In addition to these primary records, the CHGIS data model allows for variant place-names. Currently the database contains place-name records in several vernacular scripts: Chinese, Japanese, Russian (Cyrillic); and several romanized forms: Pinyin, Wade-Giles, and Non-standard Variants. We are working on expanding the entry of vernacular equivalent names in Tibetan and Mongolian. In this way, the CHGIS database functions as a multilingual historical gazetteer, easily expanded to include any vernacular script input in Unicode UTF-8 character set encoding.

The raw datasets of CHGIS are made freely available to the public for unlimited and unrestricted non-commercial use in two of the most widely used standard GIS data formats: ESRI shapefiles and MapInfo tables. CHGIS data is mounted on Harvard University and Fudan University servers, where it can be browsed, searched, mapped, and downloaded using ordinary Internet browsers without any additional software clients or plug-ins. In the United States, all CHGIS data will remain permanently available through the Harvard Geospatial Library. As electronic formats change, it will be migrated to new formats.

CHGIS Resources Online

- Harvard University: http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~chgis
- Fudan University: http://yugong.fudan.edu.cn/chgis

—Peter Bol, Harvard University
—Jianxiong Ge, Center for Historical Geography, Fudan University

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HGIS Project of Korean Culture

Since August 2002, Korea University’s Institute of Korean Culture (IKC) has carried out a project named the Électronic Cultural Atlas of Chosun Korea (ECA-CK). The research team consists of thirty professors and thirty graduate students in the fields of geography, history, philosophy, literature, and folklore. The culture that was developed during the Chosun dynasty (1392-1910) became the foundation for the culture of modern Korea. This project is aimed at transferring the various cultural phenomena of the Chosun dynasty into digitized information and then transforming this information into maps. We hope that the GIS database that is the basis for the ECA-CK will provide a new research methodology for the study of culture throughout the Chosun period.

The present state of development of the ECA-CK can be summarized in three parts. First, the basic framework for the project has been developed. The unit forming the atlas’ geographical framework is the county (GunHyun), beginning with the 330 counties that served as administrative districts of the original Chosun dynasty. The culture of the
Chosun dynasty has been classified into twenty subjects, and temporal and spatial classification standards have been set. Second, the databases and thematic maps on the twenty subjects, including population, agricultural land, roads, temples, paintings, food, markets, traditional music, and games, have been or are nearly completed. Third, through comparison and analysis of the collected data, several studies of historical continuity and change in the culture of the Chosun dynasty have been conducted.

The framework for the ECA-CK is composed of a three-dimensional search structure that is broken down into various time, place, and subject-related categories. Users can obtain the desired information by choosing an entry from each of these three categories. Currently, the time and place categories are limited only to topics related to Chosun dynasty and Korea. However, the basic principle of this project is to eventually extend the time range from the ancient to present time and also to expand the spatial range to include other territories related to Korean history in various periods.

Although the objectives of this project are quite simple, there remain many tasks that still need to be carried out as well as many limitations that need to be overcome in the future. First, one of the main objectives behind the development of ECA-CK is to provide researchers with a scientific database of reliable information. It is a delicate process to select texts and to design the database, partly because we have attempted to keep the contents of the database as simple as possible so that it is accessible even to the general reader. Second, there is an urgent need to translate the information contained in the database into English so that the project can serve a larger audience. Third, Internet capabilities also must be developed. The eventual objective for ECA-CK is to make all the information available on the Internet. We hope to achieve this by the summer of 2005.

The two-year period of funding for the development of ECA-CK is rapidly coming to a close. Over the last two years, the researchers associated with this project have published the results of their studies in various academic journals. They are now preparing to present a second round of papers in their respective fields. These researchers have also introduced the results of their studies in international academic conferences such as the Computer Applications in Archaeology conference held in Vienna in April 2003, the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium conference held in Bangkok in November 2003, the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI) meeting held at the University of California at Berkeley in May 2003, and at academic conferences hosted by IKC. Their major findings have been published in *Korean Cultural Studies* 38. A joint international workshop was held on May 20, 2004, with members of Berkeley’s East Asian Library, the Japanese Historical Maps research project, and the China Historical GIS team. In addition to having the achievements of ECA-CK made available on the Internet, other studies that have made use of our electronic cultural atlas will be published in book form or as a compilation of materials.
The research team also is planning to carry out a three-year research project designed to establish databases for a comprehensive gazetteer, the topography of South Korea, and the geography of traditional folk music, fables, and beliefs. We recognize the necessity for constructing electronic cultural maps of other regions. It is our hope that in addition to our project, we can someday participate in the development of electronic cultural maps of East Asia. Lastly, it is our fervent hope that other researchers and institutes will share our interest in this project and provide us with valuable expertise.

South Korea HGIS Resources Online

- Research articles based on ECA-CK are available at http://ikc.korea.ac.kr/culture/culture_start.htm.

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HGIs of Print Culture in Canada

Since 1997, we have been exploring ways to visualize and understand the development of print culture, a multifaceted and complex social phenomenon. Print culture embraces the circuit of textual communication (whether manuscript, print, or electronic) from creation, or authorship, through production and dissemination, to reception by users and readers. This circuit involves the printed texts themselves and all the participants in the circuit, coupled with the social, political and economic factors that produce them. Our long-term goal is to use GIS and associated mapping as a framework for exploring and visualizing the variables of print-culture history in ways that approach more holistic perspectives than are otherwise possible. Towards that end, we have received funding to develop Canadian data for a model HGIS project as part of a major grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for the project, A History of the Book in Canada / Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada. Several national book history projects are currently underway, but the Canadian project is the first to have an HGIS component. Our focus is on nineteenth-century data as modern Canada developed during that century.

Print-culture historians, such as George L. Parker, have long affirmed the crucial role of such factors as religion, education, and ethnicity in local and regional patterns of print culture. We are examining these roles using standard sources of data such as censuses, and visualizing them locally and regionally within a GIS environment, in order to make com-