

WHAT IS IT?

四库全书 (*Si Ku Quan Shu*), or the *Complete library in Four Branches of Literature*, is one of the most valuable resources to scholars doing research on pre-modern China. It contains important works that pertain to the five thousand years of Chinese civilization, including history, astronomy, geography, rules and regulations, politics, economics, science and technology, and philosophy.

It was compiled during the years of 1773 to 1782 by edict from Emperor Qianlong. In the course of the compilation, large numbers of rare books and manuscripts were collected and preserved. Different versions of each work were examined and the best available one was used as the origin from which copies were made.

It includes 3,460 works with a total of more than 36,000 volumes and approximately 800 million characters. It is unarguably the single largest collection of literary works in the world.

Electronic Version of *Si Ku Quan Shu* (Wenyuange Edition)



It is a full-text database that contains the entire *Si Ku Quan Shu* collection in the electronic format. It allows users to access the *Si Ku Quan Shu* content through a secure network connection by using web browser.

It can only be used with Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher. There can only be three simultaneous users accessing the database.

For each session, a user has sixty minutes to search the database before being timed out. The idle time is fifteen minutes.

HOW TO ACCESS IT?

From the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library homepage

<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/east>

Select *Library Resources*, then on the next page scroll down to select *Chinese Resources*, then on the following page, scroll down to *Electronic Resources – e-Books*, *Si Ku Quan Shu* is the third on the list.

From the University of Toronto Library homepage

<http://www.library.utoronto.ca>

Change Quick title search in “Catalogue” to “e-books”, and type *Si Ku* in the search box, then click on the “GO” button, on the next page, click on *Si Ku Quan Shu*

HOW TO USE IT?

There are three ways to search this database:

- **Basic Search**

It is the default search function. There are options of keyword searching in four fields: title, author, text and annotation. It is the quickest and easiest way to search.



For example:

Search “战国策” in the title field, get the following results

检索类型	检索 设置 帮助
书名检索	《战国策》
检索字串	《战国策》
检索结果	《战国策》
共3条	
第1条到第3条	

- **Advanced Search**

In addition to the search functions provided Basic Search, the Advanced Search offers users the option of conducting Boolean search in two fields: full-text and annotation. Or, users can limit their search by author, title or category. This is where one can search the text by a specific author, and/or in a specific book, and/or in a specific category (follow the original organization of the print format of the *Si Ku Quan Shu*).



For example:

Search “忠孝” and “性情” in the text field and by author “朱元璋”, get the following results



• Browse

It follows the print format and organizes the content into four categories. Each category is further divided into subdivisions. There are four levels: 部, 类, 属 and individual titles. The electronic version also includes an appendix which consists of overall catalogues, missing title catalogues and other complimentary documents.



For example:

Select “子部”, then “小说家类”, get the following results



SEARCH RESULT DISPLAY

The List of the search results can be displayed as list, brief or detail.

Each search result can be displayed in three modes: text, image, ASCII

REFERENCE MATERIALS

For the convenience of users, reference materials such as the *Classical Chinese Language Dictionary*, the *Single Character Pronunciation System*, and *A Dictionary for the Complete Library in Four Branches of Literature* have been added to the electronic version of the *Si Ku Quan Shu*. Users can refer to these material while searching.

For example:



For further inquiries about how to use the electronic version of the Si Ku Quan Shu or library instruction on any other Chinese resources, please contact

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SI KU QUAN SHU

Chinese Electronic Resources

鄭裕彤東亞圖書館

