

VALUE OF EFEO DOCUMENTS' SERIAL MODULE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

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Social sciences library (previously known as The French school of Far East (EFEO) established in February 26th 1901) now stores and manages a high amount of precious and various documents in many types as books, serial module, movies, photos, photo cards, CDs, maps, pictures, jarlig, handwritings, records of historical characters and village convention...

The number of documents stored in Social Sciences Library has been kept adding in order to meet local and foreign readers' demand through years. Deliverables of EFEO are still useful for scientific research and have historical values even since 1957. Documents in books and serial module, however, have been bound and stored together as book type due to various reasons. The article basically explores the serial module stored in EFEO's warehouse in order to introduce readers hidden values of these precious documents.

1. Some description about serial module

Today, social sciences library stores previous documents of EFEO by language or document type in which two

biggest warehouses are QTO (also known as 4^o) and OCTO (also known as 8^o). These two warehouses basically store documents in Slav and Latin as following: English, French, Russian, Dutch, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Vietnamese. Also, there are two warehouses for hieroglyphical documents as ancient Japanese and Chinese.

The statistical figures from social sciences library's database shows that there are 460 serial in Latin language stored in both QTO and OCTO. It equals to more than 30000 volumes while there are up to 48 serial in Vietnamese, bound into 6000 volumes. The serial group includes magazines, reviews, news, information, special topics, journal, monthly journal. There are up to 200 serial modules in those two warehouses for only bulletin as magazines and news. Those Japanese and Chinese serial are also kept together with books not as a part of EFEO but in ancient Japanese and Chinese warehouse. The serial has more than 50 names.

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The age of serial module: the oldest document is *Mémoires de littérature tirez des registres de l'Académie Royale des inscriptions et belles lettres* in French (Memoirs of Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres) published by as a journal. This journal was published for the first time in 1717 (2 volumes) and for the last time in 1951 with total 109 volumes. It also includes another journal which is not published named *Histoire de l'académie royale des inscriptions et belle lettres* (History of Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres). As a result, the age of journal stored in EFEO is 235 years. Besides, there are many serial which their age are above 100 years or even lasted more than 100 years, for example, *Journal Asiatique* which focused on history, philosophy, linguistic, literature and Eastern related issues by Association of Asian Studies. The first publish was in 1841 and last one was in 1955, so the time length is 115 yeasers. Up to now, the first volumn of *Journal Asiatique* was at the age of 172.

English magazines are first one stored in the warehouse since 1806. The first magazine named *Asiatic researches or transactions of the society instituted in Bengal for inquiring into the history and antiquities the arts, sciences, and literature of Asia*, published in 1806 and last publish was in 1839. The age of this journal is 207 years old.

The oldest Russian journal in EFEO is *Sibirskij Vestnik*' (Siberia journal) with 22 volumes from 1818 to 1824. There are 18 serial magainzes which are more

than 50 years including 8 in French, 1 in Dutch, 9 in English. The hieroglyphical journals are younger than Latin or Slavo journal and only added in after EFEO library's establishment.

2. Some significant values of serial module in EFEO library

As stated above, there are many above 100 years old serial. The rest are aslo older than 60 years old. Many of them are being published and some even are edited in different name for publish all over the world. There are, however, some serial not be published any more. Readers can only search for a few books or digital journals on Internet.

The concepts of serial module are diversified and belong to academic schools as education, archaeologists, history, literature, art, geography, military, anthropology, ethnographic, linguists through 460 serial module. Articles are mainly used for reference, scientific research, and knowledge exchange. There are up to 100 serial for only Indochina studies. It could be seen that articles have done researches on five regions of Indochina (old name given by France): Bắc Kỳ, Trung Kỳ, Nam Kỳ, Ai Lao and Cao Miên.

The content of these serial is divided by two geographical groups: *Indochina related and Indochina non - related*.

- *Indochina related serial*: There are three serial which can be considered as legal documents as following: *Bulletin officiel de la Cochinchine Francaise*; *Bulletin Administratif de l'Annam*; *Bulletin administratif du Tonkin* and one

more serial which has equivalent value as *Bulletin administratif du Nord Vietnam*. They are legal documents, declaration, decisions and ordinance on administration which were used for management, development and exploitation the Indochina during that period. It also reflected the management of French and Indochinese government. They are the valuable document source for scientists who working on history, documents and social management so on.

Besides, there are serial related to researches on economy, history, culture, archaeology, humanity, language, ethnography of Indochina including *Bulletin économique de l'Indochine (Indochinese Economic Journal)*, *Journal Asiatique*, *Nông cổ mín dân magazine*, *Educational Journal*, *Văn hóa từng biên*, *Việt Nam tân báo...* Most remarkable serial is *Bulletin de l'école Française d'Extrême-Orient (Tập san EFEO)* which its academic values are admitted by international scholars. Authors as Henri Parmentier, Louis Finot, George Coedès and some Vietnamese scholars who worked in EFEO as Nguyễn Văn Huyền, Nguyễn Văn Tố, Trần Văn Giáp have contributed many research works which become the foundation of the development of social sciences in Vietnam. The publish time of these writings has also become the significant milestone of a research field that following generation still need to remember. *Note sur l'iconographie de Ben Mala* by Geogre Coedès, for example, writes about spiritual statues in Cham pagodas. It is the first research

work to open the trend of writing about Cham culture.

Important findings in research works on Indochinese area were published on EFEO including: Findings about My Son, ancient stones in Sapa, issues on Vietnamese minority's language. Some research journals also have research works or articles written about the financial and archaeological history of Indochinese minorities. They include writings about land records, village organization of above areas as well as 5 Indochinese regions' psychology. Researches on general culture, intangible culture, religion related operations are also described in details and published on these journals. For example, *Simple aperçu sur l'industrie de la soie en Cochinchine* của M. Assou on *Bulletin de la société des études Indo-chinoises de Sai* (1896) gave an overview about the silk production in Indochina that time. Indochinese related journals were diversified and have historical and scientific values till now. They were also published in French, Vietnamese, English and German.

- *Indochina non – related serial*: They are periodical serial used for all research fields done by EFEO. The scientific values, however, are still significant in specialized and interdisciplinary science. *The Journal of the Royal Asia Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (1923- journal of the Malayan branch of the Royal Asiatic Society; 1946-Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal)*,

Toung Pao – Archives concernant l'histoire, les langues, la géographie, l'ethnographie de l'Asie Orientale: China, Japon, Corée, Indochine, Asie Centrale et Malaise could be examples.

Most of writings published in these magazines were done by scholars of that period. Some even written by scholars who were not experts in Indochina researches. “*La cour d’Annam*” (An Nam court) trong in *Annales d’Extrême Orient* (Vol. 7, 1887) and VI (page 275 to 277, 1888) by Bernier A. or “*Un ministre annamite. Le régent Trùng*” on *La Nouvelle Revue* (page 508 to 527, 1887), by Rheinart P are examples.

These articles have shown either direct or indirect linkage which contributed to research works of EFEO’s scientists. Their interdisciplinary values are not only work for local but also international scientists. Some other articles done by EFEO researchers also appeared on some international serial.

Today, these magazines are rare and unique because they are old aged and not republished. Not many libraries store these documents in the world and it is difficult for readers to look for them even on Internet. It is the scientific values and unique made EFEO library’s books and serial rare and precious.

3. Some recommendation to promote and exploit the efficiency of EFEO’s serial

Although EFEO’s serial has its highly historical and scientific values but they are not very familiar with readers and even scientists. Therefore, the promotion is extremely necessary and social sciences

library has to increase the popularity of these serial documents through magazines, library’s websites as the most efficient way. Besides, library need to provide a service for readers so they can quickly access these documents. This service needs the ability to complete the database of EFEO’s documents so readers can look for by article, to build Q&A service, information inquiry via email or telephone. The library also needs to operate their database to work online so readers can have remote access to documents.

Above recommendations will not only help readers to access to rare and precious documents in library but also create a management approach by which these documents can be more efficiently exploited □

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