

Asian martial arts bibliographies (1943–2013): a review

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Short abstract

Asian martial art Bibliographies: a review

Abstract

One feature of the spread of the Asian martial arts is that it is accompanied with a growth in bibliographic production resulting from increasing information intended for and demanded by new practitioners and scholars. The aim of the study article reports on was to present some of the Asian martial arts bibliographies and analyse their main features. Eleven specific bibliographies about Asian martial arts published from 1943 to 2013 were identified in the languages of Spanish, French, English, Italian and Portuguese. These were directly analysed, taking into account the following elements: (1) description and evaluation of the aims of the bibliography; (2) description, structure, coherence and innovation of its contents; (3) description of the methodology used for its preparation; (4) standardization, organization and presentation of the references; (5) format; and (6) assessment of how these aspects satisfy users' needs. Their aims, contents, methodologies, structures and formats are widely different. We conclude from our analysis that from the decade of the 1940s until the contemporary period there have been several initiatives for compiling Asian martial arts bibliographies. In general, these initiatives have been isolated, scattered and varied in relation to their authors, aims, sources used, methodology or formal characteristics.

Key words

Martial arts, Combat sports, Bibliography, Documentation, Documentary analysis.

Extended abstract

Asian martial art Bibliographies: a review

Abstract

Introduction

One feature of the spread of the Asian martial arts is that it is accompanied with a growth in bibliographic production resulting from increasing information intended for and demanded by new practitioners and scholars. Nevertheless, there only exist a few reference specific bibliographies about Asian martial arts, despite the unquestionable importance of bibliographies for managing information. The aim of the present descriptive study was to present some of these bibliographies and analyse their main features.

Method

This research studied specialised Asian martial arts bibliographies. The four references collected by Brousse (2005) were the starting point for our search, and then the online catalogues of several national libraries, martial arts encyclopaedias and an exhaustive search in the Internet was conducted. The bibliographies found were directly analysed, taking into account the following elements: (1) description and evaluation of the aims of the bibliography; (2) description, structure, coherence and innovation of its contents; (3)

description of the methodology used for its preparation; (4) standardization, organization and presentation of the references; (5) format; and (6) assessment of how these aspects satisfy users' needs. The search and discovery of bibliographies published was limited to Spanish, French, English, Italian and Portuguese languages.

Results

Eleven specific bibliographies about Asian martial arts published from 1943 to 2013 were found. Following a chronological criterion, these were elaborated by (1) bibliographer of the *Library of Congress* of the United States of America, Helen D. Jones (1943); (2) Norwegian Kjell Kjöstolf (1950); (3) American martial artist, researcher, historian and writer Robert W. Smith (Smith, 1959); (4) *American Combato (Jen-Do-Tao)* self-defence system founder and president of the *International Combat Martial Arts Federation* Bradley J. Steiner (1979); (5) American librarian Lisa Baldwin (1982); (6) Norwegian Kjell Salling – who had signed a previous work as Kjell Kjöstolf (Salling, 1983); (7) American authors Randy F. Nelson and Catherine C. Whitaker (1988); (8) The *European Society for the Scientific Study of Judo* (1989); (9) American martial artist Rob Jacob (2005); (10) Spanish Gutiérrez-García, Brieva-Ortega and Pérez-Gutiérrez (2011); and (12) Spanish Pérez-Gutiérrez, Álvarez and Gutiérrez-García (2013).

Conclusions

The present study shows how from the decade of the 1940s until the contemporary period there have been several initiatives for compiling Asian martial arts bibliographies. These initiatives have been isolated, scattered and varied in relation to their authors, aims, sources used, methodology or formal characteristics. The preparation of the analysed bibliographies has been mainly dependant on the possibilities for accessing the information. More specifically, direct access to martial arts documents results are essential for preparing bibliographies if they are to present anything something more significant and useful than a bibliographic description of a document.

Key words

Martial arts, Combat sports, Bibliography, Documentation, Documentary analysis.

Bibliographies on Asian martial arts: a review

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A - Study Design B - Data Collection D - Data Interpretation E - Manuscript Preparation
F - Literature Search

Introduction

In the contemporary époque Asian martial arts have come to be globalised products demanded by millions of people all around the world (Ko and Yang, 2009). From the Second World War onwards, there has been a continuous process of Asian Martial arts dissemination, technical development and commercialization. These changes have tended towards making them a more tailored activity for all kinds of individuals and interests that is usually further and further removed from the strictest martial sphere. This “tailoring” of Asian Martial Arts, to name a few examples, includes changes to accommodate a focus on youth education, physical conditioning – sometimes specialised for the older people –, ways of knowledge and self-actualization, sport practice or self-defense. (Green and Svinth, 2010). As Bowman (2010) explains, in the proliferation of martial arts characteristic of postmodernity, “wherever martial practice survives, elements other than the ‘martial’ are usually accentuated: health, sport, discipline, self-actualization, cultural artifact, and simple fun become more significant in more contexts.”

One feature of the spread of the Asian martial arts is that it is accompanied with a growth in bibliographic production resulting from increasing information intended for and demanded by new practitioners and scholars. While only a few decades ago only a scarcity of books on this subject were usually available, today a great quantity and variety of practices and approaches to Asian martial arts is reflected in a rich literature. In this context, the individual’s collection and management skills and resources for selecting, retrieving and storing the most important and relevant information can be easily overwhelmed, a common problem in the vast majority of fields of knowledge. For managing bibliographic documents several systems, techniques and resources have been developed, ranging from databases and online catalogues to reference manager software and the digitization of such documents in order to allow a permanent and easy access to them via Internet. Bibliographies or bibliographic repertoires are among these resources, offering a compilation or list of the published books about a certain topic.

According to Torres (1998), bibliographies are auxiliary reference sources prepared in any format, composed by descriptions of written documents ordered following an established system and aiming at satisfying an information demand. This author points out that the general purpose of bibliographies is to facilitate the intellectual work, and they are the universal tool for controlling information by means of the research, identification, description and classification of the published documents. Bibliographies identify texts and inform about their contents (with different grades of depth) but also show the spread of a certain knowledge field, address potential lines for its development, and facilitate the study of the evolution of the topics within the field and of the editorial market, among other functions (Krummel, 1993, Malclès, 1985, Torres, 1998, Simón,

1971). In short, as Malclès stated (1985), the compilation of documents is a way to understand the world and to know how far mankind's knowledge has progressed.

However, for all their informative interest, the publication of bibliographies is relatively scarce, despite their unquestionable importance for academics. Asian martial arts bibliographies are not an exception in this regard, and there only exist a few reference texts at both national and international levels. The study reported on in this article aimed to inform some of these documents, which have been collecting a part of the bibliographic production about Asian martial arts from the 1940s onwards, and analyse some of their features.

Method

Object of study

This descriptive research studied specialised bibliographies on Asian martial arts texts. Bibliographies with a broader scope (e.g., bibliographies about physical activity and sports such as those published in Spain by Blanco y Sánchez, 1927, Llaverías y Rovirosa, 1935, Pastor Pradillo, 1995, or Torreadella Flix, 2011), filmographies (e.g., Palmer et al., 1995), extended sections of references included in some martial arts monographs, usually dedicated to historical aspects (e.g., Cook, 2009, Gutiérrez-García, 2004, Rielly, 1998, Brousse, 2005), or bibliometric studies about martial arts books (e.g., Cihounkova and Reguli, 2011, Pérez-Gutiérrez and Gutiérrez-García, 2008b, Pérez-Gutiérrez and Gutiérrez-García, 2009, Vit and Reguli, 2011) were not object of this research, as they cannot be strictly considered as bibliographies.

Document search

The four references collected by Brousse (2005) were the starting point for our search. Next a search was conducted of the online catalogues of several national libraries such as the Biblioteca Nacional de España (Spain), Bibliothèque Nationale de France (France), Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma (Italy), Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal (Portugal), British Library (United Kingdom) and Library of Congress (USA), sport bibliographies (e.g., Pastor Pradillo, 1995, Cox, 2003, Cox, 2002), and martial arts encyclopaedias (e.g. Corcoran and Farkas, 1993, Green and Svinth, 2010) ~~were then consulted~~. Finally, an exhaustive search of the World Wide Web was conducted aimed at discovering new works that were not included in the above mentioned sources.

Documentary analysis

The bibliographies found were directly analysed. Following Lamarca Langa's (2002) recommendations about the assessment of bibliographies, the following elements were taken into account: (1) description and evaluation of the aims of the bibliography; (2) description, structure, coherence and innovation of its contents; (3) description of the methodology used for its preparation; (4) standardization, organization and presentation of the references; (5) format (e.g., printed, digital); and (6) assessment of how these aspects satisfy users' needs. Due to the long period in which the analysed bibliographies were published, the historical context, and specifically the availability and access to information sources, was carefully considered in the assessment process.

Limitations

One limitation of this study was the research team's knowledge of a limited number of languages. This limitation restricted the search and discovery of bibliographies published

in languages other than Spanish, French, English, Italian and Portuguese. For example, Gorbylev (2011) presented an extensive work in Russian about the information sources used by Vasili Oschepkov for creating his judo system. This study describes the features and contents of several sources written in German, Czech, Chinese, English, Italian, Japanese and Russian through more than 200 pages. In the same way, Salling's compilation (1983) makes reference to a bibliography written in German (Müller-Deck, 1956). These examples along with the long history of Asian martial arts within their native countries makes highly possible that there exist other bibliographic works on the subject which could not be discovered and/or analysed.

Results and discussion

Eleven specific bibliographies about Asian martial arts were identified. These are presented in chronological order below along with a description of their main features.

The first bibliography was developed in 1943 (Jones, 1943) by a bibliographer of the *Library of Congress* of the United States of America, Helen D. Jones and was based on the references extracted from this library. The compilation comprises 161 references relating to texts on judo, jiu-jitsu and other hand-to-hand fighting systems, ordered alphabetically by author and including works published in German, Japanese, Italian and French¹. It is divided in two main sections: (1) bibliographies, and (2) articles and books about jiu-jitsu and several combat systems. This bibliography presents brief annotations, ~~or even~~ and some quotations, in those references considered as the most important. It does not include an informative section explaining the aims, contents or methodological aspects followed for the preparation of the bibliography or indexes, but only shows a list of references. Consequently, it is difficult to be sure about the rationale for producing the compilation, although as Pérez Gutiérrez (2012) postulates this bibliography was published in a period when martial arts were developing in the West and also during a period of military confrontation between Japan and USA during the Second World War (Brousse and Matsumoto, 2005, Svinth, 2003a). Therefore, it is reasonable to assume these factors might have provided a motivation for this bibliography.

The second bibliographic approach to Asian martial arts field was published in Norway by Kjell Kjöstolf (1950). It also focused on judo and jiu-jitsu books as well as including some other topics such as religion, society, education or Japanese sports because the author considered them closely related to these martial arts. As Kjöstolf points out, the bibliographical notes are intended to advance and facilitate the study of jiu-jitsu, and qualifies that "My bibliography does by no means lay claim to be complete, the subject being too extensive and too new as a European object of research" (p. 2). This work describes bibliographically a total of 260 references (monographs or sections) ordered alphabetically by author in each section. It has 4 sections attending to the language of publication of the cited books (122 in English, 35 in French, 80 in German and 23 in Danish, Norwegian and Swedish). Subject or author indexes are not included and second hand sources were utilized for its preparation (Kjöstolf, 1950: 2), thus ~~losing~~ trading some reliability for coverage.

Thirdly, the well-known American martial artist, researcher, historian and writer Robert W. Smith (1926–2011) presented in 1959 (Smith, 1959) an international

¹ In the first part of Jones' work (JONES, H. D. 1943. *Judo, jiu-jitsu, and hand-to-hand fighting: a list of references*, Washington, The Library of Congress.), dedicated to martial arts bibliographies, it appears the bibliographic work developed by Neely (NEELY, A. P. 1942. *Bibliography on judo*, Fort Custer, Michigan, s.n.) and focused on judo. Its antiquity and format (1 page mimeographed) restricted the present analysis.

bibliography about judo (about this author, see Davis, 2011, Mason, 2001, Svinth, 2003b). As the author mentions, his bibliography is aimed at stimulating martial arts readers and students the desire to initiate or enlarge their personal libraries. The compilation contains 789 references ordered alphabetically by author in each section and it is divided in three main sections: articles (124 references mostly in English), books (548 references in 18 different languages, but mostly in English), and cognate works (117 references written in several languages and focused on weaponless systems of self-defence, sumo, kendo, zen, as well as some general titles). The author himself points out the provisional character of his bibliography:

Doubtless many errors will be discovered. This is unavoidable in a work of this type. Montaigne was surely right in stating “The beginning is half the thing”. This list is only a beginning and it is to be hoped that others will build on it, correcting its defects and expanding its breadth. (Smith, 1959, editor's note)

The main limitations of this bibliography are an understandable lack of exhaustiveness in compiling the judo references already published at that time, as well as a certain subjective criterion for selecting documents since he only included those he considered the most important. Although some practitioners of judo and other self-defence disciplines helped him in the preparation of this work, the documentary centers or sources of information they used are not specified. In relation to the formal aspects, there are no indexes for facilitating the retrieval of information.

In 1979 Bradley J. Steiner, founder of the *American Combato (Jen-Do-Tao)* self-defence system and president of the *International Combat Martial Arts Federation* (American Combato [Jen-Do-Tao], 2011), published a bibliography focused on English books, works and handbooks relating to combat-oriented martial arts, excluding those publications from a sporting approach (Steiner, 1979). The bibliography comprises three introductory chapters and four main sections (traditional martial arts books with a combat approach, military combat texts, police texts and civilian defence instruction publications) creating a total of 150 references. Besides the bibliographic description, abstract, author's annotations and assessment, availability and price are included. Within the introductory chapters, the author presents an alphabetical index about the titles comprising the bibliography and describes some of its characteristics such as aim, selection criteria, ways for obtaining rare documents cited in the bibliography, or classification system. In relation to selection criteria of documents, the author follows his own criterion – i.e., his own opinion about the publications – attending to his approximately 25 years of combat-oriented martial arts experience and his own view formed out of that experience, that some techniques and concepts presented in some texts are more harmful than useful (Steiner, 1979).

The fifth bibliography about martial arts was published in 1982 and was compiled by American librarian Lisa Baldwin (Baldwin, 1982). More than 4,000 books and journals about martial arts compiled by Ted and Kim Kresge in Florida, and purchased by the Patchogue-Medford Library at the request of a martial arts instructor, Mr. Maccarrone, were the source of information for her work. The bibliography is composed by a total of 790 English references (books, pamphlets and numbered magazines) ordered alphabetically by author and focused on martial arts such as judo or karate, self-defence and, to a lesser extent to related themes such as acupuncture, kamikaze pilots, occult sciences, Japanese painting and Zen. Each reference presents its main bibliographic

elements together with a brief comment about the contents/structure of the document. Besides the own compilation of martial arts documents, the pursued aim or inclusion/exclusion criteria for selecting the documents from Ted and Kim Kresge's collection are not pointed out in this work. Although there are no sections within the list of references, title and subject indexes are included for improving information retrieval.

One year after the publication of Baldwin's work, Kjell Salling – who had signed a previous work as Kjell Kjöstolf (see above) – published a bibliography about scientific works on judo and jiu-jitsu (Salling, 1983). The aim of this compilation was facilitating the study of these practices in high school as sports and included works written in English, German and French about or related to them (e.g. other martial arts, East or athletics). The compilation comprises 328 references (monographs, articles and, to a lesser extent, PhD thesis) ordered alphabetically by author and divided in three sections attending to the language of publication (English, German and French) as well as a final chapter containing 10 references about bibliographic works. Each reference includes its basic identifying elements and, in some cases, it also contains extra information (reprints, type of document, topics or number of cited references). The method used for preparing this bibliography and the inclusion criteria for the references are not explained. There exist differences within the description of each document and complementary indexes are not presented. In a similar manner to others mentioned above, the author himself admits it is not an exhaustive work but it only collects some studies.

The seventh bibliography identified was mainly developed within the *Library of Congress* by American authors Randy F. Nelson and Catherine C. Whitaker (1988), as an extension of Jones' earlier work (1943). The authors justify the preparation of their work due to the social ignorance about the martial arts despite their popularity, thus they decided to create a reference work and make it available to the general public. The greater number of references included in this work compared with previous compilations (2,374 English references), as well as the classifying effort and exhaustiveness applied should be highlighted here. References are organized in 12 categories, divided basically by martial art (e.g., General references, Aikido, Jiu-jitsu, Karate), and then subdivided in six sections according to their topic (General, Philosophy, History, Biographies/Profiles, Instruction, and Juvenile – youngers –). All references are martial arts books or articles. Book references show their bibliographic description and a critical comment, while article references only present their bibliographic description in order to facilitate their location and further retrieval. Moreover, author and subject indexes are included. To sum up, this bibliography is both quantitative and qualitatively one of the most important ones identified. Notwithstanding this, its two main limitations should be mentioned. These are the lack of exclusiveness of its classification criteria (which causes overused cross-referencing) and the utilization of some secondary sources of information.

The eight bibliography identified was published one year later. This was a brief bibliography of judo books, articles and PhD theses was published by the *European Society for the Scientific Study of Judo* (1989). As the foreword points out, the bibliography was motivated by the increasing number of scientific studies judo, partially caused by the emergence of judo as a modern Olympic sport. This bibliography contains 78 references divided in 7 sections attending to their country of publication (France, Great-Britain, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Scandinavian Countries – Denmark, Norway, Sweden – and Spain) and ordered alphabetically by author. Moreover, a foreword and a list of Society's members are also included. Generally, the basic bibliographic description and an abstract are presented in each reference. The inclusion or exclusion criteria of the

documents are not documented, being mostly references to the Society's own members' publications.

The ninth bibliography was compiled in this century by another American martial artist Rob Jacob (2005), who focused on English books about Asian martial arts but with a 'significant amount' of biographic and/or autobiographic material. In this way, the author intended to make available useful references to interested people in knowing martial arts' founders, their successors and other important people in martial arts world. The bibliography itself is included in a lengthy chapter titled "Autobiographies and Biographies" with a total of 200 epigraphs ordered alphabetically according to the names of the protagonists of the biographies. Within the same epigraph, those documents referring to the same person or written by the same author are shown, causing the total number of references increases to over 400. Jacob (2005) presents an abstract with each reference and occasionally elaborates this with a personal assessment about its contents, thereby enhancing the informative potential of his bibliography. The inclusion of two appendixes listing the sources for locating the books and information about specialized martial arts publishers complete this work. In relation to the method used, the majority of the documents came from the author's personal collection, and to a lesser extent documents were also drawn from other sources such as local libraries and bookstores. In addition, a small number of annotations were based upon reviews found on the Internet, which might affect the reliability of Jacob's work. He also recognizes differences in the style of the annotations as they were written over a period of several years and the books were of varying interest to him. Finally, a clearer definition about the criterion used for books selection, that is, what he considers a "significant amount" of biographic material, is missing.

Our tenth bibliography was published in 2011 and related to Asian martial arts periodicals published in Spain. This was compiled by Gutiérrez-García, Brieva-Ortega and Pérez-Gutiérrez (2011) and aimed to presenting a reference source socio-historical researchers of the martial arts. Javier Brieva's extensive personal collection as well as ~~those~~ periodicals preserved in certain Spanish libraries visited in person, or those libraries providing online access were consulted for the preparation of this bibliography. It comprises a total of 66 periodicals (approximately 1,600 issues) published from 1961 to 2009, ordered chronologically. Bibliographic data and a brief explanation about their editorial policy are included with each reference. The provisional character of this bibliography (many of these documents are hard to find due to their antiquity and limited print runs) and the access to only some issues from each periodical for its description are the main limitations highlighted by the authors.

Extending the research based focus of this bibliography, a further bibliography of Asian martial arts monographs published in Spain from 1906 to 2009 was recently developed by Pérez-Gutiérrez, Álvarez and Gutiérrez-García (2013). This bibliography aimed at becoming a useful tool for knowing, searching and managing nearly all the information available about this subject. This annotated bibliography is based on a previous provisional, non annotated compilation (Pérez-Gutiérrez and Gutiérrez-García, 2008a), for increasing its informative potential and attempting to overcome the dependence on secondary sources of information previously used (especially online catalogues). Moreover, other bibliographies and the online catalogues of the main Spanish libraries, publishers and bookstores and international libraries were consulted for its preparation. Based on these sources, a list of monographs was created in order to their following direct analysis. This bibliography contains 1,564 references (corresponding to

2,403 reprints, each reference includes the information of its reprints) ordered alphabetically within 17 categories and 40 subcategories. A geographical criterion (e.g. Japan, China) was mainly applied for classifying the references within each category, but a chronological (e.g. Books published before 1950) and subject criteria (e.g. Dictionaries and Encyclopedias, Self-defence) were also taken into account for attending to the variety of published books. On the other hand, subcategories refer to specific martial arts (e.g., Judo, Baguazhang, Choy Lee Fut etc.) or the discrete application of martial techniques (e.g., Women Self-Defence, Police and Military Self-defence). A bibliographic description, key words and an abstract are included with each reference, providing a greater quantity of information. Author and key words indexes are also presented for facilitating the search of information. The classification of the monographs, following authors' criteria in those cases where monographs could be included in several categories, and the 2.8% of books which were not consulted due to difficulties related to their direct access, are the main limitations of this work.

Finally, to end this review, it is worth briefly mentioning the new approaches made in the field of bibliographic documentation of Asian martial arts that are taking place on the World Wide Web. There now exists a wide range of internet based information sources. A few notable examples of these include; judo (Judo Information Site, 2011, Judolandia, 2011), karate (West Los Angeles Karate School, 2011), taijiquan (Peter Lim's Taijiquan Resource Page, 2011), aikido (Aikibib, 2011), or general martial arts books compilations (DCTaekwondo, 2011). Generally, these works result from martial arts professors, students and/or enthusiasts' efforts, who attempt to provide references about the several published books relating to a particular subject to their students, colleagues or those interested in the martial arts. According to the documentary analysis developed there is a wide variety: descriptive bibliographies (e.g. Judo Information Site, 2011), annotated bibliographies (e.g. Judolandia, 2011) and even critical bibliographies (e.g. DCTaekwondo, 2011). The same variability also applies to the language of the cited references, number of references or included elements within the bibliographic description. Although compiling and organization criteria, time period studied or the method used are rarely provided in these works, they also achieve the often stated aims of bibliographic works but to a different extent. In this way, they offer an access point to useful information for the user (Krummel, 1993), so these compilations ~~must be truly~~ should be considered as legitimate bibliographic initiatives.

Conclusions

This article has presented findings from a study that reveal how from the decade of the 1940s until the contemporary period there have been a number of initiatives for compiling Asian martial arts bibliographies in Western contexts. These works are valuable as reference sources, but also as historical records about the written texts which were available for the authors at the time when they elaborated their bibliographies were compiled.

In general, these initiatives have been isolated, scattered and varied in relation to their authors, aims, sources used, methodology or formal characteristics. For example, some of the authors of the reviewed bibliographies were bibliophile martial arts practitioners that "enjoyed" (Krummel, 1993) preparing a compilation about the subject they ~~loved~~ had a passion for (e.g., Jacob, 2005, Smith, 1959, Steiner, 1979), while ~~some~~ others ~~came~~ emerged from the specific librarian field (e.g., Baldwin, 1982, Jones, 1943, Nelson and Whitaker, 1988) and appeared to serve public information purposes. In the

same way, some bibliographies merely present the bibliographic description of the documents (e.g., Kjöstolf, 1950, Salling, 1983, Smith, 1959), while others include comments and/or assessments about them, improving their informative potential (e.g., Jacob, 2005, Pérez-Gutiérrez et al., 2013, Steiner, 1979). According to the methodologies used, they are generally not described within the own bibliographies, and usually the exhaustiveness and scientific rigor required by the Information and Documentation Sciences for this kind of works are not achieved (see e.g., Krummel, 1993, Malclès, 1985, Beaudiquez, 1998, Boulogne, 2002, Pensato, 1994, Moll, 1985).

What is clear is that the preparation of the analysed bibliographies has been mainly dependant on, and limited by the possibilities for accessing the information. Therefore, the authors of the bibliographies published before the digital explosion occurred at the end of the 20th century had to overcome ~~hard~~, difficult, time-consuming and expensive compilation tasks. Thus, specific documentary centres were visited for preparing these bibliographies (e.g., Jones, 1943, Nelson and Whitaker, 1988, in the Library of Congress), or a significant ~~lost~~ lack of exhaustiveness was assumed in the interests of obtaining references in broader contexts (e.g., Kjöstolf, 1950, Smith, 1959). Another observation from our study is that the continuous growth of the martial arts ~~realm~~ as a sociocultural activity in the West occurred in a few decades ~~and this caused~~ stimulated a great increase ~~within~~ in the variety and ~~amount~~ quantity of available documents/materials ~~about~~ on this subject, as Nelson and Whitaker's bibliography clearly ~~shows~~ demonstrates (1988). This ~~fact~~ expansion provided more specialized bibliographies (e.g., Jacob, 2005, Steiner, 1979) but also made the bibliographers' work much more difficult. From the end of the 20th century onwards, the Internet and World Wide Web has made possible the compilation of exhaustive bibliographies not restricted to one or few documentary centers (e.g., Pérez-Gutiérrez et al., 2013), as well as the spreading of different-quality bibliographies carried out by martial arts clubs, associations, professionals, students, institutions or enthusiasts. ~~Anyway, and in general terms,~~ However, while the Internet and World Wide Web offer enormous potential as an architecture for the direct access to martial arts documents, it does not guarantee it, nor does it currently provided it. Indeed the majority of the references in these bibliographies remain inaccessible in a digital format. Direct access to these documentary sources remain essential for preparing bibliographies which attempt to present something more than merely the bibliographic description of a document.

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