Normally when we speak of “clouds”, the meaning is ends up being negative. Sunlight grows things; sunlight is associated with bright and cheery things. Clouds cloud or block out the sunlight. Cloudy days often mean rain, or in Hong Kong’s case, the air born muck that we breath much of the time and that we blame on factories in Guangzhou, sandstorms from the Gobi, the container ships, or idling cars, buses, and taxis. Then there are the phrases uttered by fathers the world over: “get your head out of the clouds” -- which cross their lips when their child wants to study drama instead of business, or they want to take a summer job on a cruise ship instead of doing something useful like spending June to August with Goldman Sachs learning useful life skills.

Of course then there are phrases like “every cloud has a silver lining”. One of my favorites is a quote by someone named Jason Hutchison: “Eagles may soar in the clouds, but weasels never get sucked into jet engines.”

http://littlecalamity.tripod.com/Quotes/NOP.html

But the word “cloud” is the new, hot thing in computing. Actually it isn’t new, but calling it “cloud computing” has given it new meaning and parlance or a way of talking about it. This topic came up at the Libraries just completed 8th Annual Library Leadership Institute. This year it was organized in conjunction with the National Science Library of the China Academy of Sciences. See http://lib.hku.hk/leadership/2010.html for information about the Institute, speaker power points, and pictures of all the fun we had. But back to cloud computing. One of our speakers, Ms Nieh Hua, the Deputy Director of the Peking University Library, provided a useful primer on this topic. She noted that basically it refers to moving all sorts of services and content up into the cloud/the Internet and away from your desktop computer or the computer system of your organization. When you come to realize that is what is meant by Cloud Computing, you are tempted to say, “Oh, you mean relying upon the Internet for services and information – or what most of us do most of the time, e.g., I just went on the web to find a florist in my mother’s home town in Massachusetts and ordered some Mother’s Day flowers, OR I just uploaded pictures of my vacation to Cambodia to picasaweb.google.com so that all my friends could see them, OR I just bought an iPhone by going to the Apple website OR my company decided to no longer host its own servers to store data but instead use something like www.rackspace.com to arrange to keep it “up there” in the cloud. Whether we call it cloud computing or doing business on the web, it is pervasive in all aspects of our lives.

For Libraries, we rely upon the cloud for almost all of the electronic content we provide. For example, while we do maintain a few servers to store a half million or so Chinese ebooks, we recently paid to access a collection of 800,000 ebooks located on a server in Beijing – up in the cloud. Another example, when you go to our Dragon online catalogue in search of the journal Accounting Forum and then click on it to find an article, you are linked to a server somewhere in the world – up in the cloud – to find what you want.
Of course paying for and relying upon content “up in the cloud” requires a whole new mindset about topics like the preservation of information. In the old days, 15 years ago, we paid for printed journal subscriptions, we got them in the mail, and we bound them in nice red or green bindings with gold lettering and put them on the shelf. When the auditor asked us to prove that we had what we paid for (we spend more than half of our budget on journals), we could point to the shelf. When the publisher decided to stop publishing the journal, we still had what we paid for on the shelf. What happens when the content is up in the cloud? It is complicated, but in short we work with libraries and publishers in an organization called CLOCKSS (Controlled Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) which has multiple copies of journals and other forms of electronic content on “dark” servers which can only be accessed when a journal stops being published. This is the example of cloud computing about which I spoke at our Leadership Institute in Beijing. HKU’s Library is one of 11 libraries worldwide to have a CLOCKSS box in which the content is stored and I am on its Board of Directors. Others include the University of Edinburgh, Stanford University, etc.

So, in the future when speaking of clouds, be gentle, most of the intellectual output of everyone in our university is now or will be in the cloud.

Tony

PS: When student papers are checked for plagiarism in Turnitin, teachers with the click of a mouse upload them into the cloud where their texts are compared to other texts in other clouds.
East River Column: Hong Kong guerrillas in the Second World War and after

Speaker: Mr Chan Sui-jeung 陳瑞璋先生
Moderator: Dr Peter Cunich (Dept of History, HKU)
Date: 21 January 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm
Language: English

Click here to re-visit the book talk by Mr Chan Sui-jeung

Underground Front: The Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong

Speaker: Ms Christine Loh 陸恭蕙女士
Moderators: Mr Ching Cheong 程翔先生, Mr Stephen Vines
Date: 11 March 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm
Language: English

Click here to re-visit the book talk by Ms Christine Loh

No Bad Fat, All Good Fat including Cholesterol: a re-evaluation of the diet/heart disease hypothesis

Theme Books: The great cholesterol con: the truth about what really causes heart disease and how to avoid it, The great cholesterol con: why everything you’ve been told about cholesterol, diet and heart disease is wrong!

Speaker: Professor Marcel S.F. Lie Ken Jie
Moderator: Dr Anthony Ferguson
Date: 25 March 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm
Language: English

Click here to re-visit the book talk by Professor Marcel S.F. Lie Ken Jie
《繼往開來──香港廠商75年》
Seventy-five Years of Hong Kong Manufacturing – Past and Present
Speaker:  Dr Lee Pui Tak 李培德博士
Co-speaker:  Mr Yin Tak Shing 尹德勝先生
Date:  6 May 2010 (Thursday)
Time:  7:15 - 9:00 pm
Language:  Cantonese

BOOKLAUNCH

Eileen Chang’s The Fall of the Pagoda
Guests:  Professor S.P. Chow, Dr Roland Soong, Mr Perry Lam,
         Mr Michael Duckworth, Dr Tony Ferguson, Ms Xue Jun Yuan
Date:  15 April 2010 (Thursday)
Time:  3:00 pm
Language:  English

Click here to re-visit the book launch on The Fall of the Pagoda
UPCOMING BOOK TALKS

Hong Kong Movers and Stayers: Narratives of Family Migration
Speaker: Professor Janet W. Salaff, University of Toronto
Date: 13 May 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 – 9:00 pm
Language: English

Legends from the Swiss Alps 《瑞士阿爾卑斯山的傳說》
Speaker: Professor Andrea Riemenschneider, Zurich University
Professor Leung Ping-kwan, Lingnan University
Guest: Uncle Hung (阮志雄)
Date: 10 June 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm
Language: English & Cantonese
Two free screening: The Cablecar & Marmorera

Hong Kong: Nature Landscapes
Speaker: Mr Edward Stokes
Date: 24 June 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15-9:00 pm
Language: English

Register at:
http://www.lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/
Portraits of Marine Life - Art Competition by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
海洋生物面面觀 - 藝術創作比賽, 漁農自然護理署
1 December 2009 - 15 January 2010

Chinese Paper Cutting
中國剪紙
18 January 2010 - 28 February 2010
<<Relax. Enjoy. Give a Smile >> Photo-Taking Competition
<< 寬. 融. 歡容 >>攝影比賽
1 March 2010 ~ 14 March 2010

Gabriel Garcia Marquez Photo Exhibition
15 March 2010 ~ 15 April 2010
NEW AND NOTEWORTHY
“Sofa, so good” – new furniture in the Main Library

“Quench at our new drinking fountains” available in the Main Library including the G/F 24 hr student centre.

New e-Video Website

The AV & Reserve Collection is pleased to announce the launch of our new e-Video website (http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/).

Our new website comes with an improved user interface, better video quality, and many new features and updates. Most importantly, you can watch our videos by using any web browser anywhere anytime.

Live TV broadcasting is also available at Main Library Building!

Keep visiting the e-Video website for news and information. And in the meantime, we hope that you would find our content useful and informative. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

HKU ResearcherPages – Making You & Your Research Highly Visible!

The HKU Scholars Hub The University of Hong Kong

The Knowledge Exchange (KE) initiative at HKU has set many projects in motion. One of these projects aims to make you and your research highly visible – in order that searchers in government, industry, and academia can readily discover you, and that offers of contract research, collaborative research, consultation, supervision of graduate students, will increase. An increase in these KE key indicators will enhance your career and reputation, as well as the reputation of HKU.

In this regard, The HKU Scholars Hub has created HKU ResearcherPages (RPs) for each current
professoriate staff. These pages bring together in one place, data from many different places, which although already public, was very difficult to find. Some examples of HKU ResearcherPages are,

- [http://hub.hku.hk/rp/rp00060](http://hub.hku.hk/rp/rp00060) Prof Tam, Pro VC (Research)
- [http://hub.hku.hk/rp/rp00023](http://hub.hku.hk/rp/rp00023) Prof Samaranayake, Dean of Dentistry
- [http://hub.hku.hk/rp/rp00056](http://hub.hku.hk/rp/rp00056) Prof Bacon-Shone, Associate Dean of Social Sciences

This data comes from HKU sources, and from Scopus and ResearcherID. RP owners can login with the HKU Portal ID, to control and edit most of the data on the RP. They can also personally change their records in Scopus and ResearcherID. A help screen describes how this can be done, [http://hub.hku.hk/help.jsp#ResearcherPages](http://hub.hku.hk/help.jsp#ResearcherPages)

We are arranging seminars with all faculties and centres to explain these pages, how the owner can control them, and how they are beneficial to the owner and his or her institution. If you wish to have such a seminar presented for your unit, please write to hub@lib.hku.hk.

We are now beginning another round of development work on these pages. One new feature will be the appearance of all publication data collected in HKU Research Output System (ROS) on an author’s journal articles, conference papers, books, book chapters, and patents. If there is some new feature that you would like to see, please tell us! We hope to make these pages add value to you, your research, and your institution!

HKU Signs Agreement for Springer Open Choice Publishing

Springer

On behalf of the University of Hong Kong, and with funding from the HKU Knowledge Exchange Office, the HKU Libraries signed an agreement with Springer, to allow all HKU faculty and students to publish their research in Springer journals using Springer’s Open Choice. Springer’s Open Choice program offers full and immediate open access (free to the reader) for articles that are accepted for publication after a process of rigorous peer-review. Accepted HKU articles will appear as usual in Springer print journals, and will be published electronically using open access on SpringerLink and the HKU institutional repository, The HKU Scholars Hub. The pilot project will run from March 2010 to March 2011. Authors must claim this Open Choice option during the online submission process. A web page on this agreement can be found at, [http://www.springer.com/HKUAuthors](http://www.springer.com/HKUAuthors)

Open access made easy
Most Springer journals are hybrid journals allowing this Open Choice option. A list of these journals can be found here (please login with your HKU Portal ID):

- List of Open Choice enabled journals at The HKU Scholars Hub

You will be offered the open choice option once your article has been accepted for publication after peer review. The cost of having your article published with open access is covered by the agreement between HKU and Springer.

Authors’ Benefits

- Publish open access in renowned journals
- Your article is available for free to everyone everywhere
- The research cycle, “research - publish - research” is much faster
- Prompt delivery to HKU Scholars Hub and PubMed Central
- No copyright transfer needed

Prof Jan van Aalst in the HKU Dept of Education who used the Springer Open Choice said, “Using Springer’s Open Choice, I found that my article was discovered much more quickly”.
Announcing the new Subject Guides, created by your friendly librarians and linked to a useful range of information, media, and global resources to enable the sharing and transfer of knowledge.


The new Subject Guides page is our latest effort to enable dynamic collection and information services. Students can access a vast array of quality research resources, course contents and links to global collections with just one click from the Libraries homepage.

Special features add value to enrich each student’s learning experience: Integration of subject weblogs promotes awareness of news in developing fields; the RSS feed page from Scopus posts the most recent HKU publications; Web 2.0 features foster communication and the sharing of ideas within the HKU community.
Dr. Otto Lam donated three boxes of the Hunter Family China Archives to the Special Collections in Jan 2010. This fascinating collection is accumulation by three generations of the Hunter family which comprises manuscripts, lecture notes, glass slides, and photo prints of China and the Boxer Rebellion from the late-19th to early 20th Century.

Professor Stephen WK Chiu of Chinese University of Hong Kong donated 6 boxes of authentic materials from Hong Kong trade unions to the Special Collections in Feb 2010. The materials were gathered in one of the projects done by Professor Chiu and our former lecturer Dr David Levin.

**Dental Library Fund-raising Event**

30 April 2010

The University of Hong Kong Libraries and its Dental Library organized a half-day course, which was made possible by the support of Professor Lim K. Cheung, Professor Niklaus P. Lang and Dr Michael G. Botelho. All the attendance had made a donation to the Dental Library Endowment Fund which will provide supplementary funds for the purchase of printed and digital forms of information for the Dental Library.

If you are interested in support the Libraries, please contact the Public Relations and Development Librarian Ms Carmen Tsang by email (yytsang@hku.hk).

Although scientific studies of the language behaviour of polyglots began to appear in the nineteenth century, it is only in the last fifty years or so that bilingualism and multilingualism have been recognized as crucial areas of linguistic research. This new four-volume collection from Routledge showcases the major achievements in this now vibrant multidisciplinary field.


The 6-volume handbook features in-depth reviews of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), quality-adjusted life years (QALYs), quality of life and financial measures for over 120 diseases and conditions.


Essentially a cookbook for making drugs, the six-volume handbook contains the recipes and process steps for over 2000 drugs, including a number of biotechnology drugs.


Correspondence, manuscripts, notes, documents, artwork, calligraphies, study materials, photographs, published materials, and clippings, detailing the various stages of the life of Peter and Edith Chang are contained in this collection.
Staff Recognition Award

This quarterly award is given periodically to recognise a staff member whose presence contributes in an extraordinary way to the Libraries. Award winner will receive HK$500 and a book plate to honor his dedication.

Past Staff Recognition Award Recipients:

Mr Leong Chau Iu (Access Services Department)
Mr Jimmy Sung (Systems Department)
Ms Lillian Lucke (Medical Library)
Mr Chan Wai Sun (Administrative Services Team)
Ms Chan Min Sze, Ivy (Lui Che Wo Law Library)
Ms Marine Yip (Administrative Services Team)
Mr To Siu King (E-resources and Serials Cataloguing Department)
Ms Connie Lam (Western and E-Resources Cataloguing Department)
Ms Carol Lam (Acquisitions Department)
Ms Alice Wong (Collection Development Team)
Mr Lai Chun Ying (Bindery Department)
Ms Esther Woo (Administrative Services Team)
Ms Betty Lam (Lui Che Wo Law Library)
Mr Leung Kai Kwong (Access Services Department)
Ms Molly Lam (Acquisitions Department)

Ms Polly Leung from the Education Library has been selected as the award recipient of the Staff Recognition Program for the forth quarter of 2009 and Mr Peter Wong Hung Chiu from the Yu Chun Keung Medical Library the first quarter of 2010.