



Interest group for licensing of materials for Asian studies

Berlin, 5 June 2019

Current status

Exchange among the group of information, share select information to create some transparency on the European level.

Based on this exchange among the group, every institution negotiates its own licenses for itself. Or *ad hoc* consortia (comprised of some institutions) negotiate for particular resources by and for themselves.

Pros: Flexibility and speed.

Cons: Maintaining the status quo. Information sharing is difficult to commit to and put into practice. Creates minimal impact.

Commit to change

Goal: formation of a common interest group in order to:

- exchange information among the group;
- share as much information as possible (prices, license information, subscribed resources, best practices, etc.) to increase transparency;
- agree to a common method of centralized license negotiation based on common principles (standard license agreement)¹;
- level licenses so that members could work with the data in a consistent way;
- provide better and wider access (including, but not limited to, text- and data-mining rights) to Europe-based user groups as decided by the members.

Pilot: decide on a selection of Chinese resources and attempt to negotiate a license (with agreed upon features) for those resources.

After pilot: based on an evaluation of the pilot outcome, decide on the following points and extend it to other resources and invite additional members:

- define who are the members of the group;
- decide how to organize decision-making process among the group members;
- share the distribution of responsibilities among the members;
- evaluate and define in which legal status (if any, e.g., *Couperin*, ESFRI, cooperatives) the group will take (or to explore linking up with existing organizations);
- agree on methods to define distribution of shares from different institutions for the licensing fees;
- decide whether any set financial contribution (besides shares for the licensing fees) the members will make;

¹ E.g., based on the licensing principles of CrossAsia: <https://blog.crossasia.org/about/lizenziierung/?lang=en>

- define which types of databases the members of the group are interested in (which Asian studies or language materials?) and the criteria on which this interest is based;
- etc.

All members taking part agree on terms for negotiating together, including how this central negotiation will take place. One central negotiation on behalf of the group, taking account of different interests of the institutions. (e.g., consortia involving some members of the group for some specific resources are still possible, but license negotiation would still be done centrally by the group and other members or institutions could join later.)

Based on the outcomes of central negotiation, members could decide on which databases they want to join. License could also be extended to other institutions and researchers within Europe.

Note: ‘consortium’ throughout this document is defined as a group organized to have access to a list of specific products.

Actions:

1. Group members seek mandate from our respective institutions, solicit feedback, and circulate them among group members by mid-July 2019.
2. Reconvene to discuss feedback and subsequent steps with all EASL members at meeting in 4-6 September 2019, seek support from EASL.
3. Pilot

Participants of meeting:

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John Moffet (NRI, Cambridge, will be informed via email)