RGC Ref. No.:
UGC/FDS14/H02/20
(please insert ref. above)

**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL**
**COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR**
**THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)**

**Completion Report**
*(for completed projects only)*

**Submission Deadlines:**
1. *Auditor's report with unspent balance, if any: within **six** months of the approved project completion date.*
2. *Completion report: within **12** months of the approved project completion date.*

**Part A:   The Project and Investigator(s)**

1. **Project Title**

   The Study of *Chuci* in the Qing Dynasty

2. **Investigator(s) and Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved**

| Research Team | Name / Post | Unit / Department / Institution |
|---|---|---|
| Principal Investigator | Chen Hung To/ Associate Professor | Department of Chinese/The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong |
| Co-Investigator(s) | N.A. | N.A. |
| Others | N.A. | N.A. |

3. **Project Duration**

| | **Original** | **Revised** | **Date of RGC / Institution Approval** *(must be quoted)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Start Date | 1 Jan 2021 | N.A. | N.A. |
| Project Completion Date | 31 Dec 2023 | 30 June 2024 | 31 May 2023 (HSUHK) |
| Duration *(in month)* | 36 months | 42 months | 31 May 2023 (HSUHK) |

| Deadline for Submission of Completion Report | 31 Dec 2024 | 30 June 2025 | 31 May 2023 (HSUHK) |
|---|---|---|---|

4.4    Please attach photo(s) of acknowledgement of RGC-funded facilities / equipment.

## Part B:   The Final Report

**5.    Project Objectives**

5.1    Objectives as per original application

*1. Collect, analyze and review the studies of Chuci in the Qing dynasty, and create an annotated bibliography by writing abstracts for each of these works. The overall development of Chuci studies in the Qing dynasty can thus be fully comprehended.*
*2. Through locating the historical contexts and the format of the scholarly works on Chuci composed by the Qing literati while delineating the methodologies used in these works, this project seeks to evaluate the value of their scholarship.*
*3. Reinterpret and analyze the scholarship of Chuci with regards to the intellectual history of the Qing dynasty, and examine how the development of Chuci studies correlate with the intellectual trends in the Qing dynasty.*
*4. Locate the birthplaces, dates of birth and death, and other biographical information of the scholars working on Chuci in the Qing dynasty. At the same time, find the year of publication of each work, map out the geographical distribution of the scholars and explore how local culture affects the research on Chuci.*
*5. Create a "Database on the Studies of Chuci in the Qing Dynasty with an Annotated Bibliography and All Prefaces and Postscripts of the Relevant Texts" for students, teachers, researchers and the public.*

5.2    Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC:    N.A.

Reasons for the change: _____

_____

_____

*1.*

*2.*

*3. ....*

5.3    Realisation of the objectives
*(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)*

All objectives have been achieved with significant research output. The details are as follows:

For objectives 1 and 2, this project has comprehensively collected and examined Qing dynasty literature related to *Chuci* studies, creating a bibliography and summaries of over 200 works in this field. To gain a comprehensive understanding of *Chuci* studies during the Qing Dynasty, the project further analyzed the scholarly interests and research methods of Qing literati, summarizing the academic features of various types of literature. Simultaneously, the project has contextualized works related to *Chuci* within the broader intellectual history of the period, revealing the developmental trajectory of *Chuci* studies amid the scholarly shifts of the Qing Dynasty. The research methodology includes both case studies and macro-level interpretations of intellectual history. Currently, the preliminary research findings have been disseminated through conference papers, journal articles, a specialized database, and academic lectures.

For objective 3, this project aims to analyze works on *Chuci* studies in the Qing dynasty, examining these works within the context of the period's intellectual history to reveal the unique characteristics of *Chuci* studies. The research is conducted in two phases: First, a quantitative analysis was employed to investigate the timeline of composition and the geographical distribution of over 200 *Chuci*-related works composed during the Qing dynasty. Second, through case studies, four scholars namely Mao Qiling, Zhu Junsheng, Ma Qichang, and Wang Guowei were selected to represent the early, middle, and late periods of Qing *Chuci* studies. In-depth analyses of their academic contributions to the field were conducted.

For objectives 4 and 5, this project has conducted extensive research on the birthplaces, dates of birth and death and other biographical information of the scholars working on *Chuci* in the Qing dynasty, with the relevant findings uploaded to the project website. Additionally, scholarly works and biographical studies of individual authors have been published in conference proceedings and journals. This project developed a database titled "Database on the Studies of *Chuci* in the Qing Dynasty."[1] The database is organized into two main sections: "Research Materials on *Chuci* Studies in the Qing Dynasty" and "Bibliography of *Chuci* Studies in the Qing Dynasty". Users can search for information by entering keywords in the relevant sections. The "Data Search" section includes author's names, places of origin, along with the titles of their research, prefaces, postscripts, and abstracts. Beyond simply collecting data, this database conducts quantitative analyses on the writings of Qing scholars, processing their birth and death years, places of origin, and publication dates using digital methods to illustrate the evolution of *Chuci* studies during the Qing dynasty. Researchers can input any relevant keywords, and matching results will be displayed. In the "Bibliography of *Chuci* Studies in the Qing Dynasty" section, users can search by author name, book title, or article title. The database has been publicly accessible since January 2025.

5.4    Summary of objectives addressed to date

| Objectives *(as per 5.1/5.2 above)* | Addressed *(please tick)* | Percentage Achieved *(please estimate)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Collect, analyze and review the studies of *Chuci* in the Qing dynasty, and create an annotated bibliography by writing abstracts for each of these works. The overall development of *Chuci* studies in the Qing dynasty can thus be fully comprehended. | ✓ | 100% |

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[1]  https://scqdhk.com/

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Through locating the historical contexts and the format of the scholarly works on *Chuci* composed by the Qing literati while delineating the methodologies used in these works, this project seeks to evaluate the value of their scholarship. | ✓ | 100% |
| 3. Reinterpret and analyze the scholarship of *Chuci* with regards to the intellectual history of the Qing dynasty, and examine how the development of *Chuci* studies correlate with the intellectual trends in the Qing dynasty. | ✓ | 100% |
| 4. Locate the birthplaces, dates of birth and death, and other biographical information of the scholars working on *Chuci* in the Qing dynasty. At the same time, find the year of publication of each work, map out the geographical distribution of the scholars and explore how local culture affects the research on *Chuci*. | ✓ | 100% |
| 5. Create a "Database on the Studies of *Chuci* in the Qing Dynasty with an Annotated Bibliography and All Prefaces and Postscripts of the Relevant Texts" for students, teachers, researchers and the public. | ✓ | 100% |

## 6. Research Outcome

### 6.1 Major findings and research outcome
*(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)*

The research findings of the project have been presented at international conferences and school talks, published in journals, and made available on the project databases as outlined in Part C. The key findings are summarized as follows.

1. Textual Research on *Chuci* Studies of the Qing Dynasty
The volume of Qing dynasty works on *Chuci* studies had not been accurately quantified before. This project builds on previous research, supplementing it with references from historical texts and bibliographies, resulting in an initial collection of over 200 works. The influence of *Chuci* studies during the Qing dynasty continues to this day, maintaining a pivotal position in the intellectual history of the field. The project analyzed the developmental characteristics of *Chuci* studies in the Qing dynasty from various perspectives, including authors' places of origin, publication dates, and the cultural and intellectual trends of the time. It highlighted the unique features of *Chuci* studies across different periods and identified regional factors as significant influences. Furthermore, a comprehensive database has been established, offering biographical information about scholars who studied *Chuci* during the Qing dynasty, along with brief introductions to their lives. This project has produced a series of critical abstracts focused primarily on extant *Chuci*, drawing on recent research findings. These abstracts provide concise summaries of each work's content and explain their intellectual significance. Additionally, the project examined specific individuals and works, including Mao Qiling's *Tianwen Buzhu*, Zhu Junsheng's *Lisao Fu Buzhu*, and Ma Qichang's *Qufu Wei*, exploring the authors' biographies and the unique characteristics and contributions of their works. This effort has advanced the study of *Chuci* scholarship in the Qing Dynasty.

2. Analysis of Publishing Trends and Geographical Distribution of Scholarly Works Related to *Chuci* in the Qing Dynasty
This project utilized quantitative methods to conduct a statistical analysis of publication years and the geographical distribution of authors in studies of *Chuci* during the Qing dynasty. The analysis revealed distinctive characteristics that deepened our understanding of related fields, including literature, textual criticism, and intellectual history from that period. The findings indicate that Qing dynasty writings on *Chuci* were significantly influenced by geographic factors, including authors' motivations, family background, and school affiliations. The distribution of *Chuci* studies corresponded with regions influenced by Chu culture. Notably, the peak development of *Chuci* studies occurred during the Qianlong and Jiaqing reigns, as well as in the Tongzhi and Guangxu periods, while notable low points were identified from the Shunzhi to early Kangxi and from Daoguang to early Xianfeng.

3. Interpretation Methods of *Chuci* Studies by Qing Scholars and their Significance
In the early Qing dynasty, Mao Qiling's *Tianwen Buzhu* was the first work to apply textual criticism to *Chuci*, moving beyond nostalgia and philosophical interpretations. Building on the empirical methods of the mid-Ming dynasty, he addressed the shortcomings of Zhu Xi's commentary while emphasizing factual accuracy in early Qing scholarship. His focus on philology and the diverse schools of thought provided innovative insights, making his work stand out. In the mid-Qing, Zhu Junsheng's *Lisao Fu Buzhu* focused on phonetics and rhythm, showcasing his analytical expertise. This book is particularly valuable for its phonetic glossary, aiding in the identification of textual variants and offering new insights into the structure of *Lisao*. In the late Qing, Ma Qichang's *Qufu Wei* took a historical approach to reinterpret *Chuci*, reshaping Qu Yuan's image and providing fresh perspectives for future research. Despite being influenced by Western thought, Wang Guowei returned to traditional textual analysis for *Chuci* in his later years, using scientific arguments to

re-examine the text. This approach infused traditional research with new elements and laid the groundwork for future bibliological studies of *Chuci*.

4. Digital Humanities and Qing Dynasty *Chuci* Studies

This project employed cluster analysis to investigate the purpose of compiling the *Chuci* and the relationships between its chapters. By integrating cluster analysis with large language model (LLM) technology, the study evaluated various scholarly perspectives on the structure of *Chuci*, providing a methodological reference for traditional philology. The extensive literature on *Chuci* from the Qing dynasty presented challenges for researchers seeking relevant information. To address this, the project developed a database to effectively organize and retrieve resources. The database is accessible on the project website for students, teachers, researchers, and the public.

*6.2* Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action
*(Maximum half a page)*

In recent years, the development of databases for ancient texts has focused on providing vast amounts of data while gradually moving towards greater intelligence. Most of the works related to Qing dynasty *Chuci* studies have yet to be digitized. While ideally, digitizing all texts would be the best approach, this database, constrained by the project's funding and technical factors, currently offers basic and necessary information and search functions specifically for the main topics of Qing dynasty *Chuci* studies. In the long term, it is essential to expand the number of texts in the database and increase the content available for full-text search. Furthermore, both ancient text databases and those on various other topics currently emphasize not only basic search functions, such as word frequency, but also the application of data visualization techniques to construct semantic network diagrams of ancient texts. This approach aims to illustrate keywords, concepts, and their interrelationships within the texts, thereby helping users gain a deeper understanding of the database content. With the development of multimedia interactive tools, there is potential for further enhancing user comprehension of the data, suggesting a possible direction for improving the database's usability. Future enhancements could also involve employing more precise digital tools, such as displaying geographical data on maps, and integrating natural language processing techniques with statistical methods. This would facilitate a more intuitive and diversified presentation of the data, all of which relies on continued technological advancements.

7. **Layman's Summary**
*(Describe <u>in layman's language</u> the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)*

Since the Western Han dynasty, *Chuci* (the Songs of the South) has been a significant focus for scholars, playing a crucial role in Chinese literary history. Traditionally, studies relied on transmitted texts, incorporating findings from philology, phonology, and semantics to explore the text's meanings and features. Modern scholars, while maintaining these traditional methods, also examine the reception history of *Chuci*. The Qing dynasty marks a transition to modern scholarship, with over 200 works on *Chuci* produced. Despite this, the reception of *Chuci* in the Qing remains largely unexplored due to three main reasons: a focus on a selected number of monographs, neglect of various literary sources, and outdated scholarly discussions from the 1990s. This project aims to explore *Chuci*'s development in the Qing dynasty through textual and intellectual history. It created an annotated bibliography of relevant texts, analyzed their historical contexts and methodologies, and positioned these works within Qing intellectual history. This research is significant because it enhances our understanding of Chinese literature, promotes interdisciplinary studies, and helps preserve the rich intellectual heritage of the Qing dynasty, making it accessible to students, researchers, and the public.

## Part C: Research Output

**8. Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication(s) Arising <u>Directly</u> From This Research Project**
*(Please attach a copy of the publication and/or the letter of acceptance if not yet submitted in the previous progress report(s). All listed publications must acknowledge RGC's funding support by quoting the specific grant reference.)*

| The Latest Status of Publications | | | | Author(s) *(denote the corresponding author with an asterisk[\*])* | Title and Journal / Book *(with the volume, pages and other necessary publishing details specified)* | Submitted to RGC *(indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)* | Attached to this Report *(Yes or No)* | Acknowledged the Support of RGC *(Yes or No)* | Accessible from the Institutional Repository *(Yes or No)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year of Publication | Year of Acceptance *(For paper accepted but not yet published)* | Under Review | Under Preparation *(optional)* | | | | | | |
| 2022 | / | / | / | Chen Hung To | Mao Qiling's Interpretive Methods of Tianwen: A study of *Tianwen buzhu* and its Significance in Chuci Studies /論毛奇齡《天問補注》的詮釋方法及其楚辭學意義/ *Journal of Chinese Literary Studies* Volume 39-40, 50–62. | / | Yes (Annex I) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202200174) |
| 2023 | / | / | / | Chen Hung To | "Return to Tradition: A Study of Wang Guowei's Philological Study of *Chuci*" /回歸傳統：論王國維的楚辭文獻學/ *New Asia Journal* 40(2), 147–175. | / | Yes (Annex II) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202300319) |
| 2024 | / | / | / | Chen Hung To | Exploring the Characteristics of | / | Yes (Annex III) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/pu |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Annotations and Methodological Origins in Zhu Junsheng's *Lisao fu buzhu* /朱駿聲《離騷賦補注》的訓釋特色與方法源流探析/ *Journal of Chinese Cultural Studies* 12(2), 155–171. | | | blication/202400269) |
| / | / | ✓ | Chen Hung To | The Literary Sources of Tongcheng School in Ma Qichang's *Qufu Wei* and Its Significance in the history of *Chuci* studies/ 馬其昶《屈賦微》的桐城文學淵源與楚辭學意義 | / | Yes (Annex IV) | Yes |

*(table cell for last column of second row: No)*

9. **Recognized International Conference(s) In Which Paper(s) Related To This Research Project Was / Were Delivered**
   *(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)*

| Month / Year / Place | Title | Conference Name | Submitted to RGC *(indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)* | Attached to this Report *(Yes or No)* | Acknowledged the Support of RGC *(Yes or No)* | Accessible from the Institutional Repository *(Yes or No)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov/ 2021/ Canberra, Australia | "Return to Tradition: A Study of Wang Guowei's Philological Study of *Chuci* " 回歸傳統：論王國維的楚辭文獻學 | The Chinese Studies Association of Australia's 17th Biennial Conference | 2022 | Yes (Annex V) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202300319) |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov/ 2021/ Zigui, China | Mao Qiling's Interpretive Methods of Tianwen: A study of *Tianwen buzhu* and its Significance in *Chuci* Studies 論毛奇齡《天問補注》的詮釋方法及其楚辭學意義 | The 19th Annual Conference of Zhongguo Quyan xuehui and the International Symposium on the Study of *Chuci* (The paper was accepted; however, the conference has been postponed to the end of 2022 due to the pandemic. I didn't attend the meeting in person, but ultimately, the article was published in a journal.) | 2022 | Yes (Annex VI) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202200174) |
| Dec/ 2023/ Sydney, Australia | A Quantitative Analysis of the Publication of *Chuci* Studies and the Geographical Distribution of Its Authors in the Qing Dynasty 清代楚辭學著作的成書及作者地理分布的量化分析 | Chinese Studies Association of Australia 18th Biennial Conference | / | Yes (Annex VII) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202300320) |
| June/2024/Taipei, Taiwan | A Comparative Study of Zhu Junsheng's Annotations in *Shuowen Tongxun Dingsheng* and *Lisao fu buzhu* 朱駿聲《說文通訓定聲》與《離騷賦補注》訓釋對比研究 | The 35th International Conference on Chinese Paleography 2024 | / | Yes (Annex VIII) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202400076) |
| December/2024/Hong Kong | The Literary Sources of Tongcheng School in Ma Qichang's *Qufu Wei* and Its Significance in the history of *Chuci* studies./ 馬其昶《屈賦微》的桐城文學淵源與楚辭學意義 | 風雅傳承：第三屆民初以來舊體文學國際學術研討會 | / | Yes (Annex IX) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202400267) |

| November/2024/Taipei,Taiwan | Exploring Intellectual History through Digital Humanities: A Case Study of the *Chuci* Studies Database in the Qing Dynasty / 數位人文視野下的學術史研究—以清代《楚辭》研究資料庫的建置與應用為例 | The 15th International Conference of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities | / | Yes (Annex X) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202400268) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April/2025/Hong Kong | Text Mining and Clustering Analysis: A Study of *Chuci* Compilation and Chapter Relationships in the Context of Digital Humanities/文本探勘與聚類分析—數位人文視野下的《楚辭》編纂與篇章關係研究 | The 12th Lingnan Journal of Chinese Studies Symposium "Digital Humanities and Historical Studies" | / | Yes (Annex XI) | Yes | Yes (https://researchdb.hsu.edu.hk/view/publication/202500021) |

10. **Whether Research Experience And New Knowledge Has Been Transferred / Has Contributed To Teaching And Learning**
*(Please elaborate)*

During the execution of the project, the PI taught undergraduate courses on "Introduction to Ancient Books" and "The Book of Songs and *Chuci*," as well as a postgraduate course titled "Special Topics in Academic Resources for Pre-Qin China." The findings of this project enriched the content of these modules. Additionally, the PI hired one undergraduate student to assist in collecting materials and preparing an annotated bibliography on Qing dynasty *Chuci* studies. The student regularly met with the PI to discuss the scope of data collection, annotation content, and other essential matters, facilitating a self-improvement mechanism that helped the student develop key research skills. Furthermore, the PI supervised two undergraduate students in completing their theses on *Chuci* in the Qing dynasty, further enhancing their research capabilities. The PI also hosted lectures on Qing dynasty *Chuci* studies at both secondary and university levels, sharing research findings to deepen students' and teachers' understanding of ancient Chinese literature and texts. In addition to disseminating research findings in seminars and classrooms, the project facilitated the transfer of research experience to other scholars and the general public, with easy access to findings via the project's online platform.

11. **Student(s) Trained**
    *(Please attach a copy of the title page of the thesis)*

    (Annexes XII and XIII)

| Name | Degree Registered for | Date of Registration | Date of Thesis Submission / Graduation |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Bachelor's Degree | 1 August 2018 | 11 May 2022 |
|  | Bachelor's Degree | 1 August 2020 | 11 April 2024 |

12. **Other Impact**
    *(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, teaching enhancement, etc.)*

    The database is now available to students, teachers, researchers, and the public. Students can explore the reception of *Chuci* during the Qing Dynasty, aiding them in report preparation and paper writing. Secondary school teachers can use the site to develop digital resources for teaching Chinese literature and culture. Additionally, the public can access valuable information and engage in self-directed learning from the data on the project website. This initiative fosters the dissemination of knowledge about Chinese culture.

13. **Statistics on Research Outputs**

| | Peer-reviewed Journal Publications | Conference Papers | Scholarly Books, Monographs and Chapters | Patents Awarded | Other Research Outputs (please specify) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No. of outputs arising directly from this research project** | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | Type | No. |
| | | | | | Database on the Studies of *Chuci* in the Qing Dynasty (https://scqdhk.com/) | 1 |

14. **Public Access Of Completion Report**
    *(Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)*

| Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access | Reasons |
|---|---|
| NIL | |