Chinese Iconography Thesaurus

Etienne Posthumus
Senior Researcher at FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure,
Information Service Engineering, Karlsruhe Germany. https://www.fiz-karlsruhe.de/en/forschung/lebenslauf-und-publikationen-etienne-posthumus

HongXing Zhang
Senior Curator in Asia Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK.

Abstract

Chinese Iconography Thesaurus (CIT), initiated in the Victoria and Albert Museum by dr. Hongxing Zhang, Chief Editor, is freely accessible and brings together sinology, art history, and information studies to create the first alternative classification scheme, especially designed for the Chinese visual culture. The system is available in a user-friendly online version, and as SKOS Linked Open Data backed by a SPARQL endpoint and a complementary IIIF based image archive, illustrating the application of the classification system. The CIT serves a complementary role to the ICONCLASS system for Western Art, with a focus on Chinese visual culture.