

Gateway Service Center for Chinese Academic Journals

In October 1998, the University of Pittsburgh East Asian Library launched a demonstration Gateway Service Center for Chinese Academic Journal Publications. The Center established and maintains the first global resource sharing and document delivery service between U.S. and Chinese libraries. It delivers digital copies of Chinese-language academic journal articles from six Chinese libraries, via the Internet, to scholars throughout the United States. Through the Center, American library patrons have free and easy access to Chinese-language journal articles otherwise unavailable to them. The project was funded by the United States Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through its 1998–2000 National Leadership Grant. Because the program is underwritten by the federal grant, U.S. scholars can use the service free of charge. In 1997, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange funded a pilot study that led to the current project.

The research libraries in Asia that are partnering in this undertaking include Peking University Library and Tsinghua University Library in Beijing, Shanghai Jiaotong University Library and Fudan University library in Shanghai, the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library, and the Fu Ssu-nien Library of Academia Sinica in Taiwan. These library collections are among the largest and finest Chinese-language collections in the world. In the past, American scholars had to travel to use those collections; today, they can directly access a portion of those valuable materials through the Gateway Center.

American library patrons can complete an online request form for the full text of Chinese journal articles at the Gateway Service Center's website: <http://www.library.pitt.edu/gateway/>. Once a University of Pittsburgh librarian has determined that the requested item is not available from an American library, the request is sent electronically to the appropriate Chinese library. A librarian there will locate the material in their collection, digitize it, and send it electronically to the Gateway Center in Pittsburgh. Gateway Center staff will then print the digital text and mail a hard copy of the article to the requestor. Most patrons receive their requested items approximately one week after submitting a request.

For more information, contact:

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