

The Ricci 21st Century Roundtable: An International Database on the History of Christianity in China

Mark Mir, University of San Francisco, USA

Online databases with shared information, such as the bibliographic utilities OCLC and RLIN, have existed since the 1970s. With the rapid development of the World Wide Web it has become possible to include text, graphics, and sound in an easily browsable, multilingual format. Sites specifically dedicated to a precise area of study are now being constructed, using Internet technology to create online archives of source material on subjects of scholarly interest. One such site is the Ricci 21st Century Roundtable: an International Database On The History of Christianity in China” <http://ricci.rt.usfca.edu>.

This website was created to gather source material from archives and libraries worldwide, and make this information (text, graphics, sounds) freely accessible on the Web. The site may demonstrate what progress has been made and what difficulties remain, technically and organizationally.