

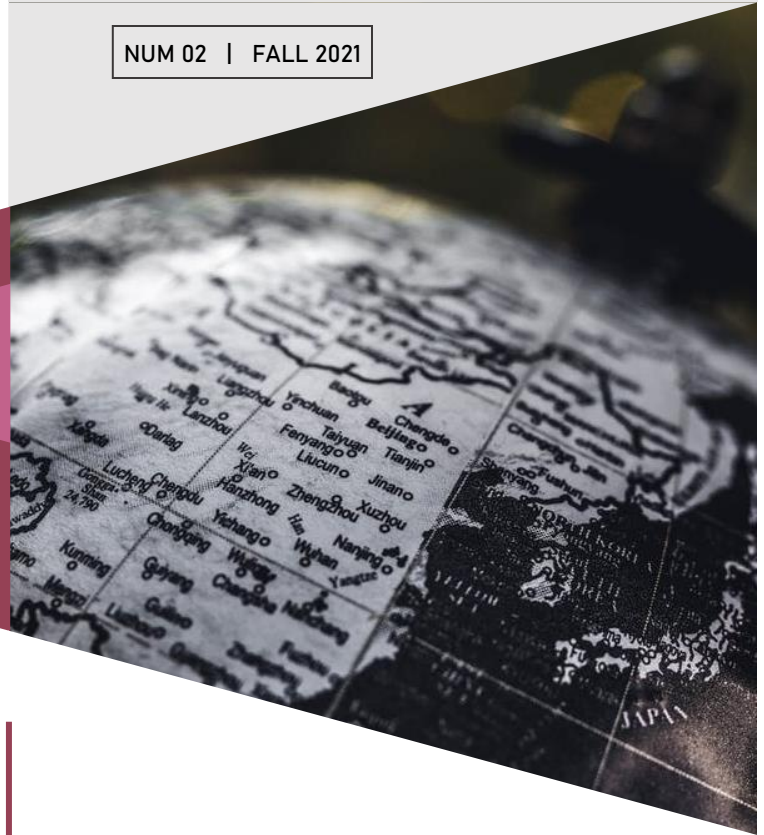


CHINA HISTORICAL
CHRISTIAN DATABASE

THE GAZETEER

Your source for the latest news and information related to the China Historical Christian Database.

NUM 02 | FALL 2021



FEATURED STORY

On the Digital Advance CHCD Awarded NEH Grant for Digital Infrastructure

On August 17, 2021, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded Drs. Daryl Ireland, Eugenio Menegon, and Alex Mayfield \$100,000 for their work on the China Historical Christian Database (CHCD). As a “Digital Advancement Grant,” the award recognizes the project as an innovative contribution to the fields of China studies and the digital humanities, and it provides specific support for developing the technological infrastructure of the project. The CHCD was one of only twenty projects chosen by the NEH to receive this highly competitive and generous form of funding. Moreover, during the review process, the project received an “excellent” rating—the highest possible rating—from every single reviewer.

Inside this issue



PAGE 3

An Update on the Challenge Grant

Our angel donor is still looking for partners!



PAGE 4

The Summer Rundown

See what has been happening this summer with the CHCD.

On the Digital Advance

continued from page 1

As a “Digital Advancement” grant, the award was specifically awarded to fund the technological development of the CHCD. This includes funding for database implementation, front-end development, and data cleaning for the project’s first data release. These technical developments will provide a firm technological foundation for the CHCD’s continued growth and ensures that the project will be able to meet one of its core goals: data accessibility.

That access is essential. By its initial release, the CHCD will represent the largest historical dataset on Christianity in China ever to exist. While impressive, the project team has long recognized that the importance and impact of the project will be greatly diminished if people cannot access and understand the data. As such, the CHCD team has been committed to creating tools that help people engage and analyze our large-scale data. This NEH grant will help the CHCD advance in its mission to map Christianity in China from 1550-1950, and it will help make sure no one is left out as the project stays on the digital advance.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES

“The grants announced today demonstrate the resilience and breadth of our nation’s humanities institutions and practitioners ... these excellent projects will advance the teaching, preservation, and understanding of history and culture.”

Adam Wolfson, Acting Chairman of the NEH

The Challenge is Still On!

Angel Donor is Looking for Partners to Support CHCD Personnel

On January 2021, the CHCD moved into an exciting new phase of life thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor. Issuing a challenge grant, our angel donor committed to matching dollar for dollar every gift given to the CHCD up to \$50,000! With these funds, the project will be able to hire strategic personnel who are essential for actualizing the ambitious vision of the CHCD.

With this challenge set, the CHCD team got to work. Over the course of the spring and summer of 2021, began to reach out to partners and potential donors around the world. After countless emails and multiple road trips and Zoom meetings, the CHCD team is closing in on its goal to match every dollar.

While the challenge is still ongoing, the promised funds have already had a dramatic impact on the project. As the first major monetary investment into the CHCD, the gift has propelled the project beyond its initial stage and into full-scale implementation. Primarily, this has meant that the project could invest in personnel like our project director and research specialists who have helped us unlock the information from hard to-reach archives.

Thanks to the generous support of all of donors, we have \$35,000 pledged toward our \$50,000 goal. The CHCD project team is so grateful to those who have given, and we remain committed to rising to the challenge and taking full advantage of our angel donor's generosity.

If you are interested in partnering with the CHCD to preserve and expand our knowledge of China's Christian past, then please consider giving today. If you give during the period of our Challenge Grant, you can effectively double your support for the CHCD. For more information about how to give, [click here](#).

\$15,000
TO GO

\$35,000
PLEGGED

\$50,000
CHALLENGE
GRANT

The Summer Rundown

The CHCD project team had a busy summer.

MAY

Over two dozen student interns and volunteers began collecting data on Protestant and Catholic missionaries in China.

JUNE

Dr. Alex Mayfield hired as the Project Director of the China Historical Database.

JULY

Dr. Alex Mayfield presented on the CHCD at the Historical Network Research in Chinese Studies Conference, hosted by the Fairbank Center for China Studies at Harvard University. More information can be found [here](#).

Development work on the final version of the CHCD's Online Data Platform began in partnership with Anderson University.

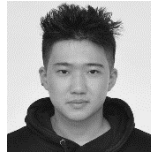
AUGUST

Drs. Daryl Ireland, Eugenio Menegon, and Alex Mayfield received a Digital Advancement Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Drs. Daryl Ireland, Eugenio Menegon, and Alex Mayfield finalized an article for *Digital Humanities* 數字人文.

Summer Stars

The CHCD would be impossible without the many students who contribute their valuable time to the project. This summer, we had dozens of students contribute data to the CHCD. Here are just two of the stars from the CHCD's summer sky.



Jintao ZHAI

Jintao, a history and journalism major at Boston University, spent his summer using archival materials to collect data on the Congregation of the Passion and Maryknoll. These groups were a large and important part of Catholicism in modern China. Through his work, Jintao was successfully able to catalogue and document hundreds of people and institutions.



Chiara PORTELLI

Chiara, a foreign languages and cultures major at the University of Perugia, spent her summer working with the *Directory of Protestant Mission in China*. Using her Chinese and English skills, Chiara recorded the location, Western names, and Chinese names of Christians during the 1920s.

State of the Data

Where our data stands after a summer of data entry. As data is still in the process of being cleaned these numbers are only rough

35,800

Individuals

113,200

Location Records

3,600

Institutions

521

Organizations

15,600

Personal Relationships