Multiculturalism and Globalization: Implications for Asian Digital Libraries

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Multicultural and globalized contexts present unique challenges and opportunities in developing Asian digital libraries.
Asian Digital Libraries: Multicultural & Global

- ASIA - the most linguistically diverse area of the world, with its religious diversity largely a result of contact with traders, missionaries or colonial settlers (He & Kymlicka, 2005) >> indigenous, ethnic and diaspora communities

- Digital Library (collections, repositories)

- WHAT (content), WHO (developers), HOW to use (access)

DIGITIZATION: Some envision a universal archive—the basis for a total history of the human race. (Anthony Grafton, 2007)
http://www.echinaart.com/interview/xu_bing/int_xubing.htm

http://www.dimsum.co.uk/
“Digitization and its discontents”
- Anthony Grafton, New Yorker, Nov. 5, 2007

• The commercial companies naturally concentrated on more marketable texts, while nonprofit sponsors concentrated on the texts that mattered to them. No over-all logic determined which texts were reprinted on paper, which were filmed, and which remained in obscurity.

• Other sectors of the world’s book production are not even catalogued and accessible on site, much less available for digitization. The materials from the poorest societies may not attract companies that rely on subscriptions or on advertising for cash flow.

• Poverty, in other words, is embodied in lack of print as well as in lack of food. The Internet will do much to redress this imbalance, by providing Western books for non-Western readers. What it will do for non-Western books is less clear.
Of the 230+ countries in the world, only 1/3 have searchable digital collections (Chen, 2007; p. 7)

Of the 2347 world digital collections in GMNet:

- North America (3 countries) accounts for 62%, and 56.3% of this is from the U.S.A.
- Europe (50+ countries) accounts for 20.2%*
- Asia (30+ countries) accounts for 12.3%*
- Australia and New Zealand accounts for 2%
- Africa (50+ countries) accounts for 1.3%. Of this very small number, 1.1% represents digital applications that have been developed in Egypt and South Africa.

* = not including non-English collections
Digitizing and Empowering the “Other”:

WHY
Digital libraries as national treasures and representation of the national imaginary

“History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.”

“History is written by the victors.”

»Winston Churchill
• “No hubo un chino cubano desertor, no hubo un chino cubano traidor” (Not a single Chinese-Cuban deserter, nor a Chinese-Cuban traitor) - General cubano Gonzalo de Quesada

Photo: Nicolas Cosio Sierra
Digitizing and Empowering the “Other”:

Dignitaries and railworkers gather to drive the "golden spike" and join the tracks of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, Utah, on May 10, 1869.

SO, digitize we must

OUR history, knowledge and culture depend on it
Information, Knowledge and Cultural Custodians
(preservation, access, representation, empowerment)

• To develop digital, community-based (with/in) libraries of material relating to under-represented groups including publications, photographs, artwork, artefacts and multimedia from one to a range of collections

• To provide access to essential cultural and community information to individuals and communities of concern and the world at large

• To strengthen individuals and communities through knowledge and pride in who they are, where they come from and what they have contributed

• To strengthen identity and culture through making material available that is often difficult to access for lack of documentation, rareness and fragility of materials, physical reach, etc.
Problematizing the cultural/material production of digital libraries

• Reproduction of dominant culture
• Preserving national treasures; the grand narratives
• Distributive approach (equal access, local control)
• an act of nostalgia, of inclusion and exclusion, and of racial, social and sexual differentiation
Culture: Intersubjective Space

• Roots/routes
• Imagination

• cultures have been erased, fused, re-emerged or stayed static as a result of movements of peoples through migration, colonialism, assimilation, war and intermarriage, for example. These events have created creolized, transnational, diaspora, minority (e.g., linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, etc.), and ethnically- or racially-mixed peoples and communities.
Critical and multicultural scholarship

• Juan Pérez de la Riva - “historia de la gente sin historia” > giving voice, memory and existence

• Peggy McIntosh (White Privilege) and Critical Race Theory > counter-narratives

• James Banks - cross-cultural perspectives (insider/outsider), multicultural citizenship

• Paulo Freire - through literacy that individuals find their own voice and can eradicate cultures of silence that keep them oppressed or aim to assimilate them
Cultural Diversity or multiculturalism

• Cultural diversity (UNESCO, 2001): “culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature; lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs.”

Diversity is that space where differences are edged and become the cause/source for celebration, innovation, adaptation, or in the worse case scenario subjugation and suppression.
Multiculturalism in Asia
(He and Kymlicka, 2005, p. 3)

• “managing diversity is therefore key to political stability in the region. The centralized, unitary ‘nation-state’ model adopted by postcolonial states appears increasingly unable to meet this challenge….Whatever the explanation, Asia is witnessing the rise of ‘identity politics’. People are mobilizing along ethnic, religious, racial, and cultural lines, and demanding recognition of their identity, acknowledgement of their legal rights and historic claims, and a commitment to the sharing of power.”
Population: Taiwanese (including Hakka) 84%, mainland Chinese 14%, indigenous 2%
Source: CIA World Factbook

» Recognized: Ami, Atayal, Bunun, Kavalan, Paiwan, Puyuma, Rukai, Saisiyat, Tao, Thao, Tsou, Truku, and Sakizaya.
» Unrecognized: Babuza, Basay, Hoanya, Ketagalan, Luilang, Pazeh/Kaxabu, Popora, Qauqaut, Siraya, Taokas, Trobiawan, Seediq

Map of Highland Tribes
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwanese_aborigines
http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=TW

<table>
<thead>
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<th>People Groups (click people name for profile)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% Evangel</th>
<th>% Adherent</th>
<th>% Least Reached</th>
<th>Progress Goal</th>
<th>Primary Religion</th>
<th>Primary Language</th>
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Total People Groups: 35
Unclassified / Other Individuals: 23,000
World Christian Database (2007): 23,174,000
Latin America: Home and Migration

• Did the Chinese Discover America?

• Latin America as home, citizenship

• Recent migration: secondary migration to the U.S., return migrants, Cuba?

• Relationship with China and Taiwan

• Scholarship: (a) Area Studies or Ethnic Studies, (b) evolving areas of study: Diaspora, Transnational, and Comparative Ethnic Studies
Digitization:

CONTENT
(I)
The typology of crosscultural researchers has four types of knowers or researchers (Banks, 1998):

- the indigenous-insider,
- the indigenous-outsider,
- the external-insider ("adopted" insider), and
- the external-outsider
Examples of the sort of cultural exploitation that is passed off as "economic development" in Taiwan

» "Aborigines go better with Coke" (Source: http://www.taiwanfirstnations.org/)

» The government sponsored Formosan Aboriginal Cultural Village was "built to preserve Taiwan's Aboriginal cultures and develop the tourism industry" (lack of authenticity)
Content selection/priorities

- user needs
- organizational (e.g., library) objectives
- purpose/use (e.g., research, teaching, etc.)
- cost
- Minority, under-represented cultures (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) and experiences (e.g., counter-narratives)
- **TO digitize** or **NOT TO digitize**
Examples of Digital Libraries/Projects

- Global Memory Net (GMNet) [http://www.memorynet.org](http://www.memorynet.org) 
  (over 2400 digital collections from over 80 countries; multi-collection, multilingual, multimedia) - “Ethnic Groups” category

- World Heritage Memory Net (WHMNet) - universal access to multilingual and multimedia information, including available photographs, videos, audio clips, on 830 World Heritage Sites in 138 countries


- Google Library Digitization Project

- Million Book Project

- US-Korea Joint Workshop on Digital Libraries


- Non-existent for Chinese in Latin America
Materials

- Monographs and Serials (e.g., scholarly, popular, literature, etc) [major and small presses, self-publication]
- Dissertations, theses
- Indexing and bibliographic resources
- Official records (e.g., legislation, census data, record of Parliamentary debates, immigration records, other legal records, etc.)
- Mass media: newspaper, magazine, radio, television [minority/mainstream, local/national/international]
- Art, photography, performance arts, culinary arts, crafts
- Multimedia: sound recordings, video, film, etc.
- Websites: digital forms of traditional genres, blogs, social networks, social content, social tagging, etc
- Institutional records (e.g., community organization): publications, documents, photographs, artifacts, etc.
- Personal records: documents, photographs, artifacts
- Realia: maps, globes, architectural drawings, artefacts, etc.
• Historically, there was no written form of their native languages. Cultural knowledge and values within the different tribal groups was often transmitted through folk tales. These folk tales offer a valuable window into the rich cultural history of the Aboriginal Peoples of Taiwan.

http://www.museum.org.tw/
Introduction to the Nine Aboriginal Tribes

Layout

1. Origins

Aboriginal legends in this section describe the origins of life and their ancestors.

2. Tribe Distribution

Distributed throughout Taiwan, the nine distinct aboriginal cultures.
2007 Indigenous Culture Summit

Indigenous Voices Heard Around the World

The ATAYAL organization is supporting the 2007 Indigenous Culture Summit held in Taiwan Dec 29 - Jan 7. ATAYAL founder Tony Coolidge is the North American representative of the Summit. We are looking for individuals, performers and leaders of tribal nations and organizations to register for the summit and share your voices.

Learn More About The Indigenous Culture Summit

View Itinerary | Register for the Event

Welcome To Our Online Tribal Community!

ATAYAL, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to nurturing the spirit and culture of the indigenous tribes of Taiwan and spreading its seeds worldwide. To learn more about the organization and this website, read below:

- THE MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION - The ATAYAL organization is committed to providing the indigenous peoples of Taiwan with economically and environmentally sustainable opportunities in a world market. By facilitating the development of the unique culture into marketable assets overseas, the indigenous people of Taiwan will have additional incentives to embrace and value their heritage. Learn more about the mission and get inspired.

http://www.atayal.org/home.asp
The Hakka People

Historical Background

The Jews of Asia

The term "Hakka" was not originally a designation for a certain ethnic group living in a particular area. When the term "Hakka" first appeared in household registries during the Song Dynasty, it was used to indicate "guests" who had left their homelands to settle down in other parts of the country, in contrast to residents originally from the area. Although evidence is sketchy, the Hakkas are thought to originate from the lands bordering the Huang River (Yellow River) or Shanxi, Henan, and Hubei Provinces of the Northern China of today. To escape
Descendants of Africal People Taiwan 全球非裔聯盟
Organizing the Diaspora in Taiwan

Home > About D.A.P. >

D.A.P. stands for Descendants of African People. D.A.P. was founded in Taipei City, Taiwan in March 2004. It was founded by two, black American women who shared the need to create a community for those expatriates who were residing in or passing through Taiwan.

Jaleea Price, who presently lives in Thailand, and is from Arizona spent five years in Taiwan. She along with Elissa Russell, a Mississippian, who presently resides in Taiwan founded the organization.

In addition to providing services for the local community such as information regarding shopping, employment, visa, and health/beauty products and more; D.A.P. provides event-planning services.

D.A.P. organizes culture-based performances ranging from African Dance/Drum to fashion shows and cultured performances from Brazil and beyond. Contact us at daptaiwan@yahoo.com for video presentations.

People of African descent in Taiwan are invited to join as members as well as those outside of the African Diaspora. To join email daptaiwan@yahoo.com, and request that you be added to our mailing list. Members will receive email updates and gain access to services, notices, and the DAP events calendar.

http://www.daptaiwan.org/About_DAP/about_dap.html
Monographs and Journals


Indentured Labor, Caribbean Sugar

WALTON LOOK LAI
Introduction by Sidney W. Mintz

Sociedades y templos chinos en el Perú

Isabelle Lausent-Herrera

Mass Media

Chinese language dailies:

- Diario Comercial Peruano Chino
- Man Shing Po "Diario del Pueblo" (1911-present)
- La Voz de la Colonia China (1911-22 weekly, 1922-present daily)

Bilingual weeklies:

- Ch’iao Pao "Diario de los chinos de ultramar"
- Chung Wha Po (1992-present)

Magazine:

Photographs and other archival materials

Chinese coolie laborer on sugar cane plantation, Chicamita, Peru, 1860s or 1870s.

http://www.skidmore.edu/~jdym/hi228
HIMNO DEL COLEGIO "DIEZ DE OCTUBRE"
HERMOSO PABELLÓN CUAL UN PALACIO
ERIGIDO EN EL PERÚ
EL COLEGIO DIEZ DE OCTUBRE
PROPAGA LA CULTURA CHINA
Y REVIVE SU FILOSOFÍA
IRRADIANDO COMO EL SOL
EL SABER DE NUESTRA PATRIA
Y LA REPÚBLICA CHINA
CON SUS TRES BELLOS PRINCIPIOS
DEMOCRACIA, PATRIOTISMO Y BIEN SOCIAL
CULTIVEMOS LA MORAL Y LA VIRTUD
ESTUDIANDO CON EMPÉN Y CON FE
DE APRENDER JAMÁS NOS CANSAMOS
PUES SABEMOS QUE SOLO ASÍ LOGRAREMOS
SUPERARNOS Y TRIUNFAR EN LA VIDA
PACEM IN TERRIS

La paz en la tierra, profunda aspiración de los hombres de todos los tiempos, no se puede establecer ni asegurar si no guarda íntegramente el orden establecido por DIOS.

Juan Papa XXIII

世界和平

世界和平是人們歷代深切的祈求，若不遵照天主賜下的訓誡，是不能維持和保障的。

教宗若望二十三世教會

Copia
Felix Tong
Juan 2000
Tribute to Che Guevarra
Pedro Eng’s Art

La Patrona del Barrio Chino

http://www.ewtn.com/spanish/Maria/caridad_del_cobre.htm

1847 Yemayá recibe a los Chinos culíes en Regla
La procesión de Guan Gong en el barrio chino

Altar to Cuan Cung in Casino Chung Wah
Flora Fong, 1948-
- with photo of mother & father
Wifredo, Jonas, Eskil and Timour Lam, 1973. In the garden of Albisola
http://www.uol.com.br/23bienal/especial/iela24g.htm

Nu à la Chaise, 1942
http://www.uol.com.br/23bienal/especial/iela02g.htm

Le Tropic de Capricorne, 1961
http://www.uol.com.br/23bienal/especial/iela20g.htm
Eduardo Auyón Gerardo,
Chinese Mexican Artist
Identity and Representation through music and film

Chino Latino Musicians

Source: [http://www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Ana Gabriel

http://www.tissa.com/

María Guadalupe Araújo Yong
The Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission (OCAC)

Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission,
R.O.C.(Taiwan)

Community social content: Videos, blogs, websites, etc.

ON www.youtube.com:

- Dragon Chino en el Corso de "Wong" 2007 🎥
- Danza del Dragon Chino de T'ai - Valencia (Spain) 🎥
- "Casino style" Salsa dancing -- Chinese man with Cuban woman 🎥 (Huo, Yao Fei (David)) [http://www.huoyaofei.com/]
Digitization:

DEVELOPMENT TEAM (II)
Scholarship of Dialogue: A framework for rethinking and reformulating NOT reproducing dominant discourse (Chu, 2005)

Dialogue (Freire, 1970) as conceptualized by Freire (1970) informed literacy and education:

- **Respect** — working *with* rather than acting on
- **Critical thinking** — challenging normativities, naming privileges and re-drawing them, identifying differences
- **Praxis** — informed action enabling reciprocal learning
- **Conscientization** — awareness in order to transform reality to create social change
Participatory, Contributive Development

• Commercial vs. non-commercial approach

• Participatory development: open, equitable, collaborative, contributive; community participation, integrity-based process

• Custodians and new documentation efforts (e.g., oral histories): individuals/community lending materials, shared responsibility. E.g.,

[Image: Multicultural Canada website]
from OBJECT to SUBJECT
Digitization:

ACCESS

(III)
Access issues

- Architecture
- Interactivity
- Search vs. browse
- Compliant with standards, interoperability
- Color/Design issues
- Multilingual (language of practice and for preservation)
- Culturally appropriate search vocabulary (ontologies)
- TO see/hear or NOT TO see/hear
• Cultural Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander users are warned that the Mission Voices website may contain images of deceased persons and images of places that could cause sorrow.
Digitizing and Empowering the “Other”

• multicultural and globalized digital libraries would guarantee the right for all cultural voices to be included, would acquire the necessary funding to pursue multicultural projects, and would enable underrepresented voices to speak for themselves, to determine what cultural heritage and community (including individual) experiences are to be digitized, and how the information will be accessed (limited or full access, language, interface, etc.).
Welcome to the Indigenous Peoples Literature

An educational resource for the advancement of all cultures

Dedicated to the 400 million people on this planet who are neither seen nor heard

Let these words and images be forever a reminder of their existence.

http://www.indigenouspeoples.net