

# THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG LIBRARIES

《明德格物百季輝煌》，2024  
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The University of Hong Kong  
**Libraries**



# TRIENNIAL REPORT 2021-2024

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# THE LIBRARIES' VISION

**The University of Hong Kong Libraries advances the teaching, learning, research and knowledge exchange pursuits of the University, through its outstanding resources, people-centred services and collaborative approaches, as well as the innovative use of technology- to advance the library operations and to create new learning spaces that encourage students' creativity and enhance learning experiences.**

# CIO & LIBRARIAN'S FOREWORD

In my role as the new Chief Information Officer and University Librarian to the University of Hong Kong, comes the highest of expectations to fundamentally retain the University Libraries' rich legacy whilst simultaneously transforming it into the modern state and for the contemporary age.

Firstly, I must extend my most heartfelt appreciation to all the talented library staff, many loyal for their long-time service and those crucial to maintaining solid library operations, whom collectively contribute towards actualising the vision of HKU Libraries.

Over the past three years, our all-encompassing digital transformation of the Libraries wholly demonstrates our fulfilment of initial goals and symbolises our achievement of core values, to successfully: Enhance HKU Research Impact and Knowledge Exchange; Enrich Resources for Teaching, Research and Knowledge Exchange; Improve Institutional Learning Outcomes; Modernise Learning Experiences; Improve Service Innovation; and Encourage Interdisciplinary Research.

Through this, the University Libraries prioritises a strategic transformation across six key areas, to: Provide Comprehensive Scholarly Communication Services; Develop E-Collections & Widen Access to Unique Collections; Develop Partnership in Virtual Teaching & Learning Support; Transform Learning Environments; Leverage New Technologies; and Develop Community Engaged, Digital Scholarship Practice.

The amalgamation of new technologies and digitization initiatives at HKU Libraries, have continually allowed us to optimise our library operations and enhance the customer experience. We witness the modernised space transformation and reorganisation, among others, the opening of the Technology-Enriched Learning Mezzanine (Techmezz) at the Yu Chun Keung Medical Library, the relaunch of the Tin Ka Ping Education Library, the Music Library and the Level 3 study area of Main Library, as well as the unveiling of the Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library.

Together, we have also taken magnificent strides to strengthen our outreach and engagement and expanded the University Libraries beyond its boundaries. It is always a pleasure to welcome our alumni, with the new graduate membership scheme. The installation of new exhibits on all floors of Main Library consistently gain attraction throughout the years, with over 10,000 monthly visitors, attaining community engagement totalling over 100,000 people across one year.

The positive synergy between University Libraries and Information Technology Services (ITS) has been fruitful, embodied by the co-branding of Learning Environment Services- paving a clear pathway to the future establishment of a permanent exhibition space at Chi Wah Learning Commons. In celebration of our 111th anniversary, HKU Libraries became an official co-publisher of the Basil Pao's Dream Book Set: a shared project with HKU Press, as well as a symbolic representation of our will to pursue our dreams relentlessly.

Achieving such heights can only be made possible by the benevolence of our generous donors- for their unwavering help and major support to HKU Libraries. During this period of transformation and development, we are exceptionally grateful to receive the backing of the Chinese Central Government. This serves as our reminder to exemplify the value and importance of Chinese culture across all levels at HKU Libraries, whether that be by safeguarding the treasured Chan Kwan Po Diaries or exhibiting the admired works of illustrious Chinese artists. Marking yet another momentous occasion, the opening of the newest Historical Milestones of Fung Ping Shan Library Exhibition, that perfectly encapsulates the essence of Chinese heritage and culture - now permanently displayed at HKU Libraries for all to relish.

Moving forward, we look to develop talent in the library field, HKU Libraries will continue to support research, teaching and learning at the University through this era of digitization. We strive to make HKU Libraries continue to be the center of the University, and a beacon in the city that shines on the world stage.



**Ms. Flora NG**

Chief Information Officer  
& University Librarian

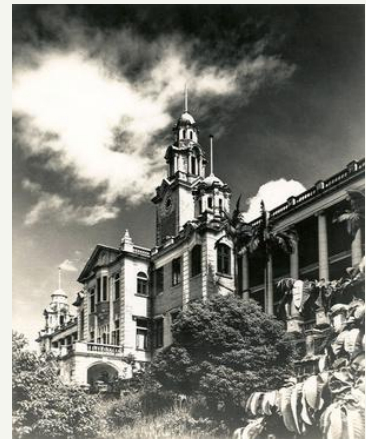


# SUSTAINING OUR LEGACY

## HERITAGE X DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

From its origins of just two small rooms of around 288 square metres in the Main Building of the University of Hong Kong, HKU Libraries has since grown immensely to a combined floor size of approximately 24,155 square metres – offering a conducive environment for study, research, and knowledge exchange and establishing itself as an essential institution for the University and the wider Hong Kong community.

The University Libraries undergoes revolutionary change and has steadfastly been meeting the ever-changing needs of the digital world and engaging its patrons with the next level of digital technology. A seamless integration of humanities with new resources and innovative technology energises the oldest and most prestigious academic library in Hong Kong- from digitised collection development to space transformation. With each step it takes, the role of the Libraries will always support the University for research and learning in the contemporary age.



[Photo Source: The University of Hong Kong]

## ONE LIBRARY, TWO ANNIVERSARIES

Since 1912, HKU Libraries has been serving as a knowledge hub and repository of wisdom for students, staff, alumni and the Hong Kong community.

2022 marked a historic milestone, in joint celebration of the 110th Anniversary of Main Library and the 90th Anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library – Engaging the Past, with the Future, for the Future, TOGETHER.



## CELEBRATING 111 YEARS OF DREAMS

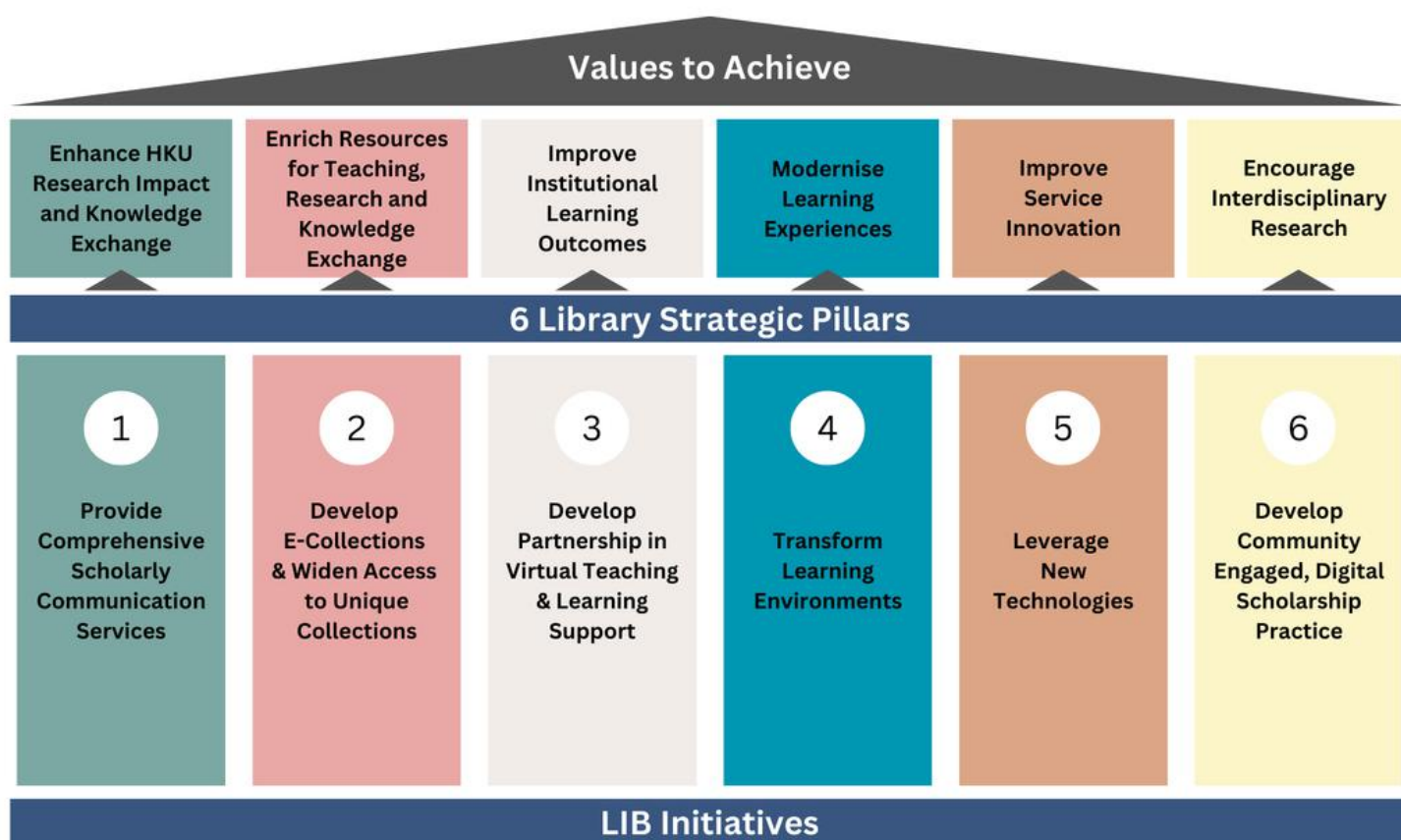
In 2023, HKU Libraries took pride in celebrating its 111th anniversary, symbolising 111 successful years of remarkable achievements, along with 111 years of dreams. Owing to a rich history and a tradition of excellence, within the library walls are where dreams have taken flight, minds have expanded, and discoveries have been made. Embracing this remarkable legacy of dreams, achievements and future aspirations, the Libraries reinforces its commitment to creativity and education, to inspire and inform countless generations of future scholars. In bringing the community together beyond books, the Libraries embarks its journey of the next 111 years that will guarantee even greater expanding horizons of knowledge and more bold success for the future.



# OUR TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

As HKU Libraries welcomes 2025, this Triennial Report, 2021 – 2024, reflects on key initiatives that pioneered and sustained the Libraries’ ongoing transformation and future advancement.

The Strategic Framework in HKUL (2021-2025)\* is designed to facilitate a progressive transformation across six strategic areas to collectively refurbish and remodel the foundation of the University Libraries in achieving six core values:



\* This strategy will be updated to include the advancement in artificial intelligence (AI).

## **1) PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

### **To Enhance HKU Research Impact and Knowledge Exchange**

Committing to the global open science movement, the University Libraries infrastructure facilitates the free exchange of knowledge and resources for academics to be fully engaged with the research life cycle and focus on advisory services; to promote researchers' output and data management services; and for the transition of scholarly communication models.

The Libraries' service scope has and will continue to provide world-class support on research data and records management, that helps with maintaining and further enhancing the University's research distinction on the global stage. Serving as an institutional data repository, the Libraries' handles all information enquiries effectively and professionally; optimises administrative processes and offers comprehensive analysis tools.

## **2) DEVELOP E-COLLECTIONS & WIDEN ACCESS TO UNIQUE COLLECTIONS**

### **To Enrich Resources for Teaching, Research and Knowledge Exchange**

In response to the constantly-evolving information universe, HKU Libraries' resources acquisitions wholly supply, reflect and support the dynamic curricular and research needs of the University across various disciplines and intellectual levels (undergraduate, graduate, and faculty).

To broaden the University's research influence and ensure that knowledge to the public can be free and equitable, Consortium Transformative Agreements entered by the Libraries with various publishers provides open access to HKU scholars across different subject disciplines, making their research findings and publications freely accessible to all. Under these collective agreements, over 4000 titles are given open access across all eligible journals.

Comprehensive collection care, along with successful preservation and conservation support ensures the integrity of physical books and materials while enabling the crucial digitization process, ultimately leading to the enrichment of e-collections and widened access to special, rare collections. A central focus, the Libraries strives for all materials to be made available through physical and digital means. Effective physical and electronic resource management along with cataloguing and metadata projects ensures this untethered access and further advances usage of the general library collections and the development of unique, thematic collections.

In possession of these rich resources, the Libraries' thematic exhibitions paired with media outreach initiatives provide significant publicity and exposure of the Libraries' general and special collections- demonstrating a strong commitment for the greater knowledge exchange with the wider community.

### **3) DEVELOP PARTNERSHIP IN VIRTUAL TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT**

#### **To Improve Institutional Learning Outcomes**

The University Libraries remains committed to coordinating the development, implementation, promotion and delivery of learning services, creating learning objects and facilitating e-learning support and integration in the campus learning management system. Upholding its essential role in academia, the Libraries ensures the provision of quality learning support and academic resources can be delivered to all.

By collaborate closely with faculty members, staff, and various educational institutions to guarantee the effectiveness and efficiency of training series, the Libraries meticulously craft, develop, present, and assess professional consultation services and instructional materials- to provide University students and staff with enriching learning experiences while also fostering the improvement of their digital skills and knowledge. Further pushing the virtual agenda, the digitalization of library training, as well as virtual teaching & learning initiatives allow the Libraries to continuously support the University's teaching and learning methods and guarantee institutional learning outcomes for the modern century. Alongside, the Libraries values equal learning opportunities and works toward ensuring all educational needs to be addressed and can be adequately met.

### **4) TRANSFORM LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

#### **To Modernise Learning Experience**

In line with the HKU Vision 2016-2025, HKU Libraries will continue to invest in the estate, supporting the University's academic priorities and ambitions, as well as facilitating increased opportunities and efficiencies for interdisciplinary research, education and knowledge exchange in the 21st century.

Acknowledging the aging physical infrastructure and a prevalent lack of study space problem at the University, the Libraries' strategy provides a learning environment that meets the current digital needs of HKU students and staff- to integrate learning space management provides solution, holding onto the strong belief that digital is a must; is beneficial to our users and stakeholders; and is good for our internal operations.

The enormous changes to the physical space transformation and reorganising of the learning commons across the Libraries is concrete evidence of the University's modernisation drive in becoming a next-generation campus. The refurbishment, repurpose and relaunch of several branch libraries sees the incorporation of new open and dynamic settings, as well as the integration of innovative technologies into learning spaces, entirely equipped with the newest digital capabilities- that are worthy of a world-class research and academic institution.

## **5) LEVERAGE NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

### **To Improve Service Innovation**

To meet the evolving needs of the scholarly information environment, HKU Libraries continues to adapt and assimilate new technologies and virtual resources that enhance the capacity of the University's academic communities to collaborate with global partners and support the digital needs of students and staff.

To achieve digital transformation, the evolution of library services is paired with systems transformation to maintain optimised daily operations across the Libraries. New integrated library systems and IT infrastructure facilitate the open movement of knowledge and easy access to resources, whereas newly-implemented automations streamline lending services to be time-, labour- and cost- effective. The application of existing and emerging technologies such as AI and robotics advances library operational efficiency previously unmatched; the use of data analytics provides data-driven insights, identifying unique patterns, developing predictive models for evidence-based decision-making such as resource allocation.

## **6) DEVELOP COMMUNITY ENGAGED, DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP PRACTICE**

### **To Encourage Interdisciplinary Research**

Through digital scholarship practice, the Libraries support the communities' digital endeavours and initiatives by provide continuous access to digital collections; digital tools and workspace. Striving for the multifaceted enrichment of the academic community, the Libraries aim to better extract valuable information from historical materials for interdisciplinary research that empowers scholarly research projects and analysis.

The culture of digital scholarship services is to be accessible, collaborative, transformative, engaging and discoverable. This includes: increased visibility and accessibility of digitised collections as well as HKU's reputation globally; connecting people, data and technology in a collaborative environment, the use of digital evidences, resources and methods to construct new scholarly models for research, teaching and learning; and the discovery of primary and rare historical materials for research. As such, the formation of a new digital repository features the Libraries digital collections, that has allowed for the study of digital artifacts, the analysis and visualization with computational methodologies; and the dissemination of information via innovative forms.

# LEARNING & RESEARCH SERVICES

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# INFORMATION SERVICES

## Enquiries Service

The [Ask a Librarian](#) Service is committed to addressing enquiries across a diverse array of topics, ranging from general library services to specialized learning and research strategies, facilitated by our experienced library staff. In alignment with our dedication to enhancing user experience and accessibility, the Main Library has transitioned from a traditional face-to-face information counter on Level 3 to a Virtual Information Counter on the 2nd floor in 2022. This innovative model provides greater flexibility for library staff in managing enquiries more efficiently, while the former counter area has been reallocated as a learning space.



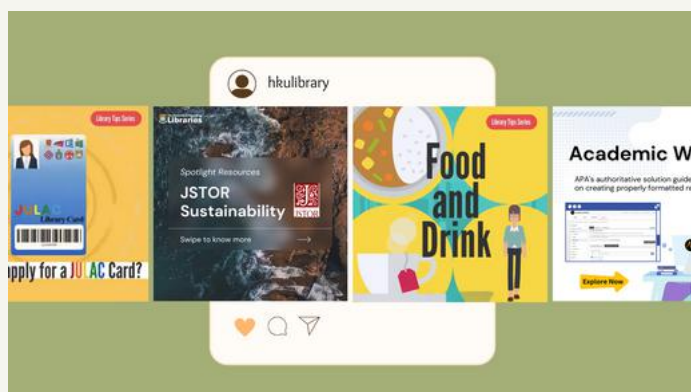
## Learning Objects

A number of learning objects in different formats, such as library guides, short videos, and social media posts, have been created to raise awareness about various library services and to promote appropriate behaviors while using these resources.

### Library Guides

[LibGuides](#) are created by librarians to help users navigate through library resources and services effectively. They provide comprehensive information on specific subjects, courses, or general library use, making it easier for users to find and utilize these resources.

### Social Media Posting



The Libraries effectively utilises social media platforms, experiencing increased reach rates and keeping current users well informed on a wider variety of library topics and resources, including:

- Library Tips Series
- Spotlight Resources

# INFORMATION LITERACY

## Library Training

The COVID-19 pandemic transformed library training delivery starting in 2020, leading to the adoption of online and hybrid formats from 2021 to 2023. As of July 2023, most general and customised workshops have returned to in-person sessions, with recordings available for HKU staff and students for on-demand viewing.

In 2022, we expanded our self-paced [online courses](#), including:

- ILT03 eLearning@HKUL: Library Essentials for Postgraduate Students
- ILT04 eLearning@HKUL: Library Essentials for Undergraduate Students
- ILT05 eLearning@HKUL: Ethical Use of Library Resources - Avoiding Excessive Downloads

Despite these offerings, library presentations declined from 279 in 2021-22 to 197 in 2022-23, and 195 in 2023-24. Participant numbers also decreased from 13,420 in 2021-22 to 10,468 in 2022-23, with a slight increase to 10,736 in 2023-24. Enrolment in library online courses is 3,132 in 2023-24.

Several cross-campus collaborations were initiated, including the Personal Knowledge Management (PKM) Pilot Workshop with TELI and CAES, along with the development of online courses in partnership with TELI, the Graduate School, and the Faculty of Education from 2021 to 2023.

In alignment with the University's First Year Experience initiative, the Libraries organised welcoming events starting in 2022, including Welcome Week, treasure hunts, and workshops to introduce essential library information to new students.

Additionally, the Libraries hosted training series such as the Explore@HKUL Thematic Sessions (November 2021 - April 2022) and E-resources Awareness Week (March 28 – April 3, 2022) to familiarise users with subject databases and thematic topics.

Since 2022, the JULAC Learning Strategies Committee has collaboratively organised the JULAC Webinar Series for all JULAC staff and students. On March 15, 2023, the Libraries collectively hosted a session titled “Easily Access Scholarly Articles and Stay Up to Date with BrowZine and LibKey Nomad,” attracting 169 participants.



## AI Literacy

Following the launch of the University Policy to fully integrate Generative AI in teaching and learning in August 2023, the Libraries commits to advancing Literacy Education, from Information Literacy to AI Literacy, among researchers and students through a range of initiatives and collaborations. The Libraries has actively supported AI-related teaching and learning by hosting workshops, integrating AI tools into research and learning support, and fostering interdisciplinary partnerships. Notably, the “AI Literacy” initiative, including forming the AI Study Group (March 2023) to explore the latest AI-empowered tools for learning and research, developing an informative [Library Guide: AI Literacy](#) (October 2023) with up-to-date curated resources within and beyond HKU community, and launching series workshops “Facilitating Learning and Research with Generative AI - Suggestions from Librarians” (April 2024).

The new initiative provides students with essential knowledge of artificial intelligence, covering topics such as machine learning, AI ethics, and research applications. The Libraries has also collaborated with faculty members and external partners to organise AI-focused events, including seminars and hands-on workshop sessions. Additionally, the integration of AI-powered tools, such as AI-assisted research platforms, has enhanced research integrity and digital scholarship. Through these efforts, the HKU Libraries continues to empower students with the necessary skills to navigate and leverage AI for academic and professional success.

Visit [here](#) to learn more about our training and student engagement activities.

## LEARNING SERVICES

### ReadingList@HKUL



[ReadingList@HKUL](#) has continued to serve as a vital one-stop platform for course materials, offering seamless access to reading lists and resources for students. It supported an average of 501 courses annually from 2021/22 to 2023/24, with citations ranging from 8,091 to 10,918. Accessible both through the ReadingList@HKUL platform and HKU Moodle, it facilitated easy access to reading lists, averaging 81,991 total events annually. Despite fluctuations in list views (23,570–31,917) and citation views (26,730–28,941), the platform remains a key resource for teaching and learning at HKU.

### Supporting Academic Integrity

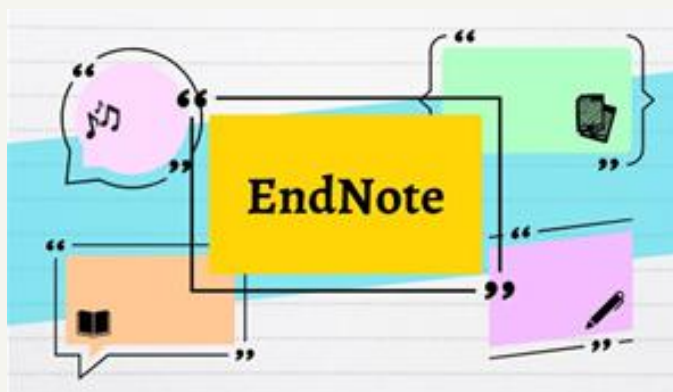


#### Turnitin

[Turnitin](#) is a tool that offers similarity checking on students' work for proper citation or potential plagiarism. Turnitin is used University-wide, especially for the submission of Moodle assignments and RPG theses. The total number of similarity reports generated from 2021 to 2024 was 997,346. In 2022, the Libraries introduced Turnitin Draft Coach to students for self-checking grammar, similarity and citation in their assignments before formal submission. The Libraries continues to provide Turnitin support for instructors and students to enhance academic integrity and e-learning.

#### Citation Management

The [EndNote](#) site licence continues to provide convenient access to its bibliographic management software for current HKU staff and students. To help users learn how to use EndNote, an online course titled "[ILT02 eLearning@HKUL: Manage Citation with EndNote](#)" was introduced in 2021 for self-learning. The Libraries began offering [Zotero](#) training in early 2024 as an alternative tool for users.



## SEN Support

HKU Libraries strives to provide equal learning opportunities and environments to Special Educational Needs (SEN) students at HKU. Funded by the UGC Special Grant to Enhance the Support for Students with Special Education Needs, the Libraries provides comprehensive support for [SEN support](#), including:



- Accessible learning environment (e.g. Special Study Rooms)
- Assistive technologies (e.g., Braille display, magnifier)
- Accessible learning materials
- SEN awareness and engagement events (e.g., SEN Week 2024, Library Breaks)
- Application and promotion of universal design
- Collaborations with campus unit (e.g., CEDARS, EOU) and external organisations

## Special Educational Needs (SEN) Week 2024: Embrace Inclusion, Empower Minds



[SEN Week 2024](#) has expanded from a one-day SEN Day in 2021 to a week-long series. It was a special event dedicated to raising awareness and support for SEN students across the University community.

# SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

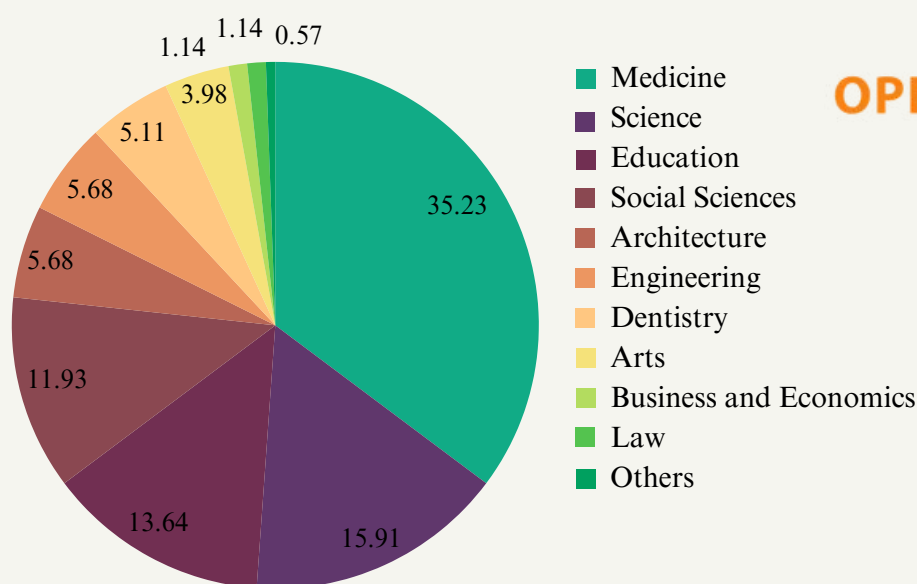
## Open Science

HKU Libraries is dedicated to supporting Open Science, which includes facilitating open access (OA) to research outputs, such as publications, research data, and others, aiming to strengthen research integrity, increase visibility and impact, and advance research for social good.

In addition to entering Transformative Agreements, we organised various education and advocacy activities. In [Open Access Week 2023 at HKU Libraries](#), we organised two seminars, one social media campaign and one challenge to engage users and the public. In 2024, we further created a [guide to promote open science related concepts and our support to researchers](#).

In 2022-24, the Libraries established the [HKU Libraries Open Access Author Fund](#) to support HKU authors to make their publications open access. The aims were to encourage participation in publishing open access, and to bring about the potential benefits including broader readership and citation advantage. In total, there were 176 successful applications, among which the majority was from the Faculties of Medicine (35.23%), Science (15.91%), and Education (13.64%).

Note: Effective from 1 July 2024, the HKU Libraries Open Access Author Fund was suspended due to insufficient funding.



Percentage of successful applications of HKU Libraries Open Access Author Fund by Faculty (%)

## Research Data Services

### Data Management Plans and Dataset Submissions on DataHub

With the aim of enhancing research integrity and supporting the University's policy on research data and records management, the Libraries provides [research data services](#) that support researchers in organizing, documenting, storing, and preserving research data. In the past 3 years, 2,842 Data Management Plans (DMP) have been processed. [DataHub](#), the HKU institutional data repository, has received 2,412 datasets submitted by research staff and students in 2021-24.



	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
DMP submissions	904	936	1,002
Dataset submissions	589	819	1,004



### Research Data Academy

The Libraries serves as a research integrity advocate by engaging students and staff in research data management and data sharing through initiatives such as the [Research Data Academy](#). This programme aims to strengthen data literacy skills of our researchers by sharing essential practices and tools for research data management. The academy has been highly successful, with 10 training sessions attracting 809 participants from over 20 countries and regions in 2024.



## Research Output Management

### RIMS (2022- present)

The Research Information Management System (RIMS) is a web-based portal for managing the University research grants and outputs. Launched in 2022-23, it replaced the former research grants and research outputs system.

As the administrator of the RIMS Research Output Module since 2023, the Libraries has been actively engaged in validating research output records to ensure data accuracy and reliability.

Over the past two years, we have validated 24,600 records.

Year	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of records validated	10,937	13,663

In collaboration with other stakeholders, the Libraries will continue to streamline the research output submission process and ensure an accurate research profile of individual, Faculty as well as the University as a whole.

### Scholars Hub

Scholars Hub is an open access institutional repository to collect, preserve, showcase and disseminate the research outputs of HKU researchers. After the researchers input their research outputs in RIMS, Scholars Hub serves as the front end to display these records. Furthermore, Researcher Pages (RPs) are specifically designed for professoriate scholars to highlight their research contributions and facilitate knowledge exchange. Over the past three years, the Libraries has created 528 RPs to boost the visibility of academic profiles.



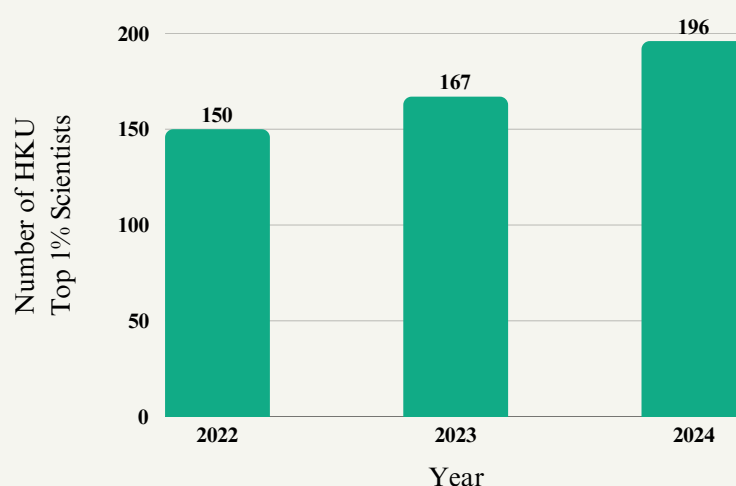
## Bibliometric and Research Impact

Leveraging our expertise and resources and partnering with departments, Faculties and other stakeholders, the Libraries provides bibliometric analysis to facilitate the research performance, impact and visibility of the University and support the senior management team in decision-making.

### HKU Top 1% Scientists

The Libraries conducts the annual Top 1% HKU Scientists Exercise to identify distinguished HKU scholars, utilizing data from [Essential Science Indicators \(ESI\)](#). Over the past three years, the number of recognized HKU Top 1% Scientists has shown significant growth, with 150 in 2022, 167 in 2023, and 196 in 2024. This information was disseminated through HKU's [Scholars Hub](#) and [First and Foremost](#), boosting the visibility of HKU scholars.

Number of HKU Top 1% Scientists in 2022 to 2024



### HKU Highly Cited Researchers (HCRs)

Libraries has been assisting the University in acknowledging its Highly Cited Researchers named by Clarivate. Through our coordination, the University reached a milestone of 51 HCRs in 2023. This achievement elevated HKU to the 13th place globally and 2nd in Asia among universities. In 2024, with the record high of 53 HCRs, the University further ascended to the 10th place ranking globally among all institutions. The Libraries' proactive support in identifying the HCRs has enhanced the University's global reputation and research excellence.



# STAFF KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

## 2021/7 - 2022/6

- [25 Oct 2021] Directors Panel Discussion: COAR Asia OA Conference: Directors Panel Discussion - Investing in Open Infrastructure and Services - The Benefits and Challenges (Jesse Xiao)
- [28 Oct 2021] Presentation - Digital Dissertations Consortium Conference 2021 (2021 數位化論文典藏聯盟【Beyond Citations 發揮你的影響力：大學圖書館學術研究影響力分析服務】研討會) (Jacky Li)
- [21 Jun 2022] Empowering Library Leaders and Diversity Worldwide- The Asia & Oceania Experience, moderator of the webinar organized by IFLA's Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS) in collaboration with the New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) (Tina Yang)

## 2022/7 - 2023/6

- [21 Sep 2022] Guest Speaker - The Role of Bibliometrics in library and information research& services (International Webinar University of Indonesia) (Jesse Xiao)
- [23 Nov 2022] Guest Speaker - Scival annual conference (Jesse Xiao)
- [28 Nov 2022] Guest Speaker - InCites Great China Area Webinar (Jesse Xiao)
- [14 Feb 2023] Guest Speaker - NISO+ Conference (Jesse Xiao)
- [20 Apr 2023] Presentation: 'De Gruyter EBA webinar: Case Study: HKUL Experience' (Kitman Chan, Chloe Ng)
- [26 Apr 2023] IFLA Webinar: Northeast Asian libraries on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - Libraries Serving People with Special Needs (Tina Yang, Connie Kwong, Cheryl Lee)
- [11 May 2023] Presentation: 'De Gruyter webinar : Supporting Research Through Library Partnerships - HKU Libraries' Experience (Tina Yang, Jesse Xiao, Florence Ng)
- [25 May 2023] Presentation: 'iGroup Education Conference 2023: Leveraging Open Access and Open Science for a Sustainable Future- HKU Libraries' Experience (Tina Yang, Jesse Xiao, Florence Ng)
- [16 Jun 2023] Presentation: "E-books supporting learning and research - HKU Libraries' experience" in Elsevier eBooks Forum 2023 - Library Service Innovation: Research, Teaching and Learning in the Digital Era (Fanny Liu)



## **2023/7 - 2024/6**

- [27-28 Jul 2023] Shenzhen Study Trip (Tina Yang, Rebecca Tam, Katherine Choi, Jacky Li, Jenny Chan)
- [28 Jul 2023] Presentation: 7th Sino-American Academic Library Forum on Development and Cooperation (Tina Yang, Jesse Xiao)
- [20-23 Oct 2023] International Conference on the Cooperation of East Asian Collections in Academic Libraries (Sun Yat-sen University) (Esther Woo, Jacky Li)
- [27-30 Oct 2023] Peking University Library 125th Anniversary Celebration (Tina Yang, Jacky Li)
- [24 Nov 2023] Presentation: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Libraries Alliance (GHMULA) Youth Forum 2023 (Alice Chan, Cindy Liang)
- [11-12 Jan 2024] Greater Bay Area Study Trip for JULAC Directors (Tina Yang)
- [19-22 Feb 2024] 2024 International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians (National Central Library) (Jacky Li)
- [19 Mar 2024] RLP Leadership Roundtable: Bibliometrics and research impact (session 1) (Tina Yang, Fanny Liu, Stella Chow)
- [21 Jun 2024] RLP Leadership Roundtable on Cross-campus collaboration in research support (Tina Yang, Fanny Liu, Stella Chow, Florence Ng, Wilson Tang)
- [24 Jun 2024] Tina Yang, Presenter, CNKI 2024 Forum on Future of World Academic Library (WAL), 24-27 June 2024, Beijing (Tina Yang, Fanny Liu, Florence Ng)

## **Committee Memberships**

### Future of Scholarly Communication and e-Scholarship

- [Jul 2021 - Jun 2022] Board member (Jesse Xiao)

### IFLA Asia and Oceania Regional Division Committee

- [2021 - 2023] Member (Tina Yang)

### IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) Section Standing Committee

- [Jul 2023 - present ] Member (Tina Yang)

## **ORCID**

- [Jul 2021 - Jun 2022] Board member (Jesse Xiao)

### JULAC Learning Strategies Committee

- [Jul 2020 - Oct 2023] Member (Tina Yang)
- [Oct 2023 - present ] Member (Rebecca Tam)

### JULAC Research Support Committee

- [Jul 2023 - present] Member (Tina Yang)

### Society for Chinese Studies Librarians (SCSL) Committee for Professional Activities

- [Apr 2024- present] Member (Jacky Li)

### World Data System - Early Career Researchers and Scientists Network

- [2020 - 2022] Chair (Jesse Xiao)

# COLLECTION SERVICES

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## **DEVELOP, FACILITATE ACCESS TO, AND CREATE RESPONSIVE COLLECTIONS**

The modern library is required to enhance responsiveness, accessibility, and also uniqueness of its collections. The Libraries are under high expectation to accommodate their information needs in the broadest possible sense. We will ensure access to our resources so that our users, and where possible the entire global research community, can extract and enjoy the value and significance of our resources.

## **THE LIFECYCLE OF LIBRARY COLLECTION: FROM ACQUIRE TO RETIRE**

### **Acquisitions**

First of all, faculty and subject librarians will refer to the Collection Development Policy and select materials based on curricular needs, research interests and user demands. Acquisition staff work closely in processing the recommendation and the subscription, minimising spending as well as maximising the access scope, to meet the demand. During procurement, Collection Services is responsible for the budgeting, ordering, payment, licensing and also receiving.

As part of our digital transformation effort, new additions are no longer displayed physically in the Main Library, and the new acquisition list is being regularly revised to include electronic resources.

## **Notable Acquisitions**

### **[Academic Complete](#)**

The collection is a cross-searchable multidisciplinary database of electronic books featuring publications from major academic publishers hosted on ProQuest Ebook Central. New titles are being added regularly, covering a wide range of subjects, including Arts, Business, Engineering, Humanities Medicine, Sciences, and Social Sciences.

### **[AIP Publishing Books](#)**

AIP Publishing's books collection is designed to help researchers maintain proficiency in their areas of expertise, attain knowledge of new subjects and topics, and learn new techniques for data collections and analytics. The first book collection will have no DRM and will be integrated on the Scitation platform allowing for easy searching and account management.

### **[APA PsycTHERAPY](#)**

This database of streaming psychotherapy demonstrations features some of the most renowned therapists in North America working with participants on a host of therapeutic topics. It allows viewers to go straight into the heart of clinical practice with demonstrations of psychotherapy, as it is done by today's leading practitioners. Resources for teaching and training in psychotherapy practice and for education about psychology are searchable by titles, therapy topics, therapeutic approaches, and therapists.

### **[Covidence: Better Systematic Review Management](#)**

The Covidence online software product, trusted by over 400,000 researchers and more than 350 leading universities, societies, and hospitals globally, improves healthcare evidence synthesis by enhancing the efficiency and experience of creating and maintaining high-quality Systematic Reviews with greater precision and collaboration. It also continues to evolve, with recent product updates advancing the tool towards the vision of a world where answers to questions about health and other fields of human wellbeing are accurate, up-to-date and accessible.

### **[Crime, Punishment and Popular Culture, 1790-1920](#)**

Crime, Punishment, and Popular Culture, 1790-1920 is a collection comprising more than 2 million pages. It contains manuscripts, books, broadsheets, periodicals and printed matters. This collection unites a number of geographic areas, reflecting the widespread impact of the changes in crime and its policing during the long nineteenth century. It covers Europe, North America, India, and the Antipodes and includes materials in English, Spanish, French, Italian, and German. Using this collection, it is possible to trace the influence of a legal judgement or development of a penal methodology through various different jurisdictions. This collection also unites a number of disciplines, from law, criminology, and history to studies of popular culture and fiction.

### [Digital Archives from Gale Accelerate Programme](#)

This programme allows instant access to Gale Primary Sources, including historical newspapers and thematic collections. The Libraries has purchased the following digital collections through the Gale Accelerate programme.

1. Archives of Sexuality and Gender: 1. LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940, Part 1
2. (Archives Unbound) China: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1945-1949
3. China and the Modern World: Imperial China and The West, Part 1
4. China and the Modern World: Imperial China and The West, Part 2
5. Declassified Documents Online: Twentieth Century British Intelligence: An Intelligence Empire
6. International Herald Tribune Historical Archive, 1887–2013
7. National Geographic Magazine Archive, 1888-2020
8. Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Maps and Travel Literature
9. Nineteenth Century UK Periodicals, Parts 1 and Part 2
10. Punch Historical Archive, 1841-1992
11. The Economist Historical Archive, 2016-2020
12. The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003
13. The Telegraph Historical Archive, 1855-2016

### [Mintel GNPD](#)

A database that monitors worldwide product innovation and new product activity in consumer-packaged goods markets, Mintel GNPD provides comprehensive data on new products introduced in the food, drink, household, beauty & personal care, healthcare, and pet sectors across key global markets. It offers the level of details required, featuring hundreds of millions of data point that encompass subcategories, product claims, packaging attributes, and ingredients.

### [Photography](#)

The Photography database delivers images from Britain, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. It assembles collections of photographs, photograph albums, photographically illustrated books and texts on the early history of photography found in libraries, archives and museums across the globe.

### [Scite: Smart Citations for Better Research](#)

Scite is an AI tool to help researchers better discover and evaluate scientific articles through Smart Citations - citations that display the context and describe whether the article provides supporting or contrasting evidence.

### [The Far Eastern Economic Review Archive](#)

This archive features more than 3,000 issues. The Far Eastern Economic Review (1946-2009) was known for its authoritative reporting and was devoted to many facets of the Asia-Pacific region, including business and economics, politics, international relations, and the arts/culture. Following an initial emphasis on China and Hong Kong, the scope of the magazine's coverage subsequently expanded to encompass other Asian, European and Oceanic regions and countries.

## [19th Century British Library Newspapers](#)

Searchable full texts and full runs of newspapers specially selected by the British Library to best represent nineteenth-century Britain, this new collection includes national and regional newspapers, from: established countries or University towns; the new industrial powerhouses of the manufacturing Midlands; and Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Special attention was paid to include newspapers that helped lead particular political or social movements such as Reform, Chartism, and Home Rule. Penny Papers aimed at the working and clerical classes are also included.

## [中華再造善本數據庫](#)

The database includes five series, namely: Tang-Song Series, Jin-Yuan Series, Ming Dynasty Series, Qing Dynasty Series, and Minority Language Series. The Tang-Song and Jin-Yuan Series consist of 758 titles, while the Ming and Qing Dynasties comprise 580 titles.

中華再造善本數據庫分5編，名為【唐宋編】、【金元編】、【明代編】、【清代編】、【少數民族文字古籍編】。唐宋、金元編共758種；明代編，清代編選目580種。

## [韓使燕行錄](#)

During the Ming and Qing dynasties, diplomatic exchanges between Korea and China were frequent. Korean diplomats documented their experiences in China, producing records known as "Yŏnhaengnok." These accounts were primarily written in Chinese, with some composed in Korean.

The earliest of the "Yŏnhaengnok" works dates back to the second year of Emperor Chongde's reign (1637), with the oldest extant document being "Shenyang ri cheng" by Jin Zongyi. The most recent known work is "Yan yuan ri lu," recorded in the fourteenth year of Emperor Guangxu's reign (1888).

The "Yŏnhaengnok" chronicles the journeys undertaken, the members of the diplomatic missions, the tributes presented, and the scenery encountered. These records provide diverse insights into China's political, economic, cultural, and social customs of the time. They emphasize contemporary politics, notable figures, tributary diplomacy, border trade, merchant markets, the civil service examination system, and marriage and funeral customs. The focus on these aspects indicates that Korean scholars held a keen interest in various dimensions of Chinese society. For researchers of Ming and Qing history, these documents offer invaluable perspectives on China from an external viewpoint.

明清兩朝，來華的朝鮮使團往來頻繁。使團有關人員將其在華時的所見所聞著錄成書，這在朝鮮的歷史上被統稱為《燕行錄》。它們多是用漢文寫成，也有個別是用諺文(即朝鮮文)寫作的。最早的《燕行錄》著述的時間開始於崇德二年(1637)，今所能見到的是金宗一寫的《沈陽日乘》，而能見到的最晚的著作則是光緒十四年(1888)無名氏的《燕轅日錄》。

《燕行錄》記載了路途，使行人員，貢品和沿路所見的風景，對於中國當時的政治，經濟，文化，社會風俗都有詳略各異的記述。尤其對於中國的時政、著名人物、藩屬外交、邊境貿易、商人市集、士人科舉、以及婚喪風俗都是記述較多的內容，從這些內容的側重點也可以看出，當時的朝鮮學者對中國社會各個方面都非常感興趣。對於研究明清史的學者而言，是從另一個角度看中國的珍貴史料。

## **Metadata Enhancement (Cataloguing)**

After receiving and ensuring the accessibility, cataloguing staff create or update metadata records following international standards like MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging), RDA (Resource Description and Access), or Dublin Core for items. This ensures discoverability in the library catalogue. For print materials, spine labels, barcodes and RFID tags will be added and shelved. For electronic materials, access links and digital rights are embedded into the records.

In the past three years, over 370,000 title records and 1,500 controlled heading records of print and e-resources have been created and contributed to OCLC to support international discoverability. The Libraries' authority records allows for consistent search and cross-language discovery; it consolidates all HKU scholars' works under a single authoritative name, regardless of language or pseudonyms.

Along with biographical data, related subjects and other links to relevant works, the Libraries' linked data enable authority-controlled browsing, that can disambiguate as well as link HKU authors' profiles in multiple languages – to ensure their works can be more easily accessible to a global audience.

Given that not all researchers have entries in Wikidata, since 2023, it has also become the Libraries' routine duty to create and maintain HKU professors' records, regarding their corresponding books and publications. While encountering books during cataloguing, approximately 50 records have been created. At the same time, researchers at HKU have records in LC authority file database.

Alongside cataloguing, the Libraries' metadata digital projects conducts media enhancement of monographs, audio-visuals, serials and print journals, to improve accessibility and further advance electronic usage of the general library collections and archives.

## Cataloguing and Metadata Projects

### 馮平山圖書館善本書影像庫 Fung Ping Shan Digital Collection Rare Books

[馮平山圖書館善本書影像庫 Fung Ping Shan Library Rare Books Online@Digital Repository](#)

Provide metadata for the collection, of 116 rare books, across over 1,000 volumes

### 羅禎符太醫特藏 Dr Luo Zhenfu Collection

[羅禎符太醫特藏 Dr Luo Zhenfu Collection@Digital Repository](#)

Contains six sub-collections, namely artwork, correspondences, manuscripts, Sang Sang Tong Commerce, prescriptions and rubbings.

### Frank Fischbeck Collection,

2021 - 2023

[Frank Fischbeck Collection@Digital Repository](#)

Provide metadata for the collection, approximately 24,000 photos

### Palmer and Turner (P&T Group) Collection,

December 2020 - 2022

[Palmer and Turner \(P&T Group\) Collection@Digital Repository](#)

Provide metadata for architectural drawings, 242 projects available

### 香港大學饒宗頤學術館電子書 HKU Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole ebooks Collection,

March 2024 – January 2025

[香港大學饒宗頤學術館電子書 HKU Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole ebooks Collection@Digital Repository](#)

Provide cataloguing services for approximately 9,000 books and journals in Chinese, Japanese, English, French, German, Sanskrit and Thai

Over the years, the Libraries' digital cataloguing (CAT) projects generates consistent, detailed metadata for advanced search and discovery. The enhanced metadata of these collections improves search accuracy for library users and enriches the research experience; the metadata fields allow for precise, comprehensive search results as well as for more convenient, faceted and intuitive browsing (Enables filtering by author, subject, publication date, etc.).

As a result, metadata enhancement enables users to fully explore the Libraries' extensive collections and resources regardless of format or original language-providing crucial context/ supplementary information for the researchers to better understand and utilise for further analysis.

## Collection Management & Collection Development

The goal of the Libraries is to provide an effective combination of print, non-print and electronic resources, and the integration of the use of these resources in support of teaching, learning and research at the University. Electronic resources, however, pose challenges not encountered with the acquisitions of traditional library materials, such as access, interface, technical support and licensing.

The Libraries therefore formulated a separate [Electronic Resources Collection Development Policy](#) to address these issues. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines in choosing appropriate electronic resources and to establish consistency and priorities in managing this important part of the Libraries' collection. The electronic resources support the curricular and research needs of the University. Collectively, a balance should be sought among the various disciplines and intellectual levels (undergraduate, graduate, and faculty) to meet the different needs.

At the same time, providing a solution to space shortages, the library collections prioritise electronic access of digital resources. On the exception of unique titles and core collections – the systematic regulation of physical items is necessary to keep library space with healthy use and symbolises the Libraries' move towards the data-driven collection management, in successfully adjusting from a cluttered 3 million physical resources to a refined 2.8 million, resulting in release of a few thousands of linear metres of shelf space.

In the past three years, large scale collection reviews and shelf management projects were conducted across the whole library system to reorganize collections through the following initiatives:

1. Convert print journal subscriptions to digital versions;
2. Prioritise the acquisition of general collection materials and resources in digital format;
3. Strictly implement single copy policy for print books except course materials;
4. De-duplicate print titles with digital format

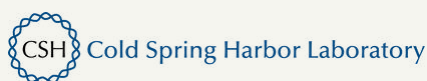
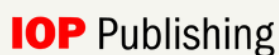
## TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS

A Transformative Agreement (TA), sometimes used interchangeably with Read & Publish agreement (R&P), is an agreement with a publisher that takes the library's existing expenditure on subscriptions and repurposes it to cover both reading and publishing in that publisher's journals. If an academic publishes in a journal that is included in one of the R&P agreements, they may be able to publish direct to open access with no transactional article processing charges.

HKU Libraries has signed transformative agreements, offering HKU corresponding authors full or discount Article Processing Charge (APC) waiver for open access publishing. Various publishers provide HKU authors with full Article Processing Charge waivers to publish their research in eligible open access and hybrid journals at no cost.

### Transformative Agreements entered by HKUL, 2022-2024

- BioMed Central
- Cambridge University Press
- Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory Press
- Company of Biologists
- Institute of Physics Publishing
- Karger Publishers
- Microbiology Society
- Portland Press
- SCOAP<sup>3</sup>
- Springer Nature Group (Springer Hybrid Journals)
- Wiley



## SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN

Subscribe to Open (S2O) is a pragmatic approach for converting subscription journals to open access—free and immediate online availability of research—without reliance on either article processing charges (APCs) or altruism.

S2O relies on existing library subscription procurement processes. The model provides a realistic and immediate route to opening a vast body of research output that would otherwise remain gated.

S2O allows publishers to convert journals from subscriptions to Open Access, one year at a time. Using S2O, a publisher offers a journal's current subscribers continued access. If all current subscribers participate in the S2O offer (simply by not opting out) the publisher opens the content covered by that year's subscription. If participation is not sufficient—for example, if some subscribers delay renewing in the expectation that they can gain access without participating—then that year's content remains gated. In some cases, access to backfile content may be used to enhance the offer.

### **Contribution to Subscribe to Open (S2O) by HKUL, 2022-2024**

- Annual Reviews Subscribe to Open (S2O) journals

HKUL strived to support Open Access in terms of both Read and Publish. While Library has been supporting the electronic access to different resources for long, the purchase models involving publishing components are also being handled with maximising research output availability with Open Access, at the same time minimizing the extra effort in affording the Publish cost on top of Read cost.

# LENDING SERVICES & LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

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## NEW SERVICE MODEL



# Learning Environment Services

powered by ITS & University Libraries  
The University of Hong Kong

HKU Libraries entered a phased co-branding strategy with Information Technology Services (ITS), that supports and enhances teaching and learning experiences with the latest education technologies for multimedia applications.

From 2022, a co-branded Central Learning Space: classrooms; learning spaces; media services; events and audio-visual consultancy came under one management. From June 2023, further collaboration with lending services assisted the digital transformation in technology enablement, automation and robotics implementation into library services.

Central Learning Space under this service model include:

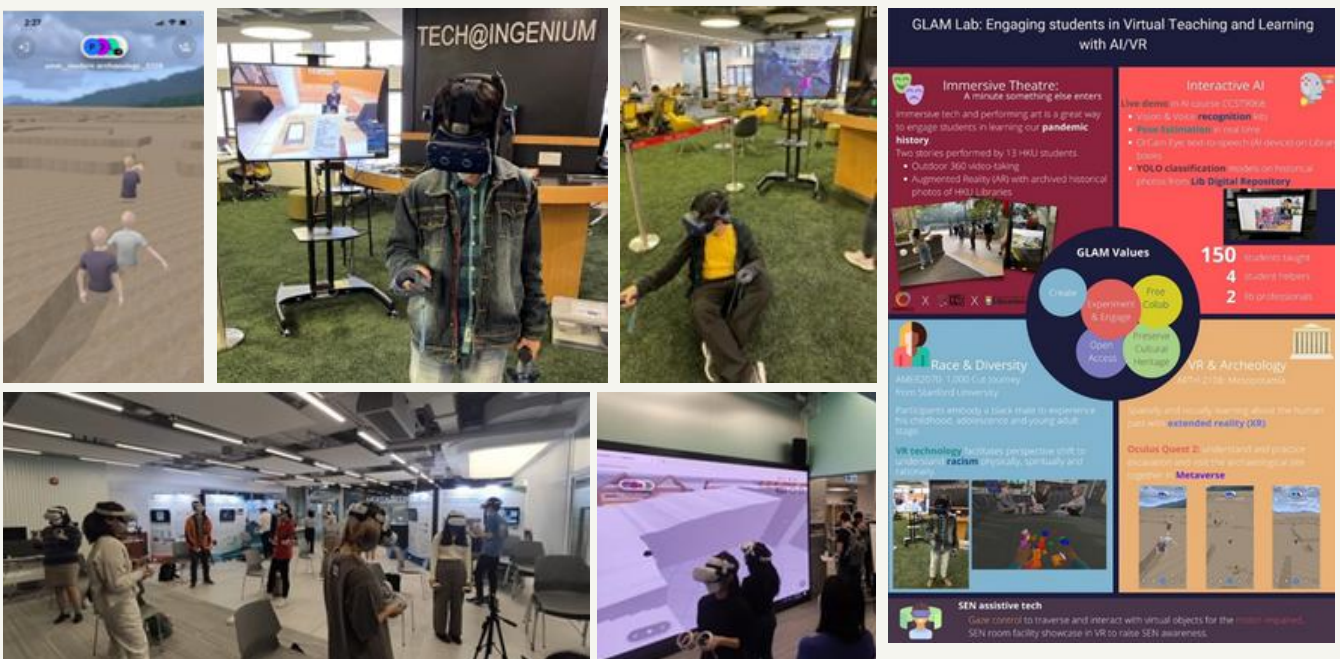
- Chi Wah Learning Commons
- Dental Library
- Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library
- Library 24, at Runme Shaw Building
- Lui Che Woo Law Library
- Main Library
- Music Library
- Tin Ka Ping Education Library
- Yu Chun Keung Medical Library, including TechMezz (Technology-Enriched Mezzanine)

The co-branding between ITS and the Libraries in learning space management offers numerous advantages, fostering an enriched educational environment. By combining their expertise, these two entities can optimize resource utilisation, ensuring efficient use of space, technology, and personnel. This collaboration enhances the user experience by providing seamless access to digital resources, streamlined support, and integrated learning environments. Innovative learning spaces emerge from this partnership, blending traditional library resources with cutting-edge technology such as collaborative workspaces and multimedia labs. Comprehensive support services become available, encompassing technical assistance, research support, and digital literacy training, all through a unified point of contact. The co-branding efforts also lead to cost savings through shared infrastructure and coordinated staffing, allowing us to allocate funds to other critical initiatives. These collaborative spaces foster community engagement, promoting interaction among students, faculty, and staff through events and group activities. Ultimately, the co-branding aligns with the University's mission, enhancing learning outcomes and student success. By creating a cohesive, efficient, and supportive learning environment, co-branding between ITS and the Libraries ensures a dynamic and responsive educational experience for the entire University.

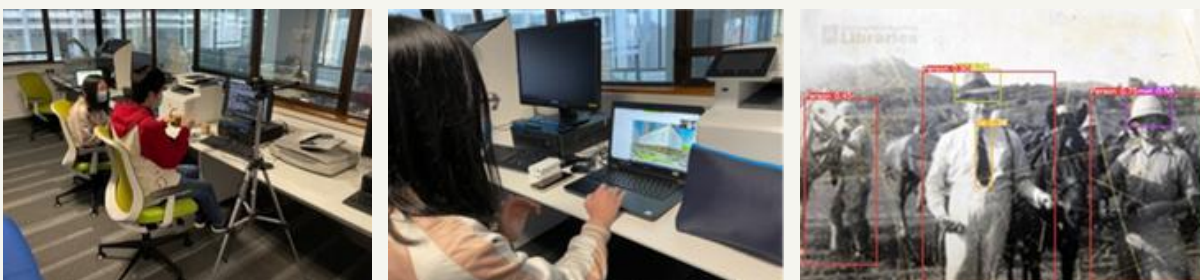
## GLAM Lab: Recalling a GLAMorous Time

In times of pandemic restrictions, the UGC's Special Grant for Strategic Development of Virtual Teaching and Learning enabled HKU Libraries to experiment with its own Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums (GLAM) Lab. By leveraging its own collections in application with the creative use of digital technologies, interdisciplinary/ multimedia resources and metaspaces, the Libraries was able to: enrich the virtual teaching and learning experience using immersive AI and VR tools; promote students' digital literacy development through self- and collaborative- learning; and further develop the digital scholarship ecosystem of the University. Now, the piloting technology can be transferred and applied across different academic areas around campus.

(ARTH 2108 & AMER2070) Teaching support of VTL classes, using virtual reality in Metaverse; archaeological on-site scanning



(CCST9069) Teaching support of Common Core course, using AI facilities and AI models



# WORKFLOW IMPROVEMENT AND AUTOMATION IN LIBRARY OPERATIONS

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lending Services initiated gradual workflow automation improvements. The pandemic subsequently expedited the automation process across all areas.

Between July 2021 and June 2024, significant achievements in workflow automation focused on three core lending services.



mobile@HKUL



## 1. Library Membership

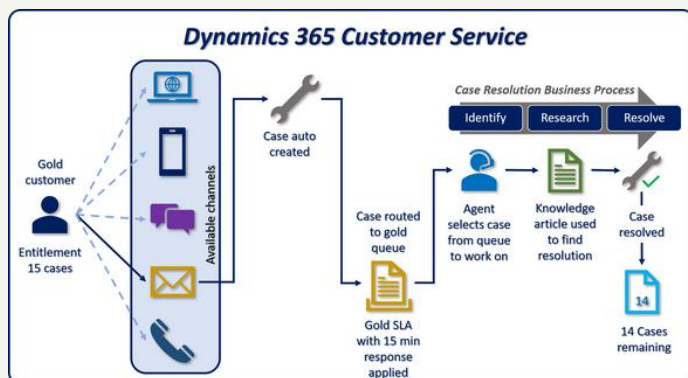
Since 2022, library membership registrations have been moved online, with “Circle of Friends” memberships no longer accepting print forms. Additionally, the “**HKU Graduate**” memberships are consolidated into one category, streamlining the process to accepting online applications and payments only. Walk-in applications are no longer accepted, and an automatic update of library records for successful renewal applications were established with the support of the Technology Support Services in 2023. This allows staff to focus on processing applications at the backend, saving time and space previously used for traditional filing or scanning of print data cards/application forms.

In June 2024, the library introduced **virtual library cards** with assistance and support from ITS, in collaboration with the HKU Summer Institute. This initiative saves the time previously spent on physical card processing, including card printing, filing, and distribution for both the library and concerned parties.



## 2. Lending and User Services

The pilot implementation of virtual counter services and a self-service model during the pandemic demonstrated effectiveness, efficiency, and flexibility for HKU Libraries. Now, on-site enquiries are handled daily by the **HelloDoor** virtual reception. Library staff are no longer required to be stationed at service counters, allowing them to focus on other backend duties while still being able to respond promptly to a hybrid model of face-to-face or virtual enquiries.



Additionally, with the introduction of the **Dynamics 365 Customer Service** enquiry platform in 2023, we can:

- Streamline all enquiries from cross-divisions into a single platform
- Track customer issues through cases, record interactions related to a case, and share information in the knowledge base
- Create and track services through service-level agreements (SLA)
- Conduct AI-driven embedded insights and analytics

In addition to implementing virtual counter services supported by the Dynamic 365 Customer Service platform, we have introduced a new central-pool rotation system among frontline staff at Main and Branch libraries since 2023. This model was later expanded to include the Law and Medical libraries late 2023. The central-pool rotation system primarily entails Main Library staff supporting branches, with the assistance of reduced counter service hours at the Main Library. Specifically, we offer a hybrid mode of virtual and face-to-face services during peak traffic hours (Monday to Friday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm; 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm; Saturday & Sunday 11:00 am - 12:00 noon; 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm). This strategy enables colleagues to manage routine tasks like shelving, eliminate backlogs, and offer support at branch locations.

Furthermore, in 2023, online payment options for library fines and fees were introduced through collaboration with Technology Support Services. Additionally, the online payment platform for expired patrons was launched in October. These initiatives aimed to enhance operational efficiency by offering users the convenience of self-payment online. This addresses enquiries from users leaving HKU or returning overseas who wish to settle outstanding payments.

### 3. InterLibrary Loan Service

To further enhance lending services and resource sharing capabilities, HKU Libraries launched the Rapido implementation with ALMA on March 20, 2023, integrating the existing interlibrary loan services platforms into our library catalog Find@HKUL. The new Rapido on Find@HKUL consolidates all search services and centralizes all lending requests on a single interface, whether local or overseas. Patrons can easily search, discover, and directly request physical and digital content available from other UGC-funded libraries or institutions worldwide using Find@HKUL.

After integrating this system upgrade, the lending services experience is streamlined, with automated request filling for most digital requests, thereby improving efficiency and user experience. Furthermore, it will better facilitate the retrieval and analysis of statistics with the use of one major platform, ALMA.

**HKU Libraries New Interlibrary Loan Service**

The University of Hong Kong Libraries is excited to announce the launch of a new Interlibrary Loan service on 20 March 2023! By utilizing Rapido, a discovery-to-delivery library resource sharing product from Ex Libris, Interlibrary Loan and HKALL are now integrated into one single platform.

## INTRODUCTION OF ROBOTS

The Libraries currently invests and deploys four robots in operation:

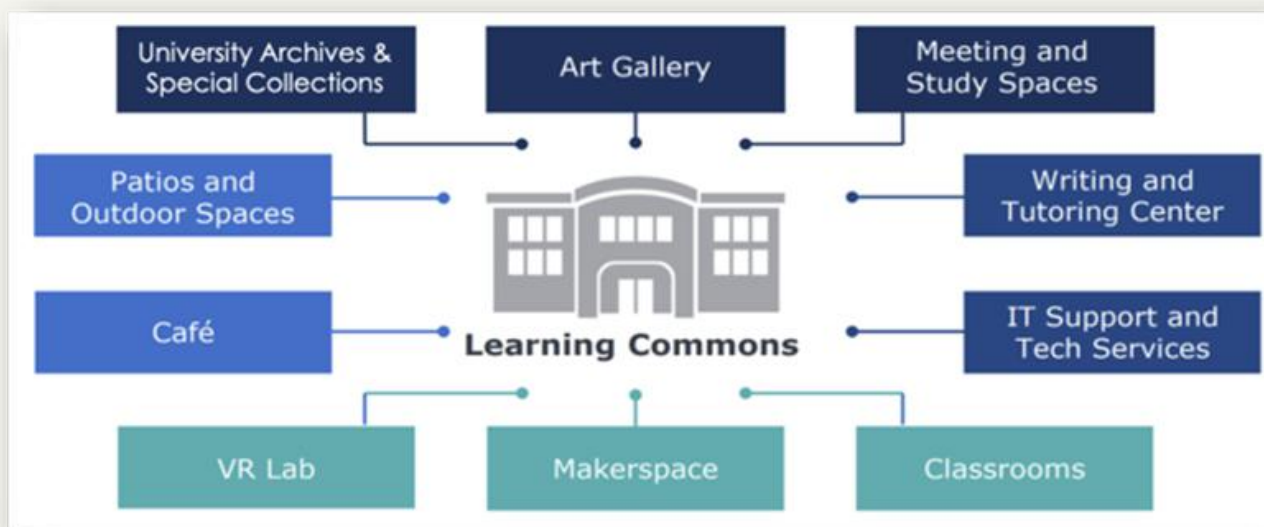
- Swiftbot: indoor, inter-floor delivery in Main Library
- Patrol robot: Stationed in Main Library
- Semi-outdoor robot: inter-branch delivery between Main Library and Law Library
- Greeting and guidance assistant robot: Stationed on 2/F, Main Library



We are excited to enhance the use of robots to alleviate manpower requirements. The robots will handle basic enquiries, library tours, and delivery services, enabling our library staff to focus on supporting a wider variety of library services.

## SPACE TRANSFORMATION

The University Libraries conducts major space transformations and reorganisation of the learning commons – by acquiring new and refurbishing existing facilities and property assets – to provide learning environments that are well-suited for a modern, dynamic and inclusive academic institution. From the EAB study - Introduction to Campus of the Future, less space will be dedicated to book shelving and would repurpose for the other student needs, focusing on convenience, collaboration and connectivity.



[Photo Source: EAB's Introduction to Campus of the Future]

## Roadmap:

<b>Tin Ka Ping Education Library</b> October 2022 ( <i>1st relaunch</i> )	<b>Music Library</b> October 2023	<b>Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library</b> September 2024 <b>Preservation &amp; Conservation Mini-Lab</b> 2025
<b>Yu Chun Keung Medical Library Technology-Enriched Learning Mezzanine (TechMezz)</b> February 2023	<b>Tin Ka Ping Education Library</b> September 2023 ( <i>2nd relaunch</i> )	<b>Chi Wah Learning Commons</b> 2025 <b>Library 24</b> December 2024 <b>Level 3, Main Library</b> July 2024

# YU CHUN KEUNG MEDICAL LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY-ENRICHED LEARNING MEZZANINE (TechMezz)



In February 2023, the Yu Chun Keung Medical Library received an upgrade with the opening of a Technology-Enriched Learning Mezzanine (TechMezz), where students can access the latest virtual reality tools outside of classrooms, to further advance their understanding of anatomy.

The new open learning space houses two Anatomage Tables - 3D anatomy and virtual dissection systems designed for anatomy education - alongside 32 virtual reality stations and the latest interactive whiteboards for immersive, multimedia self-learning. Pre-loaded modules guide students to interact with a virtual cadaver, enhancing learners' understanding of the systems of the human body.



[Photo Source: HKU Medicine, Teaching and Learning, EdTech]



The use of VR technology in the Medical Library transports students into a gamified experience to examine the structures of the body and explore dissection beyond the anatomy lab, where they are no longer limited by space or time constraints and are exposed to anatomical structures previously unseen in human cadavers, to be better prepared for forthcoming clinical practice.



**10 CWLCs 10th Anniversary Ceremony**  
*Hybrid Teaching and Learning Conference*



## CHI WAH LEARNING COMMONS

The 6,000 square-metre Chi Wah Learning Commons represents a new era of self-operated teaching and learning. Since establishment, it has always played a crucial role in supporting the University’s mission to provide world-class education to students and staff, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and a wide array of digital resources. Founded at the heart of the Centennial Campus, the multi-level technology-rich amenity features a variety of spaces that enable and promote both self- and collaborative- learning, including but not limited to: quiet study areas; reading and lounging areas; individual workstations; open-collaboration worktables; and private group study rooms.

In May 2023, HKU Libraries commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Chi Wah Learning Commons. Joined by academics, IT representatives and education professionals, the ceremony represents a significant milestone for the University and is testimony of the continued successes achieved by one of the highest-leading learning centres in Hong Kong. The anniversary also serves as an important milestone for the Libraries, characterised in the co-branded strategy: the Chi Wah Learning Commons adopted the Libraries’ access control and room booking system; and the Libraries became furnished with the “Chi Wah style”, now equipped of high-definition audiovisual systems.

Moving forward, HKU Libraries is excited for the eventual launch of the University History Gallery at the ground floor of Chi Wah Learning Commons, a new permanent exhibition and gallery space for the University Archives, that will allow local and international communities to better engage, appreciate and be part of the University’s history.



## TIN KA PING EDUCATION LIBRARY

With the adoption of virtual teaching and learning accelerated across the education sector, the Libraries embraces a new chapter in digital literacy education for self-paced learning and informal teaching, through the relaunch of the Tin Ka Ping Education Library as a next-generation collaborative space, alongside a revamped user experience for digital library services.



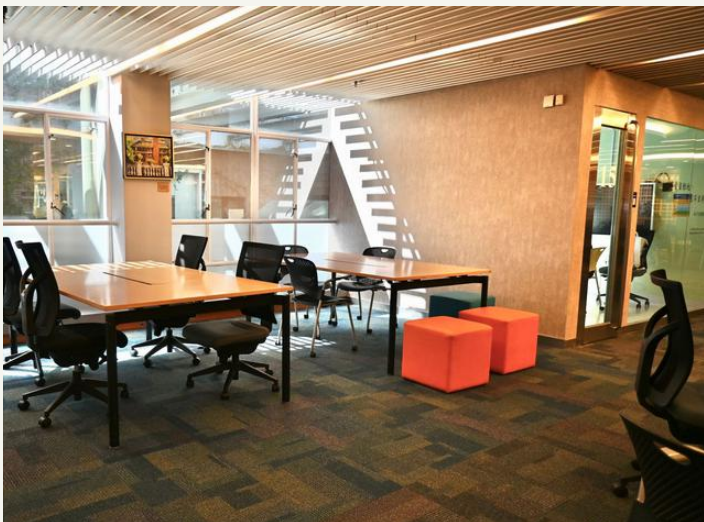
Taking inspiration from Chi Wah Learning Commons, its transformation into a self-operated digital learning space encourages active self-learning, as well as suits different collaboration needs. The Education Library's newly-optimised facilities and equipment - not to mention the 18 discussion rooms, each upgraded with state-of-the-art technology - fosters a flexible, dynamic and inclusive environment for private discussions and/ or open area group interactions.





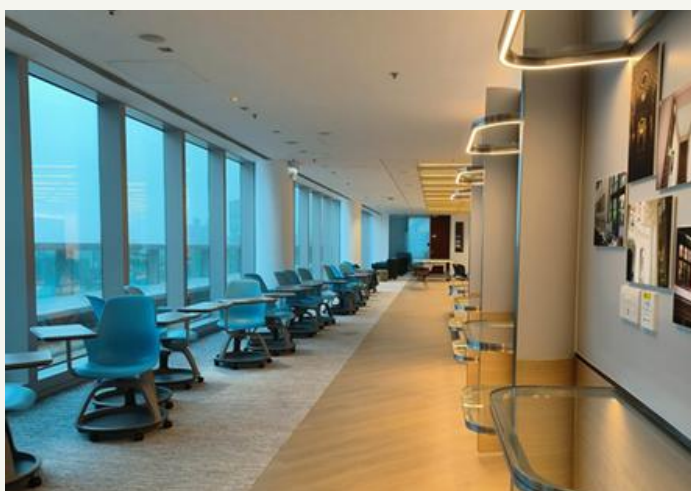
Its digitization also produces more responsive and user-centric library services for HKU students and staff. The Education Library's e-preferred approach to collection development conveniently provides users with centralised access to over 8.5 million items of e-resources, as well as library subject guides, reading lists and other cloud services. Along with online courses and resources promotion, it effectively replaces traditional library services and increases users' information literacy.

The Tin Ka Ping Education Library has always been a cornerstone of knowledge since its establishment. Its relaunch signifies a strong commitment to growth and excellence and acknowledges the Tin Ka Ping Foundation for their charitable backing and support towards the Faculty of Education and the Libraries since 1991.



## MUSIC LIBRARY

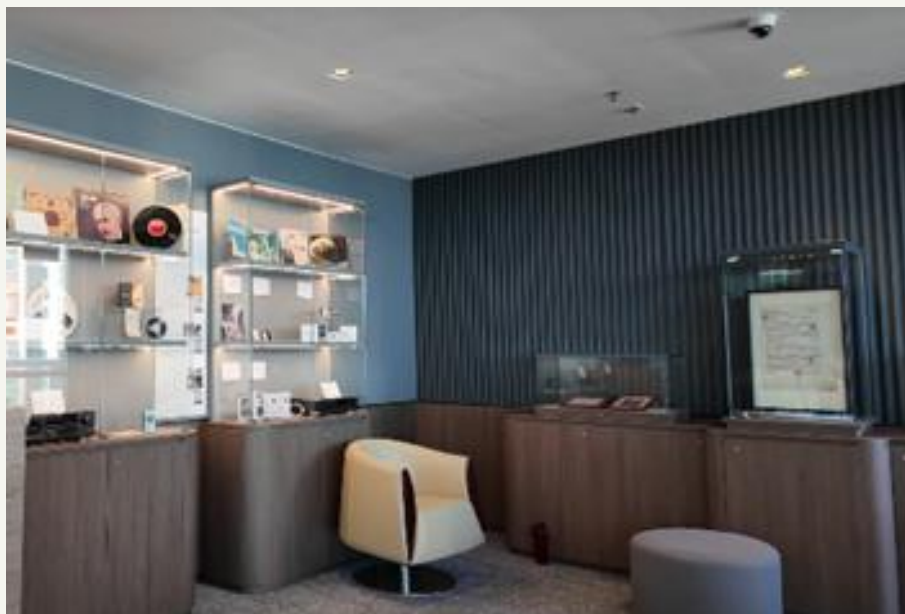
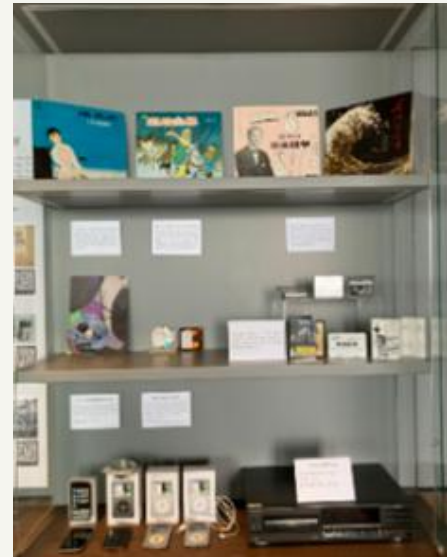
In celebration of its 40th anniversary milestone, the relaunch of Music Library marks a remarkable milestone in realising the Libraries' vision - made possible by a significant donation from the HKU Foundation - to support its digital transformation into a space fit for musical venture in the 21st century. The digital transformation of the Music Library in 2023 offers a new open and collaborative learning space for quiet study, music enjoyment, digital engagements and various artistic ventures. Sitting atop Run Run Shaw Tower, the Library offers an ocean view overlooking Belcher Bay, Victoria Harbour.



Evolving from a research hub for music collections, its complete redesign into a self-operated learning environment features an increased seating capacity and new user-friendly facilities that sufficiently caters to accessible learning, research and artistic exploration of the HKU community. The new Library addresses the lack of campus study space problem for students, providing a flexible learning space for teaching, collaboration and quiet study, as well as a modernised venue for social functions.



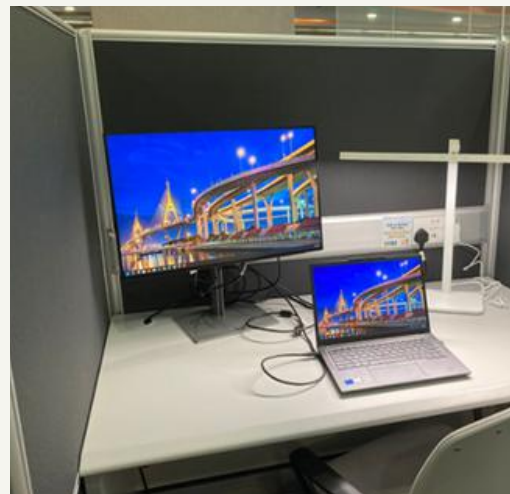
The Music Library encompasses a balance between material and digital culture: the sound-proof seminar room is surrounded by a book-crossing corner, consisting of special collections of scores, rare books on music and reference books; state-of-the-art media is paired with a collection of older media, demonstrating how music has been transmitted in the past and what is possible in the future; and musical artifacts (instruments, record covers, music playback machines and manuscripts) are displayed to create a seamless experience of past and present musical media and cultures.



## LEVEL 3, MAIN LIBRARY

The redesign for Level 3 of the Main Library is a learning commons style facility, that hosts a variety of learning spaces for different study and research needs.

There are 92 individual booths with colour temperature adjustable desk lamp and monitors with USB-C and HDMI input, which address student needs about the use of their own device and provide a new area able to accommodate for computer-based exam and assessment venue for the University.



In the technology zone, over 100 computers offer a myriad of electronic resources and software available through HKU Libraries, collectively in support of private and reflective study and research. A variety of software are available for users to produce assignments or projects, including but not limited to Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud and EndNote. This zone also houses flatbed and professional, high-speed scanners along with uPrint operated printers, a convenient e-Newspaper workstation and express printing station.



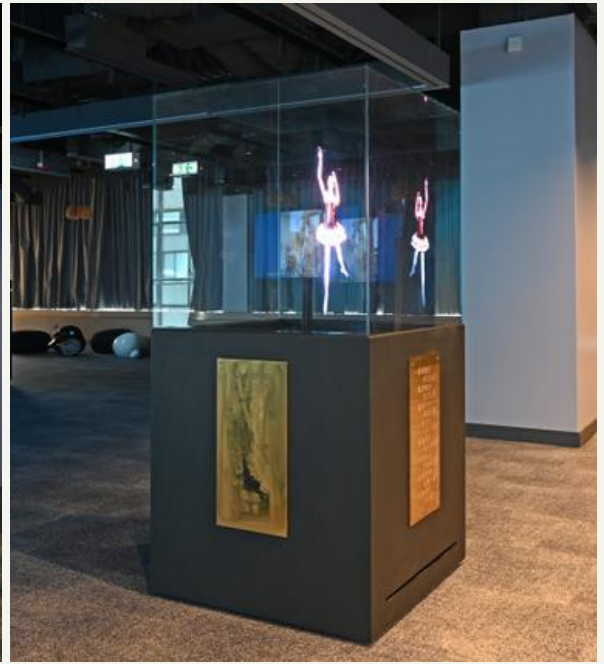


## KO WONG WAI CHING WENDY FINE ARTS DIGITAL LIBRARY

Receiving a benevolent donation from Professor Norman Ko Wah Man, the Libraries worked to establish the Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library, the first open space library of its kind at the University and in Hong Kong – honouring Professor Ko’s tribute to his late wife, Mrs. Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy – a distinguished schoolteacher and a passionate supporter of arts.

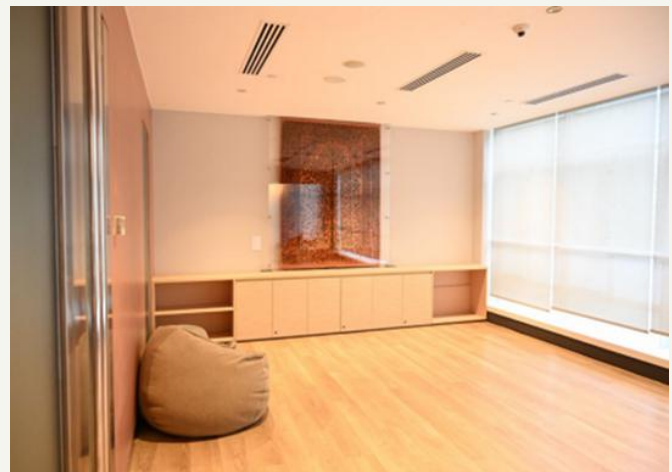
Reimagined into an immersive arts experience and exhibition area, the Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library experiments with the concept of man, whom in an empty and void environment will embark on a quest for knowledge, purpose and passion. Its unique open area design is a nod to ‘The School of Athens’ by Raphael and Greek philosophy in the Italian Renaissance, paralleling the conditions for study and contemplation of ancient theologians and astrologers in academia – a time and environment when modern furniture and equipment was non-existent, yet possessing an ambiance for great minds to conceive influential theories and discoveries.





The regenerated space combines elements of physical and digital arts into one. Its seamless digital immersive experience guides visitors on an experiential journey of aquatic exploration, featuring photographic documentation of marine life that have been digitised and integrated into immersive projections. Visitors can also utilise their electronic devices to display high-resolution media for delicate searches. The fusion of technology and photography in the Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library plays around an array of house blended fine arts collections and exhibition, with specific themes adding dynamism and freshness, that stimulate users with a deeper understanding and appreciation for fine arts.

Collectively, the various zones and artworks offer a unique transhistorical experience for rumination, especially the meditation room, which provides a serene sanctuary for tranquillity and retreat amidst the hustle of the outside world.



## LIBRARY 24

The Library 24 is located on the G/F of the Runme Shaw Building. It is a space accessible 24/7, where current HKU students and staff can study, gather for interactive engagements, and engage in a variety of educational activities.



## ENHANCING STUDY SPACE CAPACITY

We have increased the number of study spaces in the Libraries from around 3,000 in 2021 to nearly 3,300 in 2024, in 10% increase, significantly enhancing our capacity to accommodate more students.

The total number seats of Central Learning Space are around 5,000 seats (including both Chi Wah Learning Commons and University Libraries), with further expansion in summer 2025 to around 5,200 seats in total.

This expansion addresses the growing demand for quiet, comfortable environments conducive to focused study and collaboration. By offering additional seating, we ensure that more students have access to the resources they need, particularly during peak times. This improvement not only alleviates overcrowding but also supports diverse learning styles and preferences.

Ultimately, the increased study space enhances student productivity, satisfaction, and academic success, fostering a more supportive and effective learning environment for our academic community.

Furthermore, we would also introduce the total seat-hours available in our statistics, to highlight the importance and increase in demand of overnight / late-night or weekend learning areas. Currently, we are providing around 548,600 seat-hours in our Central Learning Space per week.

# TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

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Following the contemporary shift from print to electronic, there is an evolution of traditional library services across HKU Libraries: A digital transformation of automated library operations and information systems applies smart technologies, future-ready IT infrastructure and digital tools. The Libraries' Technical Support Services deliver optimised library services, introduce new synergies and provide comprehensive IT support- an updated design, organisation and maintenance of a 'Digital Library' for the University.

## OPTIMIZING IT INFRASTRUCTURE

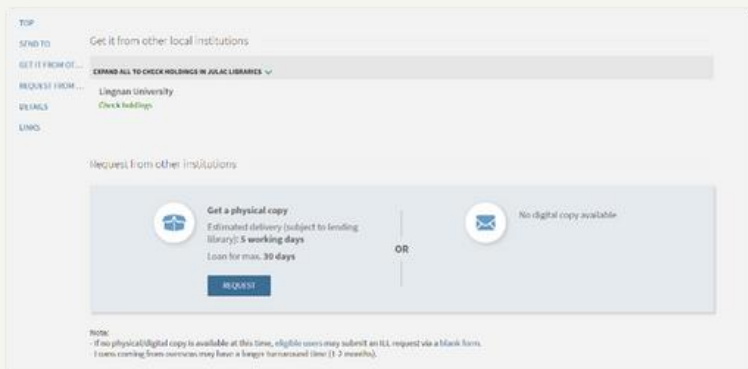
### Integrated Library Systems



FIND@HKUL

HKU Libraries spearheads innovation, by consistently launching new add-on services through its integrated library systems- serving as the leading-edge pioneer of information sciences in crafting value-added technical legacies.

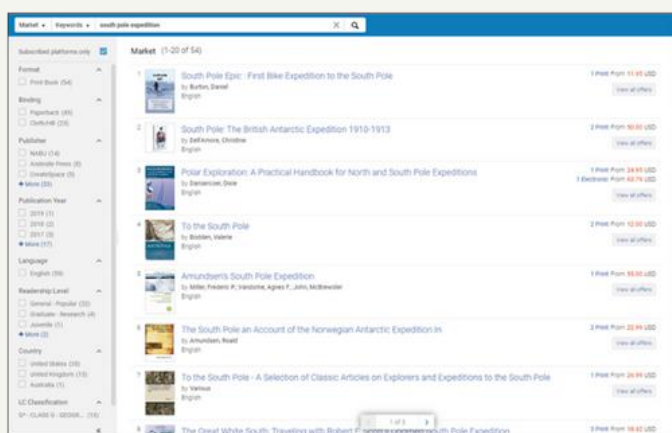
### InterLibrary Loan, powered by Rapido



In phasing out manual ticket requests, the Rapido system collates all search services and centralises all interlibrary lending requests on a single ALMA interface- local or overseas. By streamlining and automating workflows, it helps library staff handle many requests more efficiently, cutting down on the need for manual intervention.

For patrons, Rapido offers a user-friendly experience by providing a central index where they can easily see all the library's holdings and the terms for borrowing. It is easier to search, discover and directly request physical and digital content available from other UGC-funded libraries or other institutions worldwide, just by using FIND@HKUL.

## Collection Acquisition, powered by **Rialto**



To streamline the acquisition process, Rialto, an easy-to-use marketplace where libraries can find and purchase academic content from a variety of publishers, is implemented into our library systems. It simplifies the entire process from requesting materials to acquiring them. Our staff no longer have to jump between different websites for their searches.

Rialto helps make informed decisions by offering recommendations and peer comparisons, as well as built-in analytics. By using machine learning and understanding individual library staff preferences, the platform refines its suggestions to make the selection process even smoother and more efficient. Important data about resources, budgets, and usage is updated in real-time, which boosts productivity and makes remote collaboration easier.

## Library Search Assistant



Facilitating an 'open' movement and smooth exchange of knowledge and resources, the Library Search Assistant Chrome extension grants automatic login to online research subscription services. Library patrons can enjoy easy access to research publications and journal materials across over 1,000 Internet domains.

<https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/hkul-search-assistant/lfjmkaidobaebgokockcncpchpbnoad>



## Digital Migration

To achieve end-to-end digital transformation, the University Libraries engaged in cloud migration for better data management and storage of its digital assets. The current hybrid operating model sees the local repository to MS SharePoint and OneDrive, along with the pilot moving of library servers to Public Cloud (Azure) and ITS Cloud.

# FOSTERING DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The Digital Scholarship Team at HKU is dedicated to enhancing access to digital resources and advancing scholarly research through initiatives like DigitalRepository@HKU. Over the past three years, the team, in collaboration with our partners, has leveraged emerging technologies to support research across a diverse array of fields.

## Digital Scholarship Projects

HKU Libraries offers and promotes a conducive environment for knowledge exchange, by enshrining and making accessible the University's activities and initiatives in applied research, technology transfer and community engagement.

Supported by variety fund sources, the Libraries engages in digital scholarship projects, in support of interdisciplinary, collaborative projects that have significant impact:

- Frank Fischbeck Collection \$
- 羅禎符太醫特藏 Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection ^
- C.C. Liu Collection on New Music in China ^
- Hong Kong Chinese Merchant Collection ^
- HKU COVID-19 Digital Archives \*
- China Rural Education Literature (CREL) database #
- Basic Law Drafting History Online #

^ KE Funding Scheme for Impact Projects

\* KE Funding Scheme for Strategic Impact

# Faculty funding

\$ External parties funding

Collaborating with HKU departments and Faculties, these projects leverage the University's expertise and knowledge to create social, economic, environmental, or cultural impacts. Partnering entities include:

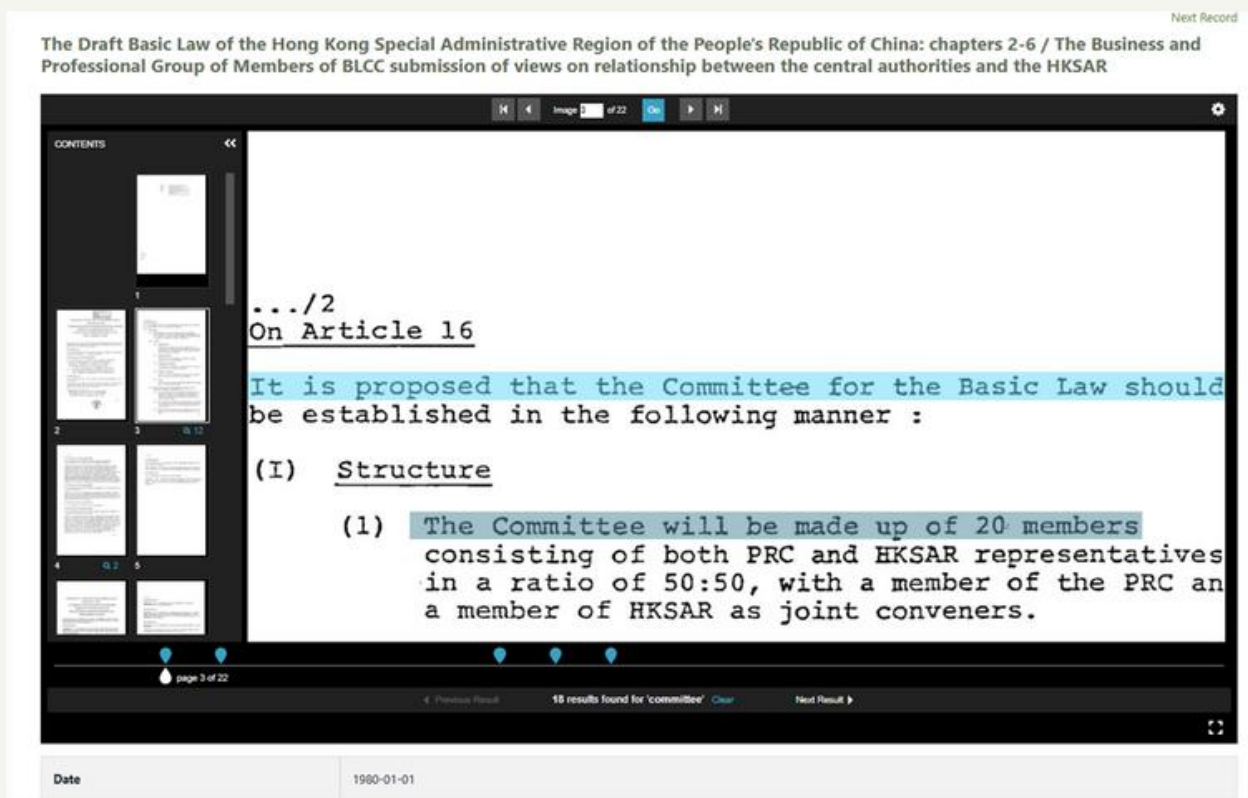
- Centre for Comparative and Public Law, Faculty of Law, HKU
- Department of Art History, Faculty of Arts, HKU
- Faculty of Architecture, HKU
- Faculty of Education, HKU
- Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole, HKU
- School of Chinese, Faculty of Arts, HKU
- School of Chinese Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, HKU

## Use of Digital Technologies

By integrating advanced technologies such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Named Entity Recognition (NER), Computer Vision, and Generative AI, we manage diverse digital content and create innovative platforms that transform scholarly activity. These platforms provide global access to digitized primary materials, extract valuable information from historical documents, and empower researchers to work efficiently with comprehensive datasets.

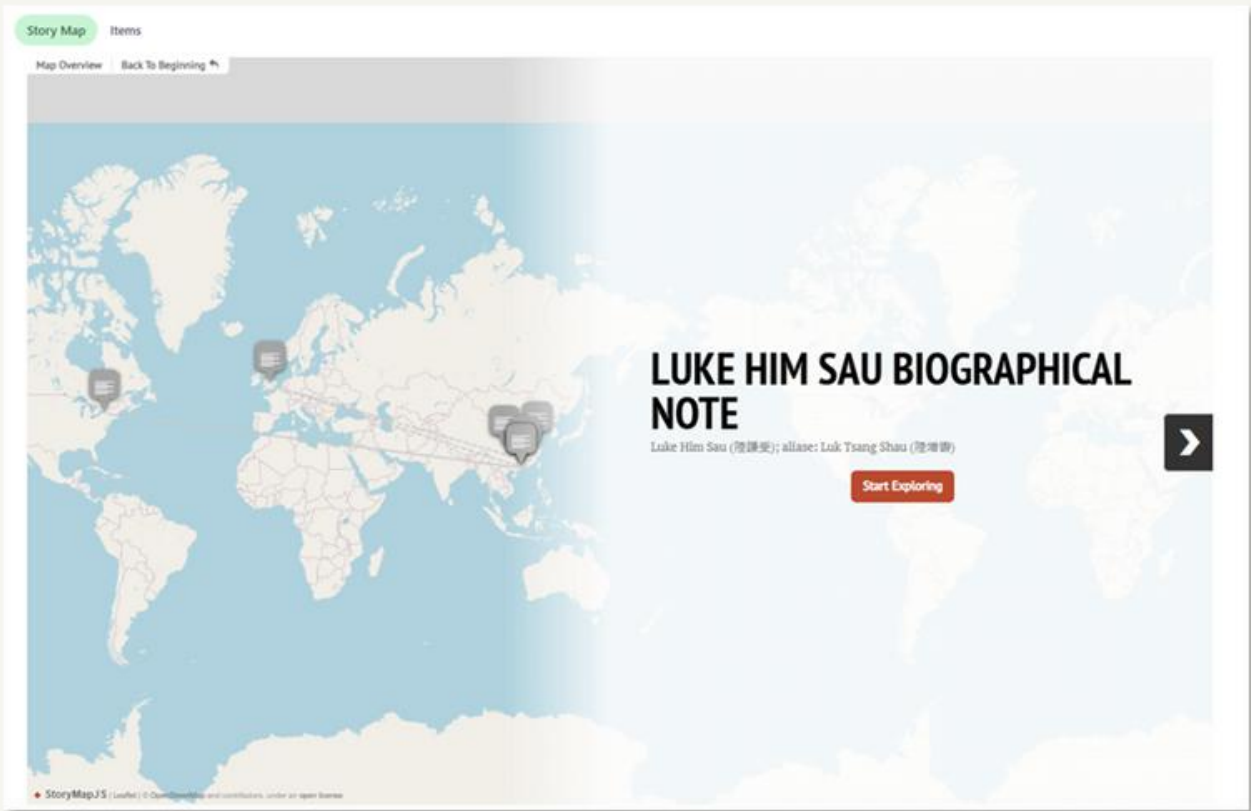
Our digital space serves as a central hub for collaborative digital initiatives across disciplines including law, geospatial science, linguistics, and musicology. Through the application of these technologies, we develop cutting-edge tools and features that foster innovation within academic communities.

Examples of our work include:



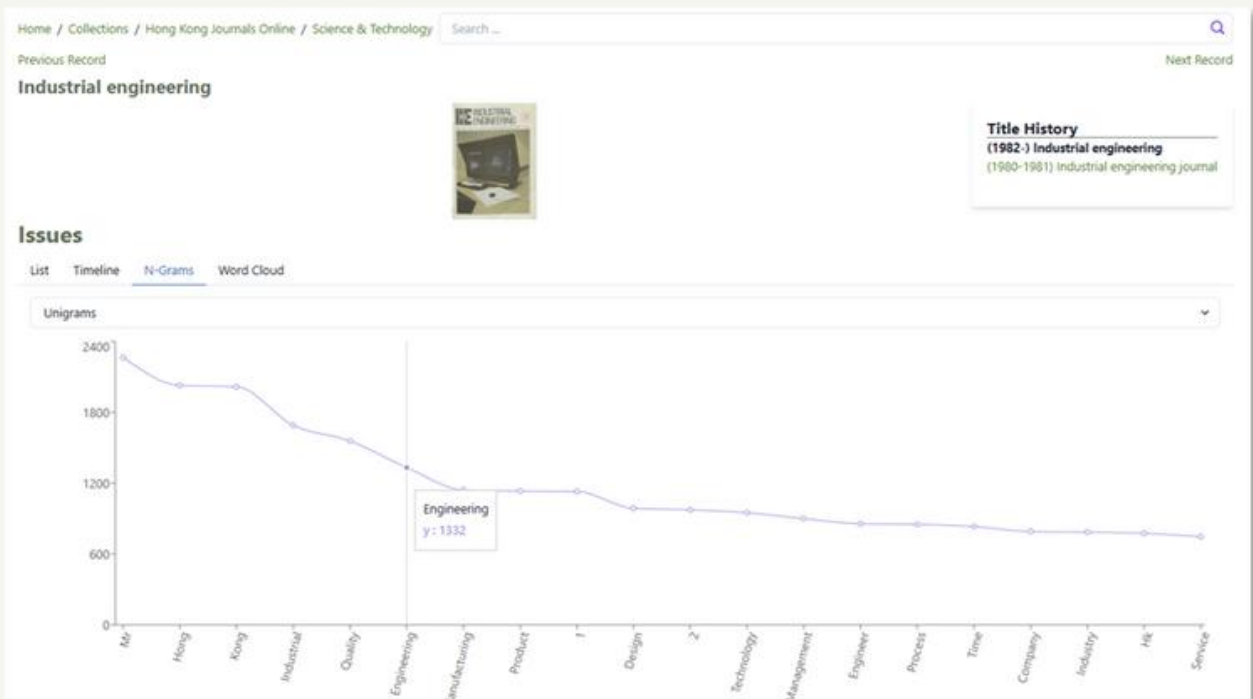
### Basic Law Drafting History Online:

Recognizing digital text via OCR allows researchers to perform full-text searches across related publications on our platform, facilitating deeper discoveries and insights.



### Luke Him Sau Architectural Collection:

Utilizing GIS software with georeferencing capabilities, we create interactive maps that bridge the gap between history and spatial analysis offering new perspectives on global movements and local communities.



### Hong Kong Journal Online:

NLP applications are used to extract meaningful information from unstructured texts, which are then visualized statistically to provide deeper insights.

29 Jan 2023

## 通關疫情平穩 劉澤星：兩周後可撤核檢

香港疫情仍不穩定，新增3480宗確診個案，包括3362宗本地感染和118宗輸入個案。政府專家顧問劉澤星認為內地疫情高峰已過，建議一至兩星期後考慮取消過關核酸檢測要求及師生上學前的快速測試。他還認為大部分市民接種四劑疫苗已足夠，但呼籲長者盡快接種。他預期防疫措施可逐步撤銷，三、四月可能取消口罩令，但室內仍應佩戴口罩，以防其他呼吸道感染。 [Show less](#)



Lau, WCS



Yuen, KY

[口罩令](#) [呼吸道感染](#) [新冠病毒](#) [本地感染](#) [核酸檢測](#) [疫苗劑量](#) [確診個案](#) [輸入個案](#) [過關](#) [香港](#)

### HKU COVID-19 Archive:

NER technology identifies key individuals mentioned in news articles from HKU, revealing their significant contributions within the text.

### Music Manuscripts of LAI Cho-tin:

Innovative visualizations applied to music scores offer fresh analytical perspectives for musicologists and scholars of the arts.

Through these and other initiatives, our team continuously strives to foster innovation, enhance accessibility, and expand the boundaries of academic research using state-of-the-art digital tools and methodologies.



## FEATURED DIGITAL COLLECTIONS / PROJECTS

2021/7 - 2022/6

### (Sep 2021) Luke Him Sau Architectural Collection

Luke Him Sau, a pioneering Chinese architect born in 1904, integrated Eastern and Western design elements in his work. The Luke Him Sau Architectural Collection comprises about 950 architectural drawings and various personal and professional records, including over 1,730 poems, from projects in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Macau, and Taiwan between 1948 and 1968.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/lhsac>



### (Jun 2022) Hong Kong Property Sales Brochures

The property sales brochure collection has grown to nearly 1,500 booklets since the 1970s, primarily residential but including some commercial/industrial buildings. The earliest brochures date back to 1957 for the Empire Theatre Building, 1958 for The Empire Court, and 1959 for Haven Court, with most from the 1980s and 1990s. These brochures offer valuable information on private properties and various government-subsidized home ownership schemes.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/hkpsb>

### (Jun 2022) 羅禎符特藏 Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection

The Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection reveals the achievements and multifaceted life of a Qing Dynasty imperial physician who moved to Hong Kong in the 1930s. The digitized collection includes manuscripts, correspondences, Chinese medicine prescriptions, design drafts from Dr. Luo's medicine business Sheng Sheng Tang, rare books, and valuable artworks. Supported by the HKU Knowledge Exchange Funding 2021/22, the project was developed by a cross-departmental team from the School of Chinese Medicine, School of Chinese, Department of Art History, and University Libraries.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/luozhenfu>



**(Sep 2022) 商業電台廣播劇****Radio Drama of Commercial Radio Hong Kong**

This collection features 17 episodes of radio dramas produced by Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co. Ltd. between 1966 and 1976. The episodes encompass a variety of genres, including folktale mysteries, eccentric tales, moral fiction, literary adaptations, and stage play appreciations. Sponsored by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, donated by Commercial Radio, and organized and restored by Dr. Wong Pui Fung, this collection preserves the history of Hong Kong radio drama and aims to inspire future productions and research.

[https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/crhc\\_rd](https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/crhc_rd)

**(Oct 2022) Palmer and Turner (P&T Group) Collection**

The Palmer and Turner (P&T Group) Collection includes over 15,000 documents and objects related to 500 design projects from 1932 to 2012 in Hong Kong, Macau, mainland China, and other regions. Founded in 1868 by William Salway in Hong Kong, P&T Group became a leading architectural firm in East and Southeast Asia and expanded globally in the 1980s. The University of Hong Kong Libraries thanks the P&T Group for donating these valuable architectural and business records.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/pnt>

**(Jan 2023) 馮平山圖書館善本書影像庫****Fung Ping Shan Library Rare Books Online**

The Fung Ping Shan Library houses over 800 rare ancient books including prints and manuscripts from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. The library has digitized a selection of these valuable collections, making 116 titles (comprising 1,025 volumes) available for public access online, showcasing the first phase of its digitization efforts.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/fpslrbo>

### **(Apr 2023) Frank Fischbeck Collection**

Acquired from FormAsia Books, the Frank Fischbeck Collection tells a visual story of Hong Kong from 1860 to the 2000s. With over 24,000 images and photographic material, it chronicles the city's evolution and preserving the vast expanse of heritage, culture, traditions and religions across Hong Kong and Asia. The collection remains intact and based at the University since acquired in 2019 - a cultural asset made possible by the charitable funding from the WYNG Foundation and the generous support of the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, the Swire Group Charitable Trust, the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation Limited, and the Simon K. Y. Lee Foundation Limited. The University Libraries made available one of its largest photographic collections through digital access and exhibition, from albumen prints to glass plates, as the means to nurture interest and preserve the rich, cultural history of Hong Kong.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/fischbeck>

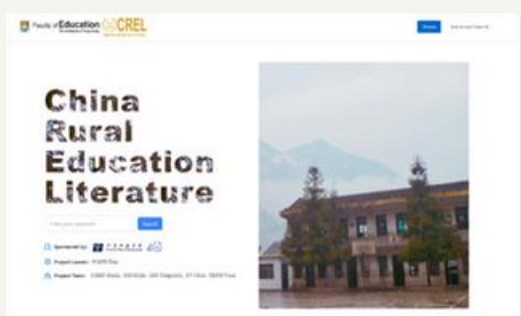


### **(May 2023)**

#### **China Rural Education Literature (CREL) database**

In partnership with Faculty of Education, the University Libraries developed the CREL Database which features over 500 high-quality research publications on rural education in Mainland China, available in both English and Chinese. It provides a comprehensive overview of theories, policies, and empirical evidence, categorized by historical period, subject, issue, and research method for ease of access. The database supports advancing scholarship and practices in rural education by serving as a valuable resource for researchers, NGOs, and school practitioners, and aims to foster a research community focused on improving rural education in Mainland China.

<https://crel.lib.hku.hk>



## (Jun 2023) HKU COVID-19 Digital Archives

In commemoration of humanity's collective fight, the HKU COVID-19 Digital Archives serves as a multi-media digital platform and central repository for HKU-produced digital records and materials, that showcase the unwavering efforts and vital role of HKU staff and students in response to the global pandemic.

Ranging from the ground-breaking virus research to HKU-sponsored community initiatives, this Knowledge Exchange-funded project preserves and pays tribute to the University's all-encompassing commitment to combat against COVID-19.



The Libraries continuously gathers and collates audio-visual data from scholarly articles, publications and media presentations, to construct a comprehensive research collection for analysis, providing public access globally to further understand the impact of HKU-related COVID-19 research, contributions and output.

To enhance its automatic search and aggregation capabilities and user interactions, the Digital Archives utilises AI technologies, such as Azure OpenAI, Named Entity Recognition (NER) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) and incorporates AI functionalities like, among other things, text summarization, information extraction, question-answering and chatbot development. These AI-driven tools, paired with data analytics methods, expedite the new discoveries among over 18,000 recorded data and items, including new geo-relationships.

<https://covid19.lib.hku.hk>



## COVID-19 Digital Archives



**(Aug 2023) 香港大學饒宗頤學術館電子書****HKU Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole ebooks Collection**

The Jao Tsung-I Academy of Sinology at the University of Hong Kong is a center for Chinese Studies, providing academic and cultural exchange in Sinology. Established after Professor Jao Tsung-I donated his extensive personal collection in 2003, the academy includes ancient and rare books, calligraphy, and paintings. Collaborating with the University of Hong Kong Libraries, the academy created the "Jao Tsung-I Academy of Sinology eBooks" database, making its research widely accessible to facilitate knowledge exchange in Sinology.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/jtipebooks>

**(Jan 2024) 香港華商特藏****Hong Kong Chinese Merchants Collection**

This is an extensive archive of over 4,500 volumes of business records and personal materials from the late-19th to mid-20th century, owned by Hong Kong Chinese merchants. It includes account books, trade records, legal documents, business correspondence, and private items like contracts, letters, and photographs from prominent firms and individuals. Notable examples include Luen Yick Hong, Eu Yan Sang, Kwong Sang Hong, and individuals like Mr. Ma Tsui Chiu and Mr. Wong Sai Ho. The collection offers valuable insights into the social, economic, political, and cultural history of Hong Kong. The Libraries has digitized parts of the collection, making it accessible globally for research and study, supported by the HKU Knowledge Exchange Funding 2022/23.



<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/hkcmc>

**(Jun 2024) Basic Law Drafting History Online**

The Basic Law Drafting History Online (BLDHO) is a resource offering access to the drafting history of Hong Kong's constitution, The Basic Law. A joint project of the Centre for Comparative and Public Law and the HKU Libraries, it features four searchable databases. "Drafting Materials" includes nearly 900 documents from 1985-1997, "News Coverage" offers newspaper articles from 1985-1990, "Legco Database" compiles Legislative Council debates from 1986-1991, and "Textual History" provides various drafts and official commentary on the Basic Law.

<https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/bldho>



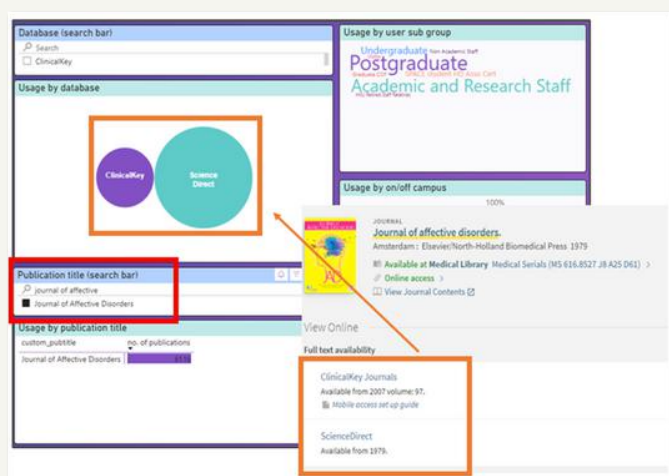
# ADVANCING LIBRARY OPERATIONS WITH DATA ANALYTICS

## Electronic Resources Usage Analytic



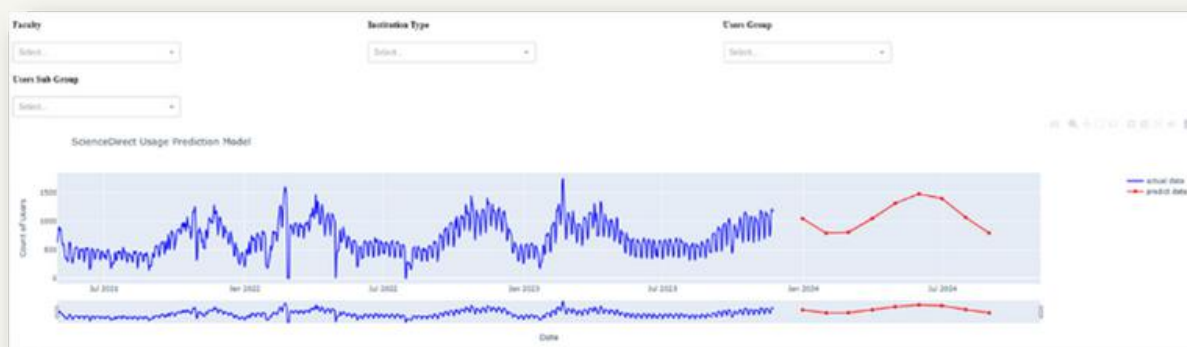
Analyzing electronic resource usage through EZproxy logs across 198 databases provides libraries with critical insights into user behavior and preferences. This data-driven approach not only identifies unique usage patterns among various user groups but also enhances the library's ability to adapt to the evolving needs of patrons.

By examining the usage metrics, libraries can discern distinct behaviors exhibited by different user segments. This understanding enables library management to tailor services and resources to meet the specific demands of each group, fostering a more user-centred environment. Furthermore, a comprehensive analysis of these usage patterns helps uncover hidden trends in publication access which might not be immediately apparent.



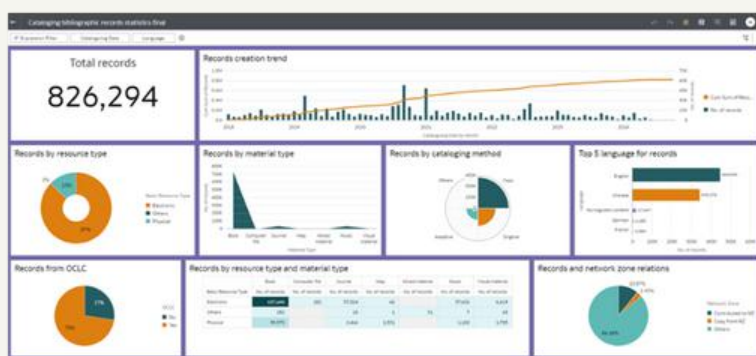
The capability to identify the same publication accessed through multiple databases is invaluable. Subject librarians can utilize this data to refine electronic collection strategies, optimising resource availability and improving library services. Additionally, this information aids management in making informed decisions about resource subscriptions and allocations, ensuring investments reflect actual user needs. By aligning resources with user demands, libraries can enhance their ability to serve the community effectively.

The implementation of AI and machine learning technologies enables comprehensive analysis of library usage patterns, supporting sophisticated forecasting and predictive modeling for evidence-based decision-making.



Through advanced pattern recognition and trend analysis, these AI-powered insights illuminate user behavior patterns and resource utilization trends, allowing for strategic resource allocation and proactive service adaptation. This data-driven approach enhances library operational efficiency through optimised resource management, targeted collection development, and improved service delivery to meet evolving user needs.

### Cataloguing Bibliographic Records Statistics

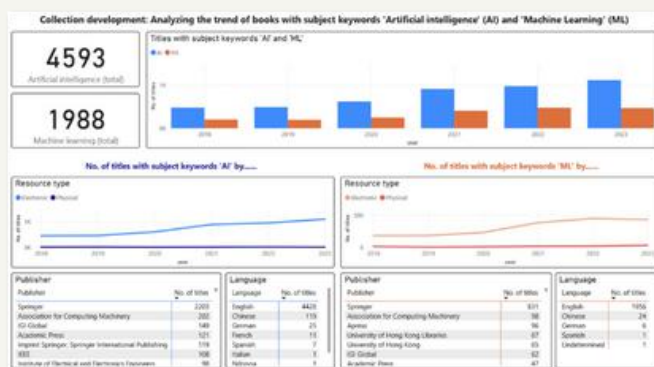


Cataloguing bibliographic records statistics provides a comprehensive overview for the senior management team, enabling effective tracking of cataloguing progress. By analyzing records by resources type, materials type and cataloguing methods, the Libraries can assess collection development strategies, tailor the acquisitions to meet user preferences.

This data reveals areas for improvement and supports data-driven decisions to optimise performance, ensuring efficient resource management, enhanced library services and ensures libraries can meet user needs while maximizing their overall impact within the University community.

### Collection Development Trend Analytics

Analysing current collections for alignment with latest trending topics to ensuring library resources align with current user needs and research interests. This project analyses books with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) subject keywords to assess current holdings and identify areas for growth, ensuring library resources remain relevant and support cutting-edge research.



# STAFF KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

## 2021/7 - 2022/6

- [21/8/2021] Implementing Indoor Navigation in Primo & CampusM @ IGeLU 2021 (Ku Kam Ming, Gary Wong, Katie Kwong)
- [27/4/2022] Kicking started the journey of Digital Scholarship/Humanities within the University Libraries @ Explore@HKUL (Terry Chung)

## 2022/7 - 2023/6

- [19/12/2022] The 5 elements to start digital transformation in higher education libraries 高校圖書館中數碼轉型的五個要素 @ Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (Ku Kam Ming)

## 2023/7 - 2024/6

- [26/10/2023] Examples in Developing Digital Repository on History and Culture of Hong Kong in Collaboration with Private, Academic, and Public Sectors. @ The 14th Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources (CCDSCR) (Terry Chung)
- [27/10/2023] Rapido - User Experience and Insights on the Next-Generation Interlibrary Loan Platform @ China Consortium of Ex Libris Products User Group Annual Meeting 2023 (Gary Wong, Ku Kam Ming)
- [19/12/2023] AI Unveiled: Understanding the Essence and Impact of Artificial Intelligence @ Hong Kong Design Institute (Ku Kam Ming)
- [23/02/2024] Constructing HKU COVID-19 Digital Archives: Harnessing AI for Building Comprehensive Research Collection @ HK Library Association (Ku Kam Ming, Jessica Lee)
- [25/3/2024] Introduction to Web Scraping & Text Preprocessing in Python @ HKU Library workshop: Research Data Academy (Terry Chung)
- [28/03/2024] Mastering Data Cleaning Techniques @ HKU Library workshop: Research Data Academy (Mahboobani Vanessa Ramesh, Jessica Lee)
- [19/4/2024] Introduction to Text Analysis and Voyant Tools @ HKU Library workshop: Research Data Academy (Terry Chung, Kayla Ng)
- [22/04/2024] Introduction to AI, Generative AI, and Large Language Models. @ HKU Library workshop: Facilitating Learning and Research with Generative AI: Suggestions from Librarians. (Gary Wong, Terry Chung, Ku Kam Ming, Mahboobani Vanessa Ramesh, Katherine Choi)
- [25/04/2024] Uncovering Exploratory Data Analysis and Data Visualization @ HKU Library workshop: Research Data Academy (Mahboobani Vanessa Ramesh, Jessica Lee)
- [25/04/2024] Unlocking the Potential of Generative AI Tools for Effective Presentations: Slides Creation, Image Generation and Speech Coach @ HKU Library workshop: Facilitating Learning and Research with Generative AI: Suggestions from Librarians (Terry Chung, Kayla Ng)
- [26/04/2024] AI Model Training and Fine-Tuning: Chatbots, Image Recognition, and Graph Neural Networks @ HKU Library workshop: Facilitating Learning and Research with Generative AI: Suggestions from Librarians (Gary Wong, Ku Kam Ming, Jack Lo, Christina Wong, Jessica Lee, Katie Kwong)

## **Committee Memberships**

JULAC Shared ILS Steering Committee

- [2022 -] Member (Ku Kam Ming)

JULAC Digital Initiatives Committee

- [2023 -] Member (Terry Chung)

JULAC Technology Committee

- [2022] Member (Ku Kam Ming)
- [2023 – 2024] Member (Gary Wong)

## **Organisation Titles**

The Hong Kong Library Association

- [2024] Academic Libraries Liaison Officer (Ku Kam Ming)
- [2024] Education and Training Officer (Mahboobani Vanessa Ramesh)
- [2024] Honorary Secretary (Terry Chung)

The Hong Kong Archives Society

- [2024 -] Director (Ku Kam Ming)

## **International Conferences**

The 2024 ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JC DL)

- [2024 -] Organizing Committee Member- Treasurer (Ku Kam Ming)

## **Open Access Journal**

School Science Journal

- [2024 -] Chief Editor (Ku Kam Ming)

# Archives & Special Collections

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The Archives and Special Collections (ASC) comprises two distinctively different collections - the University Archives and Special Collections. Since their merger in August 2021, they have been serving students, staff members and public using their rare and unique materials acquired from the internal University administration and external wider communities of Hong Kong and beyond.

The functions of ASC are to:

- collect and preserve all internal University records deemed to have informational, financial and research values for permanent retention;
- source and acquire external special materials outside of the University to support unique learning and teaching experience;
- support teaching and learning within the University, whilst also supporting the wider community in terms of education;
- streamline and utilise the manpower and space of the repository for storage, research and outreach;
- manage and safeguard the rare and unique materials following the international standards and best practice;
- assist the University in legality, branding and reputational management through the use and preservation of their unique collections.

### Courses taught

- ARTH 3012 – Cross Cultural Interactions



- ENGL2076 – Romanticism

- HIST 4024 – Writing Hong Kong History



- HIST 4035 – History Applied

- HIST 7008 – Doing Hong Kong History

## Special Visits

1. Alumni Day Guided Tours  
(16 March 2024)



2. Visit of King's College Hong Kong  
(25 April 2024)



While the ASC has a larger scope of service, there are some distinctively differences between the functions and collection policies of the University Archives and Special Collections. Both collections are being managed following the international standards and best practice issued by ISO, British Standards Institution (BSI), Society of American Archivists (SAA), American Library Association (ALA), Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), Society of American Archivists (SAA), International Standards for Archival Descriptions (ISAD(G)) etc. and referenced to different prominent and leading international universities and national archives.

### Overview – Outlook for Archives and Special Collections

After a special visit by the University Grant Committee (UGC) on 3 September 2023, the UGC and the Chief Information Officer and University Librarian are committed to funding the renovation of the ASC area on the 1/F Main Library, in order to elevate us to become the first University cultural hub on Campus. The renovation of the University Archives was completed in January 2025 and works will start from May to October 2025 for Special Collections.



## THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The University Archives (HKUA) serves as the Central Repository of all official records (physical and digital) produced and accumulated by the University of Hong Kong itself, including the Registry, all Faculties, Departments and their research units and centres thereunder, as well as the wider HKU Family, including students, staff members and alumni since 2006.



### History

HKUA was established in 2006 in preparation for the centennial celebration of the University in 2011. The Registry and the University Archives Advisory Committee, comprising professoriate staff from Faculty of Arts, Senate and Council, supported the ideas on gathering all historic documents from all Faculties, Departments and Units of the University, regardless of format, to be preserved in a centralised repository as the 'University Collection'. HKUA collects all records through operating and maintaining the Records and Information programme (RIM) of the University, making sure the creation, retention and disposal of records through proper and endorsed schedules of transfer, retention and disposal within the Archives and Records management cycle.

UA was part of the Registry and the then University Archivist reported directly to the Registrar. In 2021, UA was incorporated into the Libraries and the University Archivist now reports directly to the Chief Information Officer and University Librarian.

The incorporation allows the University Archivist to provide access to the unique University records and to promote their historic values through the wider public sphere of the Libraries physically and digitally. The combination of Archives and the Libraries also provides a centralised, streamlined research resource for all information seekers.

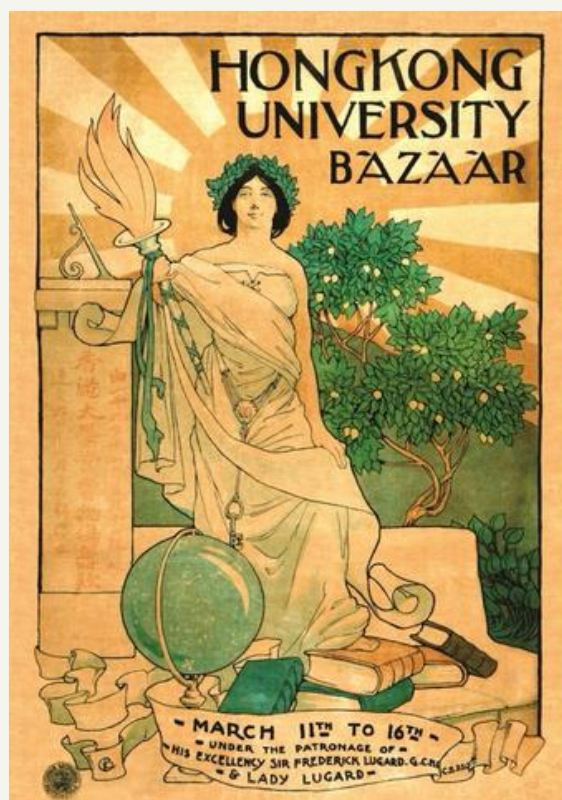
As of 2024, UA has collected 2,708 linear metres (L.M.) of physical records and 10TB of digital born records in total through the University-wide Records and Information Management programme (RIM), which includes the establishment of retention and disposal schedules and access policies for semi-active and inactive records, regardless of format, deemed to have informational, historic, and research values. The management of archives and records includes:

- Appraisal
- Collecting
- De-classification / Embargo
- Disposal
- Creation of Finding Aids (Descriptions)
- Preservation and Conservation
- Research Services
- Outreach and Access Control

### **The Records Centre**

UA operates the Records Centre to which all Faculties and Departments could directly deposit their semi-active and inactive records following the retention schedules and their actual business and legal needs. The archivists have the responsibilities to safeguard the physical and informational security of all records deposited in the Archives and Records Centre following all policies relating to information security, public access, personal data and freedom of information issued by the University of Hong Kong and HKSAR legislation and ordinance.

While the Archives serves as a public platform for global researchers conducting research on our institutional history, the Records Centre serves mainly our internal records management, providing records deposition and retrieval services for all Faculties, Departments and units thereunder. We manage records via TOGO, which is an automatic records management system calculating and supervising the movement and location of records, usage of storage space, and the forecast of space needed. The Archives Office and Records Centre help collecting all valuable University records within the records cycle once they have reached their semi-active status, making sure records deemed to have values to be kept immediately following the retention schedules.



The Archives Team also conducts internal records management trainings for Faculties and departments regularly or on demand to make sure all records, physical and digital, are to be transferred to the University Archives for selection and permanent retention, following the business needs of their units and Hong Kong legislative requirements.

## Highlights (2021-2024)

### Statistics

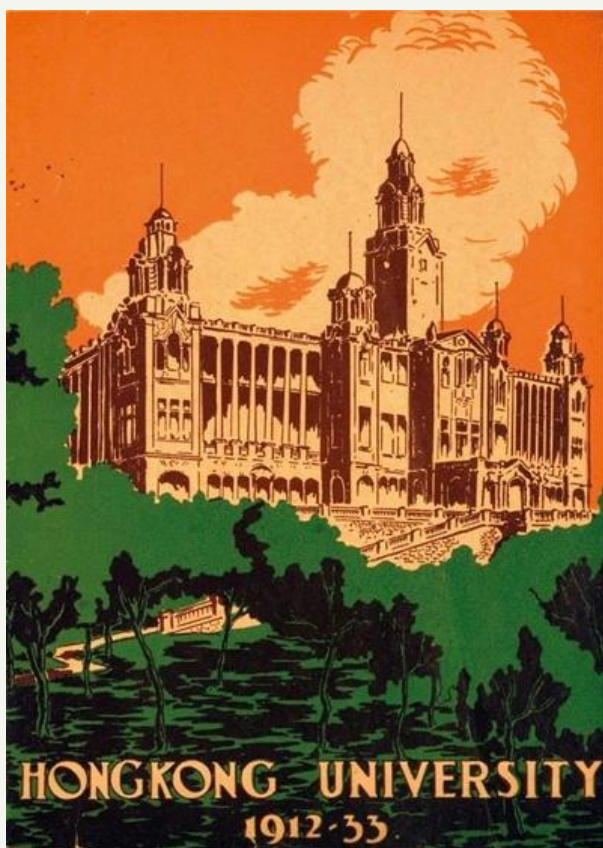
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Overall Growth (in L.M.)	2,344	2,544	2,708
No. of Users / Researchers	19	171	292
Enquiries	355	646	871
Digitization (Pages)	15,107	161,551	145,647
No. of Thesis Processed	697	950	640
Records/ Archives Processed and Shelved (in L.M.)	114	109.4	166.33
Records Retrieved (No. of )	81	175	269
Records Transferred (in L.M.)	111	493	339
Records Disposal (in L.M.)	0	0.5	0.5

### Notable Accessions

1. Professor Peter Cunich's Papers (2021-006)
2. Professor Cheung Kai Ming's Papers (2021-013)
3. Professor Johannes Chan's Papers (2022-008)
4. Duchess of Kent Hall Collection (2023-001)
5. Estate Office Files (2023-004)
6. Photo Album originally owned by the former Registrar Benard Mellor (2023-007)
7. Records of Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre (2023-012)
8. Professor Petual Ho's Papers (2023-017)
9. Ms. Ellie Alleyne's Collection (2023-021)
10. Professor David Florance's Papers (2024-016)

## The University Records Collection

Records are regardless of format and everything produced and accumulated by the administrative unites, Faculties, Departments, research centres and units, associations, residence halls, and University personnel are official records of the University, and are collected and preserved by the University Archives permanently.

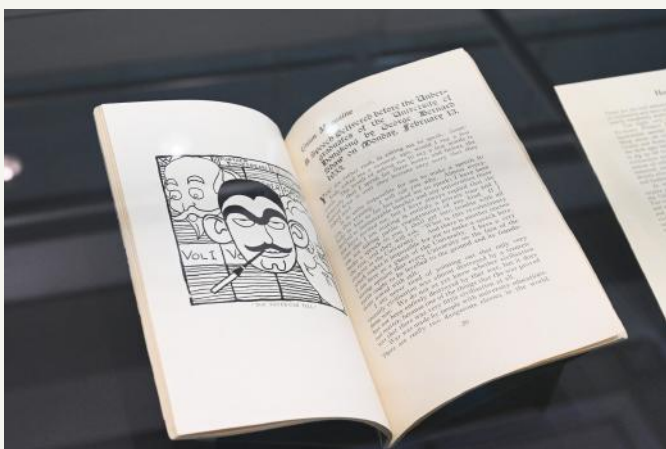


The oldest records kept in the UA is dated 1887, the Senate Minutes from the Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese, which was incorporated into the University of Hong Kong in 1911 and became one of the founding Faculties of the University. Other major records include all the original foundation documents recording the mission and process of establishment of the University, Minutes of Senate, Council and Court, student records, pre-war collection, and rehabilitation records of the University after World War II. Other most used materials are photographs of our campus, buildings, and people, and pre-war publications by departments, student unions, and records of halls of students' residence.

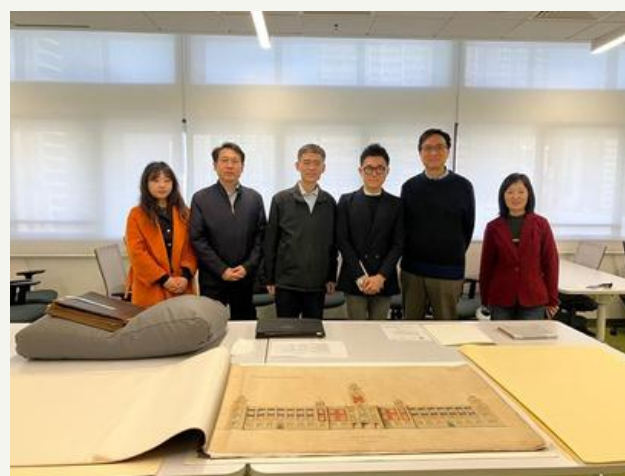
UA also retains research papers, manuscripts and personal objects donated by the families of the professoriate teaching staff, senior members, and renowned alumni, including Lindsay Ride, Anthony Sweeting, William Fade, Thomas Osler, William Davies and David Florance, regardless of age and format.

## Outreach

1. George Bernard Shaw Exhibition – liaised with Consulate-General of Republic of Ireland in Hong Kong for (13-17 February 2023)



2. Received University Archivists from Tsing-Hua University Archives from Beijing (17 February 2023)



3. Assisted in documentary filming 'The University of Hong Kong 111th Anniversary' with Phoenix TV (19 – 20 December 2022)

[https://www.phoenixtv-distribution.com/?post\\_type=products&page\\_id=17930](https://www.phoenixtv-distribution.com/?post_type=products&page_id=17930)

#### 4. Research Articles and Journals published overseas using UA materials

- ‘Reflecting on the Relationships that Archives reveal’, *Archival Outlook*, Society of American Archivists, October 2021, by Garfield Lam
- ‘Archived Relationship, Information Professionals’, *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*, December 2021, by Garfield Lam
- ‘A Photoless Student Record – Genealogical Research at the University Archives’, *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*, September 2022, by Garfield Lam
- ‘Marginalised People: Representing the Queer Experience in the University Archives’, *Archival Outlook*, Society of American Archivist, November 2023, by Garfield Lam
- ‘Treasures of University Archives’, *International Council on Archives – Section on University and Research Institution*, December 2023, by Garfield Lam
- ‘Accidental Archives – Lost Records of a Medical Student’, *Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals*, June 2024, by Garfield Lam

#### 5. External public lectures and seminars held by the University Archivist

- Hong Kong Studies Society at Wyne Foundation

(Title: Archives: Responsibility, Accountability, Provenance, 17 March 2023)



- Panellist and speaker for online forum ‘International Council on Archives – Sports Archives’

(Debate About Archives and Sports, 28 February 2024)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAIhDN5D71s>

- Panellist and speaker at Hong Kong History Day, organised by Bristol University, UK and Hong Kong Studies Society

(Title: Archiving Hong Kong, 16 September 2023)



## Special Visits

1. Visit of Mr. Xia Baolong, Director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (18 April 2023)

2. Visit of HKU Alumni Association (HKUAA) (27 June 2023)



3. Visit of University Grant Committee (7 September 2023)



4. Visit of HKU Press (25 October 2023)



## Knowledge Exchange

The University Archives organised several visits to other Archives in order to learn, share and collaborate with other institutions regarding Archives and Records Management. Our visits include HSBC Archives, Swire Archives and Legislative Council Archives. Like the University Archives, they operate their own records management programmes and professionally maintain their archives repositories, following all international requirements and standards against their business needs.



HSBC Archives, 5 May 2022



Legislative Council Archives, 28 December 2023

## Staff Achievement

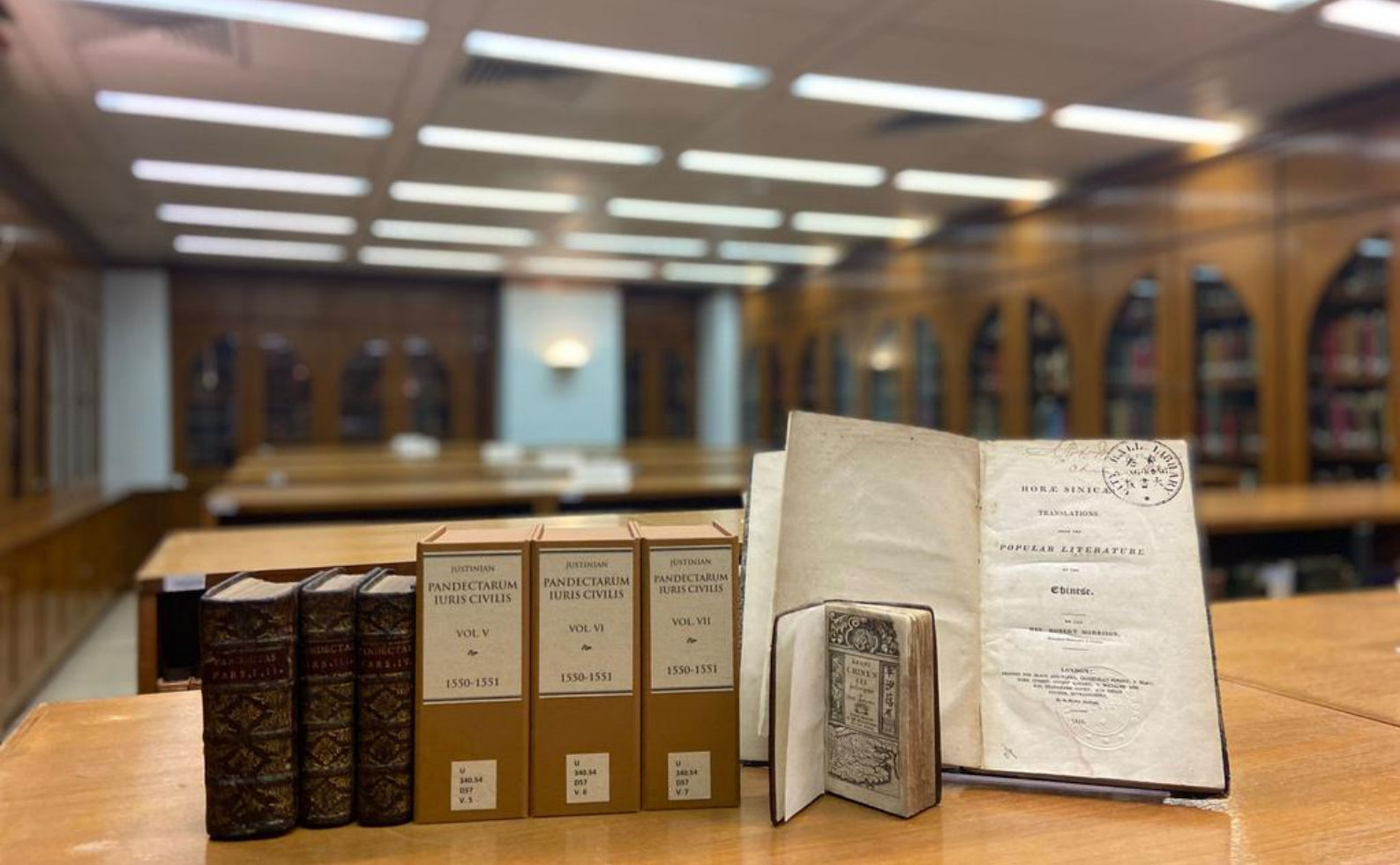
1. Mr. Garfield LAM, University Archivist
  - Re-certified Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) with the Society of American Archivists (USA)
  - Re-elected as Executive Bureau Member at the International Council on Archives (France) – Section of University and Research Archives (2024 – 2028)
2. Ms. SIU Shun-wai, Senior Archives Assistant ( - 2023)
  - Certified Archivist (CA) with the Academy of Certified Archivists (USA)
  - Postgraduate Diploma on Archival Studies at HKUSPACE
3. Mr. Gareth WAN, Senior Archives Assistant ( - 2024)
  - Certified Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) with the Society of American Archivists (USA)

## **Outlook for the University Archives**

UA is preparing for the launch of the **University History Gallery** on Centennial Campus in September 2025. This space will not only be used as a learning space but also a gathering place for visitors, donors and special events. This Gallery acts as a platform for the University to reach out to different communities and our international visitors through our unique University history as backdrop. Students could also learn more about the history of their alma mater and build up their sense of belonging and identity as part of the HKU family.

Apart from the regular transfer of the administrative records, UA seeks to enhance its archives collections through donation of personal papers from professoriate staff, senior administrators and alumni locally and abroad. UA also actively acquires records elsewhere outside of the University through auction houses and purchases, including personal papers, manuscripts and photographs relating to or produced by the University originally.

UA has initiated and been working with ITS for **Digital University Archives**, which hosts some of the open, non-embargoed records for open research. Such initiative helps with widening the access, especially for researchers abroad. The digital archives follows ISAD(G) as template, which reflects the organisation of the Archives, functions of the University and helps users with navigating the relevant administrative records for their research. UA will also revamp and relaunch its departmental homepage in 2025, together with the Digital University Archives.



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Special Collections (SC) develops various thematic collections through:

- Regular acquisition of Hong Kong publications through Book Registration Ordinance (BRO)
- Ad-hoc donation of materials
- Selective purchases

These rare, unique materials, focusing on Hong Kong and a wider Canton region, with distinctive research values on local and community histories, are collected and preserved to support certain needs of interdisciplinary teaching and learning. The Special Collections consists of:

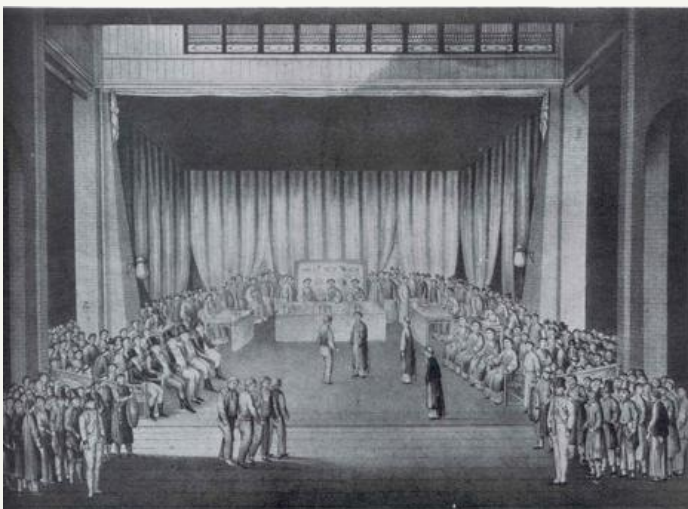
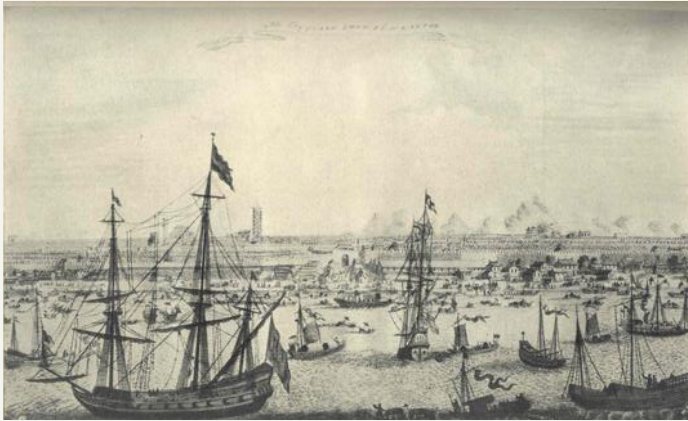
**Western Rare Books (pre-1900)** (8,995 items as of 2024)

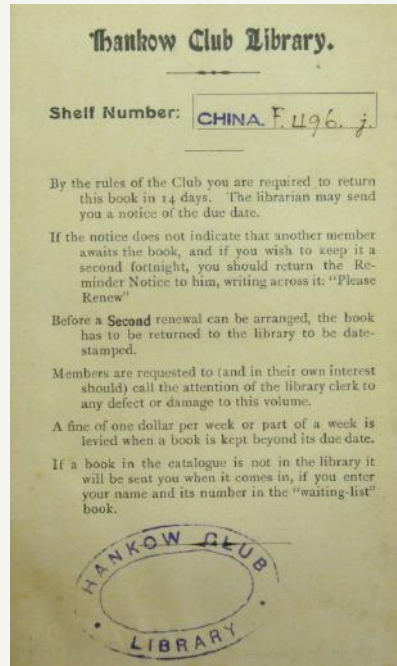
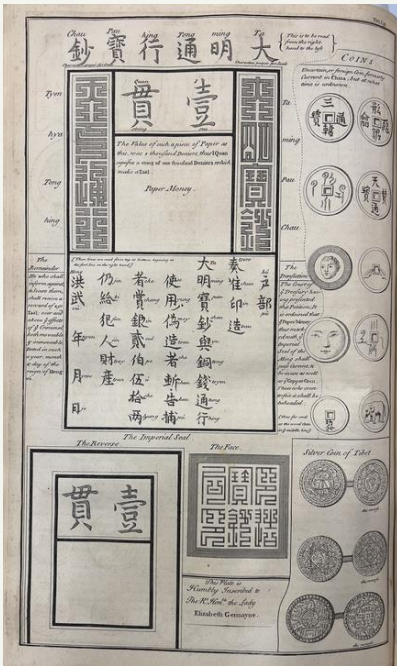
**Distinctive Thematic Collections**, including:

1. Hong Kong Collection (since 1975)
2. Chinese Merchants Collection
3. Frank Fischbeck Photographic Collection
4. Belt and Road Collection
5. Palmer and Turner (P&T) Architectural Collection
6. Historic newspapers and journals in microforms

The Rare Books Collection comprises the Chater Collection, the Hankow Club Collection, and the Morrison Collection.

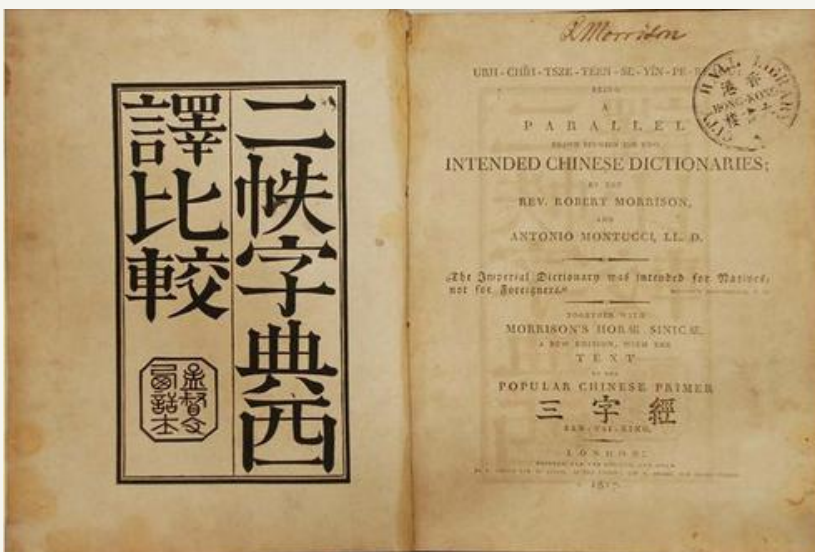
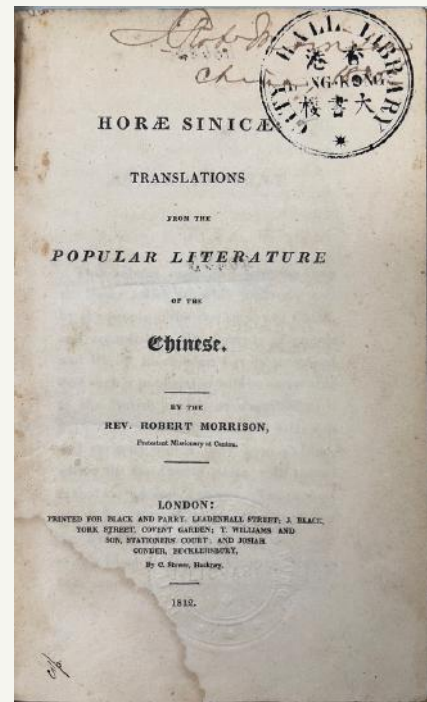
The **Chater Collection** was previously owned by Sir Catchick Paul Chater (1846-1926), the former Unofficial Member of Legislative Council of Hong Kong, who collected many illustrated picture books relating to China and its histories, cities, customs and people.





The **Hankow Club Collection** was purchased by our third Vice-Chancellor Sir William Hornell in 1933 from the Hankow Club in China, to enhance the library collection with English language books. The Hankow Club was a recreational social club set up in Hankow for European expatriates working in China. Its library was split and sold due to financial hardship and the English language section was sold to the University for HK\$25,000.

Later in 1936, Hornell accepted another major book Collection – the **Morrison Collection**, transferred by the City Hall through the Hong Kong Government. The Morrison Collection was known being used by the Morrison Education Society, established in 1835 to commemorate the late Rev. Robert Morrison, who was the first British Missionary arrived in China in 1807. Part of its books bear signatures of Robert Morrison, his son John Morrison, and other missionaries and European traders, dated as early as 1826. Most of its books are relating to Christianity including Bibles in different languages, sermons, theology, as well as subjects covering astronomy to zoology.



# DELL'HISTORIA DELLA CHINA,

*Descritta nella lingua Spagnuola, dal P. Maestro  
Giouanni GonZalez di Mendoza,  
dell'Ord. di S. Agostino.*

Et tradotta nell' Italiana, dal Magn. M. Francesco  
Auanzo, cittadino originario di Venetia.

P A R T I D V E,

*Diuise in tre libri, & in tre viaggi, fatti in quei paesi,  
da i Padri Agostiniani, & Franciscani.*

Donde si descriue il sito, & lo stato di quel gran Regno,  
& si tratta della religione, de i costumi, & della  
disposition de' suoi popoli, & d'altri luoghi  
più conosciuti del mondo nuouo.

*Con due Tauele, l'vna de' Capitoli, & l'altra delle cose notabili.*



IN VENETIA, M D LXXXVIII.

Appressio Andrea Muschio.

The oldest print book in the rare books collection is 'Dell' Historia della China' in Italian, printed in Venetia, Italy in 1588. This is a translated work and its original was by Juan Gonzalez de Mendoza in Spanish.

Another blockbuster collection is the **Frank Fischbeck Collection** – the largest photographic collection that the Libraries had ever acquired back in 2019 from publisher FormAsia Books, with the help and support from the WYNG Foundation, the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, the Swire Group Charitable Trust, the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation Limited, and the Simon K. Y. Lee Foundation Limited. Comprising 25,000 photographic images, this Collection has not only been digitised and is available in digital format to be accessed to, but it also has the most diverse and extensive physical formats to be found. Most of these formats are already obsolete but representing the ever-changing photographic technologies in different eras and decades, including the use of postcards, personal photo cards, prints of silver galletin, albumen, chromogenic, photomechanical as well as lantern slides, glass plates and film negatives. This collection also covers a vast subject area relating to Hong Kong history – from architecture to people, and from costumes to politics.

The digitization of this very collection took almost two years from start to finish, and all images are available online through the Digital Repository alongside with other digital collections of the Libraries: <https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/fischbeck>.



Apart from acquiring physical publications and manuscripts, SC has also been identifying relevant digital materials to fill the gaps of its existing collection. In 2022 and 2024, SC purchased some selected FCO 40 and CO 131 colonial administrative files relating to Hong Kong from The National Archives, UK, to support interdisciplinary research, teaching and learning of history and regional studies. In total, 1,399 of FCO 40 digital files and 33 of CO 131 digital files were purchased respectively and both are accessible on-site through designated computer terminals at SC following the copyright requirement set by The National Archives.

## Highlights (2021-2024)

### Statistics

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Items Retrieved for Use On-Site	15,006	19,610	14,641
• Rare Chinese Items Retrieved from Fung Ping Shan Library	354	1,083	764
Open Stack Materials Consulted	19,588	8,520	19,177
Visitors to Special Collections	N/A*	5,871	9,021
Visitors to Digital Repository	223,601	208,937	301,117
Enquiries	2,451	1,016	2,972
Images Digitised and Uploaded onto Digital Repository	54,647	63,459	42,917
Monographs (Items)	132,803	134,553	138,042
Bound Journals (Items)	68,034	68,519	69,149
Current Hong Kong Periodicals (Items)	3,611	4,321	5,211
Hong Kong Newspapers (Bound Volumes)	10,841	10,884	10,989
Rare Books (Pre-1900)	9,100	9,260	9,567
Rare Serials (Items)	2,052	2,070	2,070
Microfilms (Reels)	66,994	67,059	67,074

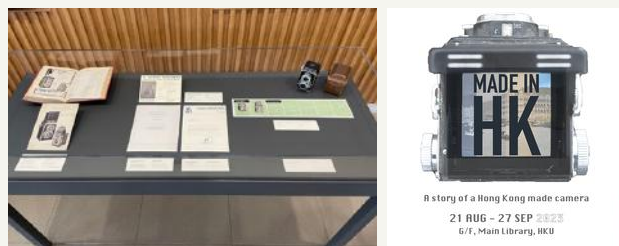
\* without registration and booking of research tables

### Notable Acquisitions

1. William Meacham's Archaeology of Hong Kong Collection
2. Uncle Ray News Clippings Collection
3. Anthony Lawrence's Collection
4. Hong Kong Heritage Society Collection
5. 香港大專學生社會服務隊文檔
6. 艾雯手稿特藏
7. The Last Emperor Photographic Collection by Basil Pao
8. FCO 40 and CO 131, The National Archives, UK (digital copies)

## Outreach

1. Formation of Future:  
Photographic Formats of  
Frank Fischbeck Collection Exhibition  
(21 August - 27 September 2023)



2. Hong Kong Chinese  
Merchants Collection Exhibition  
(10 October to 11 November 2022)



3. Research articles and journal published overseas

- 'Provenance in Books in Post British Colony', *Archives and Records Association New Zealand* (December 2022), by Garfield Lam
- 'Exploring the Idiosyncratic: a Journalist's Personal Archives', *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals* (June 2023), by Garfield Lam

## Special Visits

1. Visit from Hong Kong University Alumni Association (27 June 2023)



2. Visit from La Salle College Heritage Team to introduce Hong Kong Collection  
(24 May 2024)

3. Held a site visit session at the international symposium "Chinese Translations and Publications of Western Books in Hong Kong and Shanghai in the Early Modern Period [洋字與華文：近代香港與上海的西書中譯和出版]" organized by the School of Chinese to introduce and showcase rare book collections, the Hong Kong collection, and the Digital Repository  
(29 May 2023)



4. Introduced Hong Kong Property Sales Brochures Collection, Palmer and Turner (P&T Group) Collection and Luke Him Sau Architectural Collection to Chinachem Group delegation (15 August 2023)

5. Introduced Rare Book Collection to Fudan University 中華古籍保護研究院 staff (9 January 2024)



6. Co-hosted international workshop “Chinese - Business History workshop” with Faculty of History to promote the Hong Kong Chinese Merchants Collection” (18 October 2023)



7. Engaged with 廣州大典研究中心 to introduce the old Guangzhou images from Frank Fischbeck Collection and led the tour in Special Collections (11 October 2023)

8. Engaged with 上海市檔案館 for knowledge exchange the experience in collection preservation and digitization (17 June 2024)

### Staff Achievement

1. Ms. Ally Cheung, Assistant Services Manager

- Postgraduate Certificate in Archival Studies at HKUSPACE

2. Mr. Andy Yeung, Library Assistant I ( - 2024)

- Master of Science in Library and Information Management at HKU

## **Outlook for Special Collections**

SC is preparing for its first renovation since its establishment more than 50 years ago within the University Libraries. The renovation will provide a secured space for our unique collections and researchers to use our rare materials on-site. New space will also become the focal point within the Libraries for branding and image building. The new space will also include a mini conservation lab run by the Preservation and Conservation team of the HKU Libraries, to showcase some hands-on conservation techniques and to promote their specialised craftsmanship, focusing on rare books, bookbinding and papers conservation.

The largest ‘Hong Kong Collection’ within the Special Collections acts as a cultural connector between Hong Kong, China and the global community. This Collection encompasses key themes such as One Belt One Road, the Greater Bay Area, and incorporating existing World Trade Organisation materials. It is a unique resource that highlights Hong Kong's strategic position in facilitating research about Hong Kong, mainland China and the rest of the world. As we look towards the future, our goal is to further internationalize the SC, expanding our focus beyond Hong Kong and China to create a more diverse and inclusive repository of knowledge that reflects a global perspective.

Apart from collecting and managing the regular transfer of most of the Hong Kong published materials through Book Registration Ordinance, SC aims for widening its scope of collecting rare and unique materials beyond Hong Kong, in order to make it unique and become more international through a larger variety of themes and formats. For example, we start acquiring more photographic art works by local artists and collecting more personal and corporate papers and manuscripts from renowned commercial firms and personalities. We are also interested in collecting contemporary, first edition, western rare books with special bindings and provenance; and signed, personal manuscripts, through auction houses. Special materials including parchments and illuminated manuscripts will also be of our interests.

## **Conclusion**

Years 2021 to 2024 represented a lot of changes and challenges for the University Archives and Special Collection, especially during the pandemic. Many of our public services were restricted. However, it provided us a great opportunity to rethink our service model to become more virtual and digital regarding collecting and access. Our team is now investing more time on digitization for remote access while the visitors number remains stable.

We will also be acquiring more unique materials to elevate our collections in the University Archives and Special Collections. For the former, the unique records of the University represent our openness, trustworthiness and accountability; and for the latter the special materials help with our branding and building a unique image on the world stage.

# PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

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The University of Hong Kong Libraries is a pioneering academic institution in Hong Kong, known for establishing a Preservation Centre in 2010 with a professional team dedicated to the care of library and special collections. This team consists of conservators and technicians with diverse conservation specialties. They support the Libraries’ and the University’s mission by working to sustain and enhance the collections and maximise their accessibility for future generations. In recent years, preservation education and outreach have become a primary focus, engaging library users and the general public to raise awareness of the preservation of cultural heritage. Over the decades, the Centre has continued to develop its expertise in line with international trends and has strived to be a fundamental and contributing member of the local and global conservation community. The following sections highlight their achievements and the social impact of their work.

## COLLECTION CARE: LIBRARY GENERAL COLLECTIONS

The Preservation & Conservation Division (PCD) delivers comprehensive collection care support to the Libraries. This includes repairing damaged circulating books, binding physical journals, newspapers, and student theses, fabricating bespoke enclosures for various collection formats, and promptly responding to collection emergencies in library storage facilities. These tasks are systematically tracked by item/volume, as shown in the following statistics:

Type of Support	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Total / Type
Circulating Collection Repair	2,521	2,174	1,687	6,382
Journal/Newspaper Binding	765	643	1,641	3,049
Thesis Binding	279	255	268	802
Protective Enclosure Making	1,232	568	550	2,350
Collection Emergency Response	339	1,272	398	2,009
Total / Year	5,136	4,912	4,544	14,592 volumes



Rows of Damaged Circulating Books Awaiting Repair



A Book Cart Filled with Repaired Circulating Books



Protective Enclosures

# PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION SUPPORT: LIBRARY SPECIAL PROJECTS AND COLLECTIONS

From 2021 to 2024, preservation and conservation support was provided for over 30 projects in collaboration with two main custodians: Special Collections and Fung Ping Shan Library. Thousands of measures were implemented to ensure the smooth progression of the projects. In strict adherence to international best practices, the Libraries' unique collections were processed with the utmost care to facilitate sustained access and guarantee the long-term preservation. The support includes collection assessment, selection and provision of appropriate rehousing materials, in-house rehousing of oversized or fragile items, digitization and exhibition preparation, and crucially, the execution of basic to complex conservation treatments for numerous invaluable pieces.

## Special Collections:

- Frank Fischbeck Collection
- Palmer and Turner Architectural Collection
- Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection
- Hong Kong Chinese Merchants Collection
- Kotewall Photographic Collection
- C.C.Liu Collection
- Harold Thomas Matches
- The Excelsior Hong Kong Collection
- Hunter Family China Collection
- Chan Kwan Po Diaries, etc.

## Fung Ping Shan Library:

- Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection 羅禎符太醫特藏
- Wooden-Fish Book Collection 木魚書特藏
- 《說藥齋史媵稿》 Digitization Project 江蘇文庫項目
- Fung Ping Shan Family Archives 馮平山家族檔案特藏
- 梁鼎芬、黃松庵師徒文獻集
- Fung Ping Shan Library 90th Anniversary Ceremony, etc.

## Example of Processing Results: Before and After Rehousing



Hunter Family China Collection



The Kotewall Photographic Collection

The Harold Thomas Matches Collection

The notable outcomes of several major projects are detailed in the subsequent pages.

# Digitization and Preservation of the Frank Fischbeck Collection

Jun 2020 – Jun 2023

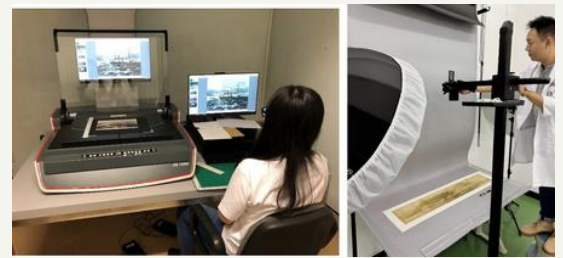


The Frank Fischbeck Collection consists of approximately 24,000 photographs of China, Hong Kong, and Asia from the 1860s to 1997, as well as more than 10 different photographic materials and formats, reflecting the evolution of photography. As one of the Libraries' largest photographic collections, it provides a unique and comprehensive visual record for research on Hong Kong.

In collaboration with Special Collections, PCD carries out preservation assessment, stabilization treatment, handling support, and photo identification throughout the digitization process. Original photographs are rehoused in appropriate enclosures based on their materials and formats for long-term storage. Additionally, high-quality reproductions of the original prints were created and inserted back into their respective album locations to maintain the most original viewing experience. The project has resulted in the creation of 23,848 high-resolution images, 1,938 photo facsimiles, the treatment of 2,025 items, and the rehousing of all items. This extensive work has made the collection accessible to the public and safeguarded this invaluable cultural heritage for future generations.



Separate the Original Photo from the Album for Digitization



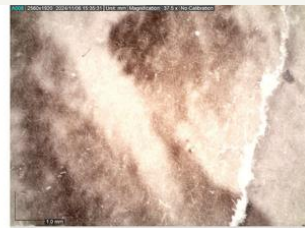
Digitization Process with Different Equipment



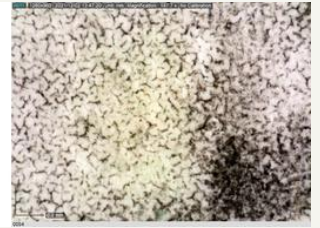
Photo Identification with Digital Microscope



Photomicrograph of an Albumen Print



Photomicrograph of a Photomechanical Print



Before Rehousing:  
Photographs Stored in Non-Archival Albums



After Rehousing:  
Photographs Stored in Photo-Safe Enclosures

## Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection 羅禎符太醫特藏

Jul 2021 – Jun 2022



The Dr. Luo Zhenfu Collection, a generous donation from Dr. Luo Zhenfu's descendants, was acquired by the Libraries in 2019. This interdisciplinary collection includes handwritten Chinese medicine prescriptions, medical manuscripts, design drafts from the 1930s related to Dr. Luo's Sang Sang Tong business, classic family portraits, and a variety of traditional Chinese art pieces such as paintings, calligraphy, and ink rubbings.

With the backing of the HKU Knowledge Exchange Funding 2021/22, a cross-departmental team was established, bringing together members from the School of Chinese Medicine, School of Chinese, Department of Art History, and University Libraries. In collaboration with PCD, they meticulously accessioned, processed, organized, digitized, and repaired a total of 207 titles (1,516 pieces). These culturally-rich heritages are now globally accessible through the HKUL Digital Repository.



Condition Mapping



Surface Cleaning



In-situ Repair



Pigment Consolidation

## Hong Kong Chinese Merchants Collection 香港華商特藏

May 2021 – Nov 2023



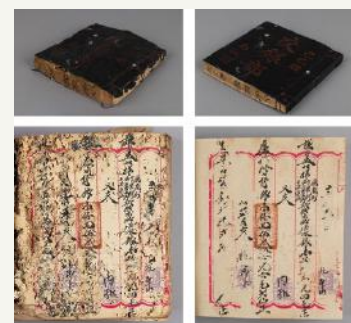
This collection comprises over 4,500 bound account books, 560 year-end reports, and numerous business and personal documents accumulated by Hong Kong Chinese merchants from the late 19th to mid-20th century. With the support of the HKU Knowledge Exchange Funding 2022/23, comprehensive preservation services have been meticulously executed to ensure the digitization and long-term preservation of this historic archive. These efforts include thorough collection assessments, the provision of custom-made rehousing materials, specialised in-house rehousing for oversized, fragile items and photographs, different level of conservation treatment for 389 pieces, and exhibition preparation.



Humidifying and Flattening



Consolidating Fragile Paper



Before Treatment

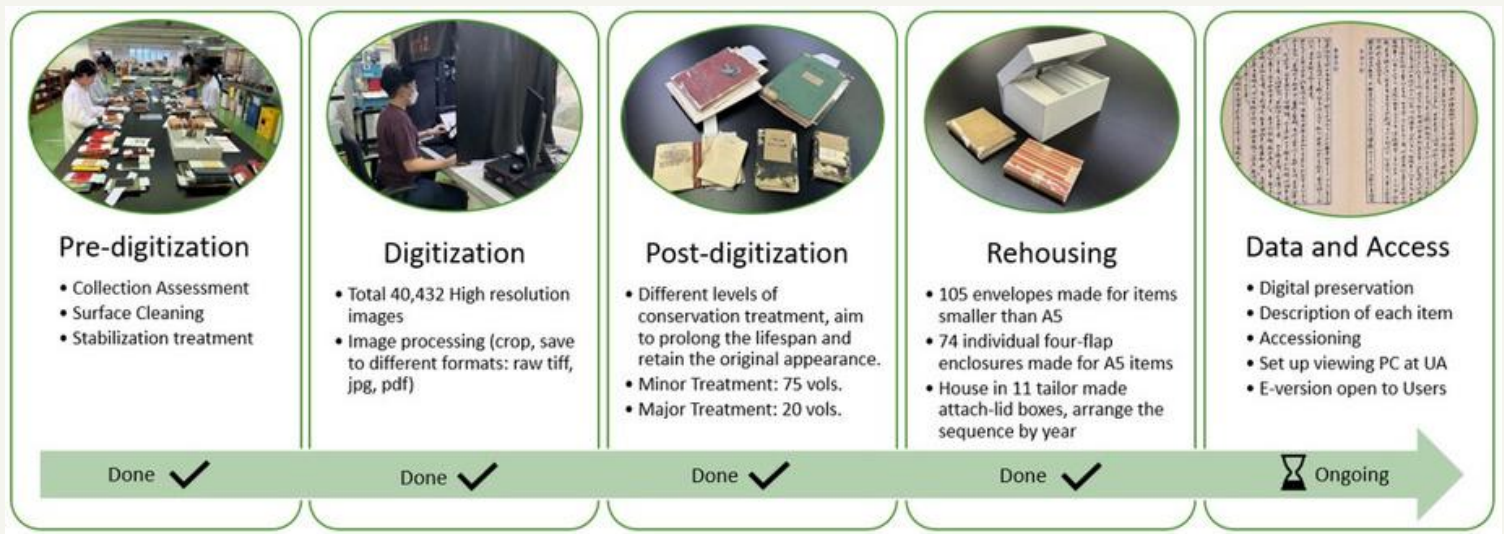
After Treatment

# Chan Kwan Po Diaries 陳君葆 (1898–1982) 日記

Apr 2024 – Jan 2025

In April 2024, the University graciously received the donation of the manuscript of the Chan Kwan Po Diaries collection, which chronicles the author's life over more than half a century, from 1921 to 1982. The library extends heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Tse Wing Kwon, Mr. Chan Kwan Po's son-in-law, for the donation of the complete manuscripts. Mr. Chan Kwan Po (1898-1982), a teacher at the HKU School of Chinese and former Fung Ping Shan Librarian, is recognized for his significant contributions to the preservation of national assets and post-war social reconstruction. During the Second World War, he saved over 30,000 volumes of rare books from various parts of China and preserved the birth and death records of the Hong Kong government.

Praised as “the witness of a great era”, the Chan Kwan Po Diaries are a treasured academic and cultural record of Hong Kong's modern history and the cultural exchanges between China and Hong Kong. The collection comprises 180 volumes of original manuscripts, which are permanently preserved in the University Libraries. The physical condition of some diaries urgently requires conservation treatment to extend their lifespan. Additionally, the use of iron gall ink in the diary entries heightens the priority for digitization. Through the efforts made to preserve and digitize the manuscripts, the original diaries will be made accessible for viewing, appreciation, and research, further ingraining and disseminating their historical and cultural significance.



Process Flowchart



Before Treatment

After Treatment



Before Treatment

After Treatment

# COLLECTION PROMOTION

With successful preservation and conservation under its belt, the Libraries is committed to increasing the exposure of their special collections to users and the community. Celebrating the 90th anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library and the 110th anniversary of the Main Library, thematic exhibitions were curated, featuring a variety of collections, in collaboration with several faculty members. PCD took an active role in the planning, design, preparation, and installation of these exhibitions. These showcases offered visitors a unique chance to intimately interact with well-preserved materials, enriching their research experiences and intensifying their appreciation for the library's exceptional and valuable resources.



The C.C. Liu Collection on New Music in China (Mar - May 2022)



HKU Libraries Anniversary Kick-Off Ceremony: Library History and Collection Highlights (24 June 2022)



Exhibition Brochure

Chinese Merchants Collection (Oct – Nov 2022)



School of Chinese Alumni Manuscript Exhibition (Sep - Oct 2022)



Exhibition  
Catalogue

宋版之美·人間至寶 - 馮平山圖書館藏宋版書展 (Nov – Dec 2022)



Music in Print 作樂崇德: Selections from the Fung Ping Shan Library and Western Rare Book Collection (Jan – Feb 2023)



Formation of Future: Photographic Formats of Frank Fischbeck Collection (Aug - Sep 2023)



Historical Milestones of Fung Ping Shan Library 馮平山圖書館歷史回顧常設展 5/F Main Library

## PRESERVATION EDUCATION & OUTREACH

As the pioneering academic institution in Hong Kong to establish a dedicated facility for the preservation and conservation of library and archival materials, the Libraries emphasises the crucial role that educational initiatives and community outreach play in strengthening preservation efforts. This commitment is manifested in various initiatives such as public lectures, workshops, and lab tours, which are all designed to shed light on the behind-the-scenes operations and elevate public awareness about preservation and conservation. We aspire that this increased visibility will naturally enhance our reputation and stimulate more community support.

The team also diligently addresses the growing need for preservation expertise in the region by offering professional conservation consultation and extending its services to other institutions and organisations. From 2021 to 2024, the team has successfully completed a total of 42 projects. Their primary objective is to safeguard the cultural and historical heritage of the broader community.

### Lecture and Guest Speaker:

- Faculty of Arts: MUSE7010 - Discussion of the preventive measures for Theft and Vandalism at GLAM – Lesley Liu, Nov 2023
- UMAG U Learning Lab - Lecture & Demonstration: Preservation of Chinese Paintings – Lesley Liu, Feb 2024
- LingnanU: Preservation and Conservation of Traditional Chinese Books – Lesley Liu, March 2024

### Public Workshop:

- Explore @HKUL: DIY notebook workshop - 2 sessions, 40 participants; Nov 2021
- Hong Kong Palace Museum: Ink Rubbing Workshop - 4 sessions, 80 participants; Aug 2022
- Hong Kong Palace Museum: Chinese Painting Lining workshop - 12 sessions, 240 participants; July-Aug, Oct-Nov 2022; May 2023
- HKU Museum & Gallery: Ink Rubbing Workshop - 2 sessions, 30 participants; Nov 2023
- Lingnan University: 古刻薪傳 Printing and Binding Workshop - 2 sessions, 40 participants; March 2024



Explore@HKUL  
Workshop



Chinese Painting Lining  
Workshop



Printing and Binding  
Workshop

### International Preservation Week Event:

- 2023 Preservation Week: Exhibition and Workshop - Dexterity and Meticulousness 善工巧藝; Ink Rubbing Workshop - 4 sessions, 60 participants; April 2023



- 2024 Preservation Week: Open House - 4 sessions, 62 participants; May 2024



Furthermore, a variety of educational activities were organised for faculty members to enrich their teaching and learning experience. An internal sharing session was also conducted for 23 library staff across 4 divisions to enhance their comprehensive understanding of the proper care and handling of special collections, thereby fostering a deep appreciation for various collection formats.

### Teaching Support: co-teach class or collection view @ Preservation Centre:

- HKU Faculty of Arts: MUSE7005, 25 students (Oct 2023, Oct 2024);
- HKU Music Department: MUSI2084, 11 students (Oct 2021, Feb 2023)
- HKU School of Chinese: CHIN2291, 19 students (Nov 2021, Oct 2024)
- HK Archives Society: Preservation Course, 14 students (Oct 2023)
- Lingnan University: Master of Arts in Curating and Art History, 40 students (Oct 2024)
- HKU Space: Library and Information Studies – Preservation of Information, 14 students (Nov 2023)



Staff Training:  
Internal Sharing Session



Teaching Support



### Guided Tour to the Conservation Lab

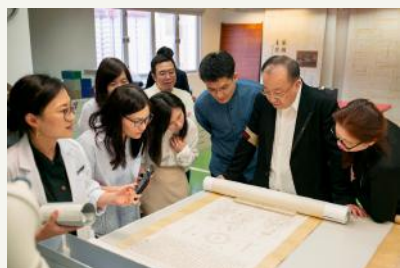
Between 2021 and 2024, the Preservation Centre has proudly hosted multiple lab tours, welcoming a total of 236 visitors from prestigious local and international institutions. These guests represent a diverse range of backgrounds, including universities, cultural organizations, art collectors, and the general public. The Centre's goal is to foster meaningful connections within the community and beyond through engaging lab tours.

- Local Community:

Library donors, CUHK, HKBU, City U, Lingnan U, HKMU, HK Palace Museum, M+ Museum, HK Archives Society, HK Library Association, Swire Group, Kerry Properties, HK Open Press, The Chinese Club, Ying Wa College, Ying Wah Girls School, Sik Sik Yuen, Towngas, HK Permanent Cemetery, private collectors and artists, etc.

- Mainland and Overseas:

Fudan University, Tsinghua University Art Museum, National Library, The Palace Museum, Taiwan National Palace Museum, The National Art Museums Japan, conservation peers from Beijing & Tianjin, EXPMPortugal, MorikiPaper Japan, etc.



Scholars from Chamber of Young Snow, National Library and Taiwan National Palace Museum



Visitors from Fudan University



Visitors from Open Printshop



Peers from M+ Museum

### 360° Virtual Lab Tour

In addition to on-site lab tours, the Preservation Centre also introduced a 360° virtual tour. This immersive experience includes images, videos, and detailed descriptions, providing a global audience with an exclusive peek into the conservation lab. Here, our dedicated conservators engage in captivating work to safeguard and protect a diverse range of cultural treasures. This virtual tour enhances accessibility, allowing our conservation efforts to reach a broader and more diverse audience worldwide.



360° Virtual Lab Tour



## Media Coverage

Since launching its collection outreach initiatives, the University Libraries have seen a significant increase in media coverage and publicity from 2021 to 2024. The preservation and conservation efforts, in particular, have drawn substantial media attention. This heightened interest not only reflects the meticulous efforts being made, but also points to a broader societal recognition of the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

2021-12-03 大公報 報道: [同行不同情 資源調配理想化 實際困難重重](#)

2022-02-24 大公報 報道: [注資培育文物修復員獲好評](#)

2022-12-03 CHINA DAILY 中國日報報道: [Relics saved from the ravages of time](#)



2024-04-23 中國新聞社報道:

[世界讀書日採訪：妙手補書書可春——訪香港書醫（41萬閱讀量）](#)

[【香港故事】隨書籍修復師感受舊書中的香港（50.3萬瀏覽）](#)



2024-10-07 RTHK 港台電視31台 - 香港故事《師傅來了2》 -

[華商交銀部修復紀錄片：古籍重生, 香港大學圖書館文獻修復師巧手為古籍延續生命](#)



## 注資培育文物修復員獲好評

【大公報訊】記者劉毅、徐小惠報道：新一份財政預算案中提及，政府會撥款3700萬元，在未來六個年度，為康文署和即將啟用的香港故宮文化博物館的文物修復人員，提供專業培訓，增加博物館見習員（文物修復）計劃及暑期實習生計劃的名額，預計超過150人受惠。業內專家普遍認為此舉有助於提升公眾對文物修復的了解，進而促進相關領域發展。

「以往從事文物修復工作的專業人員不多，這次政府首次關注到文物修復人員群體，是一件好事。」中國民間文藝家協會香港分會主席鄭培凱表示：「政府提出幫助文物修復師的培訓，很有必要。香港故宮文化博物館開館之後，也會需要這樣一批專業人才。不能每一次展覽，都請北京方面派人來。」

鄭培凱續稱，今次預算案提到會增設博物館見習員（文物修復）計劃，有助於提升大眾對於歷史文物的興趣，「此措施或許不會在短時間之內培養出專業人才，卻能令愈來愈多年輕人，趁暑期實踐參加計劃，從而提升他們對文物的興趣和知識。」

香港大學圖書館文物保護與修復中心主任劉雨陽談到，這是很長時間以來，第一次在財政預算案中提到關於文物修復的撥款。不過，她表示：「目前我們還不確定香港大學是否屬於政府財政預算的一部分，因為不確定政府是否知道我們有修復部門的存在。」她希望未來如果有可能，政府也可以為高校在文物修復方面進行一些支援。

## STAFF KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

### Symposium:

- Panel on sustainability in and for our museums and collections in HK @M+ International, 2023
- The International Symposium on Chinese Art Conservation @HK Palace Museum 2023
- 紙質文物保護國際聯盟成立籌備會 & 第三屆古籍收藏與保護學術研討會 @Fudan University, 2023

### Professional Development:

- Ink Rubbing Workshop “金石不渝，傳拓留真”- 深圳圖書館@Shenzhen Library – Andy Yu, 2023
- Recreating an early seventeenth-century Cambridge bookbinding @Montefiascone Conservation Project, Italy – Xiaoping Cai, 2023
- 18-19th C. Parchment Stationery Bindings @Montefiascone Conservation Project, Italy – Lesley Liu, 2023
- Muse Fest HK 2023 Conserve it! Wonder Gel! Conservation workshop @LCSD – Andy Yu
- Design Thinking workshop @HKUL - Shaoyi Qian, 2024
- 鑄字歷程：西歐篇 @Hong Kong Open Press – Henry Wu, 2024



Ink Rubbing  
Workshop  
- Andy Yu



Conservation  
Course in Italy  
- Lesley LIU



Conservation  
Course in Italy  
- Xiaoping CAI

### **Online Training Received:**

- The Centre for Photographic Conservation: Photographic Degradation Course, 2022;
- Coursera & MoMA: Seeing Through Photograph, 2022
- Northeast Document Conservation Center: Caring for Architectural Records, Digitization Planning for Success, Strategies for Acetate and Nitrate Negatives and Film, Care and reformatting of Microfilm, 2022-2023.
- CEDARS: How to Communicate & Support Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, 2022
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data: Data Protection & Data Access Request, 2022
- HKU Human Resources Office: Introduction to Personal Data Protection, 2023

### **Visits to other cultural institutions/organizations:**

- M+ Conservation Lab - all PCD conservators, 2022
- Swire Archives & Hong Kong Open Press - all PCD staff, 2024
- Preservation Centre at Fudan University – Lesley Liu & Xiaoping Cai, 2023
- Conservation Lab in National Museum of China & Tsinghua University Museum – Lesley Liu, 2024



Group Visit to  
Swire Archives



Group Visit to  
HK Open Press

# Outreach & Engagement

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HKU Libraries is not only a cornerstone of academic excellence, but also establishes itself as a dynamic institution involved in countless fundraising initiatives and publicity events, engaging and closely integrating with its local, regional and global stakeholders across different sectors.

Featuring a plethora of events all year round, the Libraries has proved to be a treasure trove of mined resources that form the backbone of a manifold of biographies, histories, articles, novels and podcasts. Responsible for the rich source material are the library collections: with miles of shelves of great books, the uncovering of forgotten old memoirs and lost lives awaits reassembly and regeneration, that can facilitate knowledge exchange and contribute towards the multifaceted enrichment of society. Over the past few years, the Libraries has dedicated a vast amount of time and resources to commemorate its notable celebrations, as well as to curate a portfolio of events that have become a staple of its renowned brand.



### Celebrations

- 110th & 111th Anniversaries of Main Library
- 90th Anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library



### Events

- Exhibition
- Book Talks
- Cultural & Mindfulness Activities

In the Libraries,  
from July 2021 to June 2024,  
there have been:



**108**

Total Events

Among which:



**12**

Celebrations



**25**

Exhibitions



**22**

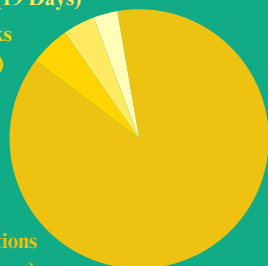
Book Talks



**15**

Cultural &  
Mindfulness  
Activities

Book Talks  
(23 Days)



Exhibitions  
(804 Days)

Over three years, the Libraries has dedicated

**~ 900 days** to events.

## CELEBRATIONS

Amidst remarkable achievements is the call for praise and jubilation, of which HKU Libraries takes pride in sharing its celebratory milestones with its benefactors and distinguished friends. Over the past three years, collectively embracing the 110th & 111th Anniversary of Main Library and the 90th Anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library, these monumental occasions are joyous moments in tribute for the Libraries' reflection, gratitude and appreciation.

### **110TH & 111TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAIN LIBRARY**

Having surpassed more than century of service, the celebrations of the 110th and 111th Anniversaries of Main Library does not just recognise the Libraries' everlasting contributions to the University and the wider community; they are consecutive reminders about the importance of the Libraries' persistence and ongoing commitment. Coinciding with this honouring of the past is the welcoming of the future, with the introduction of new library spaces and a determined strive for ambitious dreams. HKU Libraries will undoubtedly uphold its legacy as the oldest academic library in Hong Kong and remains eager to embrace the next 110 and 111 years to come.



**Kick-off Ceremony and Exhibition of One Library Two Anniversaries, 24 June 2022**

The 110th anniversary of Main Library and 90th anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library commenced with the Kick-off Ceremony of One Library Two Anniversaries, held at the Digital Interactive Lab, Main Library. The Libraries expressed its upmost gratitude towards the donors' generosity, support and dedication to the development of HKU Libraries. Alongside, the commemorative exhibition revisits the Libraries' past 110 years through unique items, documents, photos, and historical objects from the University Archives, Special Collections, and Fung Ping Shan Library.



**HKU Libraries Celebration & Appreciation Dinner, 20 October 2022**

Over 30 honourable guests including donors, faculty members and alumni was hosted at a Celebration and Appreciation Dinner, as part of the 110th and 90th anniversary celebration series. Sponsored by the Senior Common Room, the Libraries took this joyful and pleasant event as opportunity to express gratitude to all its supporters for their great backing and unwavering commitment towards the development of libraries.



**90+ Dinner Celebration, 27 June 2023**

HKU Libraries' 90+ Dinner Celebration commemorates Everyone, Everything 90+, Everywhere all at once, including the 110th anniversary of Main Library, 90th anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library, 90th anniversary of George Bernard Shaw's visit to HKU, 92nd anniversary of the Hong Kong Alumni Association, and 150 years of the P&T Group. Another special occasion to thank the Libraries' generous supporters, the celebration dinner was hosted at the Ming Pavillion, Senior Common Room- paying tribute to the Libraries' esteemed guests and donors for their most valuable contributions.



**Technology-Enriched Learning Mezzanine in Yu Chun Keung Medical Library  
Opening Ceremony, 13 February 2023**



**Tin Ka Ping Education Library Relaunch, 29 September 2023**



**Music Library Relaunch, 5 October 2023**



### 111 Dreams Gala Dinner, 1 November 2023

The Libraries joyously marked its 111th anniversary, with the grand 111 Dreams Gala Dinner. Celebrating 111 years of dreams, the Libraries have served as catalysts for many accomplished dreams nurtured and realised, as well as for dreamers' expanding minds and facilitating discoveries. This annual fundraiser is the epitome of celebratory occasions for the Libraries, an event most fitting to appreciate all donors and Library friends for their continuous support and contributions over the past year.



### Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library Opening Ceremony, 3 September 2024



# 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF FUNG PING SHAN LIBRARY

Opening officially in December 1932, the Fung Ping Shan Library has thrived in Hong Kong over the past ninety years. As an East Asian library rooted in China, it has served countless Sinologists and enthusiasts of Chinese studies around the world and provided enormous contributions to East Asian scholarship.

Honouring 90 years of service to researchers and students, the Libraries have organised an anniversary celebration series in recognition of Fung Ping Shan Library's rich legacy.

馮  
平  
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堂



## 1. Talk and Exhibition of Manuscripts by Teachers and Alumni of School of Chinese 中文學院師友作家講座及手稿展覽

Date: 9 September, 2022

Speakers: 羈魂先生、胡燕青女士、洛楓女士、演然先生

Exhibition Period: 9 September – 30 September, 2022



## 2. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Woman:

Eileen Chang at the University of Hong Kong 張愛玲的香港大學

Date: 30 September, 2022

Speaker: Professor Nicole Huang 黃心村教授



### 3. Talk and Exhibition on Chinese Merchants in Hong Kong in the Early Days 早期香港傑出華商講座及展覽

Date: 6 October, 2022

Speakers: Professor Lau Chi Pang 劉智鵬教授,  
Dr Zheng Wan Tai Victor 鄭宏泰博士

Exhibition Period: 10 October – 11 November, 2022



### 4. Talk on Biographies

人物傳記：從《讓我們現在讚揚名人吧》談起

Date: 27 October, 2022

Speakers: Professor Lau Chi Pang 劉智鵬教授,  
Dr Zheng Wan Tai Victor 鄭宏泰博士



### 5. International Symposium:

Engaging the Past, with the Future, for the Future:  
Emerging Roles of East Asian Libraries

「繼往開來：東亞圖書館的嶄新角色」國際研討會

Date of Symposium: 11 November 2022

Speakers:

Dr. Jim Cheng, Dr. Martin Heijdra, Dr. Matthias Kaun, Professor Yang Guanghui, Dr. Yang Jidong, Dr. Yeung Man Shun, Ms. Zhang Hongyang



### 6. Exhibition of Chinese Rare Books in Song Editions

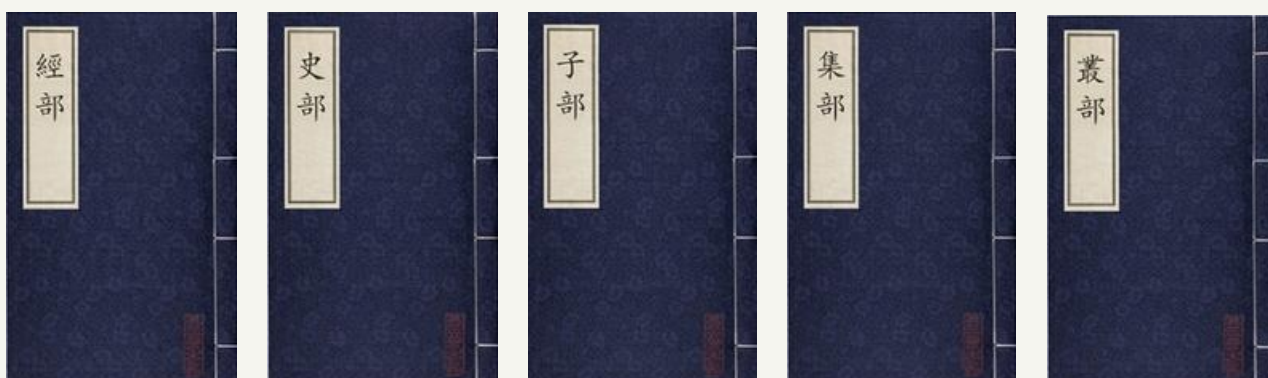
宋版之美·人間至寶：香港大學馮平山圖書館藏宋版書展

Presented by: Fung Ping Shan Library

Exhibition Period: 14 November - 22 December, 2022



The grand finale of the celebratory events was the closing ceremony held on 11 January, 2023. Representing Fung Ping Shan family, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Fung joined the Provost Professor Richard Wong and over a hundred of guests to witness re-installation of the statue and portrait of Mr Fung Ping Shan in the Library which he established nine decades ago. The Fung Ping Shan Library Rare Books Online was also officially launched during the ceremony, offering open access to 116 rare books, comprising 1,025 volumes.



### Collection Building, Preservation, Management & Promotion

The Fung Ping Shan Library collections support the teaching, learning, research and knowledge exchange needs of Chinese studies, languages, history and culture at the University and the global community.

As at 30 June 2024, the Library had a stock of nearly 1 million volumes, more than 13,000 periodicals titles and some 170 Chinese newspapers from Mainland China, Taiwan, Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Its collections are consisted of 5,400 titles of microfilm, more than 1,000 microfiche titles, 20,000 items of audio-visual materials, 10,000 local gazetteers and over 200 titles of seal impressions.

Of growing importance is its digital collection, comprising key Chinese online databases such as Scripta Sinica Database, Chinese Classic Ancient Books, Sikuquanshu, China Academic Journals Full-text Databases, China Periodical Full-text Databases, China Yearbook Database, China Doctor Dissertations Database, China Reference Works Online, China Infobank, WiseNews, Duxiu, Chinamaxx Digital Libraries, Wangfang data Local Gazettes, etc.

The Library has continued to build and optimize access to its collections while acquiring and preserving rare and special items for the needs of local and overseas users. Some noteworthy initiatives and donations include:

- Fung Ping Shan Visiting Scholar programme (馮平山圖書館訪問學者計劃) supported by the donation of Ms Chan To Tit Ming Judy



The first visiting scholar Professor Yao Boyue (天津師範大學古籍保護研究院常務副院長姚伯岳教授) evaluated the more recently acquired Fung Ping Shan Library rare book collections and conducted a talk on 23 August, 2023 about Chinese rare book preservation and cultural inheritance.



- Partnership with Professor Yeung Man Shun in providing teaching support for CHIN2291 Document Collation, Historical Studies and Knowledge Sharing (文獻整理、歷史研究與知識共享)



- Library tours for the School of Chinese International Symposium: Chinese Translations and Publications of Western Books in Hong Kong and Shanghai in the Early Modern Period (洋字與華文：近代香港與上海的西書中譯和出版)



- Visit from the National Library of China, Guangzhou Encyclopedia Research Center, and Institute for Preservation and Conservation of Chinese Ancient Books of Fudan University (中國國家圖書館、廣州大典研究中心、復旦大學中華古籍保護研究院等參訪香港大學圖書館)





- Loaning of the several rubbings to the University Museum and Art Gallery for its exhibition 'King's Inscriptions: Contemporary Interpretations' (皇帝碑刻·當代啟迪) from November 2023 to January 2024.



- Donation of Mr Luke Wong's special collection of the literary works and paintings of Liang Dingfen (梁鼎芬 1859-1919) and Huang Songan (1874-1953) 《梁鼎芬、黃松庵師徒文獻集》特藏捐贈. Liang was an official and scholar in late Qing and early Mingguo period, as well as a teacher of Emperor Puyi.



- Collaborated with Professor Wei Yan Vivien (魏艷教授) of School of Chinese to compile and digitize the airwave novels (天空小說系列) of the 'King of Broadcasting' Mr Li Ngaw (播音皇帝李我先生 1922-2021) broadcasted on radio from 1940s to 1970s.



## Historical Milestones of Fung Ping Shan Library Exhibition Opening Ceremony, 3 July 2024



Photo on the left - Key donors & partners participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony (First from the left Mr Luke Wong, second and third from the left Ms Tse Siu Ping and Mr Tse Wing Kwon, in front of the portrait Mr and Mrs Kenneth Fung, fourth from the right Professor To Cho Yee, first and second on the right Mr and Mrs Fung Ping Cheung)

Photo on the right - Mr Kenneth Fung giving a speech at the ceremony.

2024 commemorates the 92nd anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library, with the opening of a new permanent exhibition on 5/F, Main Library. The exhibition showcases a collection of documents, photographs, manuscripts and clippings that highlight various aspects of the Fung Ping Shan Library, including its establishment, opening, early history, readership, cultural activities and education in Chinese studies.



Through retrospective, the Libraries pay tribute to the foresight of Mr. Fung Ping Shan and other predecessors of the Fung Ping Shan Library, as well as their generous contributions to future generations. By reminiscing about the past and looking towards the future, HKU Libraries proudly embarks on the journey towards the first centennial of the Fung Ping Shan Library.



Guided tour to guests, alumni and the press

## Celebrations (7/2021 - 6/2024)

2022:

**Kick-off Ceremony of One Library Two Anniversaries**, 24 June 2022

**HKU Libraries Celebration & Appreciation Dinner**, 20 October 2022

2023:

**馮平山圖書館九十周年慶典**

**Fung Ping Shan Library 90th Anniversary Ceremony**, 11 January 2023

**Technology-Enriched Learning Mezzanine in**

**Yu Chun Keung Medical Library Opening Ceremony**, 21 February, 2023

**90+ Dinner Celebration**, 27 June 2023

**慶祝香港大學建校111周年誌慶捐贈典禮 Donations Ceremony**, 19 September 2023

**Tin Ka Ping Education Library Relaunch**, 29 September 2023

**Music Library Relaunch**, 5 October 2023

**111 Dreams Gala Dinner**, 1 November 2023

2024:

**HKU Alumni Day**, 16 March 2024

**Historical Milestones of Fung Ping Shan Library Exhibition**

**Opening Ceremony**, 3 July 2024

**Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library Opening Ceremony**,\*

3 September 2024

Revisit the celebrations through our commemorative websites:

<https://www.hkul110.hku.hk/>

<https://www.hkul111.hku.hk/>

\* beyond 6/2024

## EVENTS

From hosting book talks and exhibitions to honouring celebrations and ceremonies, the University Libraries remains connected with its grassroots among the HKU community and pays homage to its donors – past and present – whose support is instrumental for the Libraries.

In recent years, the Libraries has increasingly evolved outside of academia, embracing a multidisciplinary role as a cultural and intellectual exchange hub; alongside featured talks and thematic exhibitions, a wide variety of new initiatives aims to extend its knowledge exchange beyond campus and HKU.

This includes many collaborative projects with well-known artists, as well as an expanding global outreach among fellow world-class institutions – such as partnerships with Chinese Academy of Arts, a premiere fine arts institute from China and renowned artists such as Mr. Basil Pao and Dr. Kan Tai Keung. In this new-generation information age, HKU Libraries ensures relevance and impact by continually bridging between the past and present, local and global, academic and public.

## EXHIBITIONS

HKU Libraries commits to sharing its wonderful collections and archival treasures with the community. Open to all library visitors, a plethora of featured exhibitions and galleries allows for a closeup inspection of rare and special items on display, along with an intellectual discovery of lesser-known, yet valuable histories.

### Exploring the C.C. Liu Collection on New Music in China at the University of Hong Kong Libraries

- Presented by: The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 20 April – 13 May, 2022



Negotiating with the digital age, HKU Libraries looks to retain the immense value of historical print materials. Notably, Exploring the C. C. Liu Collection on New Music in China at the University of Hong Kong Libraries Exhibition contains a vast array of precious manuscripts and invaluable musical materials donated from Professor Liu Ching-chih: the largest private collection on new music in China, in Hong Kong.

It features music materials related to the Sino-Japanese Conflict and the Cultural Revolution, as well as Westernised music in China from the mid-1980s to late 1990s. As such, the exhibition offers a treasure house for tracing Hong Kong's cultural heritage and understanding the cross-border academic exchanges of the 20th century, highlighting the significance of preserving historical materials, and the need to appreciate C. C. Liu as a foresighted and dedicated educator in Hong Kong.



## 《昨日的影 今日的光 — 粵語片劇照展》

Presented by: Ms. Ruby Yang

Exhibition Period: 28 July – 4 September, 2022



## G.B. Shaw: Ireland's Nobel Laureate in HKU - 90 Years On

Presented by: The Consulate General of Ireland

Exhibition Period: 13 February – 17 February, 2023



## Colours of Hong Kong 《特色香港》

Presented by: Mr. Laurence Lai, Mr. Edward Stokes, Mr. Tsui Tong

Exhibition Period: 12 June – 16 August, 2023



## Formation of Future: Photographic Formats of Frank Fischbeck Collection

Presented by: The University of Hong Kong Libraries

Exhibition Period: 21 August – 27 September, 2023



## 111 Dreams Sculpture Exhibition

Presented by: Professor Ko Wah Man Norman

Exhibition Period: 9 October – 8 November, 2023



## Basil Pao's Carnival of Dreams

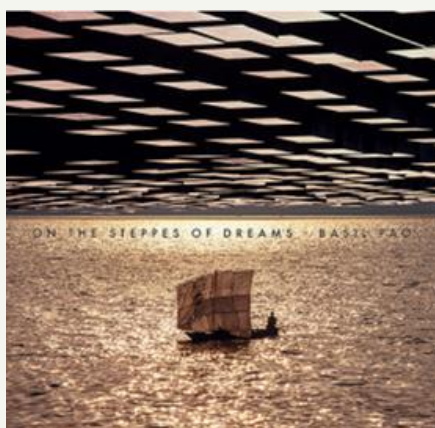
Presented by: Mr. Basil Pao

Exhibition Period: 1 March – 31 March 2024



### On the Steppes of Dreams, Basil Pao

A momento for its 111th anniversary, HKU Libraries co-published *On the Steppes of Dreams* by Basil Pao, in collaboration with HKU Press- the latest collection of 'dreamscapes' by acclaimed Hong Kong photographer, Mr. Basil Pao.



It captures a visual odyssey through an evolution from collages to vibrant photomontages- a companion piece to Pao's previous book *Carnival of Dreams* (2023) that celebrates 50 years of his creativity and 100 years of Surrealism, completing his story of surrealist/ magic-realism imagery.

Pao's new book is the Libraries' first title for official publication- a pilot initiative and remarkable achievement aimed at expanding its knowledge exchange impact outside of traditional library domains.



**Her Rights! Money, Power, Autonomy**  
 Presented by: The Consulate General of Sweden  
 Exhibition Period: 8 March – 2 April, 2024



**Kan Tai Keung's Mind and His Own Steps**  
**《靳埭强 心路·足跡》**  
 Presented by: Dr. Kan Tai Keung  
 Exhibition Period: 5 April – 24 May, 2024



# 《回歸·雕刻·夢》 Reunification. Carving. Dreams.

Presented by: Yo Shing (Mr. Cheung Sing Hung)

Exhibition Period: 17 June – 14 August, 2024



# 《愛之夢》 The Dream of Love

Presented by: Professor Wei Xiaorong

Exhibition Period: 11 September – 31 October, 2024



## **Exhibitions (7/2021 - 6/2024)**

2021:

### **From Bygone Ages**

Collection of over 250,000 photographs of world sculptures and 2,500 images of underwater creatures, from no less than 55 countries and taken over more than 45 years.

- Presented by: Professor Ko Wah Man Norman, Mrs. Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy
- Exhibition Period: 11 June – 16 July, 2021

### **100 Years of Women's Suffrage in America 美國女性參政百年奮鬥**

Spotlighted the lives of eight notable suffragists who played key roles in the struggle for women's suffrage: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Church Terrell, Daisy Lampkin, Carrie Chapman Catt, Lucy Stone, Sojourner Truth, and Lucretia Mott.

- Presented by: The U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong & Macau
- Exhibition Period: 26 July – 27 August, 2021

### **HKU Women in Science**

A photography and oral history project to increase the visibility and value of diversity for women working in scientific research and across the sciences at HKU.

- Presented by: HKU WISE, Ms. Laura Simonsen
- Exhibition Period: 2 – 30 September, 2021

### **Ecology in the Making (1816 – Present)**

Valuable records and replicas dating back to the early 19th century and of contemporary depictions made by local “amateur naturalists”, that promote Hong Kong's treasured ecologies and outline the city's natural history and biodiversity.

- Presented by: Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre
- Exhibition Period: 8 October – 10 November, 2021

### **TRANSCENDENCE: Transcendence Journey:**

#### **Incarnation of Charm and Elegance**

Eleven portrait photos of transgender people living in Hong Kong, representing their authentic side and for the public to understand the current situation of transgender people living around us.

- Presented by: Students from CCHU9007, The Association of World Citizens Hong Kong, Ms. Candy Yeung
- Exhibition Period: 15 – 30 November, 2021

**在倫敦站是香港 Exhibiting Hong Kong in London**

A recreation of the ‘Hong Kong Section’ from the British Empire Exhibition in London in 1924 and 1925, that evaluates the (mis)representation of Hong Kong’s Chinese communities, the Hong Kong Pavilion’s architectural design and the involvements of British and European communities.

- Presented by: Mr. Gary Pui-fung Wong
- Exhibition Period: 2 February – 11 March, 2022

**Exploring the C.C. Liu Collection on New Music in China at the University of Hong Kong Libraries**

The personal music collection donated from Professor Liu Ching-chih, including over 5,000 manuscripts, books and scores, that trace Hong Kong’s cultural heritage and the cross-border academic exchanges that occurred in the 20th century.

- Presented by: The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 20 April – 13 May, 2022

**《昨日的影 今日的光 — 粵語片劇照展》**

Photo record of the collective memories and contributions of the Hong Kong film industry, featuring over 400 lobby stills, posters and playbills from San Francisco Chinatown theatres in the 1950s and 1960s, about films and legendary stars from Hong Kong of that time.

- Presented by: Ms. Ruby Yang
- Exhibition Period: 28 July – 4 September, 2022

**Manuscripts of School of Chinese Teachers and Alumni in Fung Ping Shan Collections  
中文學院師友作家手稿展覽**

Unpublished and handwritten manuscript titles of seven teachers and alumni of the School of Chinese: Professor Wong Siu-kit, Professor Mary M.Y. Fung, Mr. Wag Kwok-yin, Ms. Wu Yin-ching, Mr. Albert Leung, Dr. Chan Siu-hung and Mr. Aman Chiu.

- Presented by: Fung Ping Shan Library, The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 9 September – 30 September, 2022

**Thematic Exhibition: The Hong Kong Chinese Merchants Collection  
早期香港傑出華商展覽**

Archival materials from the firms Kwong Sang Hong, Wah Nam Printing Co., Eu Yan Sang and Eu Tong Sen Ltd., Cheung Tsun Kee, as well as businessman Mr. Ma Tsui Chiu, to look back on the business life of Hong Kong over the century.

- Presented by: Fung Ping Shan Library, The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 10 October – 11 November, 2022

**Beauty and Treasures: Block-printed Editions of the Song Dynasty  
宋版之美·人間至寶：香港大學馮平山圖書館藏宋版書展**

Chinese rare books collection from the Fung Ping Shan Library, highlighting the Song editions and showcasing its unique characteristics.

- Presented by: Fung Ping Shan Library, The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 14 November – 22 December, 2022

**Music in Print 作樂崇德**

Selections from the Fung Ping Shan Library and Western Rare Book Collection, for the exploration of Chinese music history on Confucianism, concubine and amanuensis, vernacular genres of opera and song, the Great Sage and of Europeans who visited China.

- Presented by: Professor Yang Yuanzheng
- Exhibition Period: 16 January – 10 February, 2023

**G.B. Shaw: Ireland's Nobel Laureate in HKU - 90 Years On**

In commemoration of the 90th anniversary of celebrated Irish playwright and polemicist George Bernard Shaw's visit to The University of Hong Kong in 1933.

- Presented by: The Consulate General of Ireland
- Exhibition Period: 13 February – 17 February, 2023

**Digital Open House Exhibition**

Demonstration of the Libraries' initiatives in virtual teaching and learning: GLAM Lab workshop series on metaverse, 3D scanning, printing and other digital equipment.

- Presented by: The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 11 – 23 April, 2023

**善工巧藝文物保護周專題展覽 Dexterity and Meticulousness**

Showcase conservation treatments and preservation expertise of the library collection: digitization preparation, collection assessment and survey, environmental monitoring, pest management, emergency preparedness and response, protective housing and education.

- Presented by: HKUL Preservation Centre, The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 22 April – 7 May, 2023

**Colours of Hong Kong 《特色香港》**

Three distinguished photographers showcase their beloved city in its mixture of colours, that characterises Hong Kong's different cultures and represent different aspects of bustling life that thrive amid towering concrete buildings.

- Presented by: Mr. Laurence Lai, Mr. Edward Stokes, Mr. Tsui Tong
- Exhibition Period: 12 June – 16 August, 2023

**Formation of Future: Photographic Formats of Frank Fischbeck Collection**

A photographic collection that documents Hong Kong's history dating from 1860 to 1997, presented through six themes: the Early Years, Occupation and Liberation of Hong Kong; 1967 Disturbances; Air Land and Sea; Portraits and Path to 1997.

- Presented by: The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- Exhibition Period: 21 August – 27 September, 2023

**111 Dreams Sculpture Exhibition**

A collection of 111 life-size bronze sculptures representing the female form – portraying the myriad of unique dreams within us all – to commemorate the 111th anniversary of the University Libraries

- Presented by: Professor Ko Wah Man Norman
- Exhibition Period: 9 October – 8 November, 2023

2024:

### **Basil Pao's Carnival of Dreams**

A glimpse into the wide-ranging 50-year career of the internationally renowned Hong Kong photographer/ designer through his work in collages and photomontages of dreamscapes.

- Presented by: Mr. Basil Pao
- Exhibition Period: 1 March – 31 March, 2024

### **Her Rights! Money, Power, Autonomy**

A timeline of Sweden's gender equality journey through progressive policy and reform, legal efforts and a strong women's movement, underlining the challenges, opportunities and the need for action connected to economic gender equality.

- Presented by: The Consulate General of Sweden
- Exhibition Period: 8 March – 2 April, 2024

### **Kan Tai Keung's Mind and His Own Steps 《靳埭强 心路·足跡》**

A personal collection of Chinese monochromes, manuscripts, vibrant packaging, products and stationery, that are testament to 「靳叔」 or “Uncle Kan”'s lifelong pursuit of art and his winding path to success.

- Presented by: Dr. Kan Tai Keung
- Exhibition Period: 5 April – 24 May, 2024

### **“See Me As A Science Person” Picture Books Exhibition**

30 illustrative books created by HKU students from the STEM Education programme that showcased the human journey of science.

- Presented by: HKU Faculty of Education
- Exhibition Period: 26 April – 14 May, 2024

### **《回歸·雕刻·夢》 Reunification. Carving. Dreams.**

Over 50 artworks of large-scale sculptures and ceramic artworks that reflect Hong Kong's development, in joint celebration of the 75th anniversary of National Day, the 27th anniversary of the Handover of Hong Kong and the 111th anniversary of HKU Libraries.

- Presented by: Yo Shing (Mr. Cheung Sing Hung)
- Exhibition Period: 17 June – 14 August, 2024

### **《愛之夢》 The Dream of Love\***

Over 30 ink paintings, more than 20 porcelain artworks and a selection of writings and published books, that reveal passion, playfulness, everyday humour and dreamlike twists through contemporary Chinese painting and illuminate connections between art, culture and cultural anthropology.

- Presented by: Professor Wei Xiaorong
- Exhibition Period: 11 September – 31 October, 2024

\* beyond 6/2024

## BOOK TALKS

With its fantastic line-up of speakers, HKU Libraries hosts a range of exclusive book talks and seminars open to all HKU students, staff and alumni. Solidifying the role of an academic institution, the Libraries actively promotes its collections for exploration and provides an enabling platform for individuals eager to learn from inspirational voices and scholarly networking, in further expanding their living knowledge and perspectives.

### **Adventures Browsing the Library- How to find you next book project**

Speaker: Mr. Paul French

Date: 2 March 2023



### **偉大城市 Great Cities**

講者：陳南祿教授

Date: 25 January 2024



2021:

**Mingled Voices- International Proverse Poetry Prize Anthologies, 1-5**

Speakers: Mr. Pei-kai Cheng, Ms. Maria Elena Blanco, Mr. JP Linstroth, Mr. Jack Mayer,  
plus additional readings

Date: 15 July 2021

**Painting Myanmar's Transition**

Speakers: Professor Ian Holliday, Mr. Aung Kaung Myat

Date: 23 September 2021

2022:

**Poverty Alleviation in Responding to UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030):**

**A Case in Hong Kong- Social Unrest and the Poverty Problem in Hong Kong**

Speakers: Professor Paul Siu Fai Yip, Professor Keith Richburg

Date: 26 May 2022

**「文化七月」：「神與我們」的約定~帶你走進身心靈成長之旅**

講者：鄭敏聰先生

Date: 7 July 2022

**《昨日的影 今日的光 - 粵語片劇照風華半世紀》**

Speakers: Ms. Ruby Yang, Mr. Law Kar, Prof. Lui Tai-Lok, Mr. John Tsang

Date: 28 July / 27 August 2022

**Manuscripts of School of Chinese Teachers and Alumni 中文學院師友作家講座**

講者：羈魂先生、胡燕青女士、洛楓女士、演然先生

Date: 9 September 2022

**Portrait of the Artist as a Young Woman: Eileen Chang at the University of Hong Kong**

**張愛玲的香港大學**

Speaker: Professor Nicole Huang 黃心村教授

Date: 30 September 2022

**Talk on Chinese Merchants in Hong Kong in the Early Days 早期香港傑出華商**

Speakers: Professor Lau Chi Pang 劉智鵬教授, Dr Zheng Wan Tai Victor 鄭宏泰博士

Date: 6 October 2022

**Talk on Biographies 人物傳記：從《讓我們現在讚揚名人吧》談起**

Speakers: Professor Lau Chi Pang 劉智鵬教授, Dr Zheng Wan Tai Victor 鄭宏泰博士

Date: 27 October 2022

**The Chinese Idea of a University: Phoenix Reborn**

Speaker: Professor Yang Rui

Date: 9 November 2022

**馬不停蹄——從跑馬地到沙田再返港大**

講者：陳南祿教授

Date: 30 November 2022

2023:

**Chinese Music In Print- from the Great Sage to the Lady Literata**

Speakers: Professor Yang Yuan Zheng, Dr. Fong Shing Ha, Dr. Colin Huehns

Date: 17 January 2023)

**港大，北大，珠海學院對談**

講者：張楨女士，廖書蘭博士

Date: 31 January, 2023

**'It was part of the art of life for Chinaman and Irishman alike, and was purely esthetic':**

**Bernard Shaw and Sir Robert Ho Tung**

Speaker: Ms. May Holdsworth and Moderator: Mr. Christopher Munn

Date: 16 February 2023

**Adventures Browsing the Library- How to find you next book project**

Speaker: Mr. Paul French

Date: 2 March 2023

**My WORLD HERITAGE Travels**

Speaker: Mr. Vincent Ko

Date: 10 June 2023

**賣飛機的小孩**

講者：金鈴女士

Date: 11 October 2023

**The Last Emperor Revisited- A Book Talk with Basil Pao**

Speaker: Mr. Basil Pao

Date: 9 November 2023

**向先行者致敬：《香港大學世紀之問 – 改革開放初期與內地交流的人和事**

**HKU in the Early Days of Reform and Opening-up**

講者：李焯芬教授，丁新豹教授，陳婉瑩教授

Date: 30 November, 2023

2024:

**偉大城市 Great Cities**

講者：陳南祿教授

Date: 25 January 2024

**Meet the Artist: Basil Pao – On the Steppes of Dreams**

Speaker: Mr. Basil Pao

Date: 21 March 2024

**HK AI Educational Expo and Book Launch**

Speaker: Professor Cecilia Chan

Date: 19 June, 2024

## CULTURAL & MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Community engagement allows HKU Libraries to keep relevance with its patrons- to remain connected and down-to-earth with society's grassroots. From giveaways to vibrant festivals, students and staff participate in the Libraries' relaxed hours, with cultural and mindfulness activities for leisure, socialising and fellowship.

### Book Giveaways,

1-2 September 2022 / 11 November 2022 / 3 February 2023 / 28 April 2023 /  
12 September 2023 / 23 February 2024



### Fai Chun Writing, 20 January 2023 / 1 February 2024



### Silent Disco, 10 November 2023

To commemorate its transformation into a stylish learning space, the Music Library hosts an annual open house Silent Disco- a nightlife of pulsating music, pounding dance floors and dazzling hospitality without fear of noise nuisance.



In its first year, the Silent Disco featured a dynamic duo of HKU Alumni – DJ Chi Chung’s Choice and DJ FXlion. A unique afterhours event, the Silent Disco showcases the multifaceted capabilities of the Music Library, as a new digital space for learning as well as a social venue at HKU.

### HKU Music Festival, 19 January 2024

The HKU Music Festival was a showcase of the immense musical talent within our University. From classical compositions to contemporary pieces, the performances spanned a wide range of genres, captivating the audience with their skill and passion. The dedication and hard work of our student musicians were evident in every note, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. With such a captivating programme, every seat was filled!



## Diversity & Inclusion

HKU Libraries values equal learning opportunities and is committed to promote an equitable and all-encompassing environment for diversity and inclusion within the HKU community, by bringing together and empathizing with new and old perspectives in the classroom and workplace.

### Human Library, 12 April 2024

In a world full of prejudice and social stigmas, the Libraries embraces the power of storytelling in enabling individuals and groups to share personal experiences and unique perspectives. The Human Library provides a positive framework for equal, respectful and open-minded conversation, upholding an ethos where stereotypes and biases are challenged through meaningful dialogue. The value of ‘human books’ allows difficult questions to be addressed, appreciated and answered free from judgement; as well as for open opportunity to connect, learn and share about diverse backgrounds and topics on mental health, bodily health, ethnicity, ideology or religion.



### Therapy Dogs at HKU Libraries,

2 March 2023 / 27 April 2023 / 4 May 2023 / 20 November / 7 December 2023 /  
16, 22 April 2024

HKU Libraries understands the importance of being a source of both intellectual knowledge and emotional nurturance, and that the mental wellbeing of students can make a positive impact on their academic performance. Remembering the late Jasper (our first residential therapy dog), the Libraries is happy to invite packs of comforting therapy dogs onto campus. Students and staff have always spent quality time with these adorable furry friends, while learning stress management techniques and enhancing their mindfulness and well-being.



## **Cultural & Mindfulness Activities (7/2021 - 6/2024)**

2022:

**Book Giveaway**, 1-2 September 2022

**Book Giveaway**, 11 November 2022

2023:

**Fai Chun Writing**, 20 January 2023

**Book Giveaway**, 3 February 2023

**Comfort Dogs**, 2 March 2023

**Human Library**, 12 April 2024

**Stress-less with Rescue Dogs**, 27 April / 4 May 2023

**Book Giveaway**, 28 April 2023

**Book Giveaway**, 12 September 2023

**Silent Disco**, 10 November 2023

**Stress-less with Rescue Dogs**, 20 November / 7 December 2023

2024:

**HKU Music Festival**, 19 January 2024

**Fai Chun Writing**, 1 February 2024

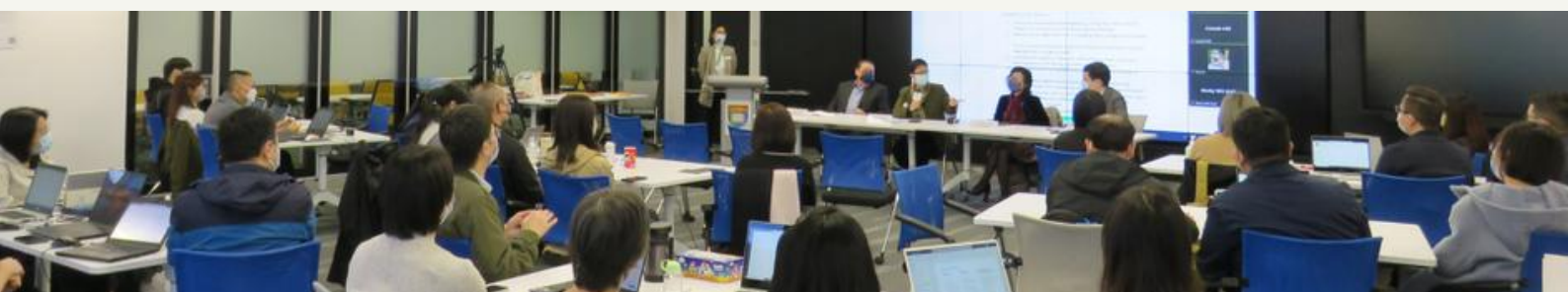
**Book Giveaway**, 23 February 2024

**A Date with Comforting Therapy Dogs**, 16 / 22 April 2024

## ANNUAL LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

For the leadership development and enhancement of academic and research librarians in the East Asia region, HKU Libraries has started delivering the Annual Library Leadership Institute since 2003. The live-in Institute is a unique opportunity for librarians- to develop critical thinking and to develop new skills for management and leadership in the information sector.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute was suspended from 2020 to 2021. It was eventually reinstated in 2022 as the 18th Annual Library Leadership Institute, with the Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee (JULAC) as the co-organiser.



The theme for the 2022 Institute held from 17 to 20 January was **‘Leading in the Virtual World – Beyond Web of Things Hong Kong’**.

Following two years of disruptive events, libraries worldwide demonstrated their ability to provide continuity of service; introduced new initiatives of service provision; and developed innovative mechanisms for delivery, that has allowed them to maintain impact and lead in the virtual world. On top of well-received themes from previous years, the 2022 Institute featured timely topics on the skills and awareness required of leaders in a rapidly changing and disruptive library environment.

- The Fourth Industrial Revolution and its impact on libraries
- Supporting digital transformation in libraries
- Data-driven & learner-driven approaches to leadership competency
- Partnering with academics in virtual teaching and learning
- Innovation of library services to enhance learning experience and outcome
- The role of libraries in the world of open access and globalisation



Following a series of library anniversary celebrations in 2023, the 19th Library Leadership Institute was conducted from 15 to 18 July, 2024, with the theme **‘Riding on the Waves of Technological Revolution and Cultural Convergence’**.

The 2024 Institute invited participants to define the key roles and responsibilities of academic librarians, as well as their tools, knowledge and skills required to perform, in light of latest technologies and under disruptive changes in the environment and profession. The following thematic presentations delivered by expert facilitators were supplemented by group discussions, interactive activities and case studies offer participants immersive learning experience.

- Library transformation driven by visionary leadership
- Leadership development in different cultures
- The concepts and models of building a smart campus
- Digital transformation and data-driven leadership in libraries
- Scholarly communication trends and open science and its impact on librarianship
- Partnering with academics and students in teaching, learning and research
- Application of analytics and AI in libraries



# FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

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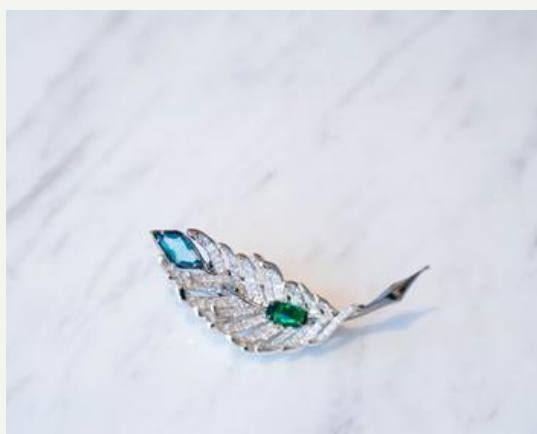
## HONOUR THE PAST, INVEST IN THE FUTURE

HKU Libraries owes tremendous success to the generous support from its donors. These donations directly contribute towards the Libraries' constant growth and long-lasting legacy, enabling and empowering its many generations of users to achieve and realise the highest of intellectual pursuit and dreams.

By virtue of the HKU Libraries Fundraising Campaigns and of all the unwavering support received, the University Libraries has consistently enhanced and exceeded its capabilities in providing the resources, services and facilities required of a top-tier academic library befitting a world-class institution in the 21st century.

## LEGACY QUILL

Since 1912, HKU Libraries has been serving as a knowledge hub and repository of wisdom, for students, staff, alumni and the Hong Kong community.



In 2022, the 200 limited-edition Legacy Quills offer a token of appreciation to the Libraries' supporters for their role to uphold this rich legacy. The feathers of the Legacy Quill represent the respective 110th and 90th anniversaries of the Main Library and Fung Ping Shan Library. Coloured stones adorn the quill: The green stone signifies the Fung Ping Shan Library at the heart of HKU Libraries. Along with the blue stone, the Legacy Quills echo the colours of the University of Hong Kong's shield.



In 2023, to celebrate the 111th anniversary of the Libraries, 111 limited-edition 111 Legacy Quills were exclusively designed and made, featuring feathers that represent 111 years of dreams. The 111 Legacy Quill is a special piece to pass on for years to come- a trinket in honour of one's cherished memories of HKU and its Libraries. The green, blue, red, and yellow stones pay full tribute to the colours of the University shield.



## SIGNIFICANT GIFTS IN KIND

Books, manuscripts, rare materials, private collections and other gifts in kind bequeathed to HKU Libraries, play a crucial role in building its rich collections. These rare and significant works enable the Libraries to continually support the research needs and academic directions of the University Faculties.

### 陳君葆日記原稿 (Chan Kwan Po Diaries)

On 18 December, 2023, the University graciously received the donation of the manuscript of the Chan Kwan Po Diaries, depicting the author's life record of over half a century (1921-1982). Praised as “the witness of a great era”, the manuscripts are permanently preserved in the University Libraries- a most treasured record of academic and cultural value, featuring Hong Kong's modern history and of cultural exchanges between China and Hong Kong.



A teacher in the HKU School of Chinese and former Fung Ping Shan Librarian, Mr. Chan Kwan Po (1898-1982) is recognised for his important contributions to the preservation of national assets and post-war social reconstruction- during the Second World War. He rescued more than 30,000 volumes of rare books stored in the Library that were shipped from different parts of China but later confiscated by the Japanese army, as well as many birth and death records of the Hong Kong government.

The Libraries' efforts to restore and digitise the manuscripts allow for the Diaries to be made accessible for public viewing, appreciation and research purposes, in further ingraining and disseminating its historical and cultural significance. The Libraries extends a heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Tse Wing Kwon and Ms. Tse Siu Ping, son-in-law and granddaughter of Mr. Chan Kwan Po, for this donation of the complete manuscripts. As of writing, the official repository of the Chan Kwan Po Collection is the University Archives.



**Couplets in Regular Script by Huang Danshu**  
(黃丹書楷書八言聯)

Donor: Professor To Cho-Yee (杜祖貽教授)

Huang Danshu (1745—1806) was a distinguished calligrapher and painter of the Qianlong period. The first line represents the cultivation of talents by educational institutions, while the second line highlights the enlightenment that books provide. This couplet was generously donated by Professor To in celebration of the 90th anniversary of Fung Ping Shan Library.



**Ink Wash Painting "Green Pine and White Plum"**  
(水墨畫「蒼松白梅」)

Donor: Mr Raymond To Kwok Wai (杜國威先生)

Mr Raymond To Kwok Wai is a distinguished contemporary playwright and renowned film director, with numerous popular works and awards to his name. In addition to screenwriting, Mr To is passionate about painting. During his youth, he studied under famous Lingnan School masters. After graduating from the University of Hong Kong, he set aside his painting for approximately 40 years to focus on his education career and screenwriting. In 2017, he resumed painting and has since created over a hundred new-style Chinese paintings, holding personal exhibitions and publishing collections of his works.

**Collection of Liang Dingfen and Huang Song'an: Master and Disciple Documents**  
(梁鼎芬、黃松庵師徒文獻集)

Donor: Mr Wong Siu Kwong Luke (黃兆光先生)

Liang Dingfen (1859—1919) was an official and scholar during the late Qing Dynasty and early Republican era, who served as a teacher to Emperor Puyi (1906—1967). During the Guangxu period, Liang was appointed as the supervisor of the Lianghu Academy, where Huang Song'an (1874—1953) also taught. The two shared a deep friendship, serving both as mentor and friend. The documents generously donated to Fung Ping Shan Library include their correspondence and artworks by Huang, representing another significant addition to the Library's collection of late Qing and early Republican era materials.



**Aspara (飛天)**

Donor: Mrs. Annie Liang Bentley



Apsaras, celestial beings often depicted as beautiful maidens are the embodiment of the essence of Yin. Prolific amongst the cultural context of minorities throughout the Silk Road region, often in flying positions and dispensing lotus petals.

Mythical figures. Imparts the teaching of Buddhist and Brahmanism Philosophy, Embodiment of divine beauty and blessings of rebirth.

The Art of Embroidery- a myriad of colours in visual images and the flow of the longest time of day are spoken through a needle and thread. About the artist, Gu's Embroidery established at the end of the Ming and start of the Qing Dynasty. These two pieces are the work of the present descendent, marrying Western visual techniques with the traditional art of the Suzhou School of Embroidery.

**Guan Yu (關羽)**

Donor: Mrs. Annie Liang Bentley



General Guan, a military leader in the Three Kingdoms period, is the embodiment of the essence of Yang. A member of the majority Han Tribe.

A historical figure. Imparts the teaching of the Confucian School of Philosophy. Embodiment of ethical righteousness and perpetual loyalty.



### **111 Dreams Sculpture**

Donor: Professor Ko Wah Man Norman

To celebrate its 111th anniversary, HKU Libraries is honoured to receive an exceptional collection of 111 life-size bronze sculptures representing the female form, from Professor Ko Wah Man Norman. Crafted with bronze, each sculpture narrates its own story, portraying the myriad of dreams within us all. The sculptures symbolises the profound truth that dreams manifest in diverse shapes and forms. Just as each of these sculptures is unique, they serve as a reminder that each of our individual aspirations should be valued, celebrated as well as respectfully accepted when embracing diversity and inclusion are crucial.



## NOTABLE DONORS

### **Dr. Lam Ko Yin Colin, Chi Wah Foundation**

In light of the 10th anniversary of the Chi Wah Learning Commons, the University Libraries expresses its immense gratitude for Dr. Lam Ko Yin Colin and the Chi Wah Foundation for their remarkable generosity, in support of the University's teaching and learning mission to innovate and deliver state-of-the-art facilities, digital resources and provide world-class services to the HKU community. Made possible by Dr. Lam's benevolence, HKU Libraries is able to revitalise the Chi Wah Learning Commons on Centennial Campus and is committed to transforming the ground floor into a repurposed, next-generation event space, for learning, exhibition and gallery. Dr. Lam founded the Chi Wah Foundation, with the goal of making education more accessible to all. The Foundation raised numerous funds and made many donations to individuals and communities in dire needs. The Chi Wah Learning Commons represents the spirit of the Foundation, that the Libraries share and continue to advocate institutional advancement through a new mode of teaching and learning, a virtual and digital hub that facilitates blended face-to-face and online learning.



## Professor Ko Wah Man Norman

HKU Libraries values and is eternally grateful for the tremendous contributions, continued support received from Professor Ko Wah Man Norman, an HKU Honorary Fellow and a distinguished alumnus of HKU Faculty of Engineering (1963). A talented artist, Professor Ko bequeathed many of his creative sculptures, that currently grace the library spaces. To commemorate its 111th anniversary, the Libraries received his exceptional display collection of 111 life-size bronze sculptures, portraying the myriad of dreams manifested by diversity and inclusion and a constant reminder that individual aspirations should be valued, celebrated and respectfully accepted. Professor Ko also provides respite to many individuals with his sanctuary that is, the Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy Fine Arts Digital Library, a gentle area for peace and serenity and a memorial in honour of his late wife, Mrs. Ko Wong Wai Ching Wendy. His philanthropy and compassion are admirable and is exemplar for the Libraries to mirror and strive towards.



## Mr. John Lau, Arts & Music Creativity Fund

In celebration of the Libraries' 110th anniversary, Mr. John Lau – Faculty of Social Science alumni, Class of 1971 – established the Arts & Music Creativity Fund to support the production of an annual HKU Music Festival. Offering a platform to express creative energy and artistic abilities in music, the Festival is dedicated to uncover and nurture natural talents of young musicians- the first cultural event and open competition hosted by the University Libraries that promotes creativity in music and art. Mr. Lau is committed to fostering their engagement, collaboration and freedom of artistic expression in developing a vibrant and prosperous music community, where HKU students can perform their original works of any musical genre. Collectively inspiring many generations of young enthusiasts towards performing arts, the inaugural HKU Music Festival took place on 19 January 2024 at Haking Wong Podium, featuring 15 gifted musicians including special guest Yoyo Sham - successfully kickstarting a musical and creativity trend at the Libraries and the University.

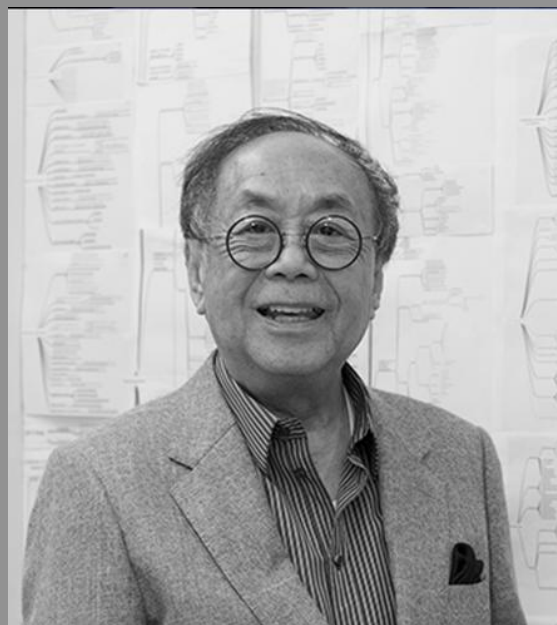


# In Memory Of

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Dr. Kan Lai Bing  
1933 - 2024



Mr. Po Chung  
1943 - 2024



Mr. Cheng Ming Yen  
1954 - 2024



Dr. Lui Che Woo  
1929 - 2024

# DONORS 2021-2024

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# Annual Statistics

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	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Staffing (Full-Time Equivalent)</b>			
Professional	40	28	28
Support	126	106	107
<b>Number of Registered Users</b>			
HKU Staff	19,948	19,448	20,556
HKU Students	30,992	39,527	42,765
Alumni	59,637	62,064	53,702
HKUSPACE Staff	1,196	1,244	1,322
HKUSPACE Students	17,142	17,764	19,298
Others	5,953	7,729	8,245
<b>Library Materials Use Statistics</b> ( <i>Items checked out via library integrated system</i> )			
HKU Staff	57,481	39,536	52,564
HKU Students	115,231	97,064	138,156
Alumni	55,421	52,005	64,586
HKU SPACE Students	3,743	2,913	1,488
HKU SPACE Staff	2,279	2,044	1,656
Others	9,889	7,951	12,451
TOTAL Manual Loans (All Units)	22,534	8,065	8,033
Items Read In-House	34,858	26,866	25,827
<b>InterLibrary Loan Transactions with Other Libraries</b>			
InterLibrary Loans (Provided To Other Libraries)	12,147	11,218	8,681
InterLibrary Loans (Received From Other Libraries)	7,909	7,788	7,424
<b>Information Services</b>			
Participants in Group Presentations (Library Instructions Attendees)	13,420	10,468	10,736
Information and Referral Service (Total Reference Enquiries)	78,029	57,150	51,724

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>HKU Scholars Hub</b>			
Scholars Hub (Number of Items)	249,499	279,133	279,357
Scholars Hub (Number of Downloads)	1,477,210	1,501,956	2,730,756
<b>Acquisition Expenses</b>			
Books	2.95%	2.41%	2.02%
ERs	95.68%	96.77%	97.26%
Journals	0.79%	0.61%	0.52%
Others	0.58%	0.20%	0.20%
<b>Volumes in Libraries</b>			
Main Library	1,659,258	1,525,915	1,439,237
FPS Library	985,901	986,468	984,729
• Chinese Rare Books	12,471	12,611	12,614
Medical Library	176,614	176,548	154,590
Law Library	171,751	171,939	172,546
Education Library	30,629	31,791	32,345
Dental Library	50,980	21,732	21,541
Music Library	35,834	33,693	33,243
<b>E-Resources</b>			
E-Databases	978	1,048	1,016
E-Journals (Subscriptions)	243,009	267,393	260,875
E-Journals (Titles)	193,391	1,048	1,016
E-Books	8,504,210	9,194,569	9,851,361
Computer Files	30,625	29,745	29,764
E-video (Networked Videos)	108,973	111,196	111,844
<b>E-Resources Use</b>			
Access to Library Websites (Jul - Jun) (Hits)	203,093,167	279,011,168	201,387,700
Access to E-Resources (Times)	96,975,527	106,595,999	113,324,826

**Website**    [lib.hku.hk](http://lib.hku.hk)

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