**Aims, Scope and Structure**

The Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics (ECLL) will be an A-Z encyclopedic reference work, offering a systematic and comprehensive treatment of the languages of China and China’s linguistic traditions, indigenous or otherwise. It will provide authoritative information on all aspects of the languages spoken in China, today and in the past, from many different angles, as well as on the way these languages have been studied. It will offer a synthesis of most of the research in the field of Chinese linguistics and provide adequate and up to date bibliographical coverage. As such, it will, on completion be the reference source for general knowledge on:

- The languages of China: their structure and their history
- The writing system: its emergence, development and use today
- The history of Chinese Linguistics, both the indigenous and the western traditions
- The sociolinguistic situation in China
- Psycholinguistic studies on Chinese, including first language acquisition
- Language contact and language varieties

and many other aspects of Chinese and Chinese linguistics.

The aim of the ECLL is to be as international and as objective as possible in not preferring one school or approach over another. Linguists working on Chinese from all over the world will be approached to support the project and will be encouraged to get involved. All articles will be written in the same way, as encyclopedic entries with a large number of cross-references and complete bibliographical references. The entries will be written in such a way as to render them accessible to the non-specialist. The ECLL will contain overview articles that will provide a state-of-the-art review of the major topics or aspects within the given field as formulated in the aims and scope of the encyclopedia. The work will also contain tables, maps, as well as other types of illustrations. The ECLL will be published both in print and online as a dynamic interactive research tool.

**Size**

The size of the ECLL will be 3500-4000 pp. in 4 volumes. Each volume will consist of about 800 - 1000 pp. The last volume will include the index. The total number of entries is c. 1000 lemmas.