were not evenly distributed among the libraries. For instance, Library A may include 20 websites with one domain name while Library B only collects one website of the same domain. This means this domain is favored by library A and may not be universally applauded. (3) The entry points of governments’ websites were selected to represent other sites within

the same domain, which may lead to over generalization of sites with multi-faceted contents.

As a consequence of these findings, it is recommended that further research be undertaken. For instance, what the percentage of dead links exist on these websites? How current are these web pages? Study on the link availability could be conducted by using link checking software, which can give a bird view of how East Asian libraries are keeping current of their Internet resources. Is there a better measurement which can more precisely reflect link popularity, given the unevenly distribution of certain links. In addition, it might be interesting area to explore that which type of organizing method proves to be most efficient for searching. Subject only? Format only? Format under the Subject or Subject under the Format? Further study is encouraged to probe this question. This study has focused primarily on the Internet resources themselves – what they include, how often they are collected, how they are organized and how the popular links share some commonalities in terms of web selection criteria. Further consideration and research including library wide survey and usage test, could be conducted to collect data on how these Internet resources for Chinese studies are complied, what are some common considerations during the creation process, how often and well these Internet resources are utilized by patrons.

## Appendix A

Note: The Arabic number in front of each URL refers to the frequency of link appearance.

**Top 100 URLs**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 88 ccs.ncl.edu.tw                 | 10 www.xys.org                             |
| 86 www.gov.tw                     | 10 www.lib.uchicago.edu                    |
| 79 www.sinica.edu.tw              | 10 acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu              |
| 76 www.gov.cn                     | 9 www.mandarintools.com                    |
| 67 www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk            | 9 idp.bl.uk                                |
| 43 sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de     | 9 www.peopledaily.com.cn                   |
| 40 www.lib.virginia.edu           | 8 orpheus.ucsd.edu                         |
| 28 ccbs.ntu.edu.tw                | 8 www.cia.gov                              |
| 28 www.fas.harvard.edu            | 8 search.people.com.cn                     |
| 27 cls.admin.yzu.edu.tw           | 8 www.gg-art.com                           |
| 26 www.cnd.org                    | 7 www.dianying.com                         |
| 26 deall.ohio-state.edu           | 7 www.acmuller.net                         |
| 25 zhongwen.com                   | 7 202.114.65.34 (Wuhan University library) |
| 19 chinese.pku.edu.cn             | 7 library.ust.hk                           |
| 18 www.gov.hk                     | 7 www.asiawind.com                         |
| 17 www.chinapage.com              | 7 www.takungpao.com                        |
| 16 www.kanji.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp | 7 www.xinhua.org                           |
| 16 www.china.org.cn               | 7 www.ciolek.com                           |
| 16 yahoo.com                      | 7 www.cbeta.org                            |
| 15 www.lib.umich.edu              | 6 cb.kingsoft.com                          |
| 14 home.sina.com                  | 6 hdl.library.upenn.edu                    |
| 13 iir.nccu.edu.tw                | 6 news.chinatimes.com                      |
| 13 www.usc.edu                    | 6 www2.read.com.tw                         |
| 13 www.sscnet.ucla.edu            | 6 www.wesleyan.edu                         |
| 12 www.stanford.edu               | 6 www.scmp.com                             |
| 12 venus.unive.it                 | 6 www.religion.sbc.edu                     |
| 12 www.cnki.net                   | 6 www.hku.hk                               |
| 12 www.lib.berkeley.edu           | 6 www.dpm.org.cn                           |
| 12 www.chinatoday.com             | 6 www.chinainfobank.com                    |
| 11 www.princeton.edu              | 6 www.cass.net.cn                          |
| 11 www.creaders.net               | 5 wenxue.myrice.com                        |
| 11 www.guoxue.com                 | 5 sohu.com                                 |
| 11 www.library.pitt.edu           | 5 sedac.ciesin.org                         |
| 11 www.libnet.sh.cn               | 5 opac.calis.edu.cn                        |
| 11 lcweb.loc.gov                  | 5 ls.wustl.edu                             |
| 10 coombs.anu.edu.au              | 5 library.kcc.hawaii.edu                   |
| 10 depts.washington.edu           | 5 library.fudan.edu.cn                     |
| 10 www.yam.com                    |  |

5 lib.ncku.edu.tw  
5 chinaside.com  
5 chinabooks.cnokay.com  
5 www.cathay.net  
5 www.chinadaily.com.cn  
5 www.yifan.net  
5 www.webcom.com  
5 www.taoism.org.hk  
5 www.taipei.org  
5 www.sois.uwm.edu

5 china.eastview.com  
5 www.lib.utexas.edu  
5 www.lib.tsinghua.edu.cn  
5 www.iisg.nl  
5 www.human.toyogakuen-u.ac.jp  
5 www.cna.com.tw  
5 www.clas.ufl.edu  
5 www.chinavita.com  
5 www.chinavista.com  
5 webcat.library.wisc.edu:3200

## Appendix B

### China Government Websites

|    |                  |   |                        |
|----|------------------|---|------------------------|
| 21 | www.nlc.gov.cn   | 1 | www.sipo.gov.cn        |
| 13 | www.stats.gov.cn | 1 | www.sic.gov.cn         |
| 10 | www.cei.gov.cn   | 1 | www.shanghai.gov.cn    |
| 4  | www1.cei.gov.cn  | 1 | www.fmprc.gov.cn       |
| 4  | www.gov.cn       | 1 | www.drcnet.gov.cn      |
| 3  | www.saac.gov.cn  | 1 | www.culturalink.gov.cn |
| 3  | www.nmch.gov.cn  | 1 | www.chinalaw.gov.cn    |
| 3  | www.drc.gov.cn   | 1 | www.cein.gov.cn        |
| 3  | bbs.fmprc.gov.cn | 1 | www.bjepb.gov.cn       |
| 2  | www.zhb.gov.cn   | 1 | us-mirror.fmprc.gov.cn |
| 2  | www.cppcc.gov.cn | 1 | law.npc.gov.cn:87      |
| 1  | zzys.agri.gov.cn | 1 | data.cma.gov.cn        |
| 1  | www.spp.gov.cn   | 1 | chinainfo.gov.cn       |

### Hong Kong Government Websites

|   |                    |   |                        |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| 7 | www.info.gov.hk    | 1 | www.gld.gov.hk         |
| 2 | www.justice.gov.hk | 1 | www.filmarchive.gov.hk |
| 2 | cd.ed.gov.hk       | 1 | www.doj.gov.hk         |
| 1 | www.women.gov.hk   | 1 | www.censtatd.gov.hk    |
| 1 | www.news.gov.hk    | 1 | info.gov.hk            |
| 1 | www.lcsd.gov.hk    |   |                        |

### Taiwan Government Websites

|    |                       |   |                        |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 16 | www.npm.gov.tw        | 1 | www4.cca.gov.tw        |
| 13 | www.gio.gov.tw        | 1 | www.trade.gov.tw       |
| 7  | www.vac.gov.tw        | 1 | www.taiwan.gov.tw      |
| 7  | lis.ly.gov.tw         | 1 | www.rdec.gov.tw        |
| 6  | edu.ocac.gov.tw       | 1 | www.drnh.gov.tw        |
| 5  | sticnet.stic.gov.tw   | 1 | ulej.stic.gov.tw       |
| 5  | law.moj.gov.tw        | 1 | taipedia.cca.gov.tw    |
| 4  | www.gov.tw            | 1 | placesearch.moi.gov.tw |
| 3  | www.mac.gov.tw        | 1 | open.nat.gov.tw        |
| 3  | paper.ntl.gov.tw      | 1 | nrch.cca.gov.tw        |
| 2  | www.npw.gov.tw        | 1 | ill.stic.gov.tw        |
| 2  | wjirs.judicial.gov.tw | 1 | db.th.gov.tw           |
| 2  | web.cca.gov.tw        | 1 | csin.mac.gov.tw        |

## Appendix C

**dot-edu**

|    |                              |   |                           |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 88 | ccs.ncl.edu.tw               | 3 | web.missouri.edu          |
| 79 | www.sinica.edu.tw            | 3 | living.pccu.edu.tw        |
| 67 | www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk          | 3 | www.cernet.edu.cn         |
| 40 | www.lib.virginia.edu         | 3 | lark.ec.ukans.edu         |
| 28 | www.fas.harvard.edu          | 3 | www.lib.duke.edu          |
| 28 | ccbs.ntu.edu.tw              | 3 | lib.clc.edu.cn:800        |
| 27 | cls.admin.yzu.edu.tw         | 3 | www3.zzu.edu.cn           |
| 26 | deall.ohio-state.edu         | 3 | www2.h-net.msu.edu        |
| 19 | chinese.pku.edu.cn           | 3 | www.staff.uiuc.edu        |
| 15 | www.lib.umich.edu            | 3 | www.nyu.edu               |
| 13 | www.usc.edu                  | 3 | www.library.yale.edu      |
| 13 | iir.nccu.edu.tw              | 3 | www.lib.unimelb.edu.au    |
| 13 | www.sscnet.ucla.edu          | 2 | www.libraries.iub.edu     |
| 12 | www.lib.berkeley.edu         | 2 | www.eastasian.ucsb.edu    |
| 12 | www.stanford.edu             | 2 | www.csulb.edu             |
| 11 | www.princeton.edu            | 2 | www.cedar.buffalo.edu     |
| 11 | www.library.pitt.edu         | 2 | www.ccer.edu.cn           |
| 10 | acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu   | 2 | www.artic.edu             |
| 10 | depts.washington.edu         | 2 | www.albion.edu            |
| 10 | coombs.anu.edu.au            | 2 | classics.mit.edu          |
| 10 | www.lib.uchicago.edu         | 2 | lib.ncue.edu.tw           |
| 8  | orpheus.ucsd.edu             | 2 | ocl.shu.edu.tw            |
| 6  | www.wesleyan.edu             | 2 | pasture.ecn.purdue.edu    |
| 6  | www.religion.sbc.edu         | 2 | ucblibraries.colorado.edu |
| 6  | hdl.library.upenn.edu        | 2 | www2.kenyon.edu           |
| 5  | library.fudan.edu.cn         | 2 | www.library.ln.edu.hk     |
| 5  | lib.ncku.edu.tw              | 1 | www.wsu.edu               |
| 5  | webcat.library.wisc.edu:3200 | 1 | www.wlu.edu               |
| 5  | ls.wustl.edu                 | 1 | www.ruf.rice.edu          |
| 5  | opac.calis.edu.cn            | 1 | www.rhodes.edu            |
| 5  | www.clas.ufl.edu             | 1 | www.religion.sdu.edu.cn   |
| 5  | www.lib.tsinghua.edu.cn      | 1 | www.redlands.edu          |
| 5  | www.lib.utexas.edu           | 1 | www.rci.rutgers.edu       |
| 5  | www.sois.uwm.edu             | 1 | www.ptl.edu.tw            |
| 5  | library.kcc.hawaii.edu       | 1 | www.nju.edu.cn            |
| 4  | eresources.lib.unc.edu       | 1 | www.njtu.edu.cn           |
| 4  | geog.hkbu.edu.hk             | 1 | www.newton.mec.edu        |
| 4  | hua.umf.maine.edu            | 1 | www.moe.edu.cn            |
| 4  | newton.uor.edu               | 1 | www.melvyl.ucop.edu       |
| 4  | wason.library.cornell.edu    | 1 | www.lib.uts.edu.au        |
| 4  | www.rice.edu                 | 1 | www.lib.tjfsu.edu.cn      |
| 4  | www-chaos.umd.edu            | 1 | www.lib.sjtu.edu.cn       |

1 www.lib.pu.edu.tw  
 1 www.lib.nus.edu.sg  
 1 www.lcsc.edu  
 1 www.latrobe.edu.au  
 1 www.indiana.edu  
 1 www.high.edu.tw  
 1 www.fordham.edu  
 1 www.etown.edu  
 1 www.ee.tku.edu.tw  
 1 www.columbia.edu  
 1 www.cier.edu.tw  
 1 www.chisa.edu.cn  
 1 www.chibs.edu.tw  
 1 www.campus.ss.qesosa.edu.hk  
 1 www.brown.edu  
 1 www.bc.edu  
 1 vm.nthu.edu.tw  
 1 vassun.vassar.edu  
 1 sunsite.utk.edu

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 1 pr11.sdsc.edu  
 1 philo.ucdavis.edu  
 1 peacock.tnjc.edu.tw  
 1 oclccjk.lib.uci.edu  
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 1 library.mit.edu.tw  
 1 library.fgcu.edu  
 1 library.byu.edu  
 1 lib.lzu.edu.cn  
 1 eastasian.lib.umn.edu  
 1 e-asia.uoregon.edu  
 1 dawning.iist.unu.edu  
 1 datas.nel.edu.tw  
 1 cyber.swnu.edu.cn  
 1 bob.ucsc.edu  
 1 asnic.utexas.edu  
 1 academic.reed.edu

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25 zhongwen.com  
 17 www.chinapage.com  
 16 yahoo.com  
 14 home.sina.com  
 12 www.chinatoday.com  
 11 www.guoxue.com  
 10 www.yam.com  
 9 www.peopledaily.com.cn  
 9 www.mandarintools.com  
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 2 www.chinalaw114.com  
 2 www.chinalanguage.com  
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 2 www.china-forums.com  
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1 www.history.com.cn  
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1 www.hanyuwang.com  
1 www.hanshan.com  
1 www.grrb.com.cn  
1 www.groveart.com  
1 www.go2map.com  
1 www.gmrc.com.cn  
1 www.globepage.com  
1 www.forestsong.com.cn  
1 www.forbes.com  
1 www.fjnet.com  
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1 www.china-ns.com  
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 1 www.ben.com.cn  
 1 www.bcc.com.tw  
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 1 www.accessasia.com  
 1 www.abcd.com.cn  
 1 www.64memo.com  
 1 www.51land.com  
 1 www.3721.com  
 1 www.21cbi.com  
 1 worldbizcity.com  
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 1 2shoubook.6to23.com  
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 16 www.china.org.cn  
 10 www.xys.org  
 7 www.xinhua.org  
 7 www.cbeta.org  
 6 www.dpm.org.cn  
 5 www.taipei.org  
 5 sedac.ciesin.org  
 5 www.taoism.org.hk  
 4 www.worldbank.org  
 4 www.cpirc.org.cn  
 3 www.rthk.org.hk  
 3 www.fowang.org  
 3 www.chinaleadershipmonitor.org  
 3 www.chinaiiss.org  
 3 www.cenet.org.cn  
 3 www.ccyl.org.cn  
 3 www.acls.org  
 3 sql.fgs.org.tw  
 3 chinadatacenter.org  
 3 www.ibiblio.org  
 2 www.taiwandc.org  
 2 www.rlg.org  
 2 www.minyi.org.cn  
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 2 www.crf.org.cn  
 2 www.chinaresource.org  
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 1 www.comw.org  
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