



# China Comprehensive Gazetteers

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An Expansive Collection of Historic *Difangzhi* 地方志

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Uncommon Information  
Extraordinary Places

# Introducing China Comprehensive Gazetteers

The China Comprehensive Gazetteers provides unprecedented access to historically significant content and robust capabilities for research and teaching.

East View presents the *China Comprehensive Gazetteers (CCG)* online database, the single largest and most authoritative assembly of unique primary sources on Chinese history.

CCG offers an unparalleled look at China through a comprehensive collection of more than 6,500 titles spanning all of China's regions and covering vast historical periods, from the Northern Sung Dynasty up to the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

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*Previously underutilized documents are brought to light in this e-resource environment, making them of great value as important research references.*

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## About the Gazetteers

China has a long history of chronicling events, facts, and individuals specific to a location. Known as *difangzhi* 地方志, or gazetteers, these are a genre highly specific to China and span thousands of years.

Historically, *difangzhi* were written by noted officials and literati from the area. The writing is thorough and inclusive, spanning all administrative units from provinces and cities to prefectures and towns.

*Difangzhi* may be regarded as detailed encyclopedias of every local region in China covering every conceivable topic: history, geography, economics, politics, culture, social sciences, minorities, military, institutions, religion, art and architecture, archaeology, and more of China and neighboring countries. Even science and natural disasters are recorded chronologically. Trade, local products, scenic sights, ethnic minorities, and natural resources round out the picture in many titles, and illustrations and maps enhance facts stated.



## CCG Collections

East View's CCG database presents a vast collection of *difangzhi* spanning eight centuries 1229-1949. With more than 6,500 titles presented in image and/or full text to date, CCG is perhaps the richest single resource available for researching China in multiple aspects, including its political history, literature, and religion, as well as the biographies of famous personages, its culture, economic development and, of course, its geography and natural history. More than just local gazetteers, CCG also includes source materials, dictionaries, specialized works on topography, palaces, gardens, travel and even foreign travel.

The source of the original materials is the collection at the National Library of China, whose holdings are extensive and often unique. CCG is especially rich in documents from the Qing dynasty. The number of Republic Period titles is also very large.

Three categories of gazetteers found in the database include:

- Comprehensive treatises on geography and administrative geography;
- Local gazetteers on local history, geographic features and administrative geography history, religions, culture and education, economics, social society, agriculture, architecture, prominent persons including successful imperial exam candidates, etc. of local counties;
- Descriptions, records and travel notes on specific mountains, waters, hydraulic engineering projects, historical monuments and cultural relics, gardens and parks, borderlands, residences of minorities, and even foreign regions and countries.

## Intended for Scholarship

Any researcher of imperial China knows the wealth of longitudinal knowledge to be gleaned from local gazetteers. CCG comprehensively covers China geographically and chronologically by presenting materials from over 6,500 titles and display many in full text. As such, CCG offers rich interdisciplinary value for those studying China in most any aspect, including China's history, language, economy, and more. It may be regarded as a foundational genre and collection for most institutions with a Chinese Studies program. It provides a treasure trove of historical materials for students and scholars who wish to go beyond national-level historical Chinese materials to take advantage of this unique genre of Chinese scholarship.

## Easy Access

The CCG is arranged by type of work (geography, gazetteer, specialized coverage, etc.) and by geographical area. One can search the CCG to easily locate provincial, then prefectural and smaller administrative units.

The CCG database is compliant with most browsers, with no plugins or additional applications needed to view documents. The documents are available in images, with many titles available also in full text. The images of the original books are clear and zoomable while the full text appears at the right side of the screen next to the image, a boon especially when consulting handwritten and classical texts.

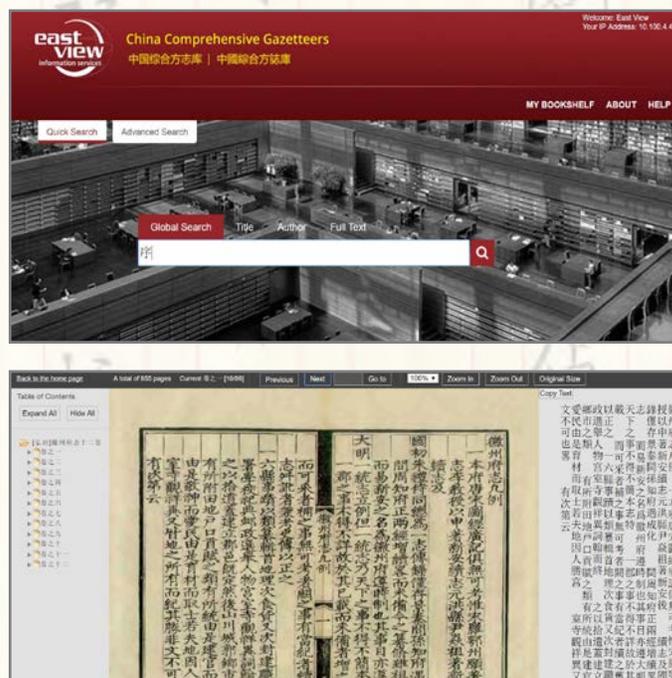
Meticulous metadata is given for each title so that the researcher will know not only the reign year during which the book was printed, but also its type of printing (e.g. woodblock, metal movable type, mimeograph, handwritten manuscripts, etc.) and, in some instances the type of paper (e.g. gridpaper) and the color of the border and grid. The metadata also includes names of individuals responsible for writing and revising the edition at hand and sometimes even the block carving.

## Search

From basic keyword searches to advanced filters, users have the tools necessary to discover and identify content relevant to their interests.

Search the database using traditional or simplified Chinese characters. All content is written in traditional Chinese characters, but when using simplified Chinese during a search, the mapping is seamless between the two.

The Quick Search options will search globally by title, author, or full text. The Advanced Search allows for combined searching of the Title, Author, Feature, Table of Contents, Subjects, or Text. Advanced Search will allow the user to search several fields simultaneously.



A current title list may be found at [www.eastview.com/online/ccg](http://www.eastview.com/online/ccg).  
For questions or for a trial to the *China Comprehensive Gazetteers*, please email [info@eastview.com](mailto:info@eastview.com).

## About East View

Since 1989, East View has been providing high-quality information products and services in foreign languages and in English to a wide array of academic, commercial, and government customers throughout the world.

In 2002, our offerings expanded with resources from mainland China, North Korea and Taiwan. Since then, we have added Japanese online resources and greatly expanded our offerings from the People's Republic of China. In fact, East View offers more online choices from East Asia than any other company in North America.

Additionally, East View has built its own product line focused primarily on China. The *China Comprehensive Gazetteers* is our most significant project, in this area, to date. We have also created an online repository of *pishu* (皮书), China's Academy of Sciences white papers, representing the best of contemporary Chinese scholarship in the social sciences from cultural to economic development.

Whether you seek the latest census data, fine arts content, or legal information from China, business data from Hong Kong, or online newspapers from Japan, East View already has it or can procure it.

East View is committed to sourcing uncommon information from extraordinary places. Our expanded Asian offerings continue traditions started two decades ago.

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