

LINGUISTICS, RELIGION, AND POLITICS:

Academic Citations to *China and the Modern World Periodicals*

Mike Thelwall

University of Sheffield, June 2025

Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Sixteen pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals	4
3	The origins of citations to pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals.....	5
4	Reasons for citing sixteen pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals	10
4.1	The Arts.....	10
4.2	Zoology.....	11
4.3	Business and Economics	11
4.4	Culture	12
4.5	Education	13
4.6	Gender	13
4.7	Geography	14
4.8	Government.....	14
4.9	Health	15
4.10	International Dimensions	16
4.11	Law and Crime.....	17
4.12	Linguistics.....	17
4.13	Literature.....	18
4.14	Politics.....	19
4.15	Publishing	19
4.16	Religion.....	20
4.17	Miscellaneous.....	21
5	Summary	21
6	References.....	22

1 Introduction

This report discusses articles in academic journals that cite pre-1950 items from periodicals indexed in Gale's *China and the Modern World* (CAMW) series of digital archive collections. The purpose of the report is to illustrate the range of academic uses of this resource, at least from the perspective of publishing scholars. The series is a digitised and searchable online set of documents mainly in English from or associated with China before 1950. This is Gale's description:

China and the Modern World is a series of digital archive collections sourced from preeminent libraries and archives across the world that detail the history of modern China, including The National Archives in the United Kingdom, the Second Historical Archives of China, and the British Library. The series covers a period of nearly 200 years (early 1800s through the 1990s), when China experienced radical and often traumatic transformations from an inward-looking imperial dynasty into a globally engaged republic.

Consisting of monographs, manuscripts, periodicals, correspondence and letters, historical photos, ephemera, and other kinds of historical documents, these collections provide excellent primary source materials through Chinese records and Chinese archives for the understanding and research of the various aspects of China during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as diplomacy and international relations, economy and trade, politics, Christianity, sinology, education, science and technology, imperialism, and globalization.

<https://www.gale.com/primary-sources/china-and-the-modern-world> (13 June 2025).

Digitised resources clearly have great advantages to scholars. Even those who prefer to access the physical artefact (e.g., Goh, 2025) can benefit from a full text search interface and others can instantly access a large collection of documents without the need for travel.

Whilst the Gale series includes monographs, periodicals, and other documents, this report focuses on the periodical issues published before 1950, including in the collection titled *Missionary, Sinology, and Literary Periodicals*. These periodicals, such as *The Chinese Recorder*, were primarily created and authored by Westerners that had moved to China before 1950, and often in the 19th century, and that seemed to write for a Western audience, both inside China and abroad. The collection also includes some periodicals issued by universities in China in the early 20th century, such as *Bulletin of Catholic University of Peking*.

Unfortunately, most uses of the CAMW collection cannot be investigated because they are from students or others that do not publish or from publications that are not indexed for citations. Perhaps most importantly, primary sources are a useful learning tool to help build historical understanding and analysis skills (Tally & Goldenberg, 2005). The current report therefore only scratches the surface of the types of use of the collection.

The analysis covers only academic journal articles citing items published before 1950 in one of the China-oriented periodicals indexed by Gale. It does not include citations from books or citations to monographs or other documents in the Gale series. This scope is a pragmatic choice: other types of citations exist but are harder or more expensive to identify. This information has been extracted from the bibliometric database Scopus by searching for citations to the periodicals, followed by a manual check for the correctness of the citation and the context in which it was made.

2 Sixteen pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals

Sixteen pre-1950 China-oriented journals and other periodicals with distinctive titles were selected for analysis (Table 1). These comprise a small fraction of the *China and the Modern World* series but were chosen solely because it was possible to identify citations to them using the text search functions of Scopus. They cover approximately a century up to 1950, a period of increasing Western influence, interference, and engagement with China.

Citations were identified to these periodicals through Scopus advanced queries, as the following examples illustrate.

- REFSRCTITLE("The China Quarterly") AND REFPUYBEAR BEF 1950
- REFSRCTITLE("The China Review") AND REFPUYBEAR BEF 1950
- REFSRCTITLE("The Chinese Recorder") AND REFPUYBEAR BEF 1950

Periodical	Description	Years of Publication
The China Quarterly	Chinese current affairs, politics, and economy, often from a Western missionary or academic perspective.	c. 1930s–1940s
The China Review	English-language journal published in Hong Kong; focused on Chinese history, philology, philosophy, and culture.	1872–1901
The Chinese Recorder	A Protestant missionary journal that chronicled missionary activities, theological debates, and social issues in China.	1868–1941
T'ien Hsia Monthly	A bilingual cultural and literary magazine, based in Shanghai and later Hong Kong. Showcased Chinese arts, literature, and global perspectives.	1935–1941
The China Year Book	An annual reference book compiling statistics, government updates, trade data, and events in China.	1912–1939
Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Academic journal from Yenching University focusing on sociology, economics, and social reform in Republican China.	1938–1949
The China Critic	An influential English-language weekly run by Chinese intellectuals in Shanghai. Advocated modernization, nationalism, and cultural critique.	1928–1940s
The New China Review	Scholarly periodical focused on Sinology, Chinese philosophy, and East–West intellectual exchange.	1926–1930s

Notes And Queries: On China and Japan	Published in the late 19th century; a journal of short articles and Q&A on East Asian history, language, and religion.	1867–1869
The Chinese Miscellany	Publishing studies on classical Chinese texts, folklore, religion, and linguistics.	1845–1850
The China Mission Year Book	An annual report produced by Protestant missionary societies in China, summarizing their activities, theological discussions, and social programs.	1910–1941
The Chinese And Japanese Repository	Early 19th-century (1860s) journal published in China, discussing Christianity, Confucianism, and East Asian politics from a missionary perspective.	1863–1865
The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	One of the earliest Protestant missionary periodicals on China (1817–1822). Covered religious and cultural topics.	1817–1822
West China Missionary News	Monthly or quarterly newsletter from missionary societies working in Sichuan and surrounding areas. Reported local news, missions, and regional updates.	1899–1943
Bulletin of Catholic U. of Peking	Academic journal of Fu Jen University, with articles on theology, Chinese religion, history, and literature. Aimed at fostering scholarly dialogue.	1926–1934 (approx.)
The Canton Miscellany	English-language magazine published in Guangzhou (Canton), focused on Chinese culture, trade, and local observations.	May–Dec. 1831

Table 1. Sixteen pre-1950s China-oriented periodicals selected for analysis.

3 The origins of citations to pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals

This section gives an overview of the origins of the citations in Scopus to the chosen periodicals, and the subsequent section describes some citations in detail. In terms of academic fields, the periodicals are cited primarily from the arts, humanities, and social sciences, although several other fields also found them useful (Figure 1). It could be expected that most citing documents would have a broadly historical topic, but all subject areas have historical dimensions to give context to modern knowledge or as part of the origins of the subject area.

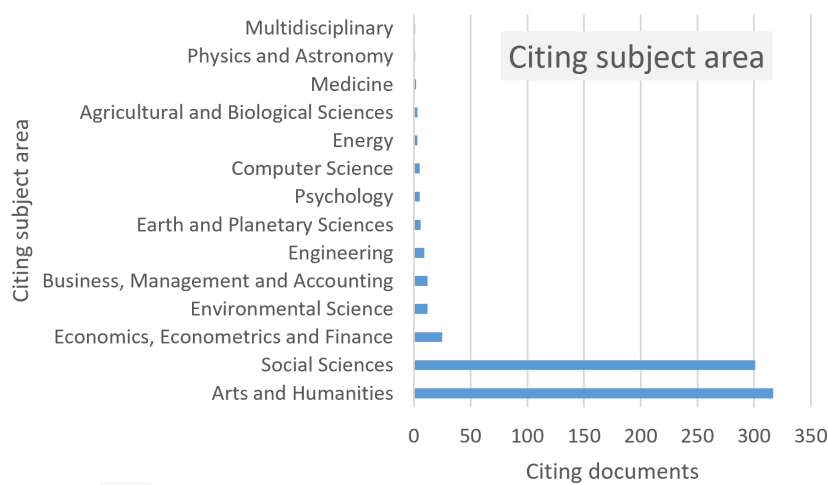


Figure 1. The broad areas (post-2001) citing 16 pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals.

The keywords in the citing articles, as chosen by the authors or an indexer, give more insights into the topics of the citing articles (Table 2). Whilst the most frequent keywords are unsurprisingly China-focused, the others point to a diverse range of topics, from Covid-19 to arctic engineering.

Keyword	Citing documents
China	23
Eurasia	5
Far East, Culture, Asia	4
Sinology, Ming Dynasty, International Trade, History, Historical Geography, Comparative Study	3
World, United States, Transformation, Trade Relations, Tidal Bore, Sustainability, Surrealism, State, Southeast Asia, Social History, Social Behavior, Refugee Crises, Reception, Policy Sciences, Policy Analysis, Natural Resources, Material Culture, Literature, Leadership, Knowledge, John Francis Davis, James Legge, Intertextuality, International Relations, India, Human Trafficking, Human Dignity, Human, Hong Kong, Historical Record, Global Environmental Change, Garden, Environmental Health, Education, Eastern Hemisphere, East Asia, Diplomatic Relations, Cultural Heritage, Covid-19 Pandemic, Community Engagement, Climate Change, Civil Society, Citizenship, British Sinology, Authoritarianism, Arctic Engineering	2
Climate, Classification, Classical Hollywood, Classical Chinese, Civilization, Civil War, Civil Society Organizations, Citrus Maxima, Church Role, Christianity In China, Christianity, Christianisation, Christian Indigenization, Christian Contextualization, Chinoiserie, Chinggisid, Chinese-style Gardens, Chinese Sources, Chinese Scholarship, Chinese Renaissance Architecture, Chinese Politics, Chinese Poetry, Chinese Parish Church, Chinese Naval History, Chinese Nationalism, Chinese Military Expenditure, Chinese Media, Chinese Literature, Chinese Legal Language, Chinese Law, Chinese Lattice, Chinese Kinship Terms, Chinese Identity, Chinese History, Chinese Historical Geographies, Chinese Education, Chinese Diplomacy Towards The EU, Chinese Culture, Chinese Context, Chinese Citizenship, Chinese Christianity, Chinese Catholic Church, Chinese Botany, Chinese Architecture (1), Chinese, China-overseas Chinese Relations, China-Europe Relations, China Studies Field, China In European Literature, China And Latin America, China And International Law, China And Climate, Chengdu, Charles Darwin, Chairman Mao Zedong, Catholic Publishing, Catholic Press Convention, Catering Service, Cataloging, Building, Bronze Inscriptions, Brocade Pattern Of Li Nationality, British Diplomatic Interpreters, Britain's Expansion Into Asia, Breton, Brazil, Braille For Music, Brahmaputra Basin, Botanical Illustration, Booker T. Washington, Book Reviews, Board Books, Blind Boys Band, Blackness, Biography, Biographical Literature, Beijing, Bangladesh, Bamboo-and-Silk Manuscripts, Autocracy, Autocommunication, Audience, Attributes Of God, Attitude To Health, Asia, Southeastern, Article, Art History, Arms Embargo, Anti-imperialism, Anthropocene, Anthologies Of Ancient Chinese Fiction Compiled By The Western Sinologists, Anglicanism, Anarchist Studies, Analytic And Holistic Thought, Amphibia, American Education System, All-China General Congress Of Catholic Action, Academic Research, Academic Journal, Abel-rémusat, 19th-century Sinology, (in)visibility, Asian Mediterranean	1

Table 2. The keywords in articles citing the sixteen pre-1950s China-oriented periodicals selected for analysis.

The names of the journals citing the sixteen periodicals can also give insights into why they are cited, although the list is biased by journal size (Table 3). The most frequently citing journals are unsurprisingly China-focused but there are also journals focused on literature and the arts, as well as both topic-focused journals (e.g., *Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes*) and journals with a Chinese perspective or dual focus with another topic (e.g., *Chinese Annals of History of Science and Technology*).

Citing journal	Citing articles
Sinica Leidensia (China-focused book series, indexed as a journal in Scopus)	8
China Quarterly; Journal of Asian Studies; Ming Qing Yanjiu (journal of pre-modern China)	6
Monumenta Serica (Journal of Oriental Studies); Chinese Overseas; Modern China	4
Gender Sexualities and Culture in Asia; Journal of World History; Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society; Modern Asian Studies; Religions	3
American Society of Mechanical Engineers Fluids Engineering Division Publication FEDSM; Arts of Asia; Brill S Inner Asian Library; Cambridge Quarterly (literary journal); Central Asiatic Journal; China Studies; Comparative Literature Studies; East and West; Handbook of Oriental Studies Section 4 China; International History Review; Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art; Milton Quarterly; Natural Resource Management and Policy; Orientalia Christiana Periodica; Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes; Theoretical Studies in Literature and Art; Translator; Wordsworth Circle	2
American Anthropologist; American Political Science Review; Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics; Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Anthropos; Approaches to Translation Studies; Archives of Natural History; Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration; Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies; Asian European Music Research Journal; Asian Perspective; Asian Studies; Asian Survey; Asian Women; Boletim do Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi Ciencias Humanas; Brill Reference Library of Judaism; Brill S Humanities in China Library; Bulletin of Educational Research; Cambridge Imperial and Post Colonial Studies; Children S Literature in Education; China Information; Chinese Annals of History of Science and Technology; Chinese Journal of International Politics; Chinese Public Administration Review; Chinese Semiotic Studies; Chinese Studies in History; Community College Journal of Research and Practice; Comparative Legilinguistics; Comparative Literature; Comparative Literature East and West; Contemporary Social Sciences; Cross Cultures; Dao; Defence and Peace Economics; Dialectica; Dili Xuebao Acta Geographica Sinica; Discover Sustainability; East Asian Publishing and Society; Econometrica [...]	1

Table 3. Examples of journals citing the sixteen pre-1950s China-oriented periodicals selected for analysis.

Reflecting the arts, humanities, and social science origins of the citing documents, they mainly originate in monographs or book chapters, although many journal articles also cite the chosen Chinese periodicals (Figure 2). These journal articles are the subject of the next section.

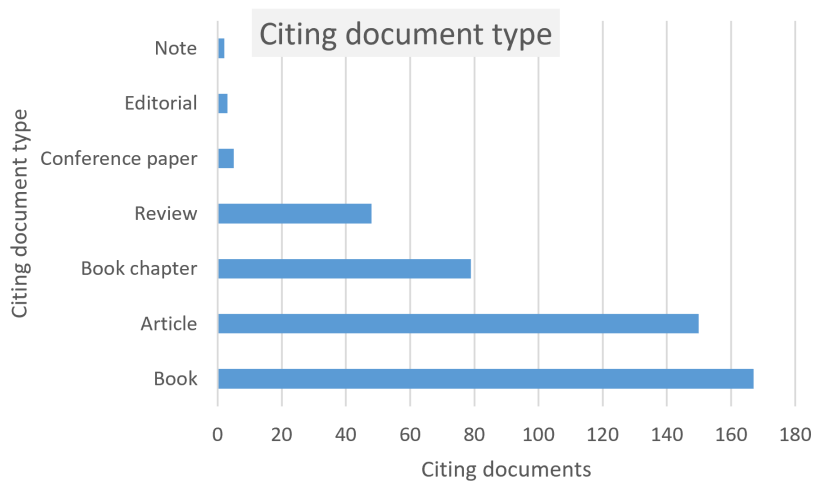


Figure 2. The types of documents citing 16 pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals.

Since Scopus mainly indexes English-language journals, it is unsurprising that most of the citing journal articles are in English (Figure 3), although several other languages are also represented.



Figure 3. The languages of documents citing 16 pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals.

The authors of the citing documents have affiliations primarily from the United States of America and China (including Hong Kong) (Figure 4). The UK is also prominent, perhaps because of its 19th century political interference and longer connection through Hong Kong, as are several developed countries with large Chinese communities. The international spread of influence is evident from the presence of four continents.

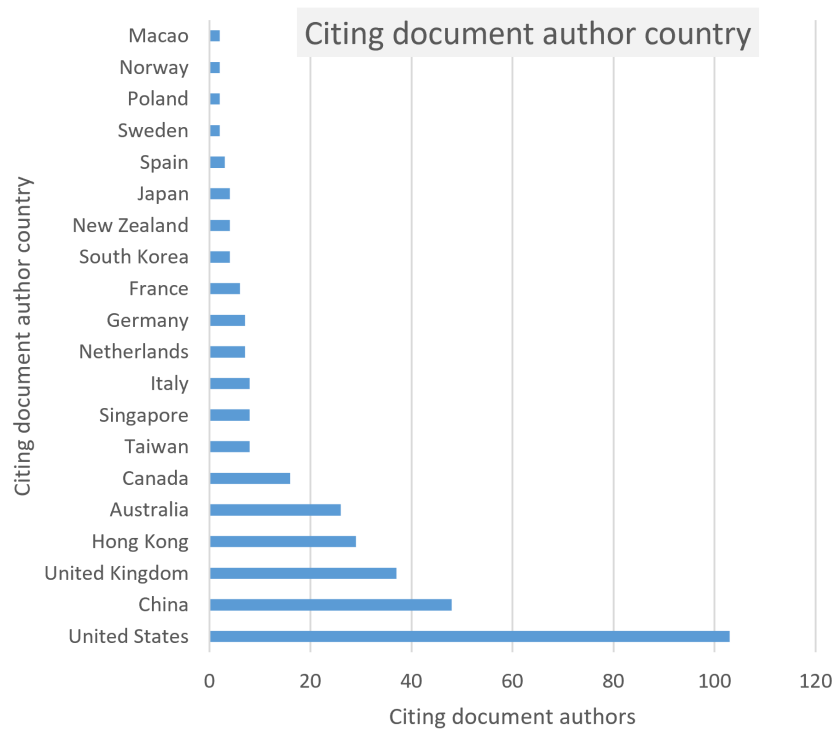


Figure 4. The national affiliations of authors of documents citing 16 pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals.

Although two Hong Kong universities are the heaviest citers of the selected periodicals, many different institutions internationally also cite them (Figure 4, and the bullet point list below). Prestigious universities seem to be particularly well represented in the frequently citing set (Figure 5).

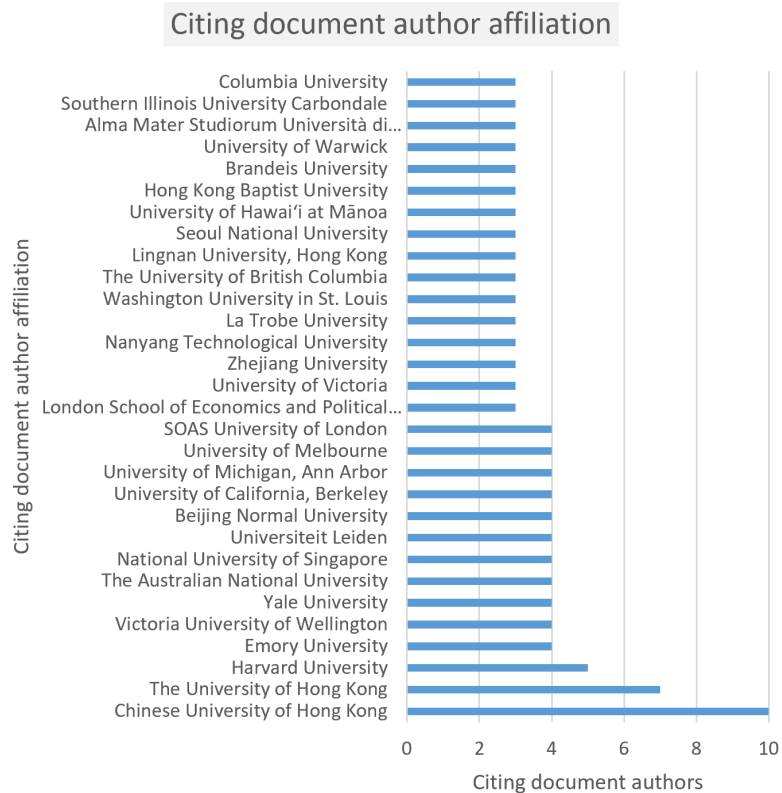


Figure 5. The affiliations of authors of documents citing 16 pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals, for institutions with at least three citing documents.

In addition, the following universities also cited these documents.

Two citing documents: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Princeton University, Western Washington University, The University of Manchester, The City University of New York, Institute for History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Southern Connecticut State University, Universitetet i Oslo, Soochow University, The University of Texas at Austin, University of Washington, University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto, Universität Heidelberg, Academia Sinica Taiwan, Nankai University, Simon Fraser University, San Diego State University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Macquarie University, Monash University, Sun Yat-Sen University, New York University, Shanghai Normal University, National Taiwan Normal University, Lancaster University, Dickinson College, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, The University of Sydney, Universität Wien, Stockholms universitet, The University of Chicago, University of Southern California, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Kent State University, Shandong University, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Griffith University, University of London, York University.

One citing document: CEPR, Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche del Mondo Antico, Xi'an

Academy of Fine Arts, Hertford, Drew Theological School, Needham Research Institute, Oxford House, Earlham School of Religion, Australian Institute of International Affairs (SA Branch, Woodbrooke, World Century Publishing Corp, Gonzaga University, University of California in Merced, Translational Research Centre for Digital Mental Health, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Körber AG, University of Hawaii, Geopolicity Inc., Macau Ricci Institute, Pedagogical Sciences, No 2 Middle School of Tongling City, Northern School of Music, District Level Committee of CPC, Center for Global Asia, Lehigh University, University of East Anglia, Shaanxi Normal University, University of Colorado Boulder, Millersville University, University of Essex, University of Glasgow, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, University of South Africa, Universiteit van Amsterdam, California State University, Fresno, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Hunter College, The George Washington University, Furman University, The Ohio State University, Harvard Divinity School, Southeast University, Rice University, National Taiwan University, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Tel Aviv University, The University of Auckland, Colby College, University of Missouri, UCL Institute of Education, University of Pennsylvania, The University of Southern Mississippi, Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical, Cornell University, Massey University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Duke University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Nanjing University of Post and Telecommunications, The University of Adelaide, University Sorbonne Paris Nord, Fudan University, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, University of Mississippi, Central China Normal University, Hohai University, Goldsmiths, University of London, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Trinity College Dublin, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Baylor University, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Universität Zürich, Jiangxi Normal University, Central University of Finance and Economics, Oregon State University, École Polytechnique, China Agricultural University, City University of Hong Kong, Hunan Normal University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Renmin University of China, University of California, Davis, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Hollins University, Western Kentucky University, Smithsonian Institution.

In summary, a wide range of subjects, countries, institutions, and document types cite the selected old Chinese periodicals. This gives some insights into how the documents were cited and the next section analyses selected citing documents to find out why.

4 Reasons for citing sixteen pre-1950 China-oriented periodicals

This section illustrates a range of types of reasons why the selected pre-1950 periodicals had been cited in academic journals with a few illustrative examples, split into themes.

4.1 The Arts

Academic journal articles may cite old Chinese journal articles for evidence about arts production in China (Table 4). Examples in the table include drama, music, and architecture.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Theatre and the Taipings	T'ien Hsia Monthly	The decline of an art movement in China due to military conflict.
Surrealism and the manhua artists of Liuyi	T'ien Hsia Monthly	Influences on a surrealist art movement in China.
The theatrical imagining of diasporic modernity in Shih-I Hsiung's <i>Lady Precious Stream</i>	T'ien Hsia Monthly	A perception that a Chinese play has adopted an "English manner".
American Scholar Daniel S. Dye's <i>Research on Chinese Architecture and Art</i>	West China Missionary News	Evidence that American scholar made useful contributions to understanding Chinese architecture.
The Life and Works of the Monk Donggao, a Chinese Chan Master in Japan	T'ien Hsia Monthly	The history of the Chinese lute in Japan, as read about from the work of Zen Buddhist Monk Donggao.

Table 4. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about the arts.

4.2 Zoology

Two articles have cited old Chinese periodicals for evidence about animals in China (Table 5). Perhaps the most interesting is about goldfish cultivation and selection for beautiful colours.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
A New Inquiry into the Chinese Sources Used by Charles Darwin	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Goldfish cultivation/domestication in China, cited by Charles Darwin. (Western scientists became interested in goldfish as a case study in artificial selection and evolution.)
Cassowary, Ostrich, Rhea: Questions and Suggestions Related to the ema in Portuguese and Chinese Texts of the 16th and 17th Centuries	"The Chinaman Abroad," Chinese Miscellany (1849)	Identification of a bird in China.

Table 5. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about zoology.

4.3 Business and Economics

Many studies have investigated trade, business, and the economy in China, both before substantial Western influence and afterwards. These cite old Chinese periodicals as primary sources of information about these phenomena (Table 6). One interesting article is about an initiative to start exporting soybeans to the UK.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Chinese Merchant Guilds: An Historical Inquiry	The China Review	Historical source of Qing dynasty merchant guild rules.
'The civilising road': American influence on the development of highways and motoring in China, 1900-1949	The China Year Book	Evidence of motor car imports into China before and during the first world war.

The mutual-aid co-operatives and the animal products trade in Mongolia, 1913-1928	The China Year Book	Increased demand for Chinese wool due to WW1.
Tricky business: Swiss perceptions of informal imperialism in China in the 1920s	The China Year Book	International trade data.
Between Arrogance and Despondency: The Shanghai Workers, the Communists, and the Strikes at the Japanese Cotton Mills of 1926	The China Year Book	Statistics about the condition of workers in Shanghai.
Mitsui Bussan and the Manchurian soybean trade: Geopolitics and economic strategies in China's Northeast, ca. 1870s-1920s	The China Year Book	Successful initiative to export soybeans from China to Liverpool for vegetable oil in 1907.
A Revisionist Reading of the Goddess: Visual Narrative Power in Chinese Silent Cinema	T'ien Hsia Monthly	Finance and technology shortfalls delayed the introduction of talking pictures into China.
How Keynesian economics came to China	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Evidence of early awareness of Keynesian economics in China.

Table 6. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about business and economics.

4.4 Culture

The social culture of China has sparked modern interest citing old Chinese periodicals for contemporary investigations (Table 7). The table illustrates how early Chinese and Western academic periodicals have served as key sources in contemporary research on Chinese culture. Rather than merely recounting historical facts, these citations are employed to support nuanced interpretations of cultural dynamics, such as understandings of “face,” Chinese-Western interactions, and internal diversity among Chinese communities like the Hakka. Periodicals like *The China Critic*, *The Chinese Recorder*, and *Notes and Queries: On China and Japan* are repeatedly referenced not only for their historical value but also as evidence of ongoing transcultural dialogues and the evolving academic framing of Chinese identity, ethnology, and intercultural exchange.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
The Culture of Interest: A Proposed Addition and Revision of the Three-Culture Model	The China Critic	Understandings of face in Chinese culture.
Rebuilding Corridor, Preserving Prestige: Lim Boon Keng and Overseas Chinese-China Relations	The China Critic	Evidence of the relationship between local and expatriate Chinese.
Mao Qiling's critical reflections on the Four Books	The Chinese Recorder	Nineteenth century Western analyses of filial piety in China.
Transferring Sinosphere Knowledge to the Public: James Summers (1828-91) as Printer, Editor and Cataloguer	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Evidence of the high demand for a magazine translating Chinese and Japanese culture for a Western audience in 1880.
Constructing Subjects of Knowledge Beyond the Nation: Transcultural Layers in the Formation of Hakkaology (Kejiaxue 客家學)	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Evidence that late 19th century missionary authors/academics struggled to understand different Chinese cultures.

The paradigm of hakka women in history	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Evidence of interest in Chinese culture from Western missionaries.
Yang Kun's academic shifts: from the French Annales School to Marxist ethnology	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Evidence of the work of Chinese ethnologist Yang Kun.
Adapting Christianity to Hakka Culture: The Basel Mission's Activities among Indigenous People in China (1846–1931)	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Western interest in different cultures within China.

Table 7. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about culture.

4.5 Education

There is a lot of interest into how Western-style education emerged in China or merged with the existing education system. This includes how different topics were introduced or merged. These often cite old Chinese periodicals for factual information (Table 8). This table highlights how historical Chinese journal articles are used in modern academic research to trace the development of education in China, particularly its encounters with Western influences. The citations go beyond documenting events; they provide insights into the cultural, linguistic, and ideological negotiations involved in educational reform. Scholars draw on sources such as *The China Critic*, *The Chinese Recorder*, and *Yenching Journal of Social Studies* to explore themes like the integration of Western science and mathematics, colonial language policies, and the evolving role of education for marginalized groups. These historical publications serve as windows into how education functioned not only as a tool of knowledge transmission but also as a site of cultural exchange and transformation.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Braille, amma and integration: The hybrid evolution of education for the blind in Taiwan, 1870s-1970s	The China Critic	The limited economic benefits of education for the blind in China.
An Italian among the Chinese elite, a Chinese library among Lucanian mountains: Ludovico Luigi Nicola di Giura (1868-1947) and his personal library	The China Mission Year Book	Identity of examiner at Peking Medical College.
The making of a colonial school: A study of language policies and practices in nineteenth-century Hong Kong	The China Review	Establishment of a colonial school in 1860s Hong Kong to promote English.
Misnomer or Mistranslation? Western Arithmetic Textbooks by E. T. R. Moncrieff and Alexander Wylie in China in the 1850s	The Chinese Recorder	Contemporary Western opinions about 19th century attempts to merge Western and Chinese maths.
International relations and the critical history of international law	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	The introduction of Western political science ideas into imperial China.
Transmission of Renaissance herbal images to China: The Beitang copy of Mattioli's commentaries on Dioscorides and its annotations	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Jesuits promoted natural science learning in China.

Table 8. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about education.

4.6 Gender

Gender relations in China before Western influence have been investigated, using facts and analyses from

early periodicals. The main topic of interest has been the position of women (Table 9).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Narratives of Religious Landscape: Reading Gender and Chinese Buddhism in the Travel Writing of Christian Women	The China Mission Year Book	Early Protestant women's perspectives on China.
The Church Museums' Evolution of the Idea and Methods of Missionary Work in China: A Study of Tsinanfu Institute	The China Mission Year Book	Evidence of women's role in an early Chinese Christianity museum.
Smoothing over sex in modern Chinese literature: Translation and the #Metoo movement	T'ien Hsia Monthly	Discusses the potential for Western misunderstanding of gender relations in early Chinese literature.
Rethinking Cai Yuanpei: The Chinese and Japanese origins of his ideas on women	T'ien Hsia Monthly	A leading liberal educator in China was held back on women's education by traditional thinking from China and Japan. Evidence of traditional thinking from the journal.

Table 9. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about gender.

4.7 Geography

Historical analyses of China including geographical aspects have cited old Chinese journal articles for the investigations of early scholars in China (Table 10).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
A tale of two cities: The liberation of Baghdad and Hangzhou and the rise of the Toluids	New China Review	Evidence of the nature of the market area of Hangzhou [unclear year—13th century?]
Reconstructing Xu Xiake: The Scientific Geography of China, 1912-1949	New China Review	Chinese academic geographer in 1914 re-evaluating the work of earlier Chinese explorer/geographer, 1586–1641.
Geographical research in the Ming-Ch'ing period	New China Review	Activities of Ming Dynasty explorers.
Licensing Leisure: The Chinese Nationalists' Attempt to Regulate Shanghai, 1927-49	The China Critic	Population of the International Settlement in Shanghai

Table 10. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about geography.

4.8 Government

Studies related to government and politics may cite old Chinese journal articles for contemporary facts and analyses (Table 11). This table shows how historical Chinese journal articles are cited in modern scholarship to deepen understanding of government structures and political dynamics in both imperial and modern China. Rather than merely chronicling events, these sources are used to illuminate administrative practices, ideological shifts, and identity politics across different eras. For instance, they provide context on the roles of civil service exams, state-led geographic planning, and frontier governance, while also shedding light on broader geopolitical relationships, such as those involving Mongolian nomads. These citations reveal the enduring value of early journal publications in tracing the

evolution of governance and statecraft in Chinese history.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
At the Qing Empire's Taiwan Frontier: Identities of the Chinese Maritime Customs Commissioners during the Sino-French War and the First Sino-Japanese War	New China Review	Evidence of identity of an official.
Syllabus of the Provincial Examination (hsiang-shih) under the Early Ch'ing (1644-1795)	The China Review	Description of the 19th century Chinese civil service exam.
Red or Expert: Reforming Geographers in Communist China, 1949–1953	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Historical geography used to aid state planning in communist China.
Pastoral areas and military services on the historical and political situation of Mongolian pastoral nomads in the Russian empire	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Alliances and political relationships in the early life of Temüjin (later known as Genghis Khan).

Table 11. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about government.

4.9 Health

Health has been a major topic of research about 19th and early 20th century China. Whilst the main topics include the introduction of Western medicine and ideas into China, the Western forced import of opium and its negative health consequences have also been discussed (Table 12).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Exploring 19th-century medical mission in China: Forging modern roots of Chinese medicine	The China Mission Year Book	Evidence that some Christians used medicine to promote Christianity in China.
The Hong Kong fever of 1843: Collective trauma and the reconfiguring of colonial space	The China Review	Firsthand account of deadly Malaria epidemic in Hong Kong, 1843.
Revolution, religion and the poppy: Opium and the rebellion of the "sixteenth emperor" in early republican Fujian	The China Year Book	Anti-opium policies of Sun Yat-sen.
The truth and evils of opium: The anti-opium activities of British Missionary to China John Dudgeon (1837-1901)	The Chinese Recorder	Evidence of anger by Chinese people about Westerners importing opium.
China's "Great Confinement"?: Missionaries, Municipal Elites and Police in the Establishment of Chinese Mental Hospitals	The Chinese Recorder	Christian missionaries in China supported asylums to save patients from "physical abuse and damnation."
Tuberculosis and the Assimilation of Germ Theory in China, 1895-1937	The Chinese Recorder	Western medicine's spectacular successes for some conditions not curable with Chinese medicine (e.g., cataracts) helped its reputation.
Making Knowledge in the Local Settings: Vernacular Education and Cantonese Elementary Textbooks	The Chinese Recorder	Western medical opposition to foot binding.

Chinese curiosi: 19th century examples of the East-West titration	The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	Western medical interest in “the poor” in 19th century China.
---	--------------------------	---

Table 12. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about health.

4.10 International Dimensions

Very many articles have discussed the relationship between China and other countries, or the peoples of other countries, from Africa to the USA. These cite Chinese periodicals for facts, discoveries, or analyses (Table 13). This table demonstrates how old Chinese journal articles are used in modern academic research to explore China’s historical interactions with a diverse range of countries. Rather than focusing solely on China, these citations provide evidence of early transnational exchanges, including the presence of Africans in China as early as the 8th century, missionary activities in Southeast Asia, and cultural influences between China and regions like Russia and the USA. Scholars draw on these historical sources to uncover lesser-known global connections, such as China’s awareness of the Ottoman Empire, interfaith dialogues in Malaysia, and the influence of Chinese immigrants abroad. Collectively, these citations highlight how early Chinese publications offer valuable insights into China’s role in global history and its engagement with other cultures over the centuries.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context	Country
A survey of the African diaspora in Guangzhou	Bulletin of Catholic University of Peking	Evidence of the presence of Black Africans in China from 8th century AD.	Africa
Exporting the Dance Traditions: Innovative Agency, Artistic Imaginaries and Transnational Commodification of Indigenous Ugandan Dances in the Chinese Marketplace	Bulletin of Catholic University of Peking	Evidence of the presence of Black Africans in China from 8th century AD.	Africa
A Chinese farmer, two African boys, and a warlord: Toward a global microhistory	T’ien Hsia Monthly	Africans used as an honor guard in 17th century China.	Africa
Sanfoqi 三佛齊 as a Designation for “Srivijaya”	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Evidence of different historical names for a city in Indonesia, part of the powerful maritime kingdom of Srivijaya (7th to 13th centuries).	Indonesia
Between the Islamic and Chinese Universal Empires: The Ottoman Empire, Ming Dynasty, and Global Age of Explorations	The China Review	Evidence of the identity of a European city written about in China.	Italy
Malay-European interfaith discourse in historical perspective	The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	Evidence of missionary activities in Penang, Malaysia.	Malaysia
Pentecostalism in Mongolia: A case study of Mongolia assemblies of God	The China Mission Year Book	Establishment of a Pentecostal mission in Mongolia.	Mongolia

The Philippine Chinese Response to the Sino-Japanese Conflict, 1931–1941	The China Critic	Coordination of Chinese associations in the Philippines.	Philippines
Mongolist Józef Kowalewski Apropos the Chinese Book “Ming Xin Bao Jian”: Following up a Diary Entry	The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	Evidence that Western Catholic missionaries in China influenced Russian protestants.	Russia
Circuits of mobility in Love and Duty	The China Critic	Origins of a Chinese library in Geneva in the 1930s.	Switzerland
Prospects and contexts of demographic transitions in Thailand	The China Critic	Contextualizing current demographic changes in Thailand against historical issues, including proportion of Chinese.	Thailand
Translating Booker T. Washington in China: Blackness, racial discourse and Chinese nationalism, 1903–1949	West China Missionary News	West China missionary news was a possible indirect source of information in China about Booker T Washington.	USA
Human futuristics and urban planning	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Chinese immigrants to the USA brought different worldviews.	USA

Table 13. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about other countries.

4.11 Law and Crime

Three papers related to crime and the law in China (Table 14). For example, a paper focusing on Qing era wills cited evidence that English judges did not understand the existing system of wills and inheritance.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Chinese wills in Hong Kong: George Jamieson’s translation of Qing inheritance law and the Hong Kong judiciary’s understanding of Chinese wills	Chinese Miscellany	English judges in Hong Kong struggled to understand Chinese wills.
A tale of two cities: The education and experiences of two ICJ judges in China and America	The China Critic	Positive reception in China to the setup of the International Court of Justice after WW2.
When worlds collide: Chinese bandits and their “foreign tickets”	The Chinese Recorder	Western hostages were used as safeguards by criminal gangs in early 20th century China.

Table 14. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about law.

4.12 Linguistics

Some Western academics moving to China in the 19th century focused on learning the local languages in terms of both speaking and writing. Some of their work is cited in current studies of the history of translation (Table 15).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
The Dilemma and Choices of Indirect Translation: The Transformation of Chinese Classical Novels in Europe from the Early Translations of Yu Jiaoli	Chinese Miscellany	Western translators of Chinese works sometimes simplified the cultural context due to ignorance.

Transferring Sinosphere Knowledge to the Public: James Summers (1828-91) as Printer, Editor and Cataloguer	Chinese Miscellany	Evidence of a Western belief that Chinese and Japanese were the same language in the 1850s.
Independent depressor and register effects in Wu dialect tonology: Evidence from Wenzhou tone sandhi	The China Review	Earliest Western description of the tonality of the Wu dialect.
Storax, Benzoin, and the Chinese Anxi xiang	The China Review	Westerners' difficulties to understand classical Chinese texts (blaming the texts).
The Tin Man's Handshake (Paris, January 30th 1887). A History of Sino-Western Relations at Interaction Level	The China Review	Record of gestures as part of the Chinese language.
Notes on the beginnings of systematic dialect description and comparison in Chinese	The Chinese And Japanese Repository	Evidence of the missionary origins of a tone marker for written Chinese.

Table 15. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about linguistics.

4.13 Literature

Chinese literature was a major source of interest in the West in the 19th century, and a lot was written at the time about this and translations. These works have been cited in more recent evaluations of the phenomenon (Table 16). This table illustrates how old Chinese journal articles are employed in modern scholarship to trace the evolving perceptions and interpretations of Chinese literature, particularly through Western eyes in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Rather than merely cataloging literary works, researchers use these sources to explore how translation practices, genre classifications, and cultural value judgments shaped the global understanding of Chinese literary traditions. Periodicals like *Chinese Miscellany* and *Notes and Queries: On China and Japan* reveal not only the literary tastes of the time but also the biases and limitations of early Sinology. These citations collectively show how literature served as a medium of cultural exchange, negotiation, and sometimes misinterpretation between China and the West.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Reclaiming China's past: sino-Babylonian theory and the translator's (in)visibility in Clement Allen's <i>The Book of Chinese Poetry</i>	Chinese Miscellany	Evidence of Western translators' attitudes towards translating Chinese poetry in 1865.
Silencing China's poetic voice	Chinese Miscellany	Evidence of how poetry is valued as humanizing for Chinese officials.
Wen, Literature, and Belles Lettres: Reconfiguring Chinese Literature in Nineteenth-Century English Sinology	Chinese Miscellany	Chinese literature genres in the early 19th century, a Western perspective.
"Literature" in the 19th-Century Sinological Works: The History of a Concept	Chinese Miscellany	Evidence of interest in Chinese literature in mid-19th century England.
Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson and the King's College Mandarins	New China Review	Criticism of poetry translation skill of a Western orientalist.
Chinese Folklore for the English public: Herbert A. Giles's 1880 translation of Pu Songling's classical tales	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Interest in Chinese stories in the West in the 19th century.

Wen, Literature, and Belles Lettres: Reconfiguring Chinese Literature in Nineteenth-Century English Sinology	Notes And Queries: On China And Japan	Chinese scholars valued classical writing above novels.
The Reception of Jane Austen in Early Modern China: A Canonical Perspective	T'ien Hsia Monthly	Evidence of the translation skills of translator Yang.
A Historical Review of the Comparative Study of Mohism and Christianity during the Late Qing and Republican China Periods	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Evidence of the academic popularity of a translation of <i>The Ethical and Political Works of Motse</i> (BCE moral philosopher).

Table 16. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about literature.

4.14 Politics

Western intervention in China from the 19th century changed the relationship between China and other countries, as well as political relationships inside China. Contemporary records of these events have been cited in recent analyses of relevant events in China (Table 17).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
John Francis Davis as governor and diplomat on the China Coast (1844–1848)	Chinese Miscellany	China described as barbarism by UK diplomat.
Taiwan's united nations membership bid	New China Review	Evidence of the relationship between Formosa and the mainland in 1895.
Wisconsin roots of the modern revolution in structural geology	The China Critic	Evidence of UK unwitting support for Japanese expansionism in China before WW2.
Zhang Junmai's early political philosophy and the paradoxes of Chinese modernity	The China Critic	Arguments for Chinese nationalism in the early 20th century.
Ch'en Tu-hsiu and the Chinese intellectual revolution, 1915-1919	The China Mission Year Book	Chinese intellectuals in 1919 recognizing the importance of the masses for challenging state power.
Death of a young Shanghailander: The Thorburn case and the defence of the British treaty ports in China in 1931	The China Critic	A claim that the victim of a high-profile murder in China was still alive.
The Sino-British Rapprochement, 1927-1931	The China Year Book	Chinese reactions to British new China policy change in 1928.
Chinese populism in the 1920s, extraterritoriality and international law	The China Year Book	Western powers' recognition that they could not control China in 1926, and that treaty revisions were necessary.

Table 17. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about politics.

4.15 Publishing

Although printing was invented in China, surprisingly many studies focus on the importance of Western uses of printing and publishing in the country (Table 18). This table highlights how old Chinese journal articles are cited in modern academic research to explore the historical development of publishing in China. These sources are not just referenced for facts, but are used to examine the broader social, legal, and technological forces that shaped China's print culture. Topics include the strategic use of annotations

in missionary Bible distribution, the logistical networks supporting overseas printing efforts, the role of libraries in public education, and the challenges surrounding copyright enforcement. Together, these citations reveal how publishing in China evolved through a complex interplay of religion, commerce, law, and international exchange, positioning it as a key facet of cultural and intellectual history.

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Interwoven processes in linguistic historiography : An integrated perspective on the history of Chinese language studies in Europe	Chinese Miscellany	Importance of printing in interactions with Chinese people.
To add or not to add? The British and Foreign Bible Society's defence of the 'without note or comment' principle in late Qing China	The China Mission Year Book	Evidence of the success of using annotations to explain the context for bibles distributed in China.
Missionary Printing in Malacca 1815-1843	The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	Evidence of missionaries in China sending paper to Malacca for printing.
The Development of Archives and Libraries in China: An historical account	T'ien Hsia Monthly	Evidence of libraries open to the public in 18th century China.
The Modern Chinese Writer: Literary Incomes and Best Sellers	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Copyright law in China was rarely enforced in the courts in the first half of the 20th century.
Three Shanghai General Meetings and Catholic Publishing in the First Half of the Twentieth Century †	Yenching Journal of Social Studies	Shanghai was the print capital of China through controlling paper imports.

Table 18. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about publishing.

4.16 Religion

When Western interference in China peaked in the 19th century, large numbers of Christian missionaries moved there in largely unsuccessful attempts to convert the country. Their activities seem to be particularly well documented and subject to ongoing research (Table 19).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
Superscribing Symbols: The Myth of Guandi, Chinese God of War	New China Review	Evidence of a temple in China for military heroes.
Reimagining the Buddhist universe: Pilgrimage and cosmography in the court of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama (1876-1933)	New China Review	Treatment of the Dalai Lama in the Qing era in the early 20th century.
Religious liberty for the Chinese child: missionary debates in the 1930s	The China Mission Year Book	Belief in alignment between Christians and student activism in the 1920s.
Protestant revivals in China with particular reference to Shandong province	The China Mission Year Book	Missionary belief in the likely future explosion of Christianity in China.
Persian temples in T'ang China	The Chinese And Japanese Repository	Claim of the identity of a religious group in T'ang China.
Media events and missionary periodicals: The case of the boxer war, 1900-1901	The Chinese Recorder	Globally oriented missionary periodicals were slow to recognise local unrest.

Politics in the Translation of Buddhist Texts: Timothy Richard and the Awakening of Faith	The Chinese Recorder	Most Westerners writing about Chinese Buddhism in The Chinese Recorder were Christian missionaries.
Roland Allen and the decolonisation of Christianity	The Chinese Recorder	Contemporary Western opinions about a decolonial 19th century missionary.
The rise and development of lexicography & dictionary craft in Tiechiu-Swatow dialect during late Qing dynasty	The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	Dictionaries and textbooks were part of the Christian missionary plan during the Great Awakening Movement in 19th century China.
Seeking Reconciliation through Translation: A Study on W. H. Medhurst's Translation of "Li (理)" in Cheng-Zhu Confucianism	The Indo-Chinese Gleaner	Western interest in Chinese translation motivated by a desire to translate the Bible.
Nationalism and Chinese Christians: The Religious Freedom Campaign and Movement for Independent Chinese Churches, 1911-1917	West China Missionary News	The overthrow of the Emperor created better conditions for Christianity in China.

Table 19. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about religion.

4.17 Miscellaneous

Other studies cited old Chinese periodicals for reasons that did not fit the above categories well (Table 20).

Citing journal article	Cited publication	Academic citation context
From rural reconstruction to agricultural engineering: a study of the cooperation between the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the International Harvester Company (1945-8)	The China Critic	Efforts at rural reconstruction in 1930s China.
To Feel at Home in the Wonderful World of Modern Science: New Chinese Historiography and Qing Intellectual History	The China Year Book	Chinese evaluation of a national Renaissance.
Southeast Asian Hua-Ch'iao in Chinese History-Writing	"The Chinaman Abroad," Chinese Miscellany (1849)	Evidence of early Chinese success in understanding the world outside China.
The idle and the busy: Teahouses and public life in early twentieth-century Chengdu	West China Missionary News	Beggars were sometimes sent to workhouses in early 20th century Chengdu.

Table 20. Examples of old Chinese journal articles cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics.

5 Summary

Recall that the purpose of this report is to give a flavour of the types of reasons why the Chinese documents are cited. It is not exhaustive even in terms of academic citations. Moreover, students are probably the main users of these resources, but their citations can't be accessed to be investigated.

Based only on citations to sixteen periodicals with distinctive names, a small subset of the *China and the Modern World* series, the results show a wide range of reasons for citing old Chinese documents and

that the academic citations to these sources originate from many institutions, countries, and subjects. In terms of subjects, the citations are predominantly from the arts, humanities, and social sciences, including many specialties within this set. The topics of the citing studies investigated are often related to China and focusing on an aspect of Chinese history, but usually within a broader analysis that is not only about China but also about something else, such as poetry, economics, or health.

6 References

Goh, J. (2025). Digitised Sources, Materiality and 'Interim Archives': Archive Encounters in Asia and the United Kingdom. *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 1–13.

Tally, B., & Goldenberg, L. B. (2005). Fostering historical thinking with digitized primary sources. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*, 38(1), 1–21.