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## **Diaolong Full-text Database of Chinese & Japanese Ancient Books**

### **1. Introduction**

Diaolong Full-text Database of Chinese & Japanese Ancient Books is a huge project based on collaboration among scholars and experts from China, Japan, and Taiwan. It is one of the most comprehensive collections of Chinese and Japanese ancient books. It contains about 30,000 ancient books covering historical, political, economic, religious, philosophic, literary, ethnic and geographic documents.

Diaolong is composed of many sub-databases, which are Zhong tong dao zang, Dao zang ji yao, Yong le da dian, Si bu cong kan, Xu si bu cong kan (Si bu bei yao), China local gazetteers, Liu fu wen zang, Qing dynasty archives, Gu jin tu shu ji cheng, Japanese ancient books, Dunhuang archives, Xu xiu si ku quan shu, Si ku quan shu, Si ku cun mu shu, Si ku cou hui shu, Si ku wei shou shu, Chinese folk literature (including Min jian bao juan), and Ming qing ke ju zhu juan.

### **2. The publishers**

Diaolong is a product with collective investment by Kaixi multimedia Co. in Japan and Dehong information Co. in Taiwan. Two senior professors serve as chief editors, i.e. Lin Yuan from Shaanxi Normal University, China and Nakajima Toshio from Aichi University, Japan. WeDiscovery Education Services is proud to be the agent of marketing and sales.

Diaolong database was first built since 2001, and has gradually grown into a huge ancient book full-text database. It contains about 30,000 ancient books, approx. 8 billion characters. Moreover, the database keeps expanding with 5,000 literatures (1 billion characters) addition each year.

Since its publication, Diaolong has been paid much attention by scholars, libraries, etc. The reason lies in that Diaolong integrates all ancient books into one platform, and that Diaolong is so

flexible that clients can choose the sub-databases they exactly need. Diaolong has been a renowned name among ancient book databases on the market.

### 3. Functions and Features

#### 1) Search across sub-databases

All sub-databases are integrated into one platform; readers can search across all sub-databases, which is extremely convenient.

#### 2) High speed search engine

Search engine empowers fast search among billions of characters within a second. Its search engine is most advanced among ancient book databases on the market.

#### 3) Support 4-byte Chinese character search, with 75,000 characters set

Most search techniques on the market use 2-byte Chinese character search, with character set no more than 21,000. Diaolong has utilized 4-byte Chinese character search, which is a world-leading technology.

#### 4) Support both Windows and MacOS

At present Diaolong is the only full-text database that can run on both Windows and MacOS, no matter what language of the operating system is.

#### 5) Support many search options

Diaolong supports many search options, such as advanced search, fuzzy search, advanced fuzzy search, etc.

#### 6) Relevance search options

Simplified Chinese and traditional Chinese are coded differently. With support of simplified/traditional Chinese experts, Diaolong can switch between simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, and variant forms of certain Chinese characters. Therefore, all relevant results are returned such as relevance between simplified Chinese and traditional Chinese, ancient Chinese, or variant forms to enable complete searching.

#### 7) Regular expression characters

Regular expression characters such as [\*] [?] [+] [-] [|] can be used in searching.

#### 8) Customize page layout

Customize page layout according to personal preferences, such as vertical setting of types, horizontal setting of types, with or without alignment line.

#### 9) Compete background information of ancient books

Diaolong has multiple display modes such as original image display, full-text display, image-text contrast display to facilitate readers to verify and compare. In addition, information such as version, origin, maintenance history of each ancient book is provided; local gazetteers even provide correspondence of ancient city names and nowadays city names. Compete background information is presented to readers.

### 4. Typical Clients

Diaolong is recognized and welcomed by top research institutes and public libraries around the world.

Japan: more than 100 universities and research institutes, including National Diet Library, University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Hokkaido University, Tohoku University, Osaka University, Nagoya University, Kyushu University, etc.

Taiwan: dozens of universities and research institutes, including Academia Sinica, National Taiwan University, Fu Jen Catholic University, National Cheng Kung University, National Tsing Hua University, etc.

China mainland: Nanjing University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Chongqing University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Nanjing Library, etc.

North America: Yale University, Stanford University, Michigan State University, Columbia University, Pennsylvania State University, Emory University, Princeton University, Colorado college, etc.

And there are other clients all over the world, such as Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, etc.

## **5. Introduction of Sub-databases**

### 1) Zheng tong dao zang

Dao zang is the collection of classics of Daoism. Zheng tong dao zang published in Ming dynasty is the only existing official Dao zang. Dao zang was first open to general public in early Republic of China; a copy of Zheng tong dao zang kept by Baiyun Guan in Beijing was photocopied and then published by Shanghai Han Fen Lou, known as Han Fen Lou version.

### 2) Dao zang ji yao

Next to Zheng tong dao zang and Wan li xu dao zang, Dao zang ji yao is also a huge collection of Dao zang. Dao zang ji yao is the most important Dao zang during Qing dynasty, and it is

indispensable resource to study Daoism of Ming, Qing dynasty. Therefore, it has the reputation as “Essence of Dao zang”.

### 3) Si bu cong kan

A large collection of ancient books carefully collected and verified by renowned scholar and publisher Mr Yuanji Zhang. He collected ancient books from the Song, Yuan and Ming Dynasties and fine collated famous transcripts; therefore, this collection is even more valuable than Si ku quan shu.

Over years Si bu cong kan has been highly valued by researchers in cultural and historical studies. Si bu cong kan is usually used as basis of further studies on ancient books. It was published by Shanghai Commercial Press. The following are included,

Si bu cong kan First compilation in 1922, photocopy by Shanghai Commercial Press

Si bu cong kan Second compilation in 1934, photocopy by Shanghai Commercial Press

Si bu cong kan Third compilation in 1936, photocopy by Shanghai Commercial Press

Si bu cong kan contains 504 ancient books, with 3,134 volumes and around 90 million words. Each compilation is composed of Jing, Shi, Zi, and Ji categories. The rare books collected in Si bu cong kan mainly originate from Shanghai Han Fen Lou, Jiangnan Library, Jiangnan Shuyu and other book collectors. It is indeed a tremendous book compilation in 20th century China.

### 4) Xu si bu cong kan (Si bu bei yao)

This series is similar to Si bu cong kan; Si bu cong kan focuses on photocopies of rare books from Song Dynasty, Yuan Dynasty, and Ming Dynasty, while Si bu bei yao is more practical as it selects representative collated editions and annotated editions. Si bu bei yao is a must for studies and researches on Chinese ancient books.

#### 5) Yong le da dian

This collection is about 8,000 ancient books, from before the Ming Dynasty reign serving as an encyclopedia. The original books had been lost during wars in Ming & Qing Dynasties; currently Diaolong has collected 813 volumes of Yong le da dian found all over the world; Diaolong's collection is more complete than any other versions of Yong le da dian published.

#### 6) Gu jin tu shu ji cheng

It is the biggest subject books collection of China, and an encyclopedia of Chinese ancient books. First draft was completed in 1706, and the collection was finalized in 1725. It covers astronomy, geography, politics and economies, military, law, philosophy, ethics, education, sciences, culture, arts, music, dance, calligraphy, painting, and more from pre-history to Ming & Qing dynasties. The collection has 800 books, approx. 10,000 volumes, 500,000 pages, or 170 million characters; its contents are divided into 6 compilations, 32 scriptures, and 6,117 sections.

All the contents are re-structured to be 25,151 volumes. Table of contents of each volume is reorganized to be stepped construction to make reading easier. Moreover, some drafts and criticism are added to the collection. In summary, this collection has very comprehensive contents which are easy to read thanks to its well-organized structure.

#### 7) Dunhuang archives

Dunhuang was discovered in 1900 in Mogao Grottoes of Dunhuang County, Gansu Province of China. There were tens of thousands of handwriting scrolls, carved classics, paintings, and sculptures, etc., which quickly pushed forward researches of ancient China and Central Asia on politics, economics, law, religion, languages, literature, sciences and technologies, arts, and local custom. Thanks to Dunhuang archives, many academic myths were solved, such as history and culture of ancient Tibet.

Besides literatures written in Chinese, there are many literatures written in other languages, with Tibetan on the top in terms of number and contents. Dunhuang archives have a variety of contents, including Buddhism classics, historical documents, political documents, contracts and indentures, law codes, divination, legends, and so on.

Many Dunhuang archives were taken overseas by Paul Pelliot, Marc Aurel Stein, etc., kept in other countries such as France and England. These lost archives are essence of Dunhuang archives, with highest academic value.

This collection contains archives on Dunhuang, from collectors and researchers in Russia, Great Britain, France and other countries, as well as Chinese collectors such as National Library of China, Peking University, Dunhuang Museum, Dunhuang Research Institute, and Tianjin Art Museum. This large collection is crucial to the conservation and academic research of Dunhuang.

#### 8) Qing Dynasty archives

This archive includes precious historical collections such as Qing shi lu, Wu cao hui dian, Da qing jin shen quan shu, Da qing fu zheng yao lan quan shu, Da qing zhong shu bei lan, Huang di yu pi, and more.

Qing shi lu covers the official memoirs of eleven emperors of the Qing Dynasty starting from Emperor Taizu to Emperor Dezong, as well as Emperor Xuantong's memoirs supplemented later. It is an official chronological historical masterpiece. As these are first-hand original documents, they are academically invaluable for studies on culture and history of Qing Dynasty.

Memoirs were first seen in Liang of Southern Dynasties, compiled by Xingsi Zhou for emperor of Liang. Starting from Tang Dynasty, it was settled as a rule that every successor must order official historians to compile memoirs for the previous emperor. Up until Emperor Guangxu of Qing



Dynasty, the memoirs of all dynasties had been recorded, containing 116 sections. It is a pity that many of them have been lost over years, although complete memoirs of Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty are well kept to date.

There are 4,433 volumes in Qing shi lu, among them 10 volumes for Taizu, 65 volumes for Taizong, 144 volumes for Shizu, 300 volumes for Shengzu, 159 volumes for Shizong, 374 volumes for Renzong, 476 volumes for Xuanzong, 356 volumes for Wenzong, 374 volumes for Muzong, 597 volumes for Dezong, and 70 volumes for Xuantong.

Wu cao hui dian contains the administrative regulations and codes under the reigns of five emperors: Kangxi, Yongzheng, Qianlong, Jiaqing, and Guangxu.

Da qing jin shen quan shu, and Da qing fu zheng yao lan quan shu contain detailed documents of the officials of all ministries and all ranks of the middle to late Qing Dynasty, covering officials of both capital and provincial positions. These collections are extremely useful for studies on the government officials and structure of the Qing Dynasty.

Da qing zhong shu bei lan details military officials. "Zhong shu" meant Department of Defense at that time; military officials were nominated by Department of Defense.

#### 9) China Local Gazetteers

It is divided into 31 sub-databases according to provinces and areas in China. The books under this collection are geographical (local boundaries, climates, and terrains), societal (residency and celebrities), political, economical (local outputs and taxation), and cultural (arts) records of each province or area. All books were written as per prescribed stylistic rules and layout. The local gazetteers were collected from Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty to early Republic of China.

According to statistics in 1976, there are more than 8,000 existing gazetteers, approx. 120,000 volumes. At present this database contains about 4,000 local gazetteers; the database keeps expanding at the speed of 500 to 600 gazetteers every year.

#### 10) Japanese Ancient Books

Japanese culture and Chinese culture are highly related, for example, famous Japanese writer Natsume Soseki also has high reputation on Chinese literature.

This collection is mainly comprised of Liu guo shi, Ben chao wen cui zhu shi, Wo ming lei ju chao, Xin zhuan zi jing, Guo shi da xi, Guo shi da xi xu, Lai shan yang quan shu, Japan han shi. Among them, Liu guo shi is the oldest Japanese history book which followed the style of Shi ji and Han shu. Ben chao wen cui zhu shi is a poetry collection that mimicked the style of Wen xuan of China. Therefore, digitalization of ancient Japanese books is of great importance, because it's a method to study ancient Chinese and history of Chinese literature, and because it's a method to study the origin of Japanese culture. In addition, Wo ming lei ju chao, Xin zhuan zi jing are very rare resources; they are invaluable for studies on ancient Chinese, ancient literature, ancient history, and so on.

The collection not only helps digitalization of Japanese ancient books, but also supplements valuable materials for readers and researchers.

#### 11) Xu xiu si ku quan shu

Xu xiu si ku quan shu is the supplement of Si ku quan shu. As a key national project in the field of culture and publication, it is the outcome of a country-wide cleanup and collection of Chinese ancient literature. The last cleanup and collection of such a scale was in the 18th century, which lead to the creation of Si ku quan shu.

Xu xiu si ku quan shu followed style of Si ku quan shu, organized according to Jing, Shi, Zi, Ji classification. Xu xiu si ku quan shu have 1,800 hard copies, 260 in Jing category, 670 in Shi category, 370 in Zi category, and 500 in Ji category. Together with Si ku quan shu, they are fundamentals of Chinese ancient books, covering all important ancient books up to 1911.

Diaolong Xu xiu si ku quan shu contains 5,213 books, 51% more than that of Si ku quan shu. During the process of compilation and publication, versions of books were scrutinized; only best version of each book was picked up. Xu xiu si ku quan shu mainly collected ancient books outside of Si ku quan shu, including books not collected by Si ku quan shu, and books published after completion of Si ku quan shu.

Books were not collected by Si ku quan shu:

- i) Omitted, abandoned, or restricted books that have academic value;
- ii) Books with better version to replace same books already collected by Si ku quan shu with an inferior version;
- iii) Dramas and novels that were despised and rejected by editors of Si ku quan shu.

Books published after completion of Si ku quan shu:

- i) Publications of representative writers in middle Qing dynasty, such as Ji Xiaolan, Dai Zhen, Wong Fanggan, Peng Yuanrui, Ren Dachun, Sun Xidan, Wang Niansun, Ruan Yuan, etc;
- ii) Publications of representative writers in late Qing dynasty, such as Wei Yuan, Gong Zizhen, Kang Youwei, Liang Qichao, Zhang Taiyan, etc;
- iii) Ancient books newly obtained from overseas and ancient books from new archaeology discovery; these books have met the criteria of collection.

## 12) Liu fu wen zang

Liu fu wen zang is organized according to Jing, Shi, Zi, & Ji categories, with two additional categories Cong and Jinshi. Notably, this collection includes rare & unique Chinese ancient books from Japanese book collectors, such as Toyo Bunko, Seikado Bunko, & Osaka University in Japan.

### 13) Si ku quan shu

Si ku quan shu is the largest collection of ancient books in China's history, spanning from the Pre-Qin period to the early Qianlong period of the Qing dynasty, covering many different fields.

### 14) Si ku cun mu shu

Si ku cun mu shu is a collection of ancient books that disregard Qianlong's governance and standard of service in which Qianlong abandoned and thus saved only their lists. According to the "Siku Quanshu General Lists" edited by Qing Dynasty Chief Editor, Yun Ji, Si ku cun mu shu contains 4752 types that includes 19 kinds of Cai song ben, 26 kinds of Cai yuan ben, 2,408 kinds of Cai ming books, 2,258 kinds of Cai qing kooks, 35 kinds of Cai minguo books, and 6 kinds of foreign books. It counts as 4561 types reorganized by Diaolong Database.

### 15) Si ku cou hui shu

Si ku cou hui shu is a collection of ancient books that violated Qianlong's governance and standard of service in which Qianlong destroyed and prohibited the publication. According to the Qing Dynasty Military Machinery Department, "Classification of Destroyed Book Lists", 621 types of books were destroyed during the re-editing of the "Siku Quanshu", including 290 kinds of Cai ming books, 319 Cai qing kooks, and 12 kinds of Cai minguo books. It counts as 620 types reorganized by Diaolong Database.

### 16) Si ku wei shou shu

Si ku wei shou shu is a collection of ancient books that were discovered all over the country after the completion of Si ku quan shu by Qianlong. This collection was in turn presented during Jiaqing. According to " Si ku wei shou shu Lists" edited by Qing Dynasty Chief Editor Yuan Ruan, the collection includes 167 kinds of books that were not accepted when the "Siku Quanshu" was reedited. It counts as 167 types reorganized by Diaolong Database.

### 17) Chinese Folk Literature

Its folk literature created and revised collectively, and distributed by word-of-mouth. There are a large variety of forms, such as myths, anecdotes, folk stories, folk songs, narrative poems, dramas, sayings, riddles, etc.

### 18) Ming qing ke ju zhu juan

It's composed of Ming Dynasty ke ju zhu juan and Qing Dynasty ke ju zhu juan. It mainly collects test papers of metropolitan examination and capital examination in Ming, Qing Dynasty.

## 6. Advantages of Diaolong

### 1) Contents

1.1) It is one of the most comprehensive collections of Chinese and Japanese ancient books, including almost 30,000 ancient books.

1.2) The data is highly accurate, error tolerance below 0.05%. And search engine returns results with high accuracy.

### 2) Functions

2.1) All sub-databases are integrated into one platform, so that readers can search across all sub-databases.

2.2) Search engine empowers fast search within a second.

2.3) Support search options, such as advanced search, fuzzy search, advanced fuzzy search, etc.

2.4) Support 4-byte Chinese character search, with 75,000 characters set

2.5) Simplified/traditional Chinese characters and variant forms are correlated during searching, so that all relevant results are returned;

2.6) Readers can define two key words and radius, so that returned results are articles with both words showed up within defined radius.

2.7) Choose display modes according to personal preferences, i.e. original image, full-text, or image-text contrast display.

2.8) Don't need extra reader.

### 3) Price

Our quote is very affordable and worth it. And it's flexible for clients to choose sub-databases, or number of concurrent users based on their unique needs.