Chapter 7
A Bibliographic Analysis of Scholarly Publication in the Emerging Field of Digital Humanities in Taiwan

Kuang-hua Chen
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Muh-Chyun Tang
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

ABSTRACT

This chapter focuses on the development of digital humanities (DH) in Taiwan. A bibliographic methodology was adopted where the scholarly publications in DH were collected and their bibliographic information retrieved and analyzed. Both co-authorship and article similarity networks were generated so social network analysis can be used to characterize the development of the field. The preliminary results show that in the earlier stage of DH in Taiwan more emphasis has been put on the construction and modeling of the cultural heritage databases; the later period has witnessed a wide variety of efforts to apply computational means within different branches in humanities, most noticeably history, Buddhists, and literary studies. The Computer Science, Library and Information Science, Geography, and History are the major driving forces for DH in Taiwan. The strong presence of Buddhists study is unique because of the strong influence of Buddhism on the Taiwanese.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-7195-7.ch007

INTRODUCTION

Digital technologies present new ways of preserving, representing, and analyzing cultural heritage materials. Using novel computer-enabled methods, the emerging field of digital humanities (DH) has captured the imagination of academics and the general public alike. In Taiwan, the development of DH scholarship can be traced back to the 1980s, when Academia Sinica initiated a series of projects to completely digitize ancient Chinese historical texts. This collection of Chinese classics, now available online (http://hanchi.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/), remains an indispensable resource for Sinology worldwide. Around this time, National Taiwan University also initiated a 3-year Digital Libraries Museums projects. Under the auspices of Taiwan's National Science Council (now the Ministry of Science and Technology), the digitization of cultural heritage materials has entered a period of tremendous growth in the past decade. Starting with the National Digital Archive Programs (NDAP, 2002–2007), which was integrated into Taiwan E-Learning and Digital Archives Programs (TELDAP, 2008-2012), many cultural artifacts have been digitized to preserve and showcase Taiwan's rich cultural heritage.

These government-sponsored national archives have generated a substantial volume of digital content, along with elaborate metadata schemes and a union catalog of resources stored in distributed repositories that can now be easily searched and accessed (http://teldap.tw/en/index.html). The collection now includes metadata of more than 2 million artifacts and 3.52 million digitized images, texts, and videos in six categories: the biosphere and nature, lives and culture, archives and databases, maps and architecture, art and illustrations, and languages and multimedia. These efforts strengthened our expertise in the management of digitalized cultural assets and opened up innovative ways for utilizing these digital assets for the advancement of education and scholarship. These socio-technological contexts provide an ideal foundation for the growth of a vibrant scholarly community devoted to digitizing cultural heritage in Taiwan. The initial plan was for these digitized assets to be used as teaching materials or to be licensed for commercial applications. As a natural extension of earlier digitization initiatives, considerable efforts have been placed into the enhancement of datasets and encoding of texts for scholarly endeavors, out of which the field of DH in Taiwan has gradually evolved. An exciting array of computing-enabled tools have been developed to explore novel research questions in the humanities and social sciences. This newly established digital infrastructure for cultural resources presents fertile ground for social scientists and humanities researchers, often in collaboration with computer scientists, to raise and explore questions that would otherwise not be feasible or conceivable.

Such interdisciplinary endeavors highlight a vital requirement for a forum for exchanges of ideas and networking for scholars of diverse intellectual and institutional