

Atlas of Chinese Religions

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The *Atlas of Chinese Religions* is a repository and gateway to historical and contemporary information about the religions of China. The architecture of the atlas includes contextual referencing to the information. At the heart of the Atlas is the geo-registered points of approximately 40,000 religious sites. This makes the Atlas a primary source for locating Buddhist monasteries, Islamic mosques and graveyards, Christian centers, and Daoist sites. In addition to the mapping of the locations, the Atlas links to material related to each of the geographic points including: latitude and longitude, images, online resources, addresses for sites, historical data, contemporary references to activities, lineage charts, and digital texts.

The methodology includes use of Google Earth, continued adaptations of *TimeMap* software, and new strategies for building context and referencing digital libraries and other internet sources. Therefore, the *Atlas of Chinese Religions* will be both a portal for users, a place for finding and using digital data, and at the same time a model for other atlases of similar nature.

Future development can be dedicated to the continual accumulation of information for any of the tens of thousands of geo-registered points. The project team will be working on Vietnam and Korean religious materials in a fashion that is interoperable with the Atlas. A related project of putting the Chinese Buddhist canon into a Virtual Reality software for an immersive experience is one example of how the Atlas can be at the center of a matrix of projects and independent research projects relating to religion of the area.