

Digital Resources in Daoist Studies

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Compared to Buddhist studies, digital materials for Daoist studies are, at present, almost inexistent. What is available consists of a few websites that offer limited resources. These include, for instance, a Chinese encyclopedia (partially translated into English), an electronic version of the *Daojiao dacidian* (Great Dictionary of Daoism), and several digital texts whose quality and reliability varies. This situation is bound to change within the next few years, when the project of digitizing the entire Daoist Canon, directed by Professor Li Fengmao at the Academia Sinica, will be concluded.

Smaller projects in progress include a database containing bibliographic and iconographic information on Daoist texts which I have been working on for some time (I will distribute a subset of these data as a PDF file at the Conference). Despite its limitations, this database is an example of the potential offered by digital materials in collecting and easily accessing data of different nature concerning textual sources. The database can easily accommodate materials available online, abstracts, encyclopedia entries, and so forth.

No real progress in this area, however, is possible until reliable digital versions of primary sources are available. Apart from the texts in the Daoist Canon, many other sources are significant for Daoist scholars who work on particular traditions, such as *Neidan* (Inner Alchemy), or on particular literary genres, such as hagiography. Based on preliminary discussions with some colleagues, I will present an initiative to produce digital versions of major Daoist texts not found in the Daoist Canon. The CBETA archive of Buddhist texts offers a valuable model. I will show an "extra-Canonical" Daoist text formatted according to that model.

As an example of the multiple new tools made possible by digital texts, I will also introduce a lexical database focused on the technical terminology of *Neidan*. The database includes at present about 2,500 records—each of which contains the citation of a relevant passage from a primary source—and offers the possibility of translating and annotating single entries, selecting them, and exporting them in dictionary form.