ⴷIALING: DIACHRONIC AND DIATOPIC LINGUISTICS   **GCBS**: GHENT CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES
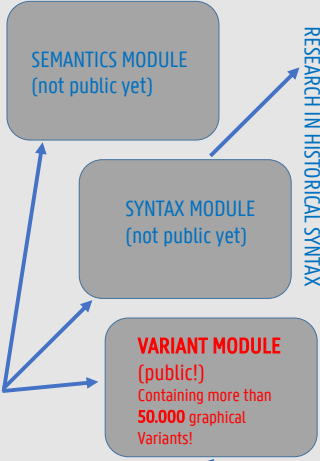
Project director:	Christoph Anderl	(Department of Languages and Cultures, Ghent University)
Project co-directors:	Joey Hung / Lin Ching-hui	(DILA, Dharma Drum University, Taiwan)
	Marcus Bingenheimer	(Temple University, USA)

FROM MANUSCRIPT TO DIGITAL EDITION:
"A DATABASE OF MEDIEVAL CHINESE TEXTS 中古寫本資料庫"

DMCT is a large-scale and long-term collaborative project with several international partners

The structure is multi-modular, consisting of reference modules in the form of XML marked-up medieval non-canonical Chinese Buddhist texts, as well as analytical modules such as the Variants, Semantics, and Sentence Analysis Modules
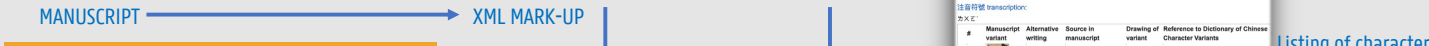
TEXT DATABASES (PUBLIC)

ANALYTICAL DATABASES

SEMANTICS MODULE (not public yet)

SYNTAX MODULE (not public yet)

RESEARCH IN HISTORICAL SYNTAX

HARVESTING...

VARIANT MODULE (public!)
Containing more than **50.000** graphical Variants!

ADVANCED TOOLS FOR RESEARCH ON CHINESE CHARACTER VARIANTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-MODERN CHINESE WRITING (MODULAR SYSTEM)

MANUSCRIPT → XML MARK-UP

HTML VISUALIZATIONS

Standard character:

Pinyin transcription:
luo
注音符號 transcription:
ㄌㄨㄛˊ

#	Manuscript variant	Alternative writing	Source in manuscript	Drawing of variant	Reference to Dictionary of Chinese Character Variants
5167			S-3491v-0087-15	羅	A03213-006
5168			P-2999r-0002-07	羅	A03213-007
5169			S-2682v-0076-18	羅	A03213-007
5170			P-3488r-0035-17	羅	A03213-007
5171			P-2045r-0132-01	羅	A03213-007
5172			Db-0771-0150-16	羅	A03213-007
5173			Db-077r-0494-20	羅	A03213-007
5174			P-20...		
5175			S-34...		

Listing of character variants

Comparison of variants

Selection of variants

Please drop the variants to the lower window in your preferred sequence

DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

DMCT aims at the production of **high-quality marked-up digital editions** of non-canonical Dunhuang manuscripts, focusing on texts from the 9th and 10th centuries.

These materials are an invaluable source for understanding **socio-religious culture** of the Late Medieval period of China, the development of Buddhist **literary genres**, for tracing the development of the **syntax** and **semantics** of Early Mandarin and Sinitic dialects, as well as the use of **demotic character forms** (*súzì* 俗字) in vernacular texts.

STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK

MySQL is a relational DB, which is organised in tables. It can use different storage engines and, depending on the specific table, we use **InnoDB** or **MyISAM**. MyISAM is specifically used for all tables which are designed for full-text searches, whereas InnoDB is used for all other tables, such as the user management tables. The programme logic is implemented in **PHP**, using object-oriented programming (**OOP**) and other interfaces, like **PDOs** (i.e. PHP Data Objects) combined with the Open Source PHP User Management Framework **UserSpice**.
The view of the DB is designed with Cascading Style Sheets (**CSS**) and further languages are **HTML5** and **JavaScript**. Since the encoded texts are **XML files** but the InnoDB itself is not suitable for storing XML files (unlike eXist), an XML import/export function was implemented.

"DIPLOMATIC" AND "REGULARIZED" DIGITAL EDITIONS

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

DMCT is an open-ended project. The flexible technical architecture and modular structure allows **processes of integration and interlinking** of new materials and **analytical tools**. A special emphasis in future work will be the integration of character forms from medieval stone inscriptions, enabling a systematic comparison between **carved character** and **manuscript character** forms. In addition, the development of **AI-based tools** for recognizing and sorting character variants will be in focus.

International Collaboration - Partners

International collaboration is an essential feature of this project, sharing and exchanging expertise and source materials.

PRINTED PUBLICATIONS / TEXTUAL RESEARCH

Contact:
christoph.anderl@ugent.be

Database address:

https://www.database-of-medieval-chinese-texts.be/index.php