Using Library Databases to Locate the Scholarly Works of Dr. John C.H. Wu

A Digital Humanities Approach

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Abstract

This study adopts a digital humanities approach to analyze and present interactive visualizations based on the data collected from WorldCat (the worldwide online book catalog), the China Academic Journals Full-text Database, and Google Scholar. The findings show that Dr. John C. H. Wu was a prolific author of legal philosophy, Chinese traditional thought and served as a bridge between Western and Chinese cultures. His solid impact on legal and philosophical issues is shown by the number of libraries collecting his works, the number of times that his works have been cited, and the number of times that his Chinese name 吴经熊 appears in the full-text, titles, and references in the Chinese Academic Database. It is interesting to note that there has been a surge of interest in his works in China in the 21st century, especially in 2014. This paper includes English and Chinese bibliographies of over 100 works authored by him.

Introduction

I was grateful to have been invited to make a presentation on finding scholarly works by Dr. John C. H. Wu (1899-1986) at the symposium organized in his honor by the Department of Catholic Studies and co-sponsored by the program of Asian Studies at Seton Hall University on April 21, 2016. However, I have to confess that I knew very little about Dr. John C. H. Wu when I received the invitation. The more I researched him, the more my respect grew. Dr. John C. H. Wu was described as “diplomat, scholar and authority on international law” in The New York Times (Howe 1986). This statement gave me an idea for preparing my presentation. The questions I decided to ask were: (1) to what extent are Dr. John C. H. Wu’s scholarly works collected by worldwide libraries? (2) how frequently are his works cited by other scholars? and
how are his works of interest to Chinese scholars? The following is the report of the research process I undertook to answer the above questions.

**Methods**

I searched Dr. John C. H. Wu’s works through three library databases:

1. **Worldcat**, a worldwide libraries bibliographic record catalog. It has over 380 million bibliographic records and 2.4 billion holdings (as of September 2016) (OCLC 2017b). It is owned by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center established in 1967). It is a member-driven library community with 17,000 member libraries and organizations in 120 countries (OCLC 2017a). I searched "John C. H. Wu" and “Jingxiong Wu” (his Chinese name’s pinyin pronunciation and spelling) as author in Worldcat in order to find out how many libraries collect his works around the world.

2. **China Academic Journals Full-text Database** provided by CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure). It is the largest and continuously updated Chinese journal database in the world. It covers science, engineering technology, agriculture, philosophy, medicine, humanities and social sciences, etc. It provides access to over 10,000 China academic journals, which include over 58 million full-text articles from 1994 onwards. Seton Hall University Library subscribes to its Literature, History and Philosophy package with over seven million full-text articles (CNKI 2017). I searched Dr. John C. H. Wu's Chinese name 吴经熊 in article titles and references in CNKI database in order to find out how many articles were about him or referenced his works.

3. **Google Scholar** provides free citation information. It has a "cited by" feature under search results that enable the user to explore similar articles (Google 2017). This feature allowed me to find out who has cited Dr. John C. H. Wu’s works. I searched Dr. John C. H. Wu’s two
widely collected works *Fountain of Justice* (Wu 1959) and *The Golden Age of Zen* (Wu 1967) as examples to find out how many times they had been cited by scholars.

After collecting the data, I used a digital humanities approach to analyze the bibliographic data. Specifically, I employed Power BI (Microsoft 2017) as the tool to analyze and present the data through interactive visualizations, which allows a reader to click on one data field to view the change in another data field. Visualizations of library data have been used to analyze citations and map scholarly communications (Finch and Flenner 2016). “The relationships among the frequently cited authors, references, journals and keywords can be explained visually” (Feng et al. 2015). “Digital humanists have long argued that digital projects, such as databases, visualization, and digital scholarly editions, are rigorous and theoretical forms of humanities scholarship that require different methods of evaluation and dissemination” (Coble, Potvin, and Shirazi 2014).

**Findings Illustrated through Interactive Visualizations**

Collection of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works in Worldwide Libraries

Table 1. Eleven of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s 44 Works Collected by Over 200 Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Count</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Pub Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>814</td>
<td>The golden age of Zen = 禪學的黃金時代</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>793</td>
<td>The theory of justice.</td>
<td>Rudolf Stammler; Isaac Husik; François Geny; Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>767</td>
<td>Tao teh ching (Dao de jing 道德經)</td>
<td>Lao-tzu.; Jingxiong Wu; Paul K. T. Sih (老子.; 吳經熊; 薛光前)</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>668</td>
<td>Philosophy and culture--East and West; East-West philosophy in practical perspective,</td>
<td>East-West Philosophers' Conference; Charles Alexander Moore; University of Hawaii (Honolulu); Jingxiong Wu, Chapter Author</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A reader can click on the link [https://goo.gl/G9GuAq](https://goo.gl/G9GuAq) to view the interactive display of the titles by selecting author type or publication year in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. The Status of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works Collected by Worldwide Libraries](https://example.com/image1)

A reader can click on the link [https://goo.gl/25MMuX](https://goo.gl/25MMuX) to view the interactive display of the titles by selecting the authoring type, language, publication year and subject in Figure 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fountain of justice: a study in the natural law</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond East and West</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The four seasons of T’ang poetry</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese humanism and Christian spirituality</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology and Christian culture</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu, Chapter Author</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases and materials on jurisprudence,</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martyrs in China. Translated by Antonia Pakenham; with a foreword by John C.H. Wu.</td>
<td>Jean Monsterleet</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Jingxiong Wu, Chapter Author</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases and materials on jurisprudence,</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Jean Monsterleet</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The Status of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works Collected by Worldwide Libraries

Figure 2. Interactive Display of Titles by Various Criteria

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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fountain of justice: a study in the natural law</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond East and West</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The four seasons of T’ang poetry</td>
<td>Jingxiong Wu</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese humanism and Christian spirituality</td>
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<td>1965</td>
</tr>
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<td>1960</td>
</tr>
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<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martyrs in China. Translated by Antonia Pakenham; with a foreword by John C.H. Wu.</td>
<td>Jean Monsterleet</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diagram:**

A reader can click on the link [https://goo.gl/25MMuX](https://goo.gl/25MMuX) to view the interactive display of the titles by selecting the authoring type, language, publication year and subject in Figure 2.
Figure 2. Analysis of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works by Bibliographic Features

A reader can click on the link https://goo.gl/cYgdZl to view the interactive display of the titles by selecting author name variations in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Variation of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Author Names
A reader can click on the link https://goo.gl/4dZoE7 to view the interactive globe map display of the locations of publishers by selecting their names or places as well as the display of corresponding publication titles in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Publishers of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works

Citations of Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works Based on the Google Scholar Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation Source Type</th>
<th>1979-1999</th>
<th>2000-2015</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows that the number of articles (31) and books (34) that cited The Golden Age of Zen during the period between 1979 and 2015 is about the same. It is worthwhile to note that significantly more articles (17) than books (10) cited this work during the period between 1979 and 1999. More books (21), however, cited this work than articles (17) during the period between 2000 and 2015.
A reader can click on the link [https://goo.gl/Qg39UI](https://goo.gl/Qg39UI) to view the interactive display of the titles and their publication years by selecting citation source type: articles or books in Figure 5. This work was first published in 1967 but the first citation appeared in 1979, more than 10 years later. It would be interesting to find out why there are so few citations of this work between 1967 and 1979. Nonetheless, there was a continuation of interest in this work from 1979 to 2015 with citations peaking in 1999 (8).

![Figure 5. Citations of The Golden Age of Zen (1967)](image)

Table 3. Citations of *Fountain of Justice: A Study in the Natural Law* (1955)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation Source Type</th>
<th>1956-1999</th>
<th>2000-2015</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that *Fountain of Justice: A Study in the Natural Law* was mostly cited by articles (57) as compared to books (9) during the period between 1956 and 2015. The article citations of this work are more than double (40) in the period between 1956 and 1999 as compared to the citations (17) in the period between 2000 and 2015. Approximately, the same number of books (5 vs 4) cited this work during two time periods.
A reader can click on the link https://goo.gl/l284Rx to view the interactive display of the titles and their publication years by selecting citation source type: articles or books in Figure 6. It shows the citations of this work appeared immediately after the book published in 1955, and there was a continuing interest in this work between 1956 and 2015 with citations varying from one to three each year.

Figure 6. Citations of Fountain of Justice: A Study in the Natural Law (1955)

Chinese Scholars’ Interest in Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Works

I searched Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Chinese name 吴经熊 in a Chinese academic database (CNKI) including academic journals on Literature, History and Philosophy.

Table 4. Dr. John C. H. Wu's Chinese Name 吴经熊 in a Chinese Academic Database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Search Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentioned in the body of full-text only</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Search</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Search</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword Search</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Search</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title Search</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4 shows the distribution of Dr. John C. H. Wu's Chinese Name 吴经熊 in different fields of the bibliographic database between 1998 and 1997. A reader can click on the link https://goo.gl/uf6SVv to view the interactive display of the titles that have Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Chinese name 吴经熊 by clicking on the publication years or subjects in Figure 7. Twenty-four Chinese scholars have written about Dr. John C. H. Wu since 2008 with the peak being 2014.

Figure 7. Dr. John C. H. Wu's Chinese Name 吴经熊 in Title

A reader can click on the link https://goo.gl/Aqv7OH to view the interactive display of the references that have Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Chinese name 吴经熊 by clicking on the publication years or subjects in Figure 8. His Chinese name appeared 169 times in references beginning in 1958, the peak being in 2014. It may be worthwhile to further explore why 2014 is the year with the most citations.
Based on the number of libraries collecting his works, it is clear that Dr. John C. H. Wu has had a solid impact on legal and philosophical issues in China and the US. Eleven of his books have been collected by more than 200 libraries around the world.

Dr. John C. H. Wu also has had a solid impact on other scholars based on the number of times that his works have been cited between 1956 and 2015.

Dr. John C. H. Wu has had a solid impact on Chinese scholars, based on the number of times that his Chinese name 吴经熊 appeared in the full-text, titles, and references in the Chinese Academic Database. They appeared mostly in the 21st century publications, especially in 2014.

**Figure 8.** Dr. John C. H. Wu’s Chinese Name (吴经熊) in the References

**Conclusion**

Based on the number of libraries collecting his works, it is clear that Dr. John C. H. Wu has had a solid impact on legal and philosophical issues in China and the US. Eleven of his books have been collected by more than 200 libraries around the world.

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References


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Chinese Bibliography from WorldCat
