

White Rose University Consortium: College of Arts and Humanities

Arts and Humanities Research Culture in China

Research

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Research Institutions

According to the most accepted Chinese university ranking list, '[Wu Shulian Chinese University Ranking List](#)', the top five institutions for arts and humanities research are Peking University, Renmin University of China, Fudan University, Nanjing University and Wuhan University.

The [Chinese Academy of Social Sciences](#) is the most prestigious academic research organisation in the fields of philosophy and social sciences as well as a national centre for comprehensive studies in China.

The [Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences](#) is the first social science academy in China and second largest social science academy in China.

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Libraries

Finding and accessing what you need

All libraries are easy to access and users can easily get information and find books either in the libraries or on library websites. Some libraries have English language websites for foreigners.

Opening times are not always the same at all libraries. All libraries are open on weekdays and only a few of them are closed on weekends. Some are open in the evening for students to read and borrow books. During the summer and winter holidays most libraries operate as usual.

[\[Source\]](#)

In general, for the convenience of readers, libraries provide at least three service systems, online booking, self-service and manual service. All libraries have electronic/online catalogues and electronic reading rooms. Notebook/Wireless network access is available in many locations on campus. The electronic database includes E-Journals and E-Books from various academic fields. Some universities have mobile libraries. For example, the Mobile Library of Shandong University

provides more than one million e-books, 78 million newspaper articles and over 300 million articles in domestic and foreign periodicals. Either at home or in the library, readers can browse the web to select what they need from a large cluster of electronic catalogues.

[\[Source\]](#) [\[Source\]](#)

Borrowing books

The procedures for borrowing books in China are similar to those at UK universities. Students receive a student ID card after registration, and this ID card is used to borrow books. Students can enter the library with the ID card and choose the books/journals they want. When returning books, readers do not need to show the card. Libraries provide at least three service systems, online booking, self-service and manual service.

[\[Source\]](#)

To promote collaboration between universities and to pool resources to meet users' needs, many university libraries have an inter-library loans system. Many libraries are members of CASHL (China Academic Library & Information System), CALIS (China Academic Social Sciences and Humanities Library) and NSTL (National Science and Technology library). In accordance with the terms of the inter-library agreements, libraries charge for certain services.

[\[Source\]](#)

Provided they have a valid certificate, readers can access libraries at other institutions to borrow books and use the facilities.

[\[Source\]](#)

There are thousands of public libraries in China. All Chinese citizens and visitors are welcome to borrow books and make use of the facilities. Anyone wishing to visit the library simply needs to present an ID card or other relevant document on arrival. The same applies for accessing libraries at other institutions. Visit the [Shanghai Library](#) website for more information.

Facilities

Most libraries provide manual photocopying service. At the same time, self-service photocopiers are available in the libraries. They are card-operated. In order to protect the intellectual property rights of books and to avoid infringement of copyright, the reader should observe the following provisions:

1. Do not copy the cover, title page and copyright page.
2. Do not copy more than one-third of the body of a book.
3. Librarians reserve the right to monitor and stop any infringement.

[\[Source\]](#)

Reading rooms, electronic reading rooms, digital media rooms, copy rooms, video rooms, exhibition halls, Wi-Fi access, Self-service for printing, photocopying, scanning services and other necessary facilities are available at most libraries.

[\[Source\]](#)

At present, there are very few specialised English-speaking librarians, but almost all librarians are well-educated and good at English. Some of them have Master's and PhD degrees. They can help with all library queries and give advice on borrowing books and using the facilities in English.

[\[Source\]](#)

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Archives

Access

Access to archives in China is much stricter than general access to libraries. For example, the Shanghai Jiaotong University Archives are divided into open and unpublished archives. Users can log into the archive system and consult the open archives. As for unpublished archives, users must fill out an application form first. They cannot access any files until they have received approval from the relevant department(s). Generally, it is *not* possible to borrow or photocopy materials held in archives, and special permission is required to do so.

In China, almost all archives are open on weekdays from 8:00 to 17:00.

[\[Source\]](#)

The Archival System

The first historical archives of China ([Beijing](#))

The second historical archives of China ([Nanjing](#))

[Beijing Municipal Archives](#)

[Archives of Renmin University of China](#)

[Fudan University Archives](#)

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Online Resources

All university libraries have online library catalogues. For example, on the website of the [Fudan University Library](#), readers can search for any free or paid data as needed.

There is no national university library database but nearly all the resources are shared among university libraries. There are a number of related links on the websites of each university library for users to refer to.

Every Chinese university has an account with CNKI ([China National Knowledge Infrastructure](#)) which is a database of all published Chinese journals, dissertations, magazines and newspapers. As long as a student is registered at a university, he/she can access the online journals and e-books. It is also free to download documents from this database. The CNKI database is free. If students want to download papers from external databases, they need to pay extra money or subscribe to the journal. Generally speaking, readers must log on to the website, input their username and password and then follow the instructions to search for data. See, for example, the login interface on the homepage of [Nanjing University Library](#).

In most instances online journals and resources are available remotely and on campus. At [Beijing Normal University Library](#), for example, students can read online journals and resources via the campus network or through Wi-Fi.

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IT Equipment

In universities, there have been more and more computer clusters/rooms created to meet the increasing demands of teachers and students. Meanwhile, matched rules and regulations are formulated to ensure optimal use. For example, Lab and equipment Managing Section of Wuhan University of Science and Technology has made a series of rules and measures to ensure effective management and use. Here are several main items of the rules and regulations for reference.

1. All the computer rooms must be open 14 hours a day from Monday to Saturday to ensure optimal use.
2. Unplanned service must be paid, such as photocopying and printing.
3. Playing computer games is prohibited. It is forbidden to watch, disseminate or copy, pornographic, reactionary, superstitious and other unhealthy contents.
4. It is not allowed to carry any mobile storage medium into the rooms.
5. It is forbidden to delete or change the system files.
6. It is not allowed to eat, smoke or litter in the clusters.

Rules and regulations are almost the same in all universities.

[\[Source\]](#)

There are many printing and photocopying places at all Chinese universities. Students need to pay for printing and photocopying, but the price is very cheap, 1 to 2 jiao (1 to 2 pence) per page (black and white) or 5 to 10 jiao (5 to 10 pence) per page (colour).

The purchase of software that is not installed on university computers, but is essential for some research projects, must be conducted by [procurement procedures](#).

As a general rule, universities offer researchers digital recorders, microphones and other essential portable equipment, required to carry out empirical fieldwork, for free.

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Glossary

研究生院 (*Yanjiushengyuan*, Graduate school)

博士后流动站 (*Boshihou Liudongzhan*, Centre for post-doctoral studies)

研究所/研究院/研究中心 (*Yan jiu suo/yan jiu yuan/ yan jiu zhong xin*, Research centre/ research academy)

毕业论文 (*Biye Lunwen*, Thesis / dissertation)

图书馆 (*Tu shu guan*, Library)

档案室 *Dang'an shi* Archives

出版社 *Chubanshe* University Press

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Web Links

[Wu Shulian Chinese University Ranking List](#) - ranked list of Chinese Universities

[Chinese Academy of Social Sciences](#) - the most prestigious academic research organisation in the fields of philosophy and social sciences

[Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences](#) - the first social science academy in China

[Shanghai Library](#) - information about accessing libraries

The first historical archives of China ([Beijing](#))

The second historical archives of China ([Nanjing](#))

[Beijing Municipal Archives](#)

[Archives of Renmin University of China](#)

[Fudan University Archives](#)

[China National Knowledge Infrastructure](#) - a database of all published Chinese journals, dissertations, magazine and newspapers

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