Mapping the Landscape of Chinese Nongovernmental Organizations

Collaborations in a Web Archiving Project

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Chinese NGO Web Archiving Project

https://exhibits.stanford.edu/chinese-ngos

- Websites
- Blogs
- Weibo
- Douban
- Web news/article on special topics
Selection

- Active Grassroots NGOs for at least 3 years

- 424 seeds in Archive-It with 359 continuing to be crawled on an ongoing basis. 1/3 are social media sites. monthly and quarterly crawl. 1.2 TB of data.
  - environment
  - public health
  - women/sexualities
  - education
  - labor
  - development

- Limited NGO news, early NGO incubators, Foundations
March 4 2014 Beijing Yirenping Center 北京益仁平中心
Apr. 23, 2015 NGO LegalAid 众泽妇女法律咨询中心
March 2015 广东番禺打工族服务部
Why Chinese Grassroots NGOs?

- Rapid growth of NGOs and increased civil actions.
- Grassroots NGOs, established voluntarily by private individuals that pursue certain social missions through independent efforts.
- Websites and social media revolutionized NGOs communication and advocacy.
Why Chinese Grassroots NGOs?

▪ Urgent needs to preserve records and history under current political climate.

▪ NGOs lack of consciousness and capacity to preserve the records.

▪ Overlooked by institutional archives or libraries. existing web archiving programs pay less attention to social organizations
  ➢ government information
  ➢ news media
  ➢ major events
  ➢ political discourse: corruption, human rights, China dream, political leaders, public intellectuals, etc.

▪ Increasingly active research area and library collection strength/focus
Challenges in Web Archiving Projects

- Lack of resources
  - Funding
  - Technical expertise

- Subject knowledge and expertise
- All-inclusiveness vs. selection
- Risks associated with Chinese projects
Collaboration and Partnership

University:
- Administration
- Research centers

Public:
- Potential donors
- Foundations
- Audience

Tech networks:
- Web archiving

Chinese NGOs
Collaborators

- East Asia Library
- Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society

- Stanford University Digital Library and Services
- Stanford Library metadata department
- Financial support: Leping Social Entrepreneur Foundation 北京乐平公益基金会
- Web Archiving Service and Archive-It
Libraries as an Organizer
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- Provide organizational infrastructure
- Navigate the organizational landscape inside the university
- Communicate
- Plan and manage the project
Researchers as an Mobilizer

- Establish the academic legitimacy of web archiving
- Outreach and fund raising
- Create research projects around the digital archive
Library-Researcher Collaboration as Entrepreneurship

- Transcend the personal career and skills
- Long-term commitment and trust
- Short-term experiment and incremental efforts
- Innovation through mobilizing and recombining existing organizational resources
Thank you!

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