

200910456

Part B Project Summary

Project Title: Multi-function Chinese Character Database: An
Infra-structure for Future Chinese Education

漢語多功能字庫：通向未來漢語教育的一項基礎建設

Revised

Name of Organization: Research Centre for Humanities Computing, CUHK

- (1) **Goals and objectives:** (Self-initiated built-on project, which fits into the project theme "Effective Learning and Teaching of Languages") The project aims at constructing a Chinese character database with useful functions in support of quality education of the Chinese language and script for the future generation. Major functions include listing of archaic script forms (*inter alia*, oracles bone scripts, bronze scripts), cognitive analysis of semantic and phonetic script components, and explanation of etymologies. With the context of HK education in mind, the new database will include a new feature of English-Chinese lookup, and will also retain a useful feature of our earlier work which has proven to be popular and indispensable. By integrating modern IT with classical Chinese scholarship, the project aims at the provision of an infrastructure in basic language education.
- (2) **Targets:** Target beneficiaries are in the first place teachers and students of the Chinese language in the entire education sector of HK. Given the expected usefulness and lasting influence of the database, the project should also benefit all users on the internet, locally, within greater China, and elsewhere, who have an interest for the Chinese language and script, now and in the future.
- (3) **Implementation Plan:**
 - (i) **Duration:** three years (01/2011-12/2013)
 - (ii) **Process / Schedule:** 4 Phases: Phase 1: Preparation 01/2011-04/2011 (4 months); Phase 2: Intensive Work 05/2011-08/2012 (16 months); Phase 3: Peer Review/Adjustments 09/2012-06/2013 (10 months); Phase 4: Refinement/Documentation: 07/2013-12/2013 (6 months). About 14 months after implementation, a beta version of the database will be opened to a group of Chinese language teachers (see iv) so that feedback can be collected. External experts will also be invited for comments, criticisms and suggestions. After collecting various opinions, they will be analysed and integrated wherever possible toward improvement of the database. In about 24 months, the database will be released with preliminary documentation (bilingual) for public access. Then the remaining records will be processed, existing records will be further rectified, amended, polished, and updated so that its data can be rendered as reliable as possible. Bilingual documentation of the database will then be finalized to accompany the official release of the database. In the final months, the database will be promoted through numerous forums.
 - (iii) **Collaboration with other parties / partners:** Chinese language teachers of the TABS (Towards a Better School) group of schools will be invited as beta users with consent of the respective school authorities. More school teachers will be involved towards the end of the project.
- (4) **Products:**
 - (i) **Deliverables / outcomes:** (a) "Multi-function Chinese character database: With archaic script forms, script componential analysis, etymologies, English-Chinese lookup, and word-formations".
(b) Other subsidiary features such as simplified characters compatibility, pagination for classical references, links to set phrases, etc.
 - (ii) **Dissemination of deliverables / outcomes:** (a) Workshops and Lectures for school teachers
(b) Publication of anthologies in two series: A. with articles related to project, and B. with selected records focussing on Chinese script genealogies and etymologies excerpted from the database.
- (5) **Budget:** Total HK\$ 1,948,900

(i) Staff cost: HK\$ 1,302,570	(ii) Equipment: HK\$ 50,000
(iii) Services: HK\$ 266,248	(iv) General Expenses: HK\$ 311,200
(v) Contingency: HK\$ 18,882	
- (6) **Evaluation:**
 - (i) **Performance indicators:** Quality of the database will be guaranteed by a number of measures including a self-implemented on-line back-tracking system; internal peer reviews; external expert opinions, etc.
 - (ii) **Outcome measurements:** Feedback from beta users and from end users. Access logs analysis.