

How Amnet helped one of the largest university presses in the world produce their Chinese–English translation series of classical Chinese literature within challenging time frames



Client

The client is one of the largest university presses in the world, publishing for markets such as research, education, and English language teaching.

Project Requirements

The assignment required the Amnet project manager (PM) to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders and manage the typesetting and production stages for both Chinese and English text for a series of five books in parallel within challenging time frames. Outputs expected: Print PDFs and InDesign files.

Challenges

The assignments presented multiple challenges due to the bilingual nature of the projects.

- Delays during manuscript submission and copyediting stages.
- From a design standpoint, there were challenges in accommodating the Chinese text on verso pages.
- Each project had unique elements, and delays in manuscript submission required us to typeset the English version with placeholders for Chinese text.
- Footnote cues in the manuscript files were out of sequence, requiring Amnet to manually fix the numbering.

Solution Approach

Amnet evaluated the requirements and assigned a dedicated editorial project manager and experienced production resources to work on the bilingual projects. The team followed a streamlined workflow, diligently carrying out requisite activities in project management and bilingual typesetting in collaboration with the client.

- The Amnet PM meticulously planned project-wise schedules and shared them for the client's approval.
- During review calls, the Amnet PM presented comprehensive status updates, highlighting any challenges for quicker resolution.

- Despite design challenges the Amnet team successfully accommodated the Chinese and English text per client-supplied guidelines.
- Handling text reflow when setting Chinese text remained a recurring challenge. However, the Amnet team proactively provided sample proof pages and sought clarification from the client project-wise, thereby streamlining the process.
- Proactive tracking and reporting helped avoid issues with subsequent manuscripts, such as fixing footnote numbering during copyediting, avoiding delays during typesetting.
- The PM tracked proof schedules, resolved questions promptly, and ensured adherence to planned schedules.
- As the single point of contact, the PM collaborated efficiently with all stakeholders.

Outcome

Through meticulous planning, diligent project management, and Amnet's expertise in multilingual typesetting, we were able to meet the demanding project requirements efficiently. Pleased with Amnet's work, the client continues to send us subsequent projects in the series.

About Amnet

Amnet's track record includes successfully managing over 140 full-service projects for 11 university presses in the year 2023 alone. With 24 years of experience, Amnet offers end-to-end traditional and digital publishing solutions including peer-review management, editorial, project management, production, accessibility, and technology for university presses and other publishers in all sectors and around the globe.

Get in touch

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