

CHINESE FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Richard Le
Reference Librarian



Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

GOALS

1. Research steps and tips
2. What is Jiapu & how to find them
3. Libraries, e-resources and search terms
4. Challenges & resources available
5. Research strategies
6. **Online tools:** cemetery records, historical newspapers, gazetteers, maps, dictionaries, sites for surnames, message board and digital collections
7. Google search

STEPS TO GENEALOGY SEARCH

- Gather information
- Organize your information
- Decide who and correct name spelling
- Fill out basic forms & charts
- Figure out who has the information
- Use database, resources & libraries
- Refine your search
- Verify, document and share

TIPS : RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- Find a research buddy
- Join a group on social media
- Talk to an expert or librarian
- Connect to a genealogical society
- Use the library, archive & history centers
- Get stories and photos from family member

FAMILY BOOK : TYPES



- Zongpu (宗譜) : general genealogies
- Zupu (祖譜) : clan genealogies
- Jiapu (家譜) : extended family genealogies
- Shipu (石譜) : branch genealogies
- Jiacheng (嘉誠) : family records or annals

FAMILY BOOK : HISTORY

- Began 1600s : document family background
- Biased: rebels & female members excluded
- Used by royal families for official positions, government affairs, exams and marriage unions
- Most destroyed in Cultural Revolution, 1960-70s
- Est. 85% of surviving books are in libraries
- Books mainly from Guangdong and Fujian Provinces
- Most are indexed; but some kept locally
- **Access** : [Shanghai Library](#), [FamilySeach.org](#), other sites

FAMILY BOOK : CONTENT

- History and origin of surname
- Clan histories, stories, and legacy
- Migration history
- Lineage (family tree) : names, dates and migration
- Ancestors' biographies, dates and family info
- Generation poem (naming system)
- Clan values, rules and teaching to follow

STRATEGY



STEPS: FIND YOUR JIAPU



Info gathering

Find out: Chinese full name

Find out: Ancestral village (hometown)

- spoken dialect, headstone, obituary or cemetery records

Searches for Jiapu or Zupu

- FamilySearch.org
- Village DB
- China Roots

CONNECTION: WHO'S WHO



Your Jiapu



FINDING MORE INFO

Visit the village:

- About the person / family
- Ancestral hall (village)
- About
- Burial sites
- Other places



Libraries and archives:

- Gazetteers (local history)
- Historical newspapers
- Historical photos
- Old maps & atlas
- Books: migration patterns

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG: JIAPU BOOKS

China Collection of Genealogies, 1239-2014

These digital images represent only a portion of FamilySearch's complete collection of Chinese genealogies (家譜). To search FamilySearch's full collection of digital images of Chinese genealogies go to <https://www.familysearch.org/records/images/>.

HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

BROWSE ALL 13,247,185 IMAGES



Cite This Collection

"中國, 族譜收藏 1239-2014年." Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org>
: 10 December 2021. From various institutions and private holdings in China,
North America, and Southeast Asia.

COPY CITATION

Browse 13+ million family history books in China, North America* Southeast Asia. By country, surname and location.

(一)全氏先祖头像(构想图)

全氏历史悠久，人文学士众多，现将有代表性的几位先祖头像刊在开篇卷首，以加深我们的怀念之情。

(以下图像，由画家蒋曼平根据历史资料绘制而成)



泉崇(西汉·司空·恒德之父)



全恒德(东汉·立全姓之始祖)

Research Wiki

[Wiki Home](#)[About the Wiki](#)[Online Genealogy Records](#)[Guided Research](#)[Research Resources](#)[Wiki Policies](#)

Centers/Libraries

[Family History Library](#)[Family History Centers](#)[FS Affiliate Libraries](#)

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Page

[Talk](#)

Chinese Compiled Genealogies

Chinese Genealogy → **Genealogies**

 **In other languages:** [中文](#) | [English](#)

[Contents](#) [\[hide\]](#)

- [1 Online Resources](#)
- [2 Compiled Genealogies](#)
 - [2.1 Lineage Genealogies \(*Jia Pu*\)](#)
 - [2.2 Family Trees](#)
 - [2.3 Digital Books](#)
 - [2.4 FamilySearch Catalog](#)
- [3 Genealogies of the Imperial Clan Court and Genealogical Personnel Records](#)
- [4 Chinese in South Pacific](#)
- [5 References](#)

FRIENDS OF ROOTS: VILLAGEDB



Search by surname

Search for villages with surname

Select surname... ▾

Search

Search by other

Search for villages whose name

in romanization ▾

starts with ▾

Also search heungs/admin. districts

Search

Browse & search by surname and village. Published by American Consulate General in Hong Kong in the 1970s. It used to used to investigate immigration fraud.

VillageDB 1.32 by Dominic Yu.

FRIENDS OF ROOTS: VILLAGEDB

Search by surname

Search for villages with surname

Search by other

Search for villages whose name

Also search heungs/admin. districts



CHINA ROOTS: VILLAGE DATABASE



[Search](#) [Family Tree](#) [Services](#)

Connect with your roots, your family and yourself

[Hire Our Experts](#)

[Search for Records](#)

Search for Chinese surnames, villages, Zupus and Association and directories.

BBC

THE SIX

The New York Times

South China Morning Post

SINICA

WHO
DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

500 startups

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

GOOGLE: COUNTRY CODE



Google 搜索

手气不错

google.com.hk

请收藏我们的网址

Customize search results:

[Google.com.cn](https://google.com.cn)

[Google.com.hk](https://google.com.hk)

[Google.com.tw](https://google.com.tw)

徐氏宗谱 花都区 filetype:pdf

CAN'T FIND IT?

Further Searches:

- Family clan associations & historical societies (for help)
- Gazetteers: learn about local history & clans
- National, university and archival libraries
- Commercial sites

Contact or visit the village(s) for Zupu:

Focus search: Guangdong, Guangzhou, Fujian, Shanghai or Beijing.

CHALLENGES IN RESEARCH

Not readily available or accessible

Destroyed in cultural revolution, 1966-1977

More Difficult :

- Do not read or speak Chinese
- Fictitious names (Paper son)
- Fear of prosecution
- Assimilation : name change
- Family secrets
- Lack of available tools
- Unfamiliar with research
- Cost : travel and time

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- Helpful: Most families used a naming system
- Databases (free and proprietary)
- Local libraries, archives and depositories
- Genealogical societies, family & clan associations overseas
- Online language translation tools and apps

Goals:

- Be productive and efficient
- Minimize your cost
- Connect to the locals
- Find the information and get help for free



LIBRARIES

UC BERKELEY: EAST ASIAN LIBRARY



Shanghai Library Chinese Genealogy

Free access to this Chinese Genealogy collection. It contains 8,004 genealogical records.

Chinese Classic Ancient Books

Pre-20th century texts with full-text and images in subject areas (e.g., history and geography)

Newspapers (1850-1951)

English and Chinese newspapers. It provides an important part of the historical archives.

UC BERKELEY: EAST ASIAN LIBRARY



Chinese Local Gazetteers 中国旧方志库

A collection of 4,000 Chinese local gazetteers published from Song Dynasty to the Republic Era.

Chinese New Local Gazetteers (1949-present)

25,900+ volumes of Chinese gazetteer books. Provides historical records of provinces, prefectures, cities, and smaller district admin. units

- Historical facts about the areas, economy, governance, urban and rural development, agriculture, history, culture and more.

SHANGHAI LIBRARY



上海圖書館
上海科技信息研究所
SHANGHAI LIBRARY
INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INFORMATION
OF SHANGHAI

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One-card-through



IPAC Search

Title



GO

News

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Exhibitions

 : The Light of Cathay – the Fantastic Art of the Chinese Puppetry

UNIV. OF HONG KONG LIBRARIES



ONE LIBRARY
TWO ANNIVERSARIES
MAIN LIBRARY 110TH | PUNG FONG SHAN LIBRARY 90TH

High Contrast A A A

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Book A Space

e-Forms

Good Morning!

Find@HKUL

Author / Title

Electronic Resources

Reading List

Site Search

Advanced Search

Search the Libraries Collections

Books & Articles+



Services for

Students >

Staff >

Graduates >

Public/Visitors >



Learning & Research

ReadingList@HKUL >

(Course Reserve)

EndNote



Tools

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Electronic Resources >

HKUL Digital Initiatives >
(Digitized Collections)

BrowZine >
(Digital Magazines & Journals)

e-Learning Resource Hub >



About HKUL

- Search holds & collections
- Use Open Access, full-text
- Contact librarians for help
- Use it to availability



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@HKUL



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Space



Ask a
Librarian



Hours &
locations

book return
sorter sys

LIBRARY DATABASE: 中国谱牒库

愛如生
www.er07.com

傳承文化 服務學界

当前位置: 首页 » 大型数据库 » 中国谱牒库

本页访问量: 31502



中國譜牒庫

中国谱牒库

产品简介

[产品简介](#) [产品价格](#) [用户名录](#) [售后服务](#)

中国谱牒库参数

内容分类: 专门性/全域型
收录范围: 唐宋至民国, 历代谱牒类典籍
收书数量: 50,000部典籍
数据总量: 影像3,000万页、录文60亿字、压缩后1T

技术形态: 全文
版本型号: 典藏版
出版时间: 2000年
产权归属: 北京

Academic institutes in China and Hong Kong University subscribed to this database.

LIBRARY DATABASE: 中国谱牒库

当前位置: 首页 > 大型数据库 > 中国谱牒库 本页访问量: 31502

中国谱牒库 产品简介 产品价格 用户名录 售后服务

中国谱牒库参数

内容分类: 专门性/全域型	技术形态: 全文检索, 图文对照
收录范围: 唐宋至民国, 历代谱牒类典籍	版本型号: 典海版/远程版/本地版/在线版
收书数量: 50,000部典籍	出版时间: 2008年(分15集陆续出版)
数据总量: 影像3,000万页、录文60亿字、压缩后1T	产权归属: 北京爱如生数字化技术研究中心

- 7,000 family trees in the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties
- 2,000 items on chronology, records of sages, and diaries
- 13,000 records of imperial examinations
- 2,000 records on past dynasties



中国家谱编印基地

老家河有家谱馆 河南省家谱研究会

网站首页
家谱专家

关于我们
修谱指南

家谱查询
收费标准

家谱印刷
联系我们

请输入谱名或作者或始祖名查询

搜索

请根据姓氏的拼音首写字母来查找家谱：譬如赵氏，拼音为zhao，则要找的对应字母为“Z”

A

安氏

爱新觉罗

艾氏

阿氏

敖氏

B

卜氏

宾氏

卞氏

边氏

毕氏

贝氏

鲍氏

- Commercial site for jiapu binding.
- Use it as search tool
- Search by surname

SEARCH: WORDS AND TERMS

家譜 除氏 花都区

Jiapu Xu family Huadu District

家谱 (jiāpǔ)

宗谱 (zōngpǔ)

房谱 (fángpǔ)

谱录 (pǔlù)

家记 (jiājī)

世谱 (shìpǔ)

统谱 (tǒngpǔ)

家志 (jiāzhi)

支谱 (zhīpǔ)

通谱 (tōngpǔ)

会谱 (huìpǔ)

分谱 (fènpǔ)

谱牒 (pǔdié)

牒志 (diézhì)

谱系 (pǔxì)

玉牒 (yudíe)

谱志 (pǔzhì)

谱传 (pǔzhuàn)

家乘 (jiāshèng)

族志 (zúzhì)

SEARCH TERMS & RESULTS

Shanghai Library results:

家譜 665

族譜 431

宗譜 275

譜牒 84

National Digital Library:

族譜 39,000

宗譜 34,000

家譜 33,000

譜牒 1,600

Hong Kong Univ. results:

宗譜 9,000

家譜 9,810

族譜 6,259

譜牒 1,529

Courtesy: [John Guo](#), Librarian
Chinatown Branch Library, SF Public Library

LIBRARY RESOURCES



LIBRARY RESOURCES

- Databases: Ancestry, Heritage Quest & Fold3
- Obituaries
-
- Newspapers: 1850s
- Maps: Sanborn (1860s) and Fire Insurance
- Local archives: documents, books, photos & maps
- Genealogy section: 921s

ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITIONS



Coverage dates: 1300 - present

Contains 4,000+ databases:

- U.S. Federal Census images and indexes from 1790 to 1930
- Map Center containing more than 1,000 historical maps
- American Genealogical Biographical Index (over 200 volumes)
- Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage (over 150 volumes)
- The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1630
- Social Security Death Index (updated monthly)
- WWI Draft Registration Cards
- Federal Slave Narratives
- Civil War collection

RESEARCH GUIDES: LIBRARIANS

LibGuides Community

Search for LibGuides content and librarian authors, and find great examples of guides from our worldwide user community.



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FIND INSTITUTIONS



FIND LIBRARIANS



SPRINGY PICKS

KEYWORD:

Enter guide title or topics of interest



FEATURED GUIDE

This LibGuide is Hot!

Sorry for the pun, but this LibGuide covers major historical American fires. Great info for firefighters and history buffs.

CATEGORIES: Interesting Topic

Library guides content by librarians.
Over 874,430 total guides from 5,000+ institutions and in 105 different countries.

TRANSLATION TOOLS

www.le-librarian.net/genealogy.html

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IN ONE SECOND*

INTERACTIVE
READING*

SCAN &
TRANSLATE



BRITISH & AMERICAN
ACCENTS

2.75 MILLION
ENTRIES

LISTENING &
SPEAKING

TEXT-TO-SPEECH: SOHU

Max: 5,000 characters

The screenshot displays the Sogou Translate website interface. At the top left, the Sogou logo and the text '搜狗翻译 / 查词好, 翻译快!' are visible. Below this, there are four main service buttons: '翻文字' (Text Translation), '翻文档' (Document Translation), '翻图片' (Image Translation), and '改英文' (English Correction). A red badge above the '翻文档' button indicates '支持PPT' (Supports PPT). On the right side, there are icons for a gallery and settings.

The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel shows the input field with the text '历史' (History) and a character recognition bubble. Below the input field are playback controls and a character count of '2/5000'. The right panel shows the output area with the translated text '歷史' and playback controls. Above the output text, there are category filters: '通用领域' (General), '生物医学' (Biomedical), and '金融财经' (Finance/Economics). Below the output text, there are icons for share, copy, and feedback.

At the bottom of the page, there is a promotional banner with the text '不用打字 一拍就懂' (No typing, just take a photo to understand) and '专业地道说人话的翻译神器' (Professional and地道 translation tool that speaks human language). The banner includes an illustration of a person using a laptop and a QR code labeled '扫码体验' (Scan to experience).

TEXT-TO-SPEECH: MICROSOFT BING

Max: unlimited ?

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Bing Translator interface. At the top left is the Microsoft Bing logo. A search bar contains the text "Search the web" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: "Text", "Translator", "Conversation", "Apps", "For business", and "Help". The main content area features a translation widget with two panels. The left panel is labeled "Chinese Simplified (detected)" and contains the text "花都区" (Huādū qū) with a vertical line and purple dots indicating a selection. Below the text is the pinyin "huā dū qū" and a speaker icon. The right panel is labeled "Cantonese (Traditional)" and contains the text "花都區". Below the text are icons for editing, speaking, and copying. At the bottom of the widget is a section titled "Widely used phrases" with a downward arrow.

TEXT-TO-SPEECH: GOOGLE CLOUD

Max: unlimited ?

Put Text-to-Speech into action

Type what you want, select a language then click "Speak It" to hear.

Text to speak:

宗譜

text `ssml`

Language / locale

廣東話 (香港)

Voice type

Basic

Voice name

yue-HK-Standard-A

Audio device profile

Default

Speed:

1.00

Pitch:

0.00

Show JSON 

 SPEAK IT

TEXT-TO-SPEECH: MICROSOFT AZURE

Max: unlimited ?

Text SSML

您可以使用任何文字取代此處的文字。您可以直接填寫此文字方塊，也可以將您自己的文字貼在此處。

試試不同的語言及聲音。變更說話的速度及音調。您甚至可以調整 SSML (語音合成標記語言)，控制文字音節的差異。按一下上方的 SSML 試試看！

歡迎使用文字轉換語音!

Language

Chinese (Cantonese, Traditional) ▼

Voice

HiuMaan (Neural) - 曉曼 ▼

Speaking style

General ▼

Speaking speed: 1.00



Pitch: 0.00



▶ Play



CEMETERY RECORDS

www.le-librarian.net/genealogy.html

CEMETERY RECORDS: FAMILYSEARCH.ORG



Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities



Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

China Cemetery Records, 1820-1983

Interment, cremation and ossuarium records from various cemeteries in China. Includes Chinese nationals and foreigners well as some World War II interment records.

[HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION](#)

[BROWSE ALL 72,747 IMAGES](#)



Cite This Collection

"中國, 墓地收藏 1820-1983年." Images. *FamilySearch*.
<http://FamilySearch.org> : 14 June 2016. 墓地中國
(cemeteries, China).

[COPY CITATION](#)

FIND-A-GRAVE

World's largest gravesite collection.

Over 210 million memorials created by the community since 1995.

 ▼ ▼[More search options](#) ▼[i Search tips](#) >

Find burial places and cemetery info. Search by name, birth & death dates, and location.

Photo of Antioch Pioneer Cemetery by Harold & Wanda Blackwell



HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

www.le-librarian.net/genealogy.html

UC BERKELEY: EAST ASIAN LIBRARY



Newspapers (1850-1951)

- English & Chinese newspapers.
- It provides an important part of the historical archives.

HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES



**MULTIMEDIA
INFORMATION SYSTEM**
HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ALL MMIS MATERIALS

SEARCH E-BOOKS/VIDEO/AUDIO..



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[Old HK Newspapers](#) ▶



Old HK Newspapers

[View all items >](#)

The Old Hong Kong Newspapers Collection is a selective collection of major old Hong Kong Newspapers published from early Hong Kong to nowadays, aiming at preserving historical news reporting of Hong Kong for reference and research.

SEARCH WITHIN THE COLLECTION OF OLD HK NEWSPAPERS

Enter Keyword

SEARCH

Location:

Newspapers and Periodicals Reading Area, 5/F, Hong Kong Central Library

Introduction:

The collection provides digitized images of old Hong Kong newspapers from the library, which are accessible through the Multimedia Information System of Hong Kong Public Libraries. Collection includes:

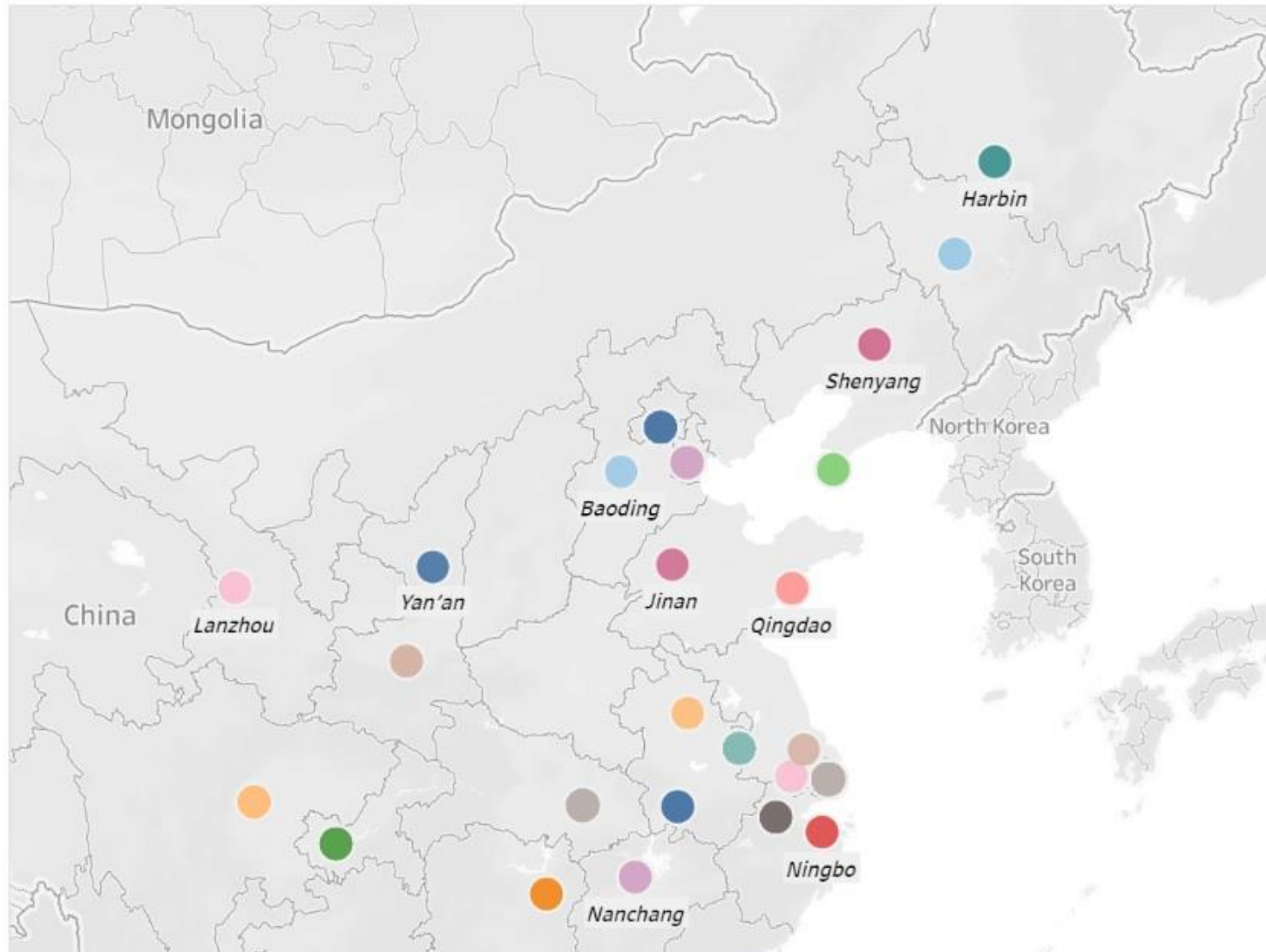
- [香港工商日報](#) (Chinese) (1926/04/01 – 1984/11/30)*,
- [香港工商晚報](#) (Chinese) (1930/11/16 – 1984/11/29)*,
- [華僑日報](#) (Chinese) (1947/05/01 – 1991/12/31)*,
- [香港華字日報](#) (Chinese) (1895/01/31 – 1940/12/31)*,
- [香港華字晚報](#) (Chinese) (1937/01/28 – 1938/01/27)*,
- [大公報](#) (Chinese) (1938/08/13 – 1991/12/31)*.

CHINA FAMILIES: NEWSPAPERS

Map-based index

晚清民国时期数字化报刊索引免费数据库

Periodicals published during the Late Qing and Republican Eras



Title

- Chinese Weekly Review
- North China Herald
- 三民半月刊
- 上海婦女
- 上海小報
- 上海市政府公報
- 上海影壇
- 上海日報
- 上海漫畫
- 上海畫報
- 世界小報
- 世界日報
- 中國攝影
- 中報
- 中央日報
- 中美日報
- 中華日報
- 之江日報
- 京報
- 人民日報
- 佛學半月刊
- 佛學月刊
- 佛教日報
- 兒童日報
- 北京大學日刊
- 北京女子高等師範週刊
- 北京師大週刊
- 北京日報
- 北平時報

Start

1850 1947

End

1898 1952

Highlight Location

Publication Location



CHINESE HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

Results: 1-20 of 20 | Refined by: [Original Format: Newspaper](#) [Language: Chinese](#) [Location: California](#) [Location: United States](#) [Location: San Francisco](#) [Subject: Chinese Newspapers](#)

Refine your results

- Available Online [0]
- All Items 20

Display Level

- All 20
- Titles 20
- Issues 0
- Pages (Full Text) 0

Original Format

- Newspaper
- Newspaper 20

Title

- Bao Wen Yin Zi Guan] = the Chinese Herald (San Francisco [Calif.]) 18??-???? 1
- Dang Fan Xin Bao = S.F. Chinese Newspaper (San Francisco [Calif.]) 1876-1??? 1
- Getting Together (San Francisco, Calif.) 19??-???? 1

Search Newspapers

View [List](#) Sort By [Select](#)

 <p>Newspaper</p> <p>NEWSPAPER The Oriental: Or, Tung-Ngai San-Luk (San Francisco, Calif.) 1855-1857</p>	 <p>Newspaper</p> <p>NEWSPAPER Dang Fan Xin Bao = S.F. Chinese Newspaper (San Francisco [Calif.]) 1876-1???</p>	 <p>Newspaper</p> <p>NEWSPAPER Hua Yang Hua Ji Xin Bao = the Oriental (Meiguo Jinshan [San Francisco, Calif.]) 1886-1904</p>	 <p>Newspaper</p> <p>NEWSPAPER Jiu Jin Shan Tang Ren Xin Wen Zhi = San Francisco China News ([San Francisco, Calif.]) ...</p>
			

Search for Chinese Newspaper and the location.



LOCAL GAZETTEERS

www.le-librarian.net/genealogy.html

GAZETTEER: WAN FANG DATA



新方志

旧方志

 地图找志

 问卷调查

唯有讀志 方知中國



全部

新方志

旧方志

志书 ▾

请输入检索词

检索

高级检索



CHINESE DICTIONARIES

www.le-librarian.net/genealogy.html

DICTIONARY: CHINESE ETYMOLOGY



Chinese Etymology 字源

Home 首页

About 汉字叔叔

Research 汉字研究



Chinese Etymology
汉字字源



- Styles of writing, meaning, pronunciation and ancient characters.
- Oracle characters
- Bronze characters
- Seal characters
- Liushutong characters

DICTIONARY: CHINESE ETYMOLOGY

Liushutong characters 六书通的篆字 (19)

Q L08938

Q L08939

Q L08940

Q L08941

Q L08942

Q L08943

Q L08944

Q L08945

Q L08946

Q L08947

Q L08950

Q L08951

Q L08952

Q L08953

- Styles of writing, meaning, pronunciation and ancient characters.

- Oracle characters
- Bronze characters
- Seal characters
- Liushutong characters



CHINESE SURNAMES

www.le-librarian.net/genealogy.html

SURNAME: HISTORY

Mingba 名霸™

个人测名

公司测名

在线起名

名吧

免费算命

百家姓

十二星座

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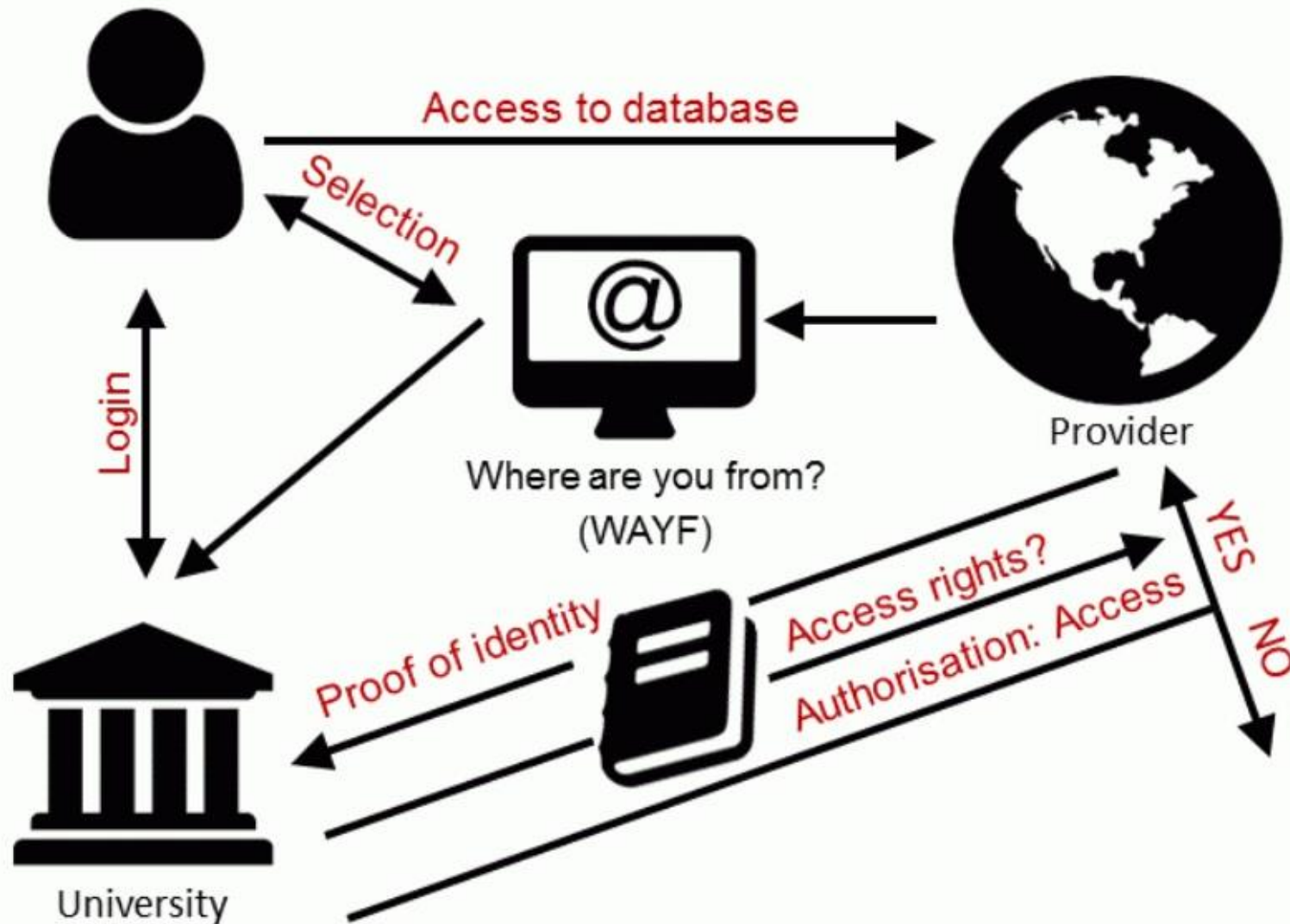
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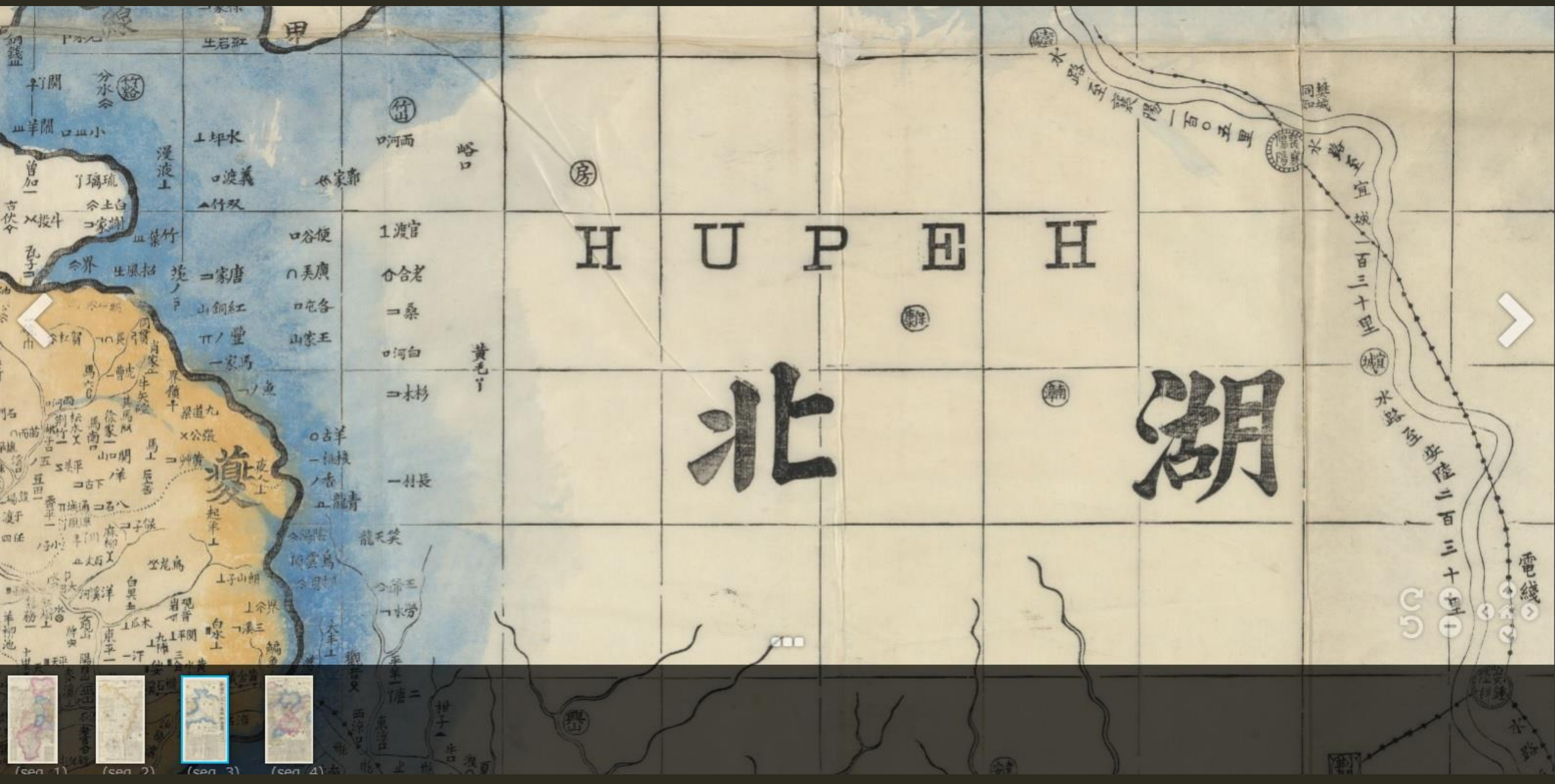
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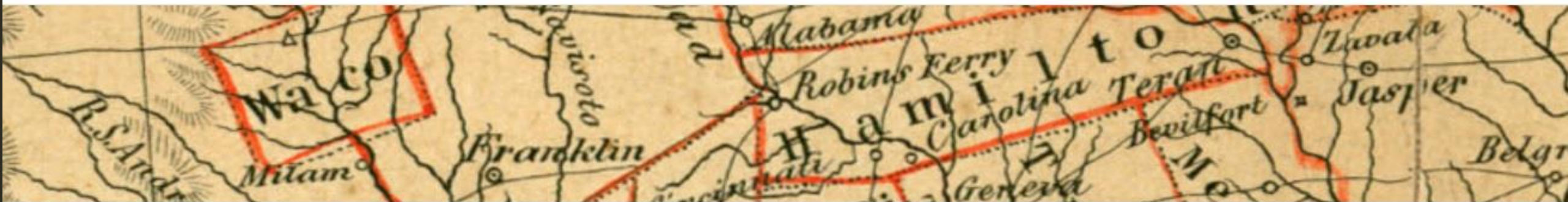
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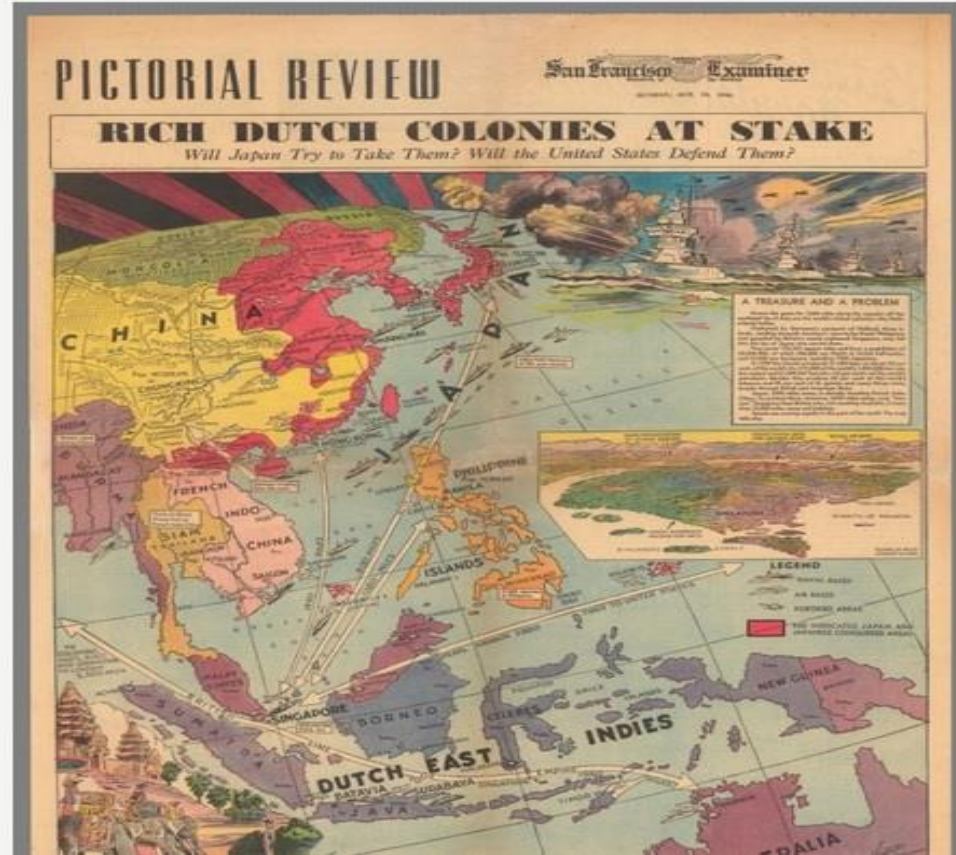
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- Helpful resources

SUMMARY

1. Research steps
2. Ways to find family books
3. Libraries and search terms
4. Research strategies
5. **Online tools:** cemetery records, historical newspapers, gazetteers, maps, dictionaries, surnames, message board and digital collections
6. Google search



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