BEYOND THE READING ROOM: CROSSASIA'S COLLECTIONS AND GLOBAL ACCESS

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Content

- What is CrossAsia?
- Accessing CrossAsia from outside Germany
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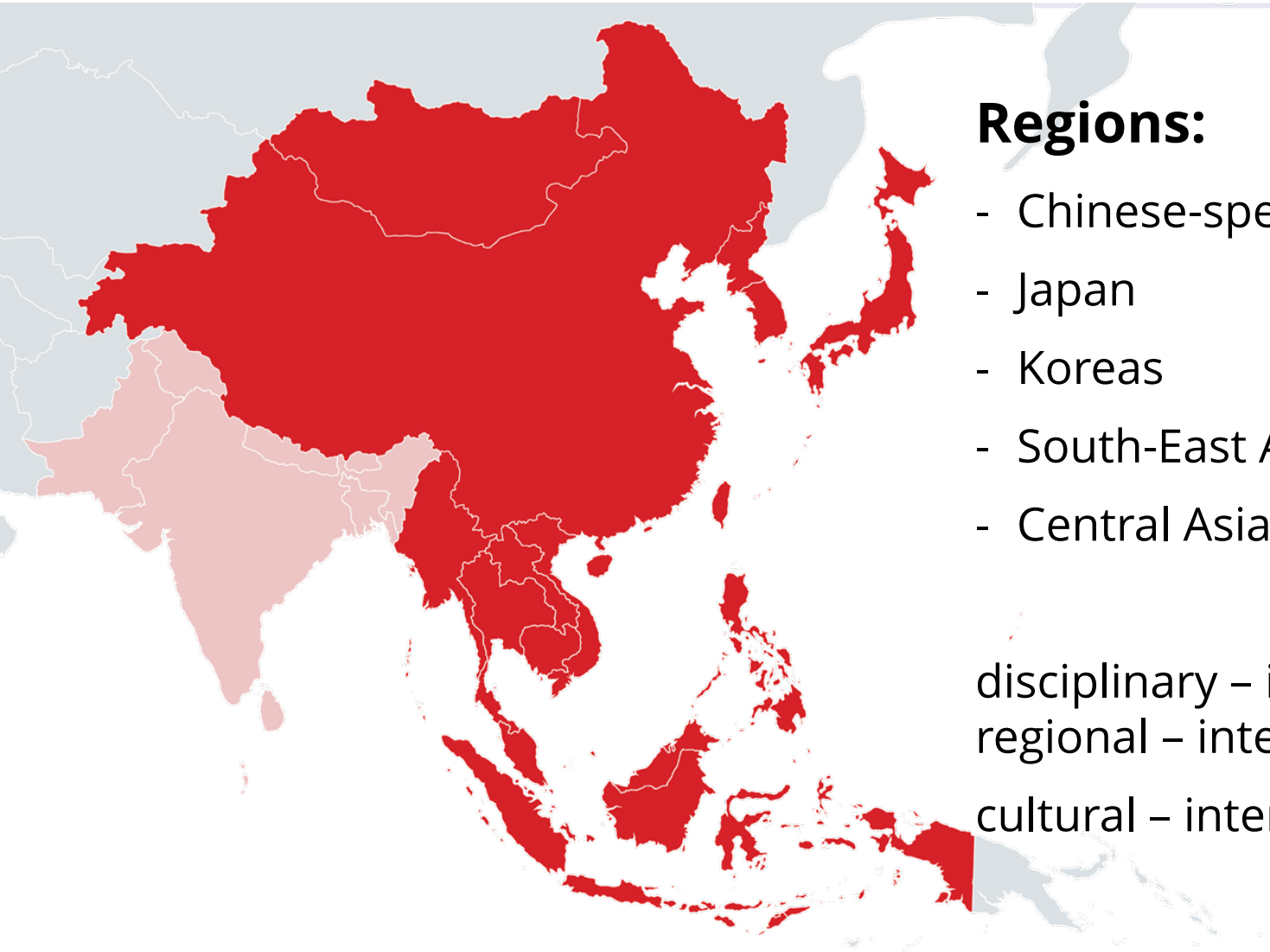

Regions:

- Chinese-speaking regions
- Japan
- Koreas
- South-East Asia
- Central Asia

disciplinary – interdisciplinary - transdisciplinary
regional – interregional – transregional

cultural – intercultural – transcultural

CrossAsia in Numbers

EUR 1.7 M Acquisition & licensing budget	23,000+ Bibliographic records	250,000+ uses of licensed services	287,163 Website visits	2,060 Active useres (Feb. 2025)
5,000 Blue Interlibrary Loan requests	10,000 pp. Digitised via DoD	1,000+ Mailing list subscribers	43 Training courses, 722 participants	8 CrossAsia Talks, 140 participants

Accessing CrossAsia

	For everyone	German institution affiliation	Berlin State Library card
Digitised collections	✓	✓	✓
Thematic portal	✓	✓	✓
CrossAsia Search (browse)	✓	✓	✓
Mailing list	✓	✓	✓
Licensed database		✓	✓
Blue Interlibary Loan		✓	
CrossAsia DoD	✓	✓	
CrossAsia Lab / DH Tools	✓	✓	✓
Physical loan services			✓
Reading room			✓

Open Access Collections

- Digitised collections
  - Via CrossAsia Search
- Kahlen collection
  - Digitised photo collection
- CrossAsia Repository
  - Open access platform for publications and research data
- Thematic Portals
  - Introduction to specific collections
- Up to come: Tibetan Newspaper
  - Appr. 20,000 pages from the 1950s-60s, Open access database

Kahlen collection, Bodnath 1981

Digitisation on Demand (DoD)

1. Research identifies a relevant premodern item in the holdings of Berlin State Library
2. DoD request is submitted via CrossAsia portal
3. Item is digitised by the Library
4. Digitised content is made openly available online

Digital Humanities Tools at CrossAsia

CrossAsia Fulltext search
Full-text search across the Integrated Text Repository (ITR).
Two beta versions: guided and exploratory.

Newspaper Research Companion
AI-powered platform for intelligent, cross-language research and analysis of historical newspaper archives.

N-Gramm Service
ITR full texts as N-Gramm datasets, free to download for linguistic and Digital Humanities research. Mainly used for Chinese.

ITR Explorer Newspaper Explorer
Visualisation: combine results, compare data, time distributions, Venn diagrams, heatmaps

Tibetan Medical Terminology DB
Translations of Tibetan medical terms across pharmacology, anatomy, and pathology texts. Curated by Dr. Katharina Sabernig

Translit CrossAsia
Converts transliterated input into original script:
Tibetan · Mongolian (Cyrillic) · Uyghur.

The Newspaper Research Companion (NRC)

32.9 M Article chunks	66 Newspaper titles	1785-2014 Time span	5 Source languages	6 Output languages

Source languages

German · Chinese (Traditional, Simplified, Classical) · English · Russian

Results available in: English · German · French · Korean · Japanese · Chinese

- Semantic Search
  - Interprets research questio
- Cross-Linguistic Retrieval
  - English query surfaces German, Chinese or Russian sources
- AI Summeries
  - Auto-generated article summeries in the user`s chosen language
- Source Verification
  - Every result links directly to the original digitised source
- Reasearch Reports
  - Synthesis documents with full references, downloadable as PDF

Collaboration opportunities

What CrossAsia brings to a project

- Rights management
  - Coordination with publishers & institutions worldwide
- Modular solution for technical applications
  - Databases, search interfaces, DH tools
- Research Data & DMP consulting
  - Support for data management plans
- Open Access publishing
  - CrossAsia Repository for publications and research data
- Metadata exchange
  - Sharing of metadata and full texts with partner systems
- Sustainability
  - Archiving and reuse of project outputs in CrossAsia systems

Concret example

- Tibetan Newspapers (up to come)
  - ~20,000 pages (1950s–60s) · rights cleared globally · open access database
- Digital Tibetan Archives Bonn (DTAB)
  - 4,268 legal documents · Handover of the database from the project manager
- Estate of Isrun Engelhardt
  - Materials prepared by IAAW, Humboldt University Berlin

Thank you for your attention!

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