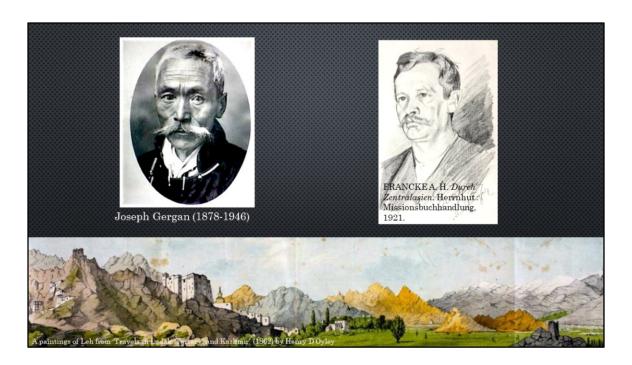


DATABASE PROJECT ON A. H. FRANCKE (1870-1930): results and perspectives

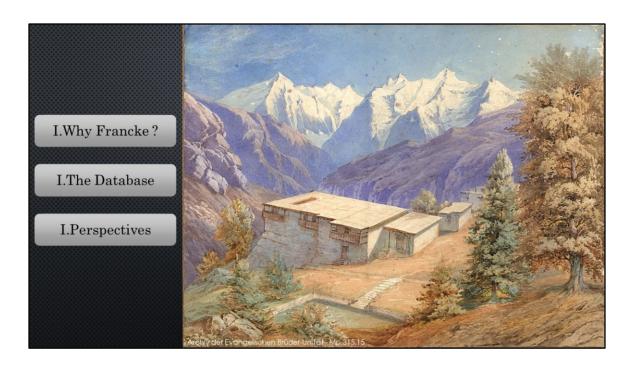
> IATS 2019 Jonathan Guyon Le Bouffy

August Hermann Francke was a Moravian missionary and tibetologist who worked on many subjects. His work is still today the basis of research on the region. He lived in Ladakh from 1896 to 1906 and made a short journey in 1914.



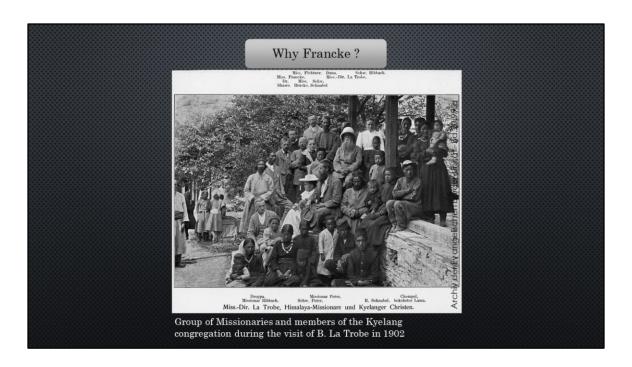
## Why was I interested in Francke?

I did my Master's thesis on Joseph Gergan and the history. Gergan was Francke's assistant for his historical and missionary work (he translated the Bible into Tibetan). Today I work at the Sorbonne library and my project is a way to join my studies with my current work.



1856 Kyelang, Lahul

My presentation will be in three stages.
First of all why deal with Francke in particular?
Then I will discuss more particularly the presentation of the database itself.
Finally I will propose examples of possible perspectives.



Why Francke? Among all these missionaries?

The first Westerners to enter Tibet were missionaries. There were Jesuits, Capuchins and later Protestants including Moravians, especially in western Tibet.

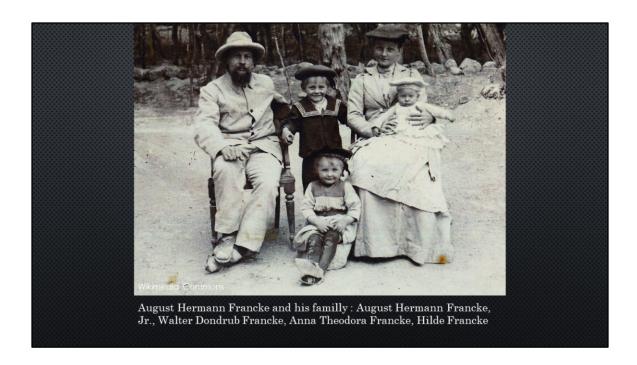
Their writings, their works remain among the first testimonies and studies on the region, notably by the composition of dictionaries.



The Moravians settled in Ladakh in the middle of the 19th century. Eduard Pagell and William Heyde create the first mission at Kyelang Lahul in 1856, they will create a station in Poo in 1865 and finally in Leh in 1885.

The last foreign missionaries in Ladakh left in 1956, it was the swiss missionaries Pierre and Catherine Vittoz, and their children.

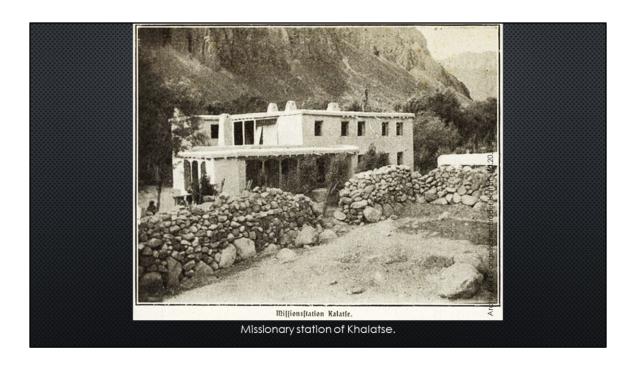
The missionaries worked on all types of subjects. Linguistics for example for Jäschke, or history for Marx. These studies of society were done to better serve the mission. We must not forget women (often teachers or nurses). They also participated in translations such as Maria Heyde who translated hymns into tibetic languages or Theodora Francke who translated testimonies of veterans of the Dogra war from Ladakhi to German.



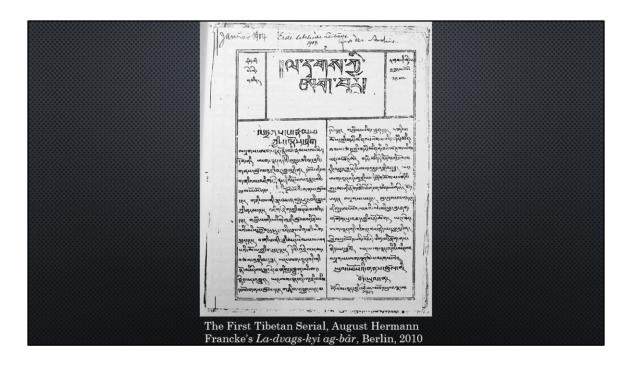
Arriving in Ladakh in 1896, Francke was sent to Khalatse's mission in 1899 and remained there until 1906.

Because of his interest in many aspects of society, Francke is still important in the Ladakh and Tibetological studies. He worked on language, archeology, folklore, songs, music, religions (both Bön and Buddhist), the epic of Gesar, and history...

Their Children: August Hermann (14 Aout 1898), Walter Siegfried Dondrub (8 Aout 1900) et Hilde Deskyid (5 Janvier 1903)

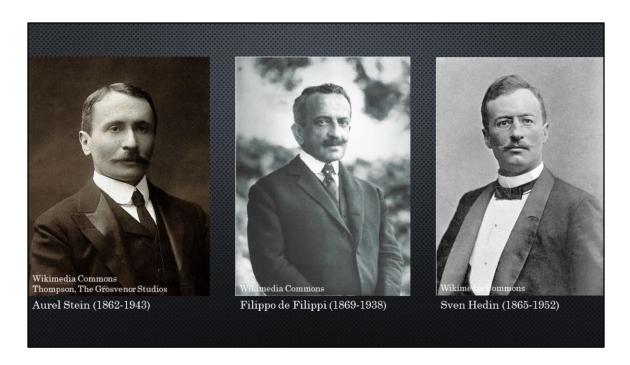


He is also the most productive of the Moravian missionaries. From a scientific point of view he publishes notably in Indian Antiquary and collaborates with the ASI. But as a missionary he published several essays to translate passages of the Bible into local languages.



Most of his work consists of articles he also publishes monographs. He wrotes in English, German and include Tibetan.

Finally Francke is at the origin of the creation of the first newspaper written entirely in Tibetan language, the Ladakhi Agbar.



Francke was a reference for the researchers of his time, such as Aurel Stein, Filippo de Filippi or Sven Hedin whom he met on the spot.

Today, we have to revisit Francke's work with regard to current research. What is there to keep? To qualify? To refute? Or to avoid?



A database on his work can help us answer these questions and value forgotten collections.

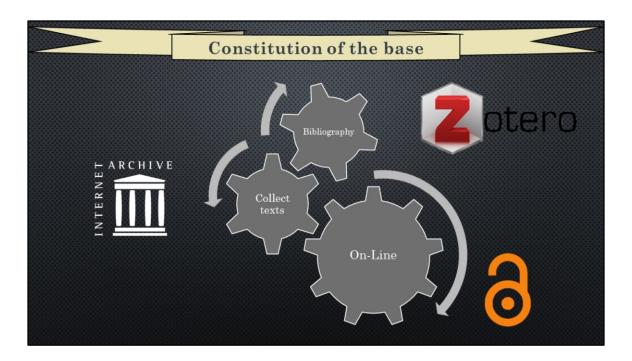


The basic idea of the project is to convert the bibliography of Taube and Walravens on an electronic version available on the Web with direct access to texts.

Constitution	Work in	Future work	Long-term
of the base	progress	rutuic work	Long-term
<ul><li>Bibliography</li><li>Collect texts</li><li>On-Line</li></ul>	• Zotero • Excel	<ul> <li>Create links</li> <li>Preparation of texts</li> <li>Online database</li> </ul>	• XML-TEI • Semantic Web

There are several stages to this project.

So, first of all, I'm going to talk about the constitution of the base, then I will present you the work done, the work that was hoped for and finally what could be done in the long term.

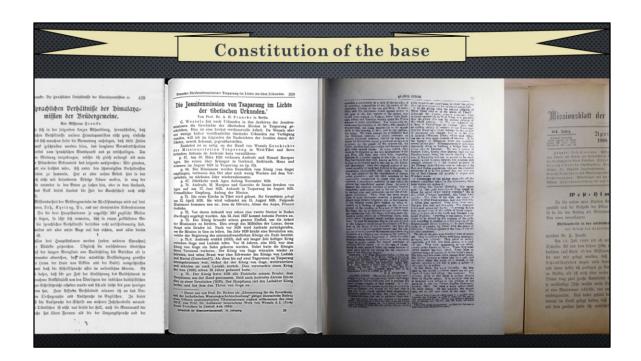


To constitute the base there are three main stages.

First, make a bibliography with the help of Zotero (a bibliographic reference management software).

It is then necessary to collect the texts: some texts are already on line in free access, others on paying bases, and others still not digitized at all.

Finally comes the moment of the setting, of course in open access.

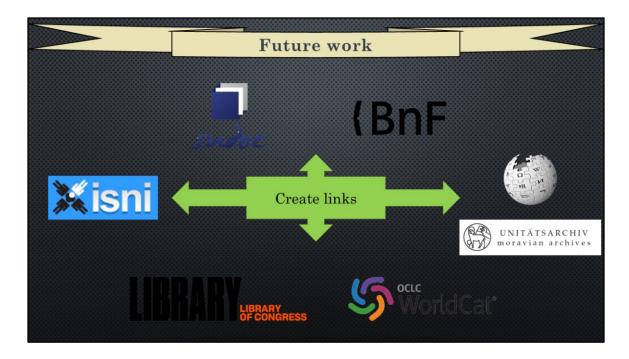


Here is an anthology of the types of documents collected. Some very well scanned and well ocerised in open access, others of poorer image quality or OCR, finally some that I had to take picture very amateurish.



For the moment a Zotero group has been created and allows to recover the records of all the articles of Francke.

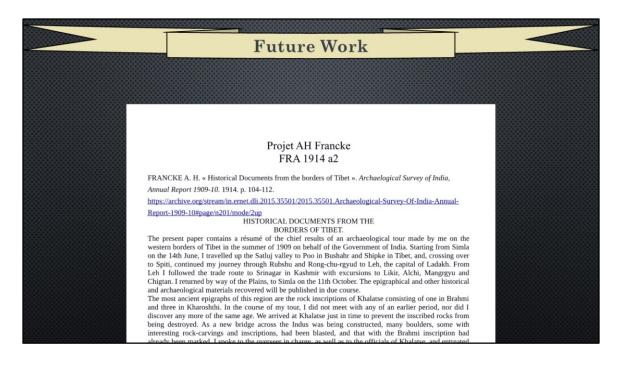
The fundamentals of the database tables are available online in a cloud box. Everything is exposed on a Wordpress site where I try to present (in french) the project and these advances with some access to texts.



The hoped-for job is to create links: links to French or international catalogs, but also links to existing author authorities on ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier) to avoid confusion due to homonyms.

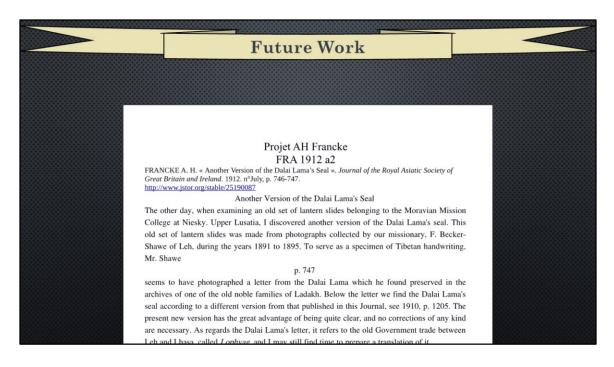
Finally links to free encyclopedias or private archives such as Wikipedia or the Moravian Archives.

Initially, it is about links on the records, later these links could be integrated into the texts themselves.

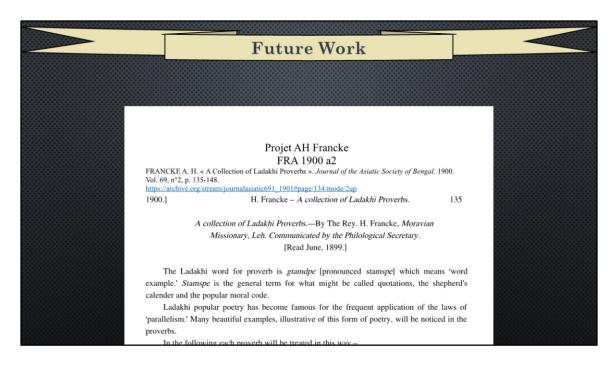


Here is a small example of the expected result for each text. The OCR has been completely corrected and we respect the page indications allowing to quote the document with precision.

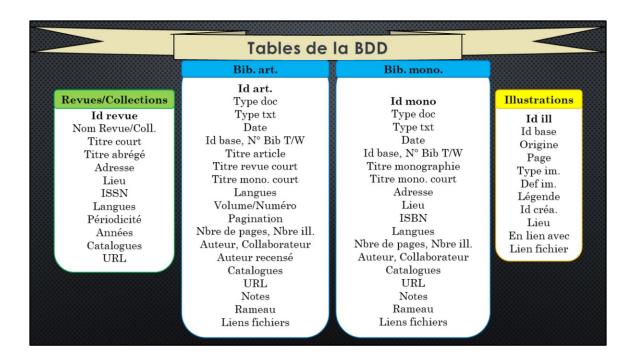
Links in the text could be made at the level of references to other articles, and other links would provide information about people or places.



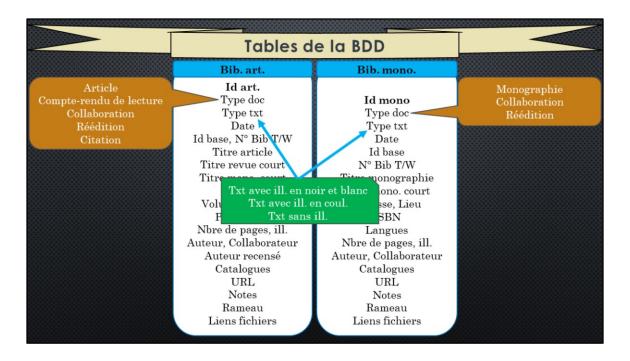
An other example with images.



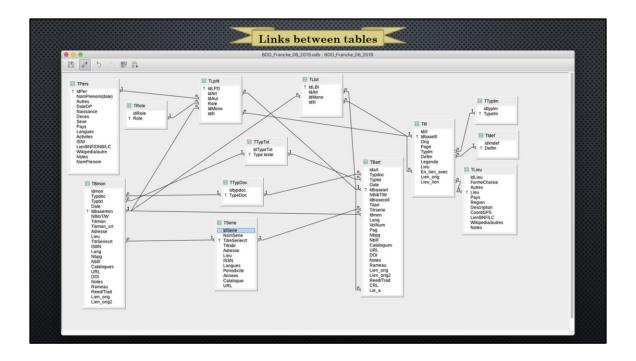
An other example with tibetan.



Présentation de quelques tables de la BDD. Articles et monographies, deux tables distinctes.



Présentation de quelques tables de la BDD. Articles et monographies, deux tables distinctes. Des champs fixes de type de document, de description de document.

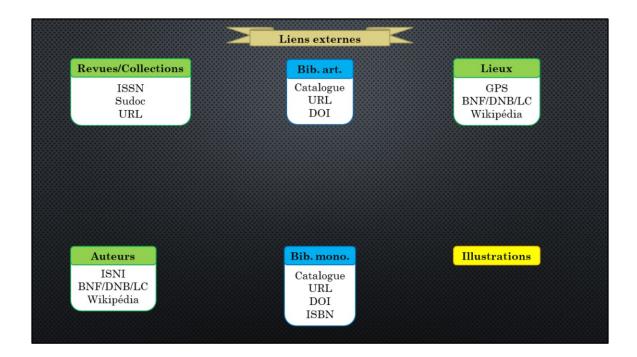


Here is a more technical presentation of the relational links of the different tables of the database.

Some links may questions such as those between the table of articles to the table of monographs. It serves to indicate and to link the book-reviews with the monographs itself.

Other links are more traditional allowing to indicate for example the authors, the collaborators, the photographers. Finally there is what I call retro-link: for the articles in continuation, for re-editions, or for reuses of images.

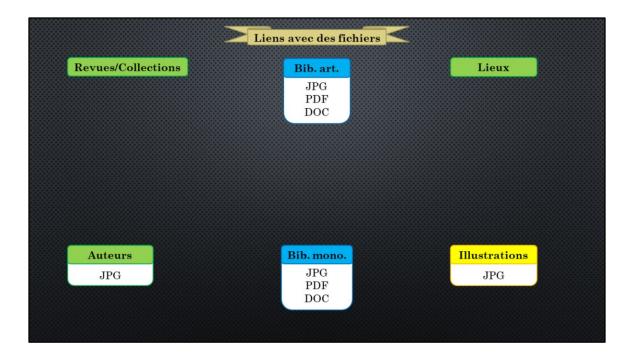
Here is the diagram modeled on the free software OpenOffice Base, it was necessary to create linking tables to obtain the expected result.



Les liens vers l'extérieur : Catalogues où trouver les documents, URL et DOI pour les documents disponibles en ligne.

Notices autorités lorsqu'elles sont pertinentes.

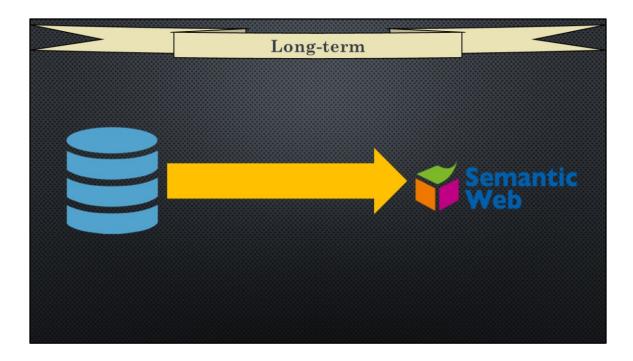
Standards internationaux ISBN, ISSN, ISNI



Liens avec des fichiers : PDF, Images (portraits...)



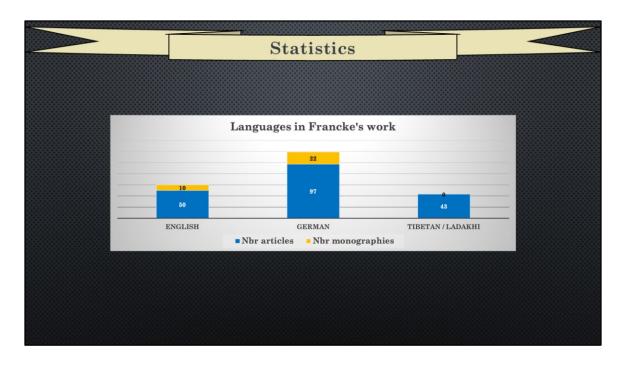
In the long term, we could tag texts in XML-TEI in order to make more efficient searches and to homogenize the different spellings of a name or a place while respecting the initial text. Thus statistics could be made independently of the language used.



For the base itself the idea may be to prepare a conversion of a traditional relational database to the Semantic Web by making links to existing triple-stores.

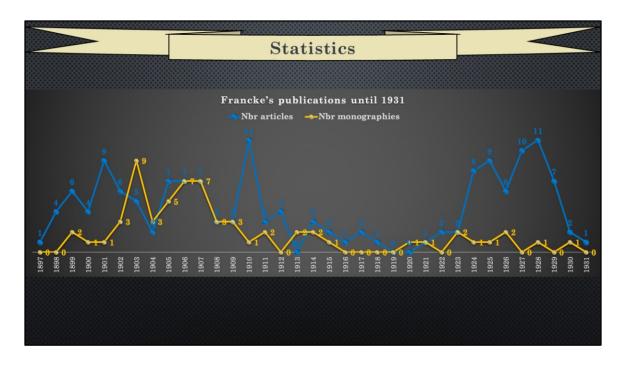


So what could we do with this base? What is already possible to do? What can we dream of?

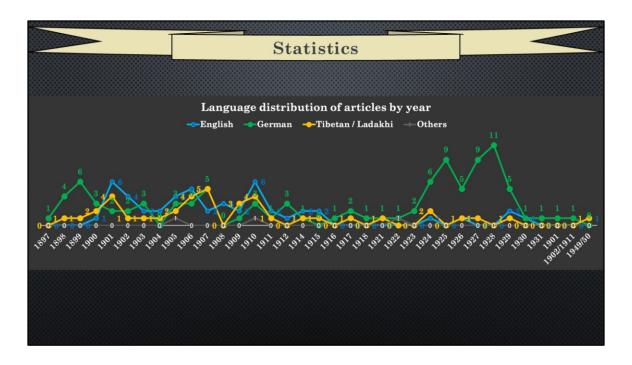


First of all, we can do some rough statistics.

We can see the number of publications and the type of publication by language.

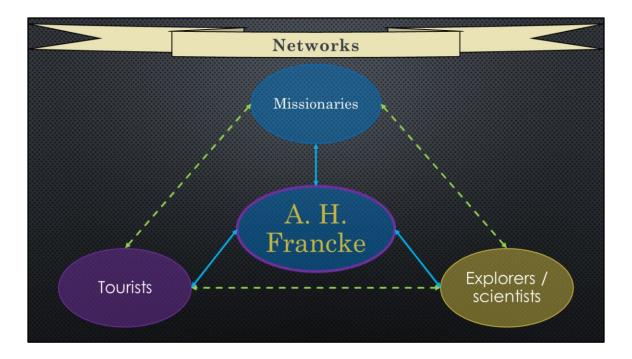


We can also make a chronology of the publications.



And it is also possible to mix both. We observe that the majority of Francke's English publications were made before the First World War.

These statistics could be refined by subject later.



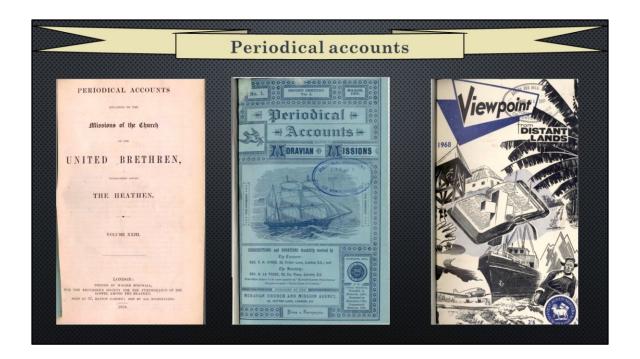
From the work of Francke we can also map the different networks.

First of all, the missionary network.

But also network with explorers and researchers, through their meetings or their book reviews. Roerich... Filchner, Laufer...

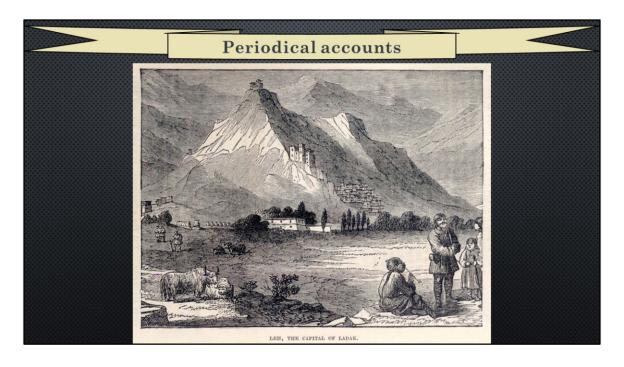
Finally the tourist network, a number of British women like Jane Duncan and strangers (less known) cited in photo credit as P.E. Bernard or Eric Upton.

This mapping of human networks around Francke makes it possible to highlight the opening of this region of the world.

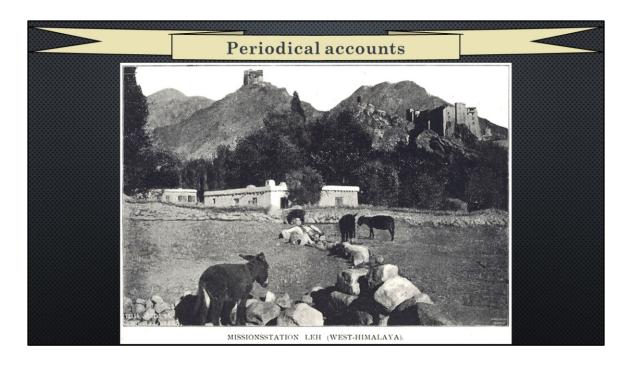


A good help in mapping its networks, in addition to the work of Francke, are the Periodical accounts (relating to the missions of the Church of the United Brethren established among the heathen). This periodical resumes regularly the correspondence of the German MissionsBlatt. The use of Periodical Accounts is therefore more convenient for both: access to the fund (in English) and for the form since everything is available online.

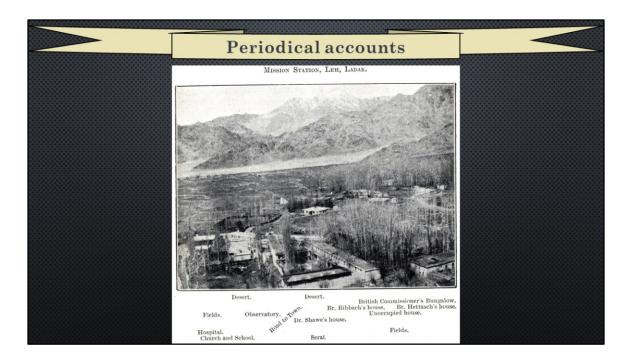
In this context, I have already reviewed all the articles dealing with the mission of the Western Himalaya from 1814 to 1970, which represents about 2500 pages (mission to the Mongols, then mission of Tibet).



We thus discover photographs of Leh and Ladakh that give us an idea of the rapid expansion of the city in a century.



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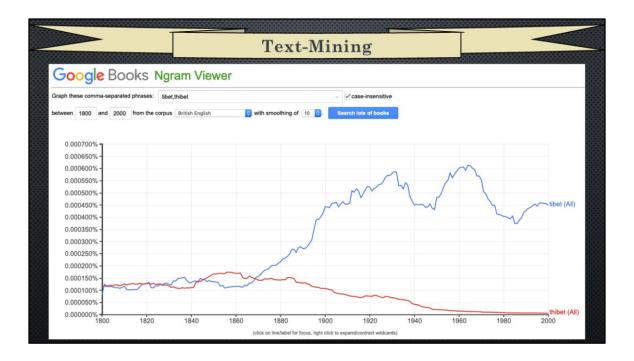


We thus discover photographs of Leh and Ladakh that give us an idea of the rapid expansion of the city in a century.



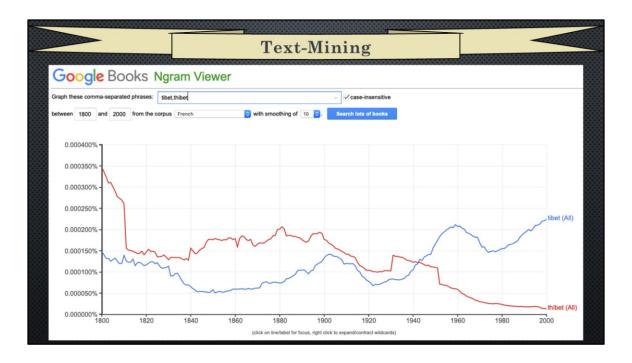
We can also make a census of the missionaries and Christians converted from these data.

A work on the funds (donations) received by the Western Tibet missions (not counted but present in the PA) could be done.



Having Ocerized and corrected texts, or tagged in XML-TEI, could be a great advantage to work on text-mining.

A quick example of the information that can give us the text-mining with the tool of google Ngram. Ngram makes a statement in the various corpus scanned by google books.



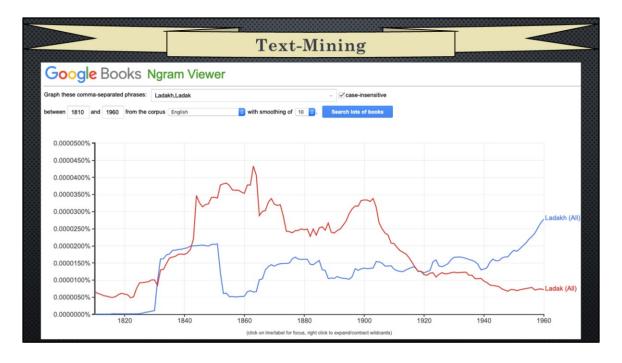
Here we can see when the H disappeared in Tibet spelling, according to the British or French corpus.

These are much more researches to do with text-mining.

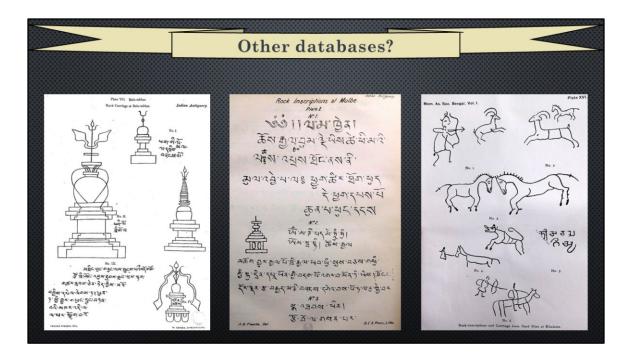
The advantage of a project like this one is to seriously control the texts of the proposed corpus.



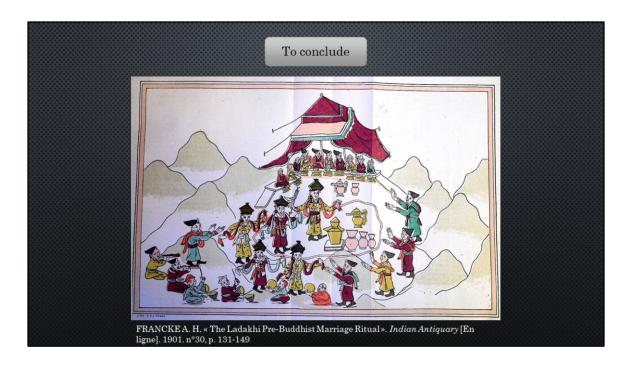
And here when the current Ladakh script is established in English (all corpus confused) or in German.



These are much more researches to do with text-mining. The advantage of a project like this one is to seriously control the texts of the proposed corpus.



Finally an interesting perspective would be to create links with other BDDs on Ladakh. Existing BDDs (MAFIL, personals BDD) or not yet existing. BDD on temples, inscriptions, petroglyphs... this link could be done with a common table. I think of a table places allowing thereafter to have access by a map.



To conclude, I ask myself several questions and I need help to make a useful and effective tool. How to manage it? With a Wordpress CMS? Omeka CMS? Manage it on DublinCore or Unimarc (but I have no software for this)...

That's why I think that this project could be included in a broader base. This database can be useful for many disciplines and researchers: Tibetologists, Historians of the missions, historians of the Moravians, Historiography !!!

Questions?



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