



数字人文学与北美中国学研究概观

Digital Humanities and Chinese Studies in North America: An Overview

杨继东

斯坦福大学图书馆

Yang Jidong

Stanford University Libraries



“数字人文学” 简述

A Brief Intro to “Digital Humanities”

- “数字人文学”泛指将数字信息技术引入传统的人文和社会科学领域（史学、考古学、哲学、语言学、文学、区域研究等等）后产生的新型学术。“Digital humanities” refers to the new type of scholarship resulted from the introduction of digital information technology into the traditional fields of humanities and social sciences, such as history, archaeology, philosophy, linguistics, literature, and area studies.
- 数字信息技术从1980年代起就被引入人文社会科学领域，最初只是被用作传统学术研究方式的辅助工具（尤其是文本索引和检索的工具），但是自从跨入新世纪以来，它对人文社会学科的方法论以及研究成果的呈现形式产生了深远的影响，从而形成了崭新的学术形式。 Digital information technology was introduced to humanities and social sciences no later than the 1980s. It was first used as a supplementary tool for traditional scholarship (especially for textual indexing and searching). Since the beginning of the new century, however, it has brought about profound changes to the methodology of research as well as the presentation of research outcomes, and resulted in brand new scholarship.



“数字人文学” 简述 一续

A Brief Intro to “Digital Humanities” –contd’

- 像大数据、数据挖掘、地理信息系统、多媒体、三维影像等等这些数字信息概念和相关技术，目前都已经被广泛地运用于人文社会科学的研究中。相应的学术组织也成立了不少，比如在“数字人文学组织联盟”这个大框架下的很多学术组织。 Digital information technologies and concepts such as big data, data mining, GIS, multimedia, 3D imaging, and so forth are now widely applied in humanities and social sciences. A number of scholarly organizations dedicated to promote digital humanities have also been established, such as those under the umbrella of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO).
- 北美的一些研究型大学图书馆也意识到数字人文学的重要性，并成立相关部门向该学科提供支持。比如斯坦福大学图书馆就有专门的数字人文学部门，目前为不少校内师生的研究项目提供技术支持，其中有若干项目涉及中国学研究。 Realizing the importance of digital humanities, quite a few academic libraries in North America have established specialized units to support research projects in this field. For example, the Department of Digital Humanities at Stanford University Libraries now provides technical support for a number of faculty and student projects, including a few in Chinese studies.



中国学数字时代的开端

The Beginning of Digital Chinese Studies

- 包括中、港、台、日、美在内的一些国家和地区很早就开始利用计算机处理以汉字为载体的语言和文化信息。中国大陆早在80年代以前就开始用计算机为汉字编码，港、台的机构最早开始编制大型的汉文献数据库，日本学者最早提出了“电脑中国学”的概念。但是美国是最早将基于计算机的汉字处理和中国研究推入实用性阶段的国家。 Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and the U.S. started long ago to use computers to process linguistic and cultural information carried by the Chinese script. Mainland China began to encode Chinese characters using the computer long before the 1980s. Institutions in Taiwan and Hong Kong first started to compile large-size full-text databases of Chinese literature. Japanese scholars first introduced the concept of “digital Chinese studies.” But it was the United States that pushed computer-based Chinese script processing and Chinese studies into the practical era.



美国数字中国学的早期发展

Early Development of Digital Chinese Studies in the U.S.

- 到八十年代，马克字库已经在美国的大学图书馆和其他文化机构里被广泛运用来处理汉字信息。有些美国学者很早就尝试利用计算机来研究中国历史文化。在这方面比较具有代表性的是宾夕法尼亚大学的郝若贝教授（1932-1995）。他从70年代开始就和他的夫人以及学生一起努力，陆续将中国宋代的人物传记资料输入计算机并开发出一种分析这些数据的软件。还比如耶鲁大学的韩森教授，在90年代中期曾经编制过吐鲁番及丝绸之路研究的数据库。这些工作都对美国的中国学进入数字时代起了很大推动作用。 During the 1980s, the MARC character set was already widely applied by U.S. academic libraries and cultural institutions to process Chinese information. A number of American scholars pioneered in using computers to research on Chinese history and culture. One of the early representatives was Professor Robert M. Hartwell (1932-1995) of the University of Pennsylvania who started to work with his wife and students in the 1970s to input biographical information of the Song dynasty into the computer and developed software for retrieving and analyzing the data. Professor Valarie Hansen of Yale University also created a database for the study of the Turfan manuscripts and Silk Road in the mid-1990s. All of these early efforts played an important role in bringing Chinese studies in the U.S. into the digital age.



九十年代以来的发展

Development since the 1990s

- 九十年代中期以后，中国大陆和港、台制作的各种汉文数据库迅速成为中国学数字资源的主流。美国除了一些学术图书馆、博物馆和少数商业机构（比如谷歌）外，大部分学者退出了大型汉文数据库的制作工作。可能唯一的例外就是目前在哈佛大学包弼德教授领导的仍在进行中的“中国历代人物传记资料库”。该资料库的前身即上述郝若贝数据库，它为用户提供功能已经超出其他绝大多数只供关键词检索用的汉文全文数据库，而是接近近年来流行的各种数字人文学项目。 Since the middle of the 1990s, Chinese databases produced by mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan quickly became the mainstream electronic resources for Chinese studies. Except for some academic libraries, museums, and a few commercial companies such as Google, most American scholars are no longer involved in the production of large-size Chinese databases. The only exception may be the ongoing Chinese Biographical Database Project led by Professor Peter K. Bol at Harvard University. This database originated from the Hartwell database mentioned above. It provides users much more functions than most other Chinese full-text databases which are only suitable for keyword searching, and it is thus closer to digital humanities projects developed in recent years.



数字中国人文学近年来的发展

Recent Development of Digital Chinese Humanities

- 近十年来美国的数字中国学发展迅速。随着中国研究学者们对数字信息技术的熟悉程度不断提高，他们不再满足于简单的基于全文数据库的关键词检索，而开始尝试将新的数字研究方法施用于中国研究，包括文本分析、社会网络关系分析、空间关系分析和图示、对口述和地方文献资料的数字保存和利用，等等。有些学者也通过建立专门的网页来呈现自己的数字中国学研究成果。美国学术界对这种新型的学术普遍采取支持鼓励的态度。 The last decade has witnessed a rapid development of digital Chinese humanities in the U.S. As Chinese studies scholars are increasingly familiar with digital information technology, they are no longer satisfied with keyword searching based on full-text databases. Instead, they have tried to apply new digital methodologies to their research, such as textual analysis, network analysis, spatial analysis and mapping, digital curation of oral and local collections, etc. Some scholars have established specialized websites to present their research in digital Chinese humanities. The academia world's attitude towards this new type of scholarship is generally encouraging and supportive.



数字中国人文学近年来的发展 一续

Recent Development of Digital Chinese Humanities -contd'

- 对于数字中国人文学的发展来说，培养年轻人才显然是非常重要的。目前北美各大学的东亚研究系、所未将数字人文学方法论正式引入课程，而且研究中国历史文化的大多数学生和学者仍缺乏对数字信息技术的深入了解。有鉴于此，哈佛大学和斯坦福大学从2015年以来开展了一些以培养数字中国人文学人才为主要目的的项目，比如哈佛的“数字中国实验室”和“数字中国项目”，以及斯坦福的“亚洲数字人文”项目。两校都投入了相当大的资金来支持这些项目。
Training young scholars with digital methodology is apparently crucial for the future development of digital Chinese humanities. The East Asian studies departments and centers at North American universities have not yet included digital humanities methodology in their curriculum. Most students of Chinese history and culture still lack in-depth knowledge of digital information technology. Since last year, Harvard University and Stanford University have created programs aimed at training China researchers with latest methodology, such as the Digital China Lab and Digital China Initiative at Harvard, and the Digital Humanities Asia at Stanford. Both institutions have invested heavily in these programs.



小结与展望

Summary and Outlook

- 中国学研究的数字时代在过去十年里已经进入了新的阶段。数字技术在这个领域里的运用无论在广度和深度上都远远超过了以往。 The digital age of Chinese studies entered a new phase during the past decade. The application of digital technology in this field has far surpassed the previous years in both width and depth.
- 数字技术能给中国学研究带来多大的改变，以及它与传统人文学方法论的关系到底如何，都是正在被辩论而且会不断被辩论的题目。但是可以肯定的是，会有越来越多的学者采用数字人文学的方法。 Digital technology's impact on Chinese studies, as well as its relationship with the traditional methodology, are still being and will continue to be debated. But it is certain that more and more scholars will apply digital humanities methodology to their research.
- 美国的数字人文学理论和方法论在其它国家和地区包括东亚也正在产生显著影响。台湾大学已经举办过的六届数字人文学国际研讨会就是明证。 The theories and methodology of American digital humanities are influencing other countries around the world including East Asia. The six international conferences on digital humanities held at Taiwan University are a good example.