

A Quick Guide for Using the China Historical Christian Database

(compiled by Monumenta Serica Institute, January 2024)

For getting started, visit the **project homepage** (About, <https://chcdatabase.com/>). By clicking on **Data** (top center) you can access the **database homepage** (**Visualizing China's Christian Past**)

The section **Documentation** there features among others the category **Node Properties** which lists the basic information offered for each entity in the database, i.e., persons, institutions, corporate entities, events, and publications. The category **Sources** offers a list of all publications that have been used in creating the database entries (along with the abbreviations used in the individual entries).

From the **database home page** (<https://data.chcdatabase.com/>), you can access the data records by clicking on **Data** (top right)

The start page **Descriptive Data for the CHCD** (https://data.chcdatabase.com/data?node_id=&kind=All) opens. This is a statistical overview and visualization of the CHCD's entire data according to gender, religious family and Christian tradition, nationalities, and geographical distribution (listing main centers of activities, which can be specified from provincial down to county level).

The information given here can **be filtered** according to data categories to search for specific organizations, institutions or locations by entering their name and clicking "Submit."

For specific organizations, the overview also features additional graphs with the distribution by gender per year, graphs of the associated institutions per year, and the number of associated institutions by type (field of work).

After filtering the data for a specific organization, institution or location, you will find the following **clickable icons** in the corresponding statistical overview below the headline consisting of "Descriptive Data" and the search term:



copies the **Link** of the current data record to the clipboard (corresponds to the combination Control + c ["Ctrl + c"] in WORD)



shows the **Citation** form for the current data set



leads to the **Data sheet** (see also below for further symbols)

Specific searches can already be started on this page. From our own experience, the options open **Search** and **Network** search currently work best. The **Map** search works better from a **Data sheet** (see below).

Search displays a list of search results (also including similarly spelled names). If you click on the desired entry, a **Data sheet** opens, providing further information on the person, institution, body, publication, or event you are looking for.

Data sheet ("Basic Information")

In the top line, right beside the search term, there are several clickable icons offering additional functions (from left to right):



opens up a **Map** with locations of the person or other entities you are looking for. If just one location is given, this map starts on the micro level (street); for a geographical overview you have to zoom out further here. In case there are several locations, a map of China appears with a corresponding number of location symbols. If you hover over a location symbol with the cursor, the open hand symbol closes into a hand with

pointing index finger. You can then click on the symbol to display more detailed information about the location.



creates a graphic representation of the **Network** of relationships between the search term and other persons, institutions, etc. This representation can be enlarged using the mouse wheel and can also be straightened out by holding down a symbol with the cursor.









leads back to the **Descriptive Data** page for the search term (only applicable for corporations and institutions)



allows you to **Download** the current data set as an Excel file

Depending on the category, the data sheet can display the following affiliations (**Relationships**) for a search term: Personal, Institutional, Publication, Corporate, Event. Each entry in these lists can be clicked to open the corresponding data sheet.

The following symbols are used in the **Network** representations:

	Person, male
	Person, female
	Institution
	Corporate entity
	Publication
	Event

By touching (without clicking!) a symbol in the network with the cursor, the direct relationships of this specific entity to the others are displayed in thick white connecting lines. You can also reduce the complexity of the network representation by deactivating a few symbols in the **Include Nodes** section of the **Network Parameters** in the left-hand column and then confirming the new selection with “Submit.”