



Collecting and Disseminating Technical Knowledge

Rens Krijgsman · Tsinghua University



This paper analyses technical collections for traces of selection processes and how they were used. These collections gradually shifted from individual records and short collections of methods and techniques by named experts, to larger collections of knowledge and technique in the abstract, open to a large swathe of the population without the mediation of experts. The selections made by users of these collections reveal their specific interests and the problems they faced in daily life, providing valuable social insights into the (re-)use of collections more generally. In particular, this talk focuses on collections used as manuals such as the Shanghai Museum *Bushu*; collections for storage and reference such as the Tsinghua *Zhuci* and the Beida Qin slips; mobile prayer collections such as the *Daoci* and *Zhuci zhi dao*; and finally some daybook related collections revealing aspects of personal and daily life in the early Empires, such as those from Zhoujiazai and Yueshan.

**November 19, 2021, 8:00–10:00pm EST
(Virtual Event)**

**For attendance information, please visit
www.tangcenter-columbia.org**

Seminar Co-Chairs:
Glenda Chao, Ursinus College
Ethan Harkness, New York University