

# Shih-Pei Chen

Friedrichsruher Str. 30B, 14193 Berlin

Tel: +49 160 7856 586

schen@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

## Positions

Senior Research Scholar, Department III “Artefacts, Action, Knowledge,” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science	2015 – Present
Digital Content Curator, Department III “Artefacts, Action, Knowledge,” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science	2014 – 2015
Postdoctoral researcher, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University	2011 – 2013

## Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science, National Taiwan University, Taiwan Dissertation: <i>Information Technology for Historical Document Analysis</i>	2011
M.S. in Computer Science, National Taiwan University, Taiwan	2003
B.S. in Applied Mathematics, National Chiao-Tung University, Taiwan	1998

## Projects led and contributed

Local Gazetteers Research Group & LoGaRT ( <a href="#">link 1</a> & <a href="#">2</a> ) <i>LoGaRT was built and refined within a research user group of internationally-renowned scholars, and it has yielded 50+ research projects where scholars use LoGaRT to generate revolutionary insights for Chinese historical research.</i>	2014 – Present
CHMap: Land Survey Maps of China, a Cartographic Database (1895-1944) ( <a href="#">link</a> ) <i>A WebGIS interface for displaying a collection of 4,000 Chinese maps surveyed and produced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its technical capability of including other open access map layers as well as cultural heritage images helps to reveal spatial epistemologies.</i>	2018 – Present
RISE and SHINE: Research Infrastructure for the Study of Eurasia ( <a href="#">link</a> ) <i>Collaborating with Berlin State Library and Leiden University, this project develops a light-weight digital research infrastructure for forming a network for secure resource exchange and interoperability which facilitates the emerging data analytics in the humanities.</i>	2017 – Present
Digital Concordances <i>A pilot project between MPIWG and Brill to explore new forms of publishing datasets that are curated from primary sources.</i>	2020 – Present
Drugs Across Asia ( <a href="#">link</a> ) <i>This project was a collaboration among MPIWG, National Taiwan University, Dharma Drum Institute for Liberal Arts (Taiwan), and Nanyang Technology University (Singapore). It produced digital tools</i>	2013 – 2017

*and explored new methodologies for the historical study of materia medica and related medical practices from digital texts.*

China Biographical Database ([link](#)) 2011 – 2013

*A relational database with biographical information about approximately 471,000 individuals, primarily from the 7th through 19th centuries. The applicant managed the project at Harvard University and introduced text mining techniques to extract data from digital texts, which doubled the size of the database.*

Taiwan History Digital Library ([link](#)) 2006 – 2011

*A textual database housing Taiwanese historical documents from the late imperial period. Led by the applicant and a postdoctoral fellow at National Taiwan University, this database hosts test-bed for digital research and analytical tools that the lab of Automated Reasoning and Digital Archives built surrounding the digital corpora.*

## Publications

### Journal Articles

- Chen, S.-P.**, Yeh, C. (*Upcoming*). Seeing structural knowledge across localities in historical China: Local Gazetteers Research Tools. *International Journal of Digital Humanities*.
- Belouin, P., **Chen, S.-P.**, Wang, S., Ho, H.I. (*Upcoming*). Designing an API-Based Protocol for the Interoperability of Textual Resources. *Digital Studies / Le champ numérique*.
- Schäfer, D., **Chen, S.-P.**, & Che, Q. (2020). What is Local Knowledge? Digital Humanities and Yuan Dynasty Disasters in Imperial China's Local Gazetteers. *Journal of Chinese History 中國歷史學刊*, 4(Special Issue 2), 391-429. doi:10.1017/jch.2020.31.
- Chen, S.-P.**, Hammond, K., Gerritsen, A., Wu, S., & Zhang, J. (2020). Local Gazetteers Research Tools: Overview and Research Application. *Journal of Chinese History 中國歷史學刊*, 4(Special Issue 2), 544-558. doi:10.1017/jch.2020.26.
- Lin, N.-y., **Chen, S.-P.**, Wang, S., & Yeh, C. (2020). Displaying Spatial Epistemologies on Web GIS: Using Visual Materials from the Chinese Local Gazetteers as an Example. *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing*, 14(1-2), 81-97. doi:10.3366/ijhac.2020.0246.
- W.H. Pang, H. Cheng, **S.-P. Chen**, “From Text to Data: Extracting Posting Data from Chinese Local Gazetteers”. *Journal of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities* 1 (2018): 79-125. doi: 10.6853/DADH.201804\_1.0004.
- S.-P. Chen**, “Remapping Locust Temples of Historical China and the use of GIS (重制陳正祥之蝗神廟分佈圖與淺談 GIS 的使用)”. *Review of Religion and Chinese Society* 3.2 (2016), 149-163. doi:10.1163/22143955-00302002.
- J. Hsiang, **S.-P. Chen**, H.-I. Ho, H.-C. Tu., “Discovering Relationships from Imperial Court Documents of Qing China”. *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 6.1-2 (2012): 22-41. doi:10.3366/ijhac.2012.0036.
- S.-P. Chen**, Y.-M. Huang, J. Hsiang, H.-C. Tu, H.-I. Ho, and P.-Y. Chen, “Discovering Land Transaction Relations From Land Deeds Of Taiwan”. *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 28.2 (2012): 257-270. doi:10.1093/lc/fqs063.

### Book Chapters

- Chen, S.-P.**, Che, Q., Wang, S. (Upcoming). Using Chinese Local Gazetteers with a Collective Lens. In Chen, J., Chiu, W.Y. (Eds.), *Practices in Digital Humanities: Databases*.
- Chen, S.-P.** (Upcoming). What One Should Know about a Locality: Analyzing Knowledge Categories of the Chinese Local Gazetteers. In M. Cooley, H.Y. Wu (Eds.), *Knowing the Empire in Early Modern China and Spain*.
- Chen, S.-P.**, Belouin, P., Wang, S. (Upcoming). RISE and SHINE: Constituting a Cyberinfrastructure for Digital Sinology. In *Proceeding of International Conference on Sinology Digital Humanities Technology*.
- Chen, S.-P.** (2020). The Magic of Dropbox, its Virtuality and Materiality. In S. Bauer, M. Schlünder, & M. Rentetzi (Eds.), *Boxes: A Field Guide* (pp. 397-408). Manchester: Mattering Press.
- S.-P. Chen**, J. Hsiang, H.-I. Ho, H.-C. Tu, “On Reconstructing the Citation Relations among the Court Documents of Qing China,” in *New Eyes for Discovery: Foundations Imaginations of Digital Humanities* (Series on Digital Humanities), J. Hsiang, Eds. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press, 2011, pp. 85-116.
- S.-P. Chen**, H.-C. Tu, J. Hsiang, “The Document Processing Workflow of Taiwan History Digital Library,” in *From Preservation to Knowledge Creation: The Way to Digital Humanities* (Series on Digital Humanities), J. Hsiang, Eds. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press, 2011, pp. 51-66.
- S.-P. Chen**, J. Hsiang, H.-C. Tu, and M.-C. Wu, “On Building a Full-Text Digital Library of Historical Documents,” in *Asian Digital Libraries. Looking Back 10 Years and Forging New Frontiers* (Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol. 4822), D. Goh, T. Cao, I. Sølvberg and E. Rasmussen, Eds. Berlin: Springer, 2007, pp. 49-60.

### Conference papers

- Wang, S., Belouin, P., Ho, B., & **Chen, S.-P.** (2019). RISE and SHINE: A Modular and Decentralized Approach for Interoperability between Textual Collections and Digital Research Tools. In *Digital Humanities Conference 2019, 9-12 July* (pp. 1-4). Utrecht: Utrecht University.
- Lin, N.-y., **Chen, S.-P.**, Che, Q., Yeh, C., & Wang, S. (2019). 數位人文中的空間認識論-以中國方志與陸測圖為例 [Spatial epistemologies in Digital Humanities: using local gazetteers and land survey maps of China as an example]. In *DADH 2019. 10th International Conference of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities* (pp. 83-100). Taipei: National Taiwan Normal University.
- Wang, S., Belouin, P., **Chen, S.-P.**, & Ho, B. (2018). Research Infrastructure for the Study of Eurasia (RISE): Towards a Flexible and Distributed Digital Infrastructure for Resource Access via Standardized Apis and Metadata. In *DADH 2018. 9th International Conference of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities* (pp. 21-37). Taipei, Taiwan: Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts.
- Ho, B., Wang, S., Belouin, P., & **Chen, S.-P.** (2018). Asia Network: An API-Based Cyberinfrastructure for the Flexible Topologies of Digital Humanities Research in Sinology. In S.-L. Shaw, T.-C. Chan, & L.-J. Chen (Eds.), *Pacific Neighborhood Consortium: Annual Conference and Joint Meetings; Human Rights in Cyberspace, PNC 2018* (pp. 30-33). New York: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. doi:10.23919/PNC.2018.8579459.
- S.-P. Chen**, Q. Che, L. Cao, D. Schäfer, H.-S. Wang, “Treating a Genre as a Database: the Chinese Local Gazetteers, the LG Tools, and Research Based on This New Digital

Methodology,” in *Digital Humanities 2017: Conference Abstracts*. McGill University & Université de Montréal, Montréal, pp. 53-55.

**S.-P. Chen**, Z. Hong, D. Schäfer, M. Siebert, J. Urzúa, “Compiling a Database on Historical China from Local Records: The Local Gazetteers Project at MPIWG,” in *Digital Humanities 2016: Conference Abstracts*. Jagiellonian University & Pedagogical University, Kraków, pp. 452-455.

#### Conference presentations

- “Analysing Knowledge Categories of Chinese Local Gazetteers”, Conference of Social Media Processing (SMP2020), Zhejiang University, September 2020.
- “Using a Genre with a Collective Lens: the Chinese Local Gazetteers as an Example”, Digital Humanities and Classical Studies workshop, Berlin, May 2019.
- “Digital Perspectives on Chinese Local Gazetteers”, workshop on Printed Books and Knowledge about Necessities and Luxuries in Early Modern China and Japan, Leiden University, May 2019.
- “LoGaRT: New Digital Research Methods for Studying Local Gazetteers”, Digital Technology Expo at 2019 annual conference for Association for Asian Studies, March 2019.
- “RISE and SHINE: An interoperable, distributed, and secure e-infrastructure based on APIs”, Digital Technology Expo at 2019 annual conference for Association for Asian Studies, March 2019.
- “LoGaRT: Local Gazetteers Research Tools”, in Panel *Local Gazetteers as a Database: New Digital Research Methods* at 2018 Annual Conference for Association for Asian Studies (AAS), March 2018.
- “LoGaRT: A New Approach to Chinese Local Gazetteers”, workshop at the Second Conference on Middle Period Chinese Humanities, Leiden University, September 2017.
- “Treating a Genre as a Database: The Chinese Local Gazetteers, the LG Tools, and Research based on this New Digital Methodology”, panel at the Digital Humanities Conference, McGill University, July 2017.
- “Reconstructing Local Materialities from Chinese Local Gazetteers,” in panel ‘Digital Sinology in Germany: Challenges and Opportunities for Sinologists, Librarians, and Information Technologists,’ International Conference of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities, Taipei, December 2015.
- “Mapping Local Knowledge of Historical China and the Use of GIS,” in panel ‘Mapping Written Topographies: Critical Reflections on Close Reading and GIS,’ Annual Conference for the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, March 2015.
- “From Tagging to Mapping Historical Chinese Data,” in panel ‘Digital and Computational History of Science: Tools, Platforms, Networks, and Corpora,’ History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2014.
- “From Text to Data: the China Biographical Database and the Local Materiality Project at MPIWG,” Universität Stuttgart, workshop ‘Quantitative Literaturwissenschaft in Systematischer und Historischer Perspektive,’ September 2014.
- “The China Biographical Database. Modeling Life Histories: from Anecdote to Data,” in panel ‘Computational Tools and Digital Resources for Chinese History and Literature,’ Annual Conference for the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, March 2013.
- “A RegEx Machine,” Harvard University, conference ‘New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data,’ October 2012.

### Datasets

Stanley-Baker, M., **Chen, S.-P.**, Chang, T., Tu, H.-c., Hung, J., & Hung, I.-m. (2019). *Bencao jing ji zhu* 本草經集注. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press.

doi:10.6681/NTURCDH.DB\_DocuSkyBencaojing/Text.

Stanley-Baker, M., **Chen, S.-P.**, Tu, H.-c., & Hung, I.-m. (2019). 佛道藏經及醫藥典籍共3830筆. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press.

doi:10.6681/NTURCDH.DB\_DocuSkyDaoBudMed6D/Text.

### **Research workshops / conference panels organized**

“Visual Materials in Local Gazetteers” Research Workshop, MPIWG, April 22-23, 2021

“Locality and Geographical Writing in Imperial China” Research Workshop, MPIWG, June 29 & July 1, 2020

“Knowing an Empire: Imperial Science in Early Modern Chinese and Spanish Empires” Research Workshop, MPIWG, November 21-22, 2019

“Digital Humanities and Classical Studies: Prospects and Challenges” Research Workshop, MPIWG and University of British Columbia, May 23-24, 2019

“LoGaRT: Local Gazetteers Research Tools”, in Panel *Local Gazetteers as a Database: New Digital Research Methods* at 2018 Annual Conference for Association for Asian Studies (AAS), March 2018.

“Tu (圖) in Local Gazetteers” Research Workshop, MPIWG, July 1-14, 2018

“Chinese Local Gazetteers: Terminology” Research Workshop, MPIWG, July 3-31, 2017

“Chinese Local Gazetteers: Local Materiality in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine” Research Workshop, MPIWG, August 1-19, 2016

“Chinese Local Gazetteers: Historical Method and Computerized Data Collection and Analysis” Research Workshop, MPIWG, April 27-28, 2015

### **Editorial / advisory / reviewing boards served**

Editorial board, International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing, Edinburgh University Press 2020 – Present

Editorial board, Digital Humanities Research (Journal), Renmin University 2020 – Present

Advisory board, Contemporary Chinese Village Gazetteer Data, University of Pittsburgh 2021 – Present

Advisory board, ERC Consolidator Grants 2020 “DEEPMED: Discovering the Deep Mediterranean Environment: A History of Science and Strategy (1860-2020)” by Lino Camprubí, University of Seville 2021 – 2025

Reviewer, Hongkong Research Grants Council 2020