



Computational Methods for Chinese History

A "DIGGING INTO DATA CHALLENGE" TRAINING WORKSHOP

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Registration required. Sign up at goo.gl/EIVNnz

Organized by **China Biographical Database Project**

Introduction

Do you know how to look up and visualize information in Chinese historical sources? Nearly every day, there are news articles about how big data and computational methods such as mapping and network analysis are changing our world. They are transforming the study of Chinese history as well; scholars could no longer ignore the potential of digital tools.

What sorts of questions about Chinese history can be asked and answered using computational methods? What are the main tools that scholars can use? This one-day workshop featuring experts from Harvard and beyond will provide an overview and practical training.

MARKUS Save Back to last save Export Tools Links FAQ HowTo

We will first introduce two main tools,

CBDB and MARKUS. The China

Biographical Database (CBDB) is a relational

database with biographical information

about more than 360,000 individuals,

primarily from the 7th through 19th

centuries. The data is open to use for

statistical, social network, and spatial

analysis as well as serving as a kind of

biographical reference. The standalone

version of CBDB in Microsoft Access format

enables many functions that are not

available in the online version. MARKUS is

an open-source platform that allows

applying sophisticated text-mining

techniques to a wide variety of Chinese

historical and literary texts. You can tag

and extract personal names, dates, place

names, official titles and postings, and other

content for analysis and visualization. When

reading texts on the MARKUS platform, you

can also consult language and biographical

dictionaries, as well as other reference

sources.

We will then demonstrate the uses of spatial

analysis for historical GIS data from China.

There will also be content about network

analysis (SNA) as a methodological

approach, its basic concepts, and the use of

software for simple visualization and

analysis of network data on Chinese history.

The day will conclude with presentations of

case studies that came out from digital

projects.