



# FOCUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HONG KONG LIBRARIES

Vol. 14 | Issue 3 | April 2015



## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

### A New Library Management System (LMS)

The Libraries existing LMS, Millennium, is no longer under active development by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., and will become increasingly outdated. Millennium is currently in place in all but one of the eight Joint University Libraries Advisory Committee (JULAC) libraries of the UGC. The 8th library uses the new version from Innovative known as Sierra. As a result of this lack of further development, the 8 libraries have been working on developing a proposal for a shared LMS. At present all eight institutions manage their own LMS independently. Efficiencies to be gained across the 8 institutions will be significant through a centrally managed system that will be cloud based. A shared system deployment has the potential to enable an even deeper collaborative relationship among the JULAC member libraries.

In 2014, JULAC commissioned a world renowned library technology expert, Marshall Breeding, to report on a way forward for JULAC's LMS future. In his report he states:

#### *Shared collections*

A shared system would treat the aggregate collections of the JULAC members in a more unified way to patrons. A shared system would make it easier for the combined collections to be exploited by a default search.

#### *Shared processes*

A shared system provides more options for collaborative resource management. A range of possibilities could be implemented for the processing of materials. It would be possible to implement various levels of consolidation for technical processing, ranging from a fully centralized and cataloging operation to one where only selected areas of activity are redistributed. A shared system might allow a mostly decentralized acquisition and cataloging operation, but where areas of specialization by language or discipline are assigned across the JULAC institutions.

#### *Shared electronic resource management*

A shared system provides a better opportunity for JULAC to manage its electronic resources, including content subscribed to by individual institutions and for the consortium. Moving toward a shared system that also handles electronic resources would also result in an environment where these components of the collection can also be managed more collaboratively. Especially if that system had built-in collection analytics, those that make subscription or renewal decisions would have much more data available related to overlap within the consortium, institutional or consortial use levels, as well as use and impact metrics.



### *Shared knowledge bases*

A shared system that addresses electronic resource management would also provide the opportunity for more efficient operation of knowledge bases and link resolvers. In the current distributed environment, each institution manages its own infrastructure, with eight separate knowledge bases and OpenURL link resolvers. While the level of difficulty might be higher for a more consolidated system, the net effect should be considerably less than the combined resources expended through eight separate implementations.

The JULAC Libraries are convinced that a shared system will ultimately provide significant savings through the elimination of redundancies and efficiencies gained. A JULAC Working Group is currently developing a joint tender and a projected timeline for a new system to be implemented is July 2017.

## **Macau Academic Libraries Follow JULAC's Lead**

In December, 2014, I attended the Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance (PRDLA) Meeting at the newly opened University of Macau Library. Part of this meeting was dedicated to the inauguration of MALA, the Macau Academic Library Alliance. Macau has 10 tertiary institutions, 9 of which have chosen to participate in MALA. Essentially MALA will function like many other library consortia, including JULAC. Thus far they have developed a MALA Card for shared borrowing; developed centralized e-resource purchasing/licensing; developed an e-resources centre, and; developed a Document Delivery (DD) Services Network in Macau. The potential for greater collaboration between JULAC and Macau academic libraries has now been given greater possibility with the two organisations now more able to work together in a systematic and coordinated manner.

As the current Chair of JULAC I was asked to provide congratulatory remarks at the inauguration. Following the inauguration, I was interviewed by a reporter from the official magazine of the Macau Government's Tertiary Education Services Office about possible collaborations with MALA. The article has now been published and can be read here.

<http://www.gaes.gov.mo/images/hemag/images/books/book15/pdf/30-43.pdf>

Peter E. Sidorko  
University Librarian

## Stocktaking in Branch Libraries

Embracing RFID technology



### Whither the book?

While the Libraries takes great pride in building and providing access to a growing digital collection of e-books and databases, we have not neglected the proper stewardship of our rich print collections. With millions of books in the University Libraries, frequent (or less frequent) physical inventory or stocktaking is bound to be extremely labour intensive. With the help of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology, however, the Branch Libraries embarked on a series of stocktaking during the past year. This is also the first time since 2011, when the branch libraries' collections were RFID-tagged to enable self-check service and to improve materials circulation in general, that a comprehensive and systematic stocktaking of physical items was conducted.

### Stocktaking with RFID

The stocktaking has been timed to maximize the use of available RFID devices such as DLAs (Digital Library Assistant) and RFID readers, as well as for the least possible disruptions to library users.

Starting from late 2013 (Medical Library), and taking advantage of the summer break (Education, Music and Dental Libraries) as well as Christmas 2014 (Law Library), the Branches took turns to stocktake their physical collections on site. These include books, audio-visual and other multimedia materials, bound journals, pamphlets, rare books, reference books, music scores, theses, etc.

During the stocktaking, library staff in the Branches scanned a total of 419,133 library items on open shelves, matched these against catalogue entries, and investigated on numerous cases of misplaced or missing items. The use of RFID technology has helped us conduct the process in an expedited and efficient manner.



### Results & Benefits

The stocktaking has helped provide reliable statistics on the status of our collections. Among other things, we were also able to identify and fix catalogue anomalies, and replace defective tags, which in turn enhanced security and traceability of library materials. The missing rate in Dental Library is 0.34% (172 items), 0.47% in Education Library (96 items), 0.4% in Law Library (548 items), 0.16% in Music Library (72 items), and 0.32% in Medical Library (534 items), with an average of 0.34% for all the Branches. By no way an alarming rate, this is useful as a reference for benchmarking as in future stocktaking. Library staff took the opportunity to follow up on missing items and look into ways to minimize misplacing and losses especially in heavily used areas.

### Way forward

New technologies have always been of interest to the Libraries for the potential of increasing service quality and improving efficiency of operations, and stocktaking using RFID technology is but one aspect of it. Stocktaking in the Branch Libraries is a prelude to this being incorporated as one of the best practices in collection management. For the vast collections in the Main Library, another stocktaking will be underway following its collections relocation and other renovation projects currently ongoing.

Irene Shieh  
Head  
Branch Libraries Services Division

## Enhanced ILLiad service hosted at OCLC

The interlibrary loan management system used by the Libraries, ILLiad, has been upgraded to the latest 8.5 version through a hosted server located at OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center. It is a non-profit library cooperative providing research, programmes and services that help libraries to share and access resources globally.

Eligible staff and students will continue to enjoy the convenience of placing interlibrary loan requests and checking their requests' progress including history information by logging into ILLiad at <http://lib.hku.hk/mainlib/illiad/index.html> through the HKU portal. Functions previously available will remain, under an enhanced user interface.

OCLC provides round-the-clock monitoring of the ILLiad system in a secure and restricted access environment to ensure the security and integrity of data.

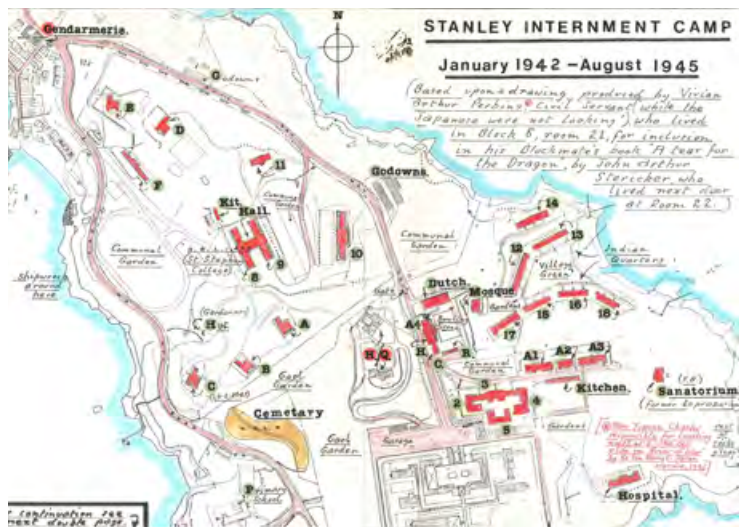
Please feel free to share your views of our enhanced ILLiad system by sending your feedback to us at [interlib@hku.hk](mailto:interlib@hku.hk).

# Special Collections

## NOTABLE DONATION



Donor Mr Robert Nield (left) met the Librarian Mr Peter Sidorko



We are delighted to receive a collection of research notes on Hong Kong during Japanese occupation (1941-1945) donated by Mr Robert Nield. The research documents were originally collected by Mr Colin Hugh Gimson, cousin of Sir Franklin Charles Gimson who came to Hong Kong as Colonial Secretary in December 1941 but was immediately interned in Stanley Prisoner of War Camp. Mr Nield acquired the collection via auction in 2010, and now generously presented it to the Libraries for greater access to support research and learning. The collection, in 9 binders, is filled with stories of Hong Kong people during Japanese occupation, lists of internees at Stanley Camp and other detention locations, correspondence, historical documents, Sir Franklin Gimson's account of internment in Stanley, copies of published/unpublished manuscripts.

To consult the materials, please enquire at Special Collections, 1/F Main Library, or email [libspeco@hku.hk](mailto:libspeco@hku.hk). An index of the research notes can be viewed at: <http://library.hku.hk/record=b5372670>



(left to right) Dr Wong Chi Chung (Assistant Director, General Education Unit), Dr Wan Yiu Chuen (Deputy Librarian), Mr Peter Sidorko (University Librarian), Dr Tse Chun-yan, Mr Tommy Ng, Ms Irene Shieh (Law Librarian), Ms Esther Woo (Head of Administrative Services), Ms Kwan Yin Yee (Music Librarian), Ms Hung Fei Ming (Department of Music)



Dr Tse was playing the guqin, the seven-stringed zither.



Mr Ng sharing the Chinese tea culture with students while they enjoyed a cup of Chinese tea.

## A Night at the Library with the Guqin and Tea

Jointly organized by the General Education Unit and the University of Hong Kong Libraries, *A Night at the Library with the Guqin and Tea* was the first event held in the Music Library. The event attracted over 30 students and guests giving them an opportunity to listen to the *guqin* music (the seven-stringed zither) and enjoy cups of freshly brewed Chinese tea.

Dr Tse Chun-yan and Mr Tommy Ng talked about the *guqin* music and Chinese tea culture respectively. Dr Tse performed six pieces with the *guqin* mounted with silk strings. Mr Ng discussed tea in its relationship to Chinese culture and shared his fine tea collections with the audience.

In addition to the performance and tea tasting, selected CDs and books of the *guqin* music and Chinese tea from the Libraries collections were displayed.

## HKU Libraries' Preservation in the News

An article on cultural preservation work being carried out by HKU researchers Ms Jody Beenk and Mr Christopher Mattison appeared in the 1 February issue of the South China Morning Post <<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1697516/studying-pests-preserve-memories>>. Ms Beenk is Head, Preservation and Conservation in the HKU Libraries and Mr Mattison is a Research Fellow in the University Museum and Art Gallery. Their current findings were presented to an international audience of experts at the Congress of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works that took place in Hong Kong.

Beenk's and Mattison's overall research has been focused on the development of a climatology specific to cultural heritage for the tropics and subtropics. Temperature, humidity and pollution are all significant factors in the destruction of cultural material. The average temperature in Hong Kong has increased significantly since the mid-1980s, and due to a range of complementary factors—including air pollution, shifting weather patterns and unchecked urban expansion—a greenhouse cocktail has been created with profound consequences for both exterior and indoor environments.

The overall goal then is to work in a cross-disciplinary fashion developing a holistic model for the preservation of varying modes of heritage. The long-term analysis of weather patterns relating to effects on heritage obviously has broad applications, and as the band of tropics has expanded towards the Earth's poles by more than 2 degrees since the late 1970s, and the jet stream by 1 degree, preservation work carried out within these tropical and subtropical zones will take on much greater importance for the rest of the world.

Concern over climate change has meant that warmer climates are seen as a possible driver of insect numbers in heritage environments, however food and habitat availability likely are just as crucial, along with individual pest management practices.



Insect Damage

The documentation and preliminary analysis of insect catch and mold blooms across Hong Kong is an integral first step in developing guidelines for best preservation practices. A varied group of cross-disciplinary stakeholders will be accessed in order to create a broad knowledge base, and to assist in both the dissemination of this knowledge and the active implementation of best practices.

At HKU, Beenk and Mattison have been collaborating with partners across campus, including the University Libraries, Museum & Art Gallery, Archives, and Architectural Conservation Programmes. One of the first initiatives within this collaborative structure has been the curation of a series of Preservation Workshops developed as intensive, hands-on courses concerning various aspects of cultural preservation.





Disaster Response & Recovery Workshop

The first preservation courses were a four-day workshop on the Care and Identification of Photographic Media, followed by an Emergency Response and Recovery course developed in conjunction with the Harvard Library. The workshop series is intended for a range of professionals, including curators, collectors, conservators, archivists, collections managers and staff from across the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector. The workshops are structured not to create conservators, but rather to emphasize collections care for a broad number of related professionals. Over the coming year, further workshops will be offered on Art Packing and Handling, Integrated Pest Management, Heritage Management Systems and Photographic Care and Handling. For more information about this and related activities, please visit the webpage of the Libraries' Preservation & Conservation Division at: <http://lib.hku.hk/preservation/news.html>

# NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

January - March 2015



**Space Law**  
edited by Paul S. Dempsey  
Eagan, MN :West, c2004

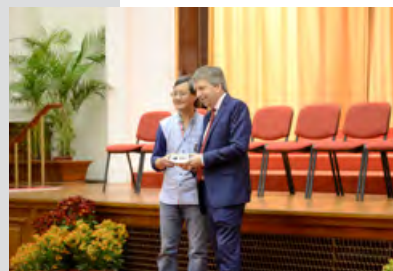
*Space Law* provides in-depth coverage by today's preeminent expert of the most pressing issues currently being faced by international regulators in this dynamic and growing area of the law. This comprehensive and useful resource brings together all national and international space regulations of interest to government personnel, government contractors, academics, and attorneys.



**清代成案選編·甲編 (第1版)**  
楊一凡編  
北京市 :社會科學文獻出版社, 2014

本書是中國社會科學院學術創新工程出版資助專案，分為甲、乙兩編編輯出版。甲編收入清初至乾隆成案文獻16種。

成案是研究清代法制的珍貴資料。關於成案的性質，學界存在不同看法。本書的出版，有助於人們全面瞭解清代成案的面貌、性質和功能，有助於人們利用清代成案記載的各類法律和案例，進一步深入研究清代法律史。



## Long Service Award

The 2015 Long Service Award Recipients:

- Mr. Andy Choi, Technology Support Services
- Mr. Ho Kam Yau, Preservation and Conservation
- Ms. Ng Fung Lin Fanny, Education Library
- Ms. Marina Yeung, Public Relations and Development
- Mr. Joseph Yu, Lending Services

Congratulations to all Long Service Award recipients!



## 2015 Used Book Sale

The annual HKU Libraries' book sale for 2015 took place on March 5th and 6th at the Main Library, Level 3. With 1000s of books to choose from, students, HKU colleagues and the Hong Kong community were able to take advantage of the \$20 per book price and the buy 5 get 1 free promotion. The selection of books included various subjects in English and Chinese. There was also a good selection of music CDs and movie videos to choose from.

The 2-day sale help raise money in support of the Libraries' collection and services.

See you at next year's sale!





HKU Libraries  
**Annual  
 Gathering**  
 香港大學圖書館周年聚餐  
**2015**

## 2015 Annual Gathering

HKU Libraries' Annual Gathering was held on the 13th March 2015 at the Island Pacific Hotel.

It was a successful event with many distinguished guests in attendance to share the festivities with the library staff.

The event provides a wonderful opportunity for library staff to come together for socializing, sharing experiences and having fun in a relaxed atmosphere.



## Farewell

The event had a sad moment this year as we bid farewell to David Palmer who has left HKU Libraries after 24 years. He requested a simple farewell, but we wish David *Good Luck* and *Best Wishes* from all of us!

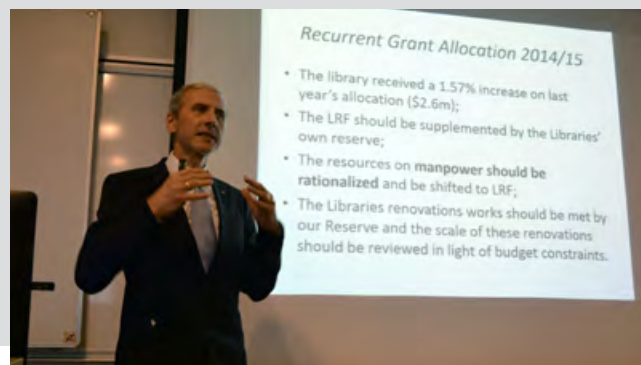


## Staff Forum 2015

The Libraries' Staff Forums are held regularly to share information with library colleagues on internal matters and recent development.

This year's Staff Forum was held in Room 303 of T. T. Tsui Building on 26 March 2015. The Senior Management Team presented various topics including a new organizational structure, budget planning, new Library Management System, and premises projects with the latest designs for the Main Library's new 2/F entrance.

The Forums provide Library colleagues with an understanding of the changes in the coming years.



## Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme 2015

On 13 April 2015, the HKU University Librarian accepted the gold award for the Libraries' website, <http://lib.hku.hk/>, in the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme 2015. The Scheme is jointly organised by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Winning the award would not have been made possible without the support from the Libraries' Technology Support Services team members, Kenelm Ng and Andy Lau and the help and support from Mr Keny Yuen of The Hong Kong Society for the Blind.

The website's accessibility features include:

- All operations can be performed through a keyboard interface for those who cannot access a website with a mouse.
- A "high contrast" version and a text re-sizing function are provided for visually impaired users to switch to read using a high colour contrast mode or resize the text up to two times the displaying text without loss of content.
- Captions are provided for videos for the hearing impaired users. The sound of videos can be easily turned off too.
- Clear and informative links are provided to facilitate those who have cognitive and learning difficulties.

The annual Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme has been held since 2013 to show appreciation to enterprises and organisations for making their websites accessible.

To achieve the "Gold Award" in the scheme, the websites and apps have to meet all 24 and 18 judging criteria respectively listed under the Gold Category to incorporate basic and key web/mobile application accessibility features.

Congratulations to all involved for demonstrating our commitment to ensuring "inclusive and diverse **physical and virtual environments**"



# READING CLUB: UPCOMING BOOK TALKS



by Alexandra Carlile Photography.

## A Chance Kill

Speaker: Paul Letters  
Moderator: Peter Sidorko,  
University Librarian, HKU  
Date: 30 April 2015 (Thursday)  
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Venue: Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library  
Language: English

To register for this book talk:

[http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading\\_club/bt2015\\_04.html](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/bt2015_04.html)

## About the Speaker:

Paul Letters studied history, education, international affairs and literary journalism at the Universities of Cardiff, Oxford and Hong Kong, where he stayed on as a Senior Researcher. He teaches part-time at an international school and writes as a freelance journalist for the *South China Morning Post* and magazines ranging from *IB Review* to luxury lifestyle magazine *Baccarat*. Paul is currently working on a second novel, centred upon the true story of a mass escape from Hong Kong during World War II.

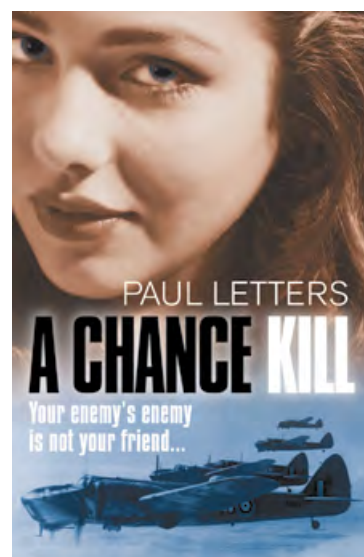
## About the Book:

An old-fashioned love story weaves through an authentic wartime thriller.

In researching *A Chance Kill*, Paul met with professional historians throughout Europe, where he learned more about pre-war Warsaw, Prague's nest of wartime conspirators, the 'James Bond' gadget workshop within London's Natural History Museum, and Britain's little-known first offensive of World War II.

Based upon the author's grandmother's experience, seventeen-year-old Polish catholic Dyta Zajac finds herself forced away from wartime Warsaw due to her family's shadowy connections. Dyta's time on the run sets her on a path towards confronting the ultimate Nazi.

Half a continent away, an RAF bomber crew embarks upon Britain's first raid of the war. Courtship edges Dyta's destiny closer to that of members of the RAF crew – and toward the Allies' most brazen covert operation to strike at the Nazi elite.



# READING CLUB: PAST BOOK TALKS

For more about upcoming Book Talks: [http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading\\_club/](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/)



## Old Hong Kong

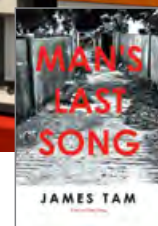
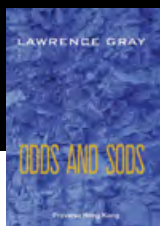
Speaker: Dr Peter Cunich

Moderator: Professor John Carroll, School of Humanities (History), HKU

Date: 5 February 2015 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=1957278>



## Proverse Prize Library Talk

### The International Proverse Prize for Unpublished Writing

Speaker: Rupert Chan, Lawrence Gray, Peter Gregoire, Birgit Bunzel Linder, James Tam, Rebecca Tomasis

Moderator: Dr Gillian Bickley, Co-Founder of the International Proverse Prize for unpublished writing

Date: 5 March (Thursday)

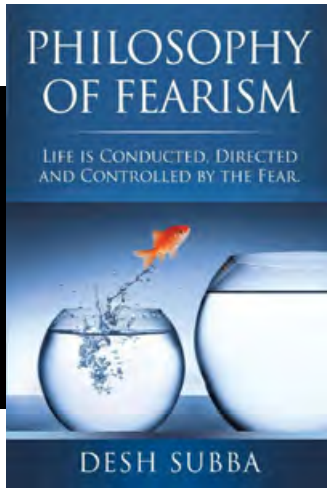
Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=2252105>



# READING CLUB: PAST BOOK TALKS

For more about upcoming Book Talks: [http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading\\_club/](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/)



## Philosophy of Fearism

Speaker: Desh Subba

Moderator: Dev Raj Rai (Radio host/Education Activist)

Date: 26 March 2015 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=4153398>



Book talks are also available for viewing on Youtube.com  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HKUlib>



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## EDITORIAL

Gary CHIN