



Taiwan Lectures on
Chinese Studies

臺灣漢學講座

A Distant Exploration of Literary Writings and Historical Documents in Classical Chinese

11. 11. 2020 | 2 PM – 3 PM UK Time

Zoom registration:

<https://ed-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqduCqpsiHNO2QW8Fvp0ktYATr0H3MAuy>

We design and employ software to analyze the contents of literary writings and historical documents. At the burgeoning stage of digital humanities in Taiwan, relatively simple yet interesting analysis of famous novels of Ming and Qing dynasties were used to stimulate the interests in digital humanities of the humanities researchers. Gradually, we move onto more practical analyses of the poetic works of the Tang and Song dynasties. Methods of text analysis assist us to look for useful information in historical documents in both classical and modern Chinese, and part of which represents our collaboration with the China Biographical Database Project of Harvard University. In recent years, we expand our reach to include the analysis of Taiwan poems and local gazetteers. More recently, we further extend our attempts to the tasks of optical character recognition to digitise hard copies of classical Chinese texts. Aiming at achieving a more advanced level of algorithmic competence, we also explore the applicability of deep learning methods to the problems of word segmentation for classical Chinese poems and the problems of sentence splitting for historical documents that were also written in classical Chinese. We shall share selected experience in this brief presentation.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Chao-Lin LIU 劉昭麟 received a doctorate in intelligent systems from the Department of Electronical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan. His research includes digital humanities, computational linguistics, and interdisciplinary applications of artificial intelligence. A Distinguished Professor, he also serves as the Chairperson of the Department of Computer Science, the Associate Dean of the College of Science, National Chengchi University, and the incumbent president of the Taiwanese Association for Digital Humanities.

