



# Revival of the Nu Shu script

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# Introduction

A special writing system that integrates pictographic and phonetic features created by Women.



pictographic



# Objectives

- Document and digitize Nu Shu material.
- Modernize the use cases of the script.
- Simplify the learning process.



**02**

## Data Processing

Digitize data.

—CTO Fausto

**01**

## Corpus Collection

Collect data sources.

—CEO Miranda

**04**

## Revitalization & Commercialization

Push back to society and gain funds for further research.

—CMO Jingjing

**03**

## Script Research

Research Nu Shu's possible role in modern language.

—CFO Fausto

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# 01. Corpus Collection



# How to collect the materials

## Existing work



650 pieces of  
anonymous works  
(Manuscripts)

## Field Research and Collaboration



Collaborate with  
Historians, Chinese  
Linguists and Nu Shu  
Linguists

## Community Engagement



Engage with local  
community



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# 02. Digital Nushu



# How do we go digital?

## Material based digitalization

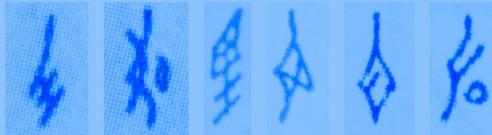
Nu Shu can be found in paper, fabric, wood, etc...



Hanzi

王 如 里 风 日 后

Nüshu



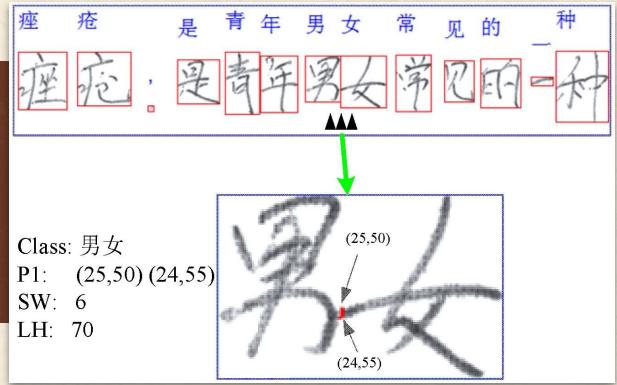
## Cross-material digitalization

For materials such as stone, wood, we use computer vision.

# Digitalization of Nushu

## Recognition of characters

Recognize patterns with Machine Learning.  
The model shall recognize between characters.



## Combine with dictionaries

There are open Nu Shu dictionaries available on the web.  
Combining them with our model, we can have a Nu Shu reader.

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# 03.

# Script Research



# 95%

Of Nu Shu characters  
are derived from Chinese

人

Query

女

Query

Romanization of Jiangyong dialect: ye42

Romanization of Jiangyong dialect: njiu21

水

Query

Romanization of Jiangyong dialect: xua35

# So is it just Chinese written differently?

- Nu Shu is a **phonetic language** derived from Chinese.
- The characters take their **pronunciation** from a root Chinese character.
- However, **they don't take the same meaning!**

Here, both characters have the same pronunciation  
in Chinese:

This is the character for “child”:

子

Romanization of Jiangyong dialect: ze35

In Nu Shu:

ze

zǐ

Romanization of Jiangyong dialect: ze35

This is the character for “purple”:

紫

Romanization of Jiangyong dialect: ze35

(Look how they are the same character in Nu Shu!)

# What is next: Prepare Nu Shu for the public!

As a script, Nu Shu has to be portrayed as an option to use Chinese pronunciation to represent **both Chinese sentences and Latin sentences**. After all, it is a **phonetic** language.

We can choose to use it as a Chinese alternative script, or each syllable as a phonetic representation.

Chinese to Nu Shu

Ni

hao

Ni Hao (你好)=  
Hello



Latin to Nu Shu: "Fausto"

Fa

u (wu)

s(si)

to(tou)



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# 04.

# Revitalization & Commercialization



女红



# Revitalization through Education



## Training Teachers

After decode the grammar and vocabularies, we can train a group of teachers to teach courses to Nushu lovers.



## AI Teaching

With the translator, we can use AI to create self-paced learning courses which can face a wider range of Nushu lovers.



## Push to Society

After we get more teachers trained, we can collaborate with government to adapt Nushu into public education.

# **Commercialization and Acquire Funds**

## **Promote Nushu as a Cultural IP**

Example: Creating cultural and creative products.



## **Cooperate with Companies Featuring Women**

Example: Cooperate with L'Oreal to adopt Nushu into its ads and create online trend.

# Timeline

Corpus, data collection  
and research analysis

2024



Script Publication  
Research, Content  
Creation

2032



2027

Digitize the raw material,  
implement existing  
resources into our models



2034

Course planning  
&  
Commercialization

# **Why should we care? Values and ethics**

**Feminism  
in Old Chinese Society**

**Cultural Heritage**

**Women's Documentation  
on Chinese History**



# Thank you

Any questions?

(Disclaimer: AI images generated with ChatGPT 4)