

# **The Digital Humanities in Taiwan: Past, Present and Future**

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## **Abstract**

As the most prestigious research institute in Taiwan, Academia Sinica provides a miniature representation of the history of the digital humanities on the island. Lin Fu-shih 林富士(1960-), a researcher at the institute, divides this history into three key phases based on governmental funding: the establishment of full text databases, the creation of digital archives, and the establishment of the digital humanities as a field. In the first phase, beginning in 1984, the institute tried to help scholars in Chinese studies find citations more efficiently. In the second phase, beginning in 1998, the concept of a digital archive was introduced and the institute tried to set up its own archives that went beyond a defined group of texts. And, in the third phase which began in 2012, the problem of how to further utilize digital texts and archives became the main focus of the institute's efforts. Other institutes related to the digital humanities in Taiwan have gone through a similar three-stage process. Among them, the Dharma Drum College of Liberal Arts established, and maintains, the well-known Chinese Buddhist Electronic Texts database as well as a research platform to help scholars doing digital humanities study the collection. In addition, the Research Center for Digital Humanities at National Taiwan University continues to build databases for its digital archive collections, and moreover has developed a research platform, DocuSky, to help researchers analyze and visualize their textual data.

**Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies**

Center for Chinese Studies, National Central Library, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

June 26, 2018, University of Kyoto, Japan.

However, despite these important accomplishments, the future of the digital humanities in Taiwan is not as rosy as one might think. Following six years of funding digital humanities' projects, the Ministry of Science and Technology has stopped accepting proposals. While the Ministry of Education has announced a plan to fund courses in the digital humanities for four years starting in 2017, this plan is closely associated with digital economics and not the humanities more generally. Whether the digital humanities will be successfully developed in Taiwan is yet to be seen, and as an enthusiastic proponent of the digital humanities, I will share my views on possible future developments in this talk..

**About the Speaker:**

Prof. Ping-Tzu Chu obtained his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan ROC. Prof. Chu's has numerous academic achives in Neo-Confucianism and Confucian ethic. He is also dedicating in promoting Digital Humanities studies in Taiwan.

# 臺灣的數位人文研究：過去、現況，與未來

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## 摘要

作為臺灣最富聲譽的研究機構，中央研究院呈現了數位人文研究在這座島嶼上發展的縮影。中研院研究員林富士（Lin Fu-shih, 1960-）從政府資金運作的角度將這段歷史劃分為三個關鍵階段：全文資料庫的建立、創建數位檔案，以及建立數位人文學研究領域。在1984年開始的第一階段，中研院試圖幫助漢學研究者更有效率地尋找引文和註釋。1998年之後展開第二個階段，中研院開始引介數位檔案的概念，並著手嘗試建立自己的資料庫，不僅僅只是一組特定的文本。2012年開始的第三階段，如何進一步利用數位文本和檔案成為中研院努力的重點。臺灣其他與數位人文研究有關的機構，也經歷了類似的三個階段。其中，法鼓文理學院建立並維護了著名的中國佛教電子文本數據庫，以及幫助學者研究資料庫文獻的平台。此外，臺灣大學數位人文研究中心持續建立資料庫收藏數位檔案，並開發了DocuSky研究平台，協助研究人員進行文本資料的分析和可視化。

然而，儘管取得了這些重要成就，臺灣數位人文的未來並不像人們想像的那樣美好。科技部為數位人文計劃提供六年資助後已經停止補助。雖然教育部宣布了從2017年開始進行為期四年的數位人文學科課程計劃，但該計劃的重點發展方向在於數位經濟學，而非廣義的人文學科。數位人文是否能在臺灣成功發展仍有待觀察，作為數位人文研究的熱心倡導者，我將在演講中分享我對臺灣數位人文未來發展的看法。

## 講者簡介：

祝平次教授為哈佛大學博士，目前為清華大學中國文學系副教授。祝教授曾發表許多探討宋明理學及儒家倫理的研究論著，並對於推廣臺灣數位人文研究不遺餘力。