

The Ricci 21st Century Roundtable: An International Database on the History of Christianity in China

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Project Objective

The 21st Century Roundtable database is an international database for the study of Christianity in China. It provides an extensive and freely accessible WWW database through the Internet allowing participants to add content, share opinions, contribute to scholarly debate, and conduct research in the field. It is a research and academic database designed for the use of scholars and institutions in the field.

Features

1. Multilingual capability – The Database supports Western language sources such as: Latin, Portuguese, Italian, and French and, Asian languages, primarily Chinese.
2. Multiple input –The database is a multi-layered site that allows authors at input stations around the world to add data to the database.

Structure

The organization of the database is divided into two parts, Scholarly and Technologically.

1. Scholarly – It is divided into broad categories such as: Archives, Bibliographies, Biographies, Directory, Forum, Images, Institutions, Locations, News, and Sounds. Each category may be considered a paired or related category that has a relationship with the others.
2. Technologically - Because the scope of this project is too large for a single institution, we follow the concept of shared data where more than one institution contributes contents to the database.

Administration of the Database/Demonstration:

1. The Ricci Institute and “Editors” – Staff at the Ricci Institute will review data as it is loaded onto the database. All new data is subject to editorial approval. Editors are responsible for correcting errors, and arrangement of the database.
2. Other data stations and “Authors” – Individuals or institutions that have permission to add data to the Roundtable Database. Contributors are responsible for prioritizing, and inputting materials from their archives, papers, and libraries.

New version of Database/Demonstration:

1. Bibliographies section
2. Biographies section