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ACCESS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS IN CHINA

EU-China Research and Innovation Dialogue

Information Brochure



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The author, Mr. Ivan Cardillo, is an Assistant Professor in Law at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, in Wuhan, China.

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Introduction

The purpose of the present brochure is to offer a user-friendly guide to European researchers in China about the availability of and access to relevant information in China.

The brochure is structured in two main parts. The first part offers an overview of China's open access policies and comprehensive analysis of the availability and accessibility of scientific information. The second part deals with the legal framework of applicable laws regulating access to information, information circulation, publication, research and education, budget, funds, national security, science and technology, state secrets, intellectual property rights, and provides a systematic overview of key issues.

1. Scientific information supply

1.1 Open Access

China is today one of the world's largest producers of scientific articles. This trend is set to continue as R&D spending is constantly rising as a crucial component of the government's innovation-driven growth strategy. The Chinese government presents itself as a firm supporter of open access and supports several projects to build centralized information retrieval systems for scientific data. Among them, the following projects are the most widely used:

1. Online Library Cataloging Center, 全国图书馆联合编目中心 (<http://olcc.nlc.cn>): The National Library Joint Cataloging Center was established in October 1997. Its purpose is to organize and manage the online joint cataloguing work of libraries nationwide and use modern library concepts and technical means to integrate the rich bibliographic data resources and human resources of various libraries at all levels.
2. The China Education and Research Network (CERNET), 中国教育和科研计算机网 (<http://www.edu.cn/english/>): launched in the mid-1990s, is managed by the Department of Education. Its national center is hosted by Tsinghua University and there are regional centers in Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Guangzhou, and other places in central and eastern China. CERNET project is also part of China Next Generation Internet 中国下一代互联网 (https://www.edu.cn/xxh/ji_shu_ju_le_bu/cernet2_ipv6/) a five-year plan initiated by the Chinese government with the purpose of gaining a significant position in the future development of the Internet through the early adoption of IPv6.
3. China Academic Library and Information System (CALIS) 中国高等教育文献保障系统 (<http://www.calis.edu.cn>): is an investment and construction project for all university libraries in the "Ninth Five-Year Plan", "Tenth Five-Year Plan" and "Phase 3" "211 Project" of the Ministry of Education. It provides various application systems, supporting the multi-level sharing of "documents, data, equipment, software, knowledge, and personnel" among university member libraries, and has become an indispensable public service foundation for university library basic services.
4. Library Society of China 中国图书馆学会 (<http://www.lsc.org.cn/cns/channels/1297.html>): is a national, academic, and non-profit social organization established by the voluntary combination of scientific and technological workers in libraries and related industries or institutions and registered under the law. It is the bridge and link between the Communist Party and the government to contact library workers and guide the library. It counts 16 branches, namely: Academic Research Committee, Library Science Education Committee, Reading Promotion Committee, Compilation and Publication Committee, Exchange and Cooperation Committee, Public Library Branch, Higher School Library Branch, Professional Library Branch, Central State Agency Library Branch, Medical Library Branch, Higher Vocational College Library Branch, Elementary and Middle School Library Branch, Party School Library Branch, League School Library Branch, Minor Library Branch, Trade Union Library Branch.

1.2 Libraries

In China, libraries are the primary physical infrastructure for accessing scientific information and can be divided into three different typologies: university libraries, public libraries, and research libraries.

University libraries: They are established within universities; access is usually guaranteed to students, professors, and employees through a system of credentials. Their main function is to support tertiary education, research, and provide information service. University libraries are expected to give full play to their educational role through school talent training, scientific research, social services, preserving cultural heritage, and supporting innovation. Below a list of universities' libraries:

Beijing region

Peking University Library
Tsinghua University Library
Beijing Normal University Library
Beijing Foreign Studies University Library
The Library of Renmin University of China
China University of Mining & Technology (Beijing) Library
Library of China University of Geosciences
Central Conservatory of Music Library
China Agricultural University Library
Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications Library
Beijing Jiaotong University Library
Beijing University of Chemical Technology Libraries
North China University of Technology Library
Beijing University of Technology Library
Library of University of Science & Technology Beijing
The Central University of Finance and Economics Library
Capital Normal University Library
Capital University of Economics and Business Library
Capital University of Medical Sciences Library
Peking University Health Science Library
Beijing Language and Culture University Library
Beijing Institute of Technology Library
Beijing Forestry University Library
Beihang University (BUAA) Library
Beijing University of Chinese Medicine Library

Northeast region

China Medical University Library
Northeastern University Library
Dongbei University of Finance & Economics Library
Liaoning University Library
Northeast Agricultural University Library
Liaoning Normal University Library
Shenyang University Library
Heilongjiang University Library
Dalian University of Technology Library
Dalian University Library
Northeast Normal University Library
Harbin Medical University Library
Jilin University Library
Changchun University Library
Yanbian University Library
Harbin Institute of Technology Library
Northeast Forestry University Library
Harbin Normal University Library

North China region

Nankai University Library
Tianjin University Library
Tianjin Polytechnic University Library
Tianjin Normal University Library
Tianjin Medical University Library
Tianjin University of Finance & Economics Library
Hebei University Library
Hebei University of Science & Technology
Library of Shanxi University

Hebei Normal University Library
Hebei University of Technology Library
Shanxi Normal University Library
Taiyuan University of Technology Library
Hebei University of Economics & Business Library
Yanshan University Library
Library of Shanxi University of Finance & Economics
The Library of Inner Mongolia University for the Nationalities
Inner Mongolia University Library
Inner Mongolia University of Technology Library

East China region

Fudan University Library
Fudan University Medical Library
Tongji University Library
Shanghai Jiaotong University Libraries
Shanghai University Libraries
East China University of Science and Technology Library
East China Normal University Library
Shanghai Conservatory of Music Library
Shanghai International Studies University Library
Shanghai Normal University Library
Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine Library
Shanghai University of Finance & Economics Library
University of Shanghai for Science and Technology Library
Library of Shanghai Ocean University
Xiamen University Library
Fujian Normal University Library
Library of Fuzhou University
Huaqiao University Library
Jimei University Library
Nanchang University Library
Jiangxi University of Finance & Economic Library
The Library of East China Jiaotong University
Jiangxi Agricultural University Library
East China University of Technology Library

Zhejiang University Libraries
Zhejiang University of Technology Library
Zhejiang University of Finance & Economics Library
Nanjing University Library
Jiangsu University Library
Jiangnan University Library and Archives
The Library of Hohai University
Jiangsu University of Science and Technology Library
China Pharmaceutical University Library
China University of Mining and Technology Library
Southeast University Libraries
Nanjing Normal University Library
Nanjing Medical University Library
Nanjing University of Science & Technology Library
Nanjing Forestry University Library
Nanjing University of Post and Telecommunications Library
Nanjing Agricultural University Library
Library, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Soochow University Library
Library of University of Science and Technology of China
Anhui University Library
Anhui University of Technology Library
Shandong University Library
Library of Ocean University of China
Shandong University of Science & Technology Library
Shandong University of Technology Library
The Library of Shandong Normal University
Library of Shandong Agricultural University

Central China

Huazhong University of Science and Technology Library
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law Library
Huazhong Agricultural University Library
The Library of Wuhan University of Technology
Zhengzhou University Library

China University of Geosciences Library (Wuhan)
Hubei University Library
Jiangnan University Library
Wuhan University Library
Wuhan University of Science and Technology Library
Hubei University of Technology Library
China Three Gorges University Library

Central South University Library

Hunan University Library
The Library of Changsha University
Library of Xiangtan University
Henan Normal University Library

South China Region

South China University of Technology Library
Sun Yat-sen University Libraries
Medical Library, Sun Yat-sen University Libraries
South China Normal University Library
Shenzhen University Library
Guangdong University of Foreign Studies Library
The Library of Guangdong University of Business Studies
Jinan University Library
Guangdong University of Technology Library
Guangzhou University Library
Shantou University Library
South China Agricultural University Library
The Library of Wuyi University
Guangdong Medical University Library
Huizhou University Library
Guangxi University Library
Guangxi University for Nationalities Library
Gulin University of Electronic Technology Library
Guangxi Normal University Library
Guangxi University of Science and Technology

Northwest Region

Xi'an Technological University Library

Northwest University Library
Northwestern Polytechnical University Library
Xi'an Jiaotong University Library
Xi'an University of Technology Library
Xi'an University of Architecture & Technology Library
Xidian University Library
Xi'an University of Post Telecommunications Library
Northwest Normal University Library
Xi'an Shiyou University Library
Lanzhou University Library
Northwest University for Nationalities Library
The Library of Xinjiang University
Library of Xinjiang University of Finance & Economics
The Library of Xinjiang Agricultural University
Xinjiang Normal University
Qinghai University Library

Southwest Region

Library of University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
Sichuan University Library
Sichuan Normal University Library
South Western University of Finance and Economics Library
Southwest Jiaotong University Library
Southwest University of Science and Technology Library
Chongqing University Library
Sichuan University of Science & Engineering Library
Chengdu University of Technology Library
Yunnan University Library
Yunnan Nationalities University Library
Southwest University of Political Science & Law
Guizhou University Library
Guizhou College of Finance and Economics Library
Guiyang Medical College Library

Public libraries: They are public cultural facilities open to the public with free admission. They collect and review literature information, provide searching, lending, and relevant services, and conduct social education activities. Their main task is to promote, direct, and serve nationwide reading.

There are more than 3.000 public libraries in China, employing more than 50.000 people. The list below refers to major libraries generally listed on university libraries' websites.

Capital Library [首都图书馆](#)
National Library of China [中国国家图书馆](#)
Taiyuan City Library [太原市图书馆](#)
Fujian Provincial Library [福建省图书馆](#)
Shenzhen Luohu District Library [深圳罗湖区图书馆](#)
Shanghai Library [上海图书馆](#)
Shenyang Library [沈阳图书馆](#)
Shandong Provincial Library [山东省图书馆](#)
Xiamen Library [厦门图书馆](#)
Shenzhen Nanshan Library [深圳南山图书馆](#)
Shanghai Huangpu Library [上海黄浦图书馆](#)
Dalian Library [大连图书馆](#)
Jinan Library [济南图书馆](#)
Jiangxi Provincial Library [江西省图书馆](#)
Shantou City Library [汕头市图书馆](#)
Shanghai Hongkou District Library [上海虹口区图书馆](#)
Inner Mongolia Library [内蒙古图书馆](#)
Qingdao City Library [青岛市图书馆](#)
Hunan Library [湖南图书馆](#)
Foshan City Library [佛山市图书馆](#)
Shanghai Children's Library [上海少儿图书馆](#)
Gansu Provincial Library [甘肃省图书馆](#)
Nanjing Library [南京图书馆](#)
Hubei Provincial Library [湖北省图书馆](#)
Shunde City Library [顺德市图书馆](#)
Shanghai Zhabei Library [上海闸北图书馆](#)
Lanzhou Library [兰州市图书馆](#)
Jinling Library [金陵图书馆](#)
Wuhan Library [武汉图书馆](#)
Zhanjiang Library [湛江图书馆](#)
Tianjin Library [天津图书馆](#)
Shaanxi Provincial Library [陕西省图书馆](#)
Guilin Library [桂林图书馆](#)
Sichuan Provincial Library [四川省图书馆](#)
Zhongshan City Library [中山市图书馆](#)
Chongqing Library [重庆图书馆](#)
Xi'an Library [西安图书馆](#)
Suzhou Library [苏州图书馆](#)
Chengdu Library [成都图书馆](#)
Nanhai Library [南海图书馆](#)
Heilongjiang Provincial Library [黑龙江省图书馆](#)
Hebei Provincial Library [河北省图书馆](#)
Zhejiang Provincial Library [浙江省图书馆](#)
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Library [广西壮族自治区图书馆](#)
Hong Kong Public Library [香港公共图书馆](#)
Harbin City Library [哈尔滨市图书馆](#)
Henan Library [河南图书馆](#)
Hangzhou Library [杭州图书馆](#)
Guangdong Zhongshan Library [广东中山图书馆](#)
Macau Central Library [澳门中央图书馆](#)
Jilin Provincial Library [吉林省图书馆](#)
Zhengzhou City Library [郑州市图书馆](#)
Anhui Provincial Library [安徽省图书馆](#)
Guangzhou Library [广州图书馆](#)
Taiwan Central Library [台湾中央图书馆](#)
Shanxi Provincial Library [山西省图书馆](#)
Hefei City Library [合肥市图书馆](#)
Shenzhen Library [深圳图书馆](#)
Taipei City Library [台北市立图书馆](#)
Suzhou DushuLake Library [苏州独墅湖图书馆](#)
Wenzhou Library [温州市图书馆](#)
Liaoning Provincial Library [辽宁省图书馆](#)

Research library: They are libraries with advanced research facilities. Besides the common services offered by another kind of libraries, this typology also offers research services. They are mostly natural science libraries and are generally affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Their functioning is not regulated by a specific law but each library has its own internal regulation and they should comply with the general laws of the country. Below a list of major research libraries:

Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Library of National Astronomical Observatory of Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Library and Archives Information Center of Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Library of Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Library of Wuhan Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Library of Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Wuhan Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Shanghai Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Life Science Library);

Resource and Environmental Science Information Center of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Lanzhou Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences);

Chengdu Documentation and Information Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Library of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences/Peking Union Medical College;

Another list of Research libraries can be found at the following link <https://www.las.ac.cn/front/aboutUs>. The link lists all libraries within the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

1.3 Scientific repositories

Concerning online databases and scientific repositories, Peking University's library has been chosen as the most representative one. It counts a total number of 728 databases, available in several languages such as Chinese, English, German, French, Japanese, Arabic, Russian etc. 408 databases out of them are in open access.

2. Legal framework

2.1 Applicable laws

In China's legal system, fifteen S&T-related laws regulate access to information, information circulation, publication, research and education, and intellectual property rights. The "Foreign Investment Law of the PRC" has not been considered in this brochure as its rules on technology cooperation mainly concern the preliminary stage of negotiation and investment in R&D, hence it is not directly relevant in information supply.

Below the list of applicable laws:

1. [Constitution of the People's Republic of China](#);
2. [Regulations for libraries in ordinary colleges and universities](#);
3. [Education Law of the People's Republic of China](#);
4. [Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China](#);
5. [Law of the People's Republic of China on Public Libraries](#);
6. [Law of the People's Republic of China on Promulgation of Science and Technology](#);
7. [Law of the People's Republic of China on Scientific and Technological Progress](#);
8. [Regulation on the National Natural Science Funds](#);
9. [Provisions of the People's Republic of China on Administration of Foreign-related Marine Scientific Research](#);
10. [Regulation on National Science and Technology Awards](#);
11. [Budget Law of the People's Republic of China](#);
12. [National Security Law of the People's Republic of China](#);
13. [Open Government Information Regulation of the People's Republic of China](#);
14. [Law of the People's Republic of China on Guarding State Secrets](#);
15. [Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China](#);

2.2 Systematic overview of key legal issues

What emerges from applicable laws can be summarized in the following points:

Political orientation

In China, the role of science and technology is to be the country's primary productive force. S&T-related laws are formulated to support the transformation of S&T achievements into real productive gains to better serve the country's socio-economic development. The same political orientation can be found in S&T funding: grants awarded by the National Natural Science Foundation should conform to the principles of "openness, fairness and equity, to the guidelines of respecting science, carrying democracy forward, advocating competition, boosting cooperation, prompting innovations, and guiding the future".

Strategic use of intellectual property rights

Intellectual property is regulated by China's intellectual property strategy. According to the strategy, IP rights generated through projects supported by government-funded S&T foundations or programs should primarily be used within the territory of China. Their transfer or licensing of exclusive use right to overseas organizations or individuals shall be subject to the approval of the department in charge of the project. The Chinese government supports the development of technology trading service system, which should comply with the principle of free will, equality, mutual benefits, transaction burden, and good faith.

Limits to information disclosure

The information retrieval system is considered a key point in China's scientific research and development. Information related to S&T secrets should be kept confidential. The administrative department of S&T under the State Council should timely announce the layout and use of S&T resources to the general public unless the S&T resources are to be kept confidential. All scientific activities and relative information disclosure should not endanger national security, public security or disrupt the country's economy. All Chinese citizens have the legal duty to safeguard the country's security, should report suspicious activities to the authorities, and must not commit acts detrimental to the state, the national and public security, the economy, the honor and interests of the motherland.

Limits to international cooperation

The Chinese government supports cooperation and exchange with foreign parties to advance science and technology. Foreign exchange and cooperation in education are allowed based on the principles of independence, equality, mutual benefit, and mutual respect. Limits are related to state sovereignty, security, and public interests. Individuals and organizations that have seriously dishonest conduct in scientific research integrity should be recorded in the appropriate database and their information should be shared in the national credit information sharing platform.



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