

FOCUS

THE UNIVERSITY
OF HONG KONG
LIBRARIES

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The University of Hong Kong
Libraries

Message From The Librarian

Is the Library busy these days?

With the recent introduction of the 4 year curriculum and the double cohort, I am often asked this question. The great success witnessed by the new learning spaces on campus may have led some to consider the Library to be less utilized. In particular the Chi Wah Learning Commons, with more than 1,000 seats spread over 6,000 m², is very popular with students, often reaching capacity in terms of seat availability. Yet, with just a cursory glance, it is clear that our libraries are also well utilized. The new Law, Music and Education libraries with their enhanced environments and facilities, have all witnessed increased usage over their previous locations.

Similarly the creation of *Level 3* in the Main Library has been extremely popular, often reaching capacity during peak periods. The entrance figures for the Main Library show that 1.25 million visits have been recorded since the beginning of the academic year. This represents an almost 9% increase over the corresponding period last academic year. Without the establishment of *Level 3* it would have been near to impossible to accommodate this extra 9%. It will be important for the Learning Environments Oversight Committee to undertake an evaluation of the new learning spaces on campus, including the Main Library, in order to identify synergies among them, to continue to understand the myriad of learning styles and to respond to these to ensure our relevance.

Key Roles of Academic Libraries: A US Perspective

The recently released Ithaka S+R US Faculty Survey 2012¹, in its 5th cycle, once again provides a random sample survey of US higher education faculty members

aimed at learning about their attitudes and practices related to research, teaching, and communicating. Contained within the report are many views of academic libraries and their support for faculty members with respect to these three activities. The results over the past 4 of these surveys dating back to 2003 show some interesting trends.

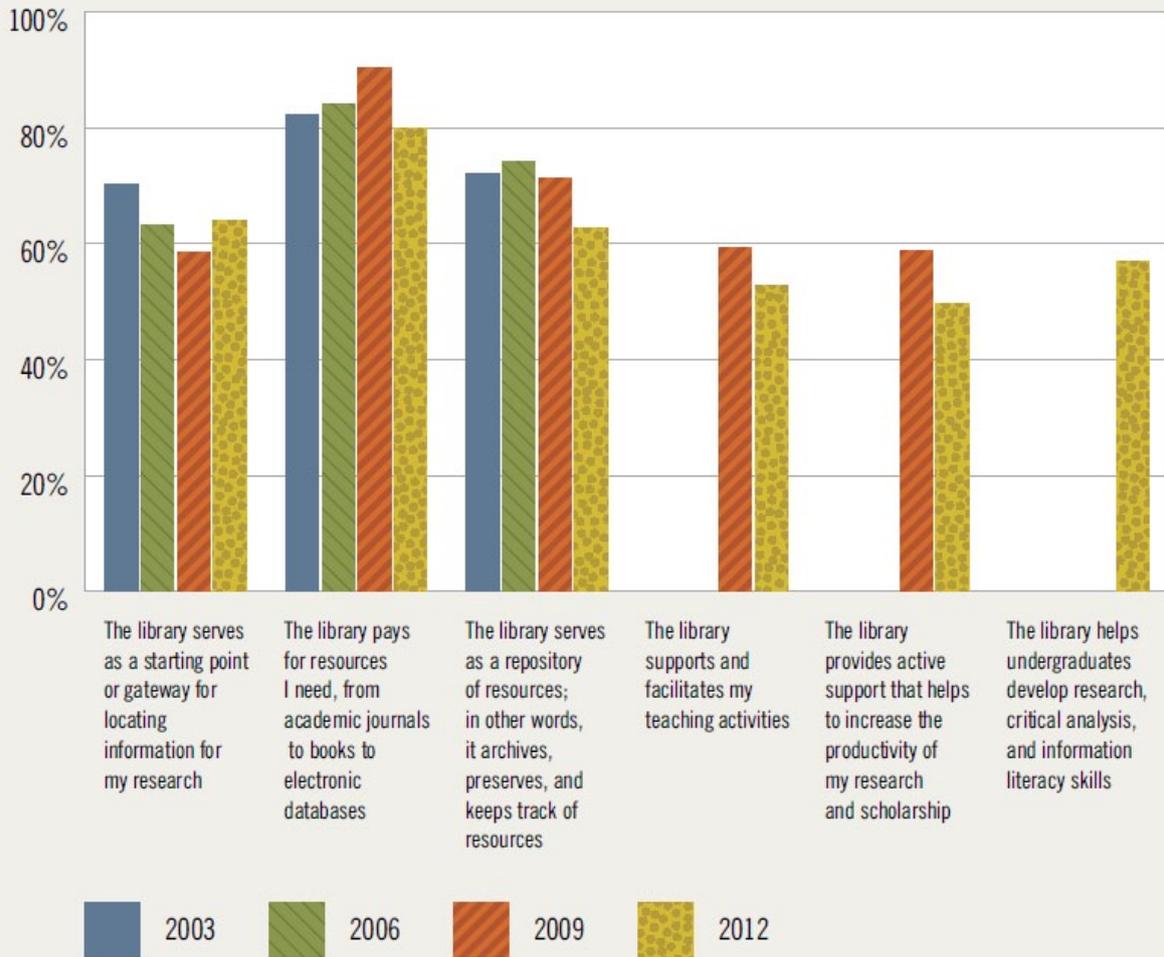
Among other things, faculty were asked to rate the degree of importance they place on six areas of library support activity. These six areas were gateway, buyer, archive, teaching support, research support and undergraduate support. The faculty responses, dating back to the 2003 survey, can be found in the table on the next page.

Not surprisingly, the consistently highest response in terms of importance is that of buyer ("The library pays for resources I need, from academic journals to books to electronic databases"). The importance of this role peaked in the 2009 survey with about 90% of respondents identifying it as very important, and then declined with the 2012 survey to about 80%. This could be due to the reduction in the impact of the global financial crisis. Nonetheless, funding is very important and the ability to purchase academic journals, books and electronic databases remain the most critical function of academic libraries.

The 2012 introduction in the survey of the library's role in supporting undergraduates ("The library helps undergraduates develop research, critical analysis, and information literacy skills") is a welcome addition and with an importance rating of just under 60% is no doubt reflective of recent trends in academic libraries to extend their involvement in undergraduate education. It is likely that this role will increase in importance over time as has been evident here at HKU.

Message From The Librarian

“How important is it to you that your college or university library provides each of the functions below or serves in the capacity listed below?” Percent rating each as very important, over time.



The report provides an excellent snapshot of US faculty members’ perceptions of, not only libraries and their support for scholarship but broader views, attitudes and behaviors towards scholarly processes. It would be interesting to conduct the same survey in this region in order to identify differences and similarities in perceptions. The full report is available at <http://www.sr.ithaka.org/research-publications/us-faculty-survey-2012>.

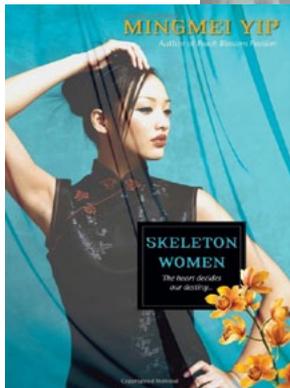
¹ Ross Housewright, Roger C. Schonfeld & Kate Wulfson, *Ithaka S+R US Faculty Survey 2012* (New York: Ithaka S+R, 2013), available at <http://www.sr.ithaka.org/research-publications/us-faculty-survey-2012> (accessed on April, 16, 2013).



Reading Club

3

For more about upcoming Book Talks
http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/



On Skeleton Women and the female spy in China

Theme Book: *Skeleton Women* written by Mingmei Yip
Speaker: Dr Mingmei Yip
Moderator: Ms Evelyn Ng
Date: 7 February 2013 (Thursday)

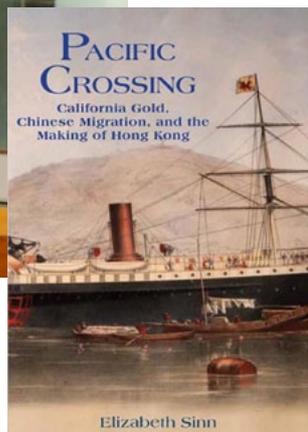
Click here to revisit the book talk
<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=4497566>



Pacific Crossing: California Gold, Chinese Migration, and the Making of Hong Kong

Speaker: Dr Elizabeth Sinn
Moderator: Professor John Carrol
Date: 7 March 2013 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk
<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=4497567>



For more about upcoming Book Talks
http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/

Upcoming Book Talks

The Penguin History of The World (sixth edition)

by J.M. Roberts & Odd Arne Westad

Speaker: Professor Odd Arne Westad

Moderator: Dr Priscilla Roberts (School of Humanities, HKU)

Date: 25 April 2013 (Thursday)

Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm

Language: English

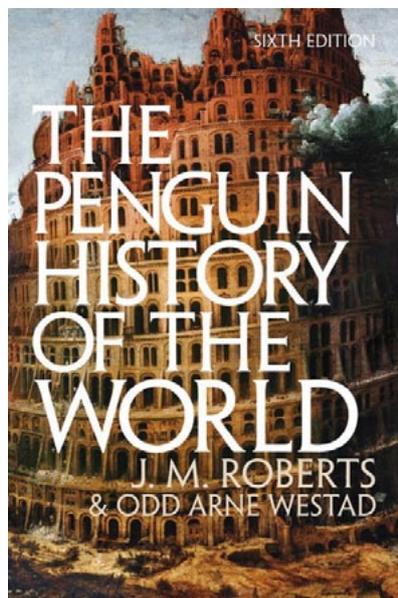
About the Speaker:

Odd Arne Westad is Professor of International History at London School of Economics and Director of LSE IDEAS, the LSE's centre for international affairs, diplomacy and strategy.

Professor Westad is both a historian and an expert on contemporary international affairs. He has a particular interest in China, where he first studied in 1979. Professor Westad has been instrumental in developing the School's links with China and with Peking University. Among his new books is *Restless Empire: China and the World since 1750*, which explores China's foreign affairs since the mid-Qing dynasty, providing an historical framework for understanding the international behaviour of modern China. Earlier this year Professor Westad published *The Penguin History of the World*, a new world history for the 21st century.



About the Book:



Updated by award-winning writer and historian Odd Arne Westad, most recently author of the glowingly reviewed *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750*

For generations of readers *The Penguin History of the World* has been one of the great cultural experiences - the entire story of human endeavour laid out in all its grandeur and folly, drama and pain, in a single book.

Now, for the first time, this landmark bestseller has been completely overhauled - not just bringing it up to date, but revising it throughout in the light of new research and discoveries, such as revolutionary changes in our understanding of ancient civilizations, and what seems to be the inexorable rise of Asia and the increasingly troubled situation in the West. The republication is an opportunity to celebrate a book that is both a richly rewarding narrative and a permanent work of reference.

HKU Libraries hosts exhibition and memorial gathering for Professor Leung Ping-kwan (Yesi) in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts

In collaboration with the Faculty of Arts, the Libraries held the exhibition “Good Company: Leung Ping-kwan’s Hong Kong” from 30 January to 22 March 2013, to commemorate the rich and generous life and work of our city’s foremost literary voice, Yesi, who sadly passed away on 5 January, 2013.

The exhibition was inspired by Professor Leung Ping-kwan's (known by his pen name Yesi) collaboration with 9 artist friends and communicated their shared vision of Hong Kong. Five of the exhibits have not been shown before. Poetry and literary creation were central to Yesi’s life; so was friendship. This exhibition brought together these two aspects most central to his life and showed how friendship and poetry could nourish each other, displaying the author’s poems alongside his friends’ photographs. It also offered a bibliographical survey of Leung Ping-kwan’s work in three genres - poetry, prose, fiction – from earlier to more recent times.





The Opening Ceremony was held on 30 January and officiated by the Dean of Arts, Professor Kam Louie, University Librarian, Mr Peter Sidorko, and Professor Elaine Ho of the School of English. It was followed by a Memorial Gathering at the Special Collections led by Dr Esther Cheung, staff, students and alumni of the Department of Comparative Literature.

The exhibition “Good Company: Leung Ping-kwan's Hong Kong”, held as part of the Faculty of Arts Centenary, was well received by visitors and is exemplary of the high quality of exhibitions that the Libraries is going to hold in the future.



Level 3 video

<http://lib.hku.hk/level3/>

Watch our new video “Welcome to Level 3” and in less than 3 minutes, you will learn about the services and facilities at our learning commons style facility on 3/F of Main Library. Level 3 provides a variety of spaces and facilities in support of different learning styles in five different zones, namely:

- Technology Zone: offers over 80 computers with Internet connection and software applications in support of study and research
- Collaboration Zone: provides an environment with 19 discussion rooms that foster group discussion
- Study Zone: serves as an ideal place for private and reflective research, with study tables, research carrels and a deep quiet room
- Breakout Zone: place for chatting and relaxation
- Multi-purpose Zone: a venue offering flexible space management



Description:
A quick way to learn about the services and facilities at Level 3, the learning commons style facility on 3/F of Main Library.

Newly Renovated Space



Our popular Student Learning Centre located on the Ground Floor of the Main Library has been given a total face-lift, including a new name! Now known as the **Library Corner**, it features dining booth seats, bar stools and the like, making it a perfect spot to delve yourself into collaborative projects and discussion. It stays open overnight too for HKU staff and students!

For all other facilities available at the Main Library, visit our website at <http://lib.hku.hk/mainlib/facilities.html>

The Libraries' Hub Team
received the 2012 Knowledge Exchange Award for Non-Faculty Units

This is a great achievement for the Team who have created what is far more than a simple Institutional Repository and which has now gained international recognition for its innovative approaches to supporting research and open access.



Hub Team (University Libraries) 學術庫團隊 (大學圖書館), The HKU Scholars Hub
FROM RIGHT: Mr David Townsend PALMER 宗樹朝先生 (Leader), Ms Joan SIA Mee Lai 佘美麗女士, Mr Francis POON Wing Keung 潘永強先生, Ms CHAN Siu Lin 陳小蓮女士, Miss LIU Zhaohua 劉昭華小姐, Miss JUDY TSOU Wing Wai 周永慧小姐, Mr Jack LO Chun Yue 盧震宇先生

Launched in 2005, the HKU Scholars Hub (the Hub) is the institutional repository of the University of Hong Kong. Prior to this project, the rich information concerning the University's research outputs and the achievements of researchers, being scattered in different silo systems, was neither visible nor available for public search. Led by Mr. David T Palmer, the Hub team at the University Libraries harvests the relevant data from various sources and presents them in search engine optimised (SEO) web pages. The Hub now contains centralised information on about 1,500 professorial staff at the University including their contact details, research interests, publications, patents, community service, research postgraduate student supervision and grants received. There is also a section on media contact indicating the topics and languages that the academic is proficient in. This project has significantly enhanced public access to the University's research and made our researchers highly visible and easily searchable by potential collaborators and research postgraduate candidates. The Hub has had over one million views by mid-2012.

Education Library - A New Look

To support the long term development of the Faculty of Education, the Education Library has moved from the Runme Shaw Building to the new premises on the eighth floor of Meng Wah Complex in January 2013. The Library took three days to complete the move, with more than 15,000 volumes of library books and audio-visual materials having been relocated.

Located in an impressive location with access to a nice roof top garden, the new Education Library premises incorporates the faculty's facilities, and includes student learning space, discussion rooms, a classroom and a small book area. The new space provides a motivating and tranquil atmosphere for private study, leisure reading and research.

In preparation for the move, a collection review exercise has been taken from November to December 2012. Many less-used books were transferred to Hing Wai Storage and more space has been converted to support collaborative learning.

Facts and figures

	Old Education Library	New Education Library
Area	230 m ²	350 m ² (+152%) Library: 225 m ² + Faculty: 125 m ² + 230 m ² (Rooftop Terrace)
Free-standing shelves	72 bays	39 bays
Seats	43	83 (+90%)



Space

- 350 m² (+152%)
- Rooftop terrace
- 6 Discussion rooms (44 seats)



Seats

- Study carrel (8)
- AV station (1)
- Computer workstation (5)
- Collaboration (22)
- Soft seating (3)



Collection

- Curriculum
- Teaching kits
- Examination papers
- School textbooks
- Children's literature
- Speech and Hearing Sciences reserve collection



Services and facilities

- Photocopying
- Wi-Fi printing
- Interactive whiteboard
- TV Display panel
- Online booking system



A rich collection on education including teaching support resources, curriculum materials, school textbooks, assessment exercises and audio-visual materials



More functional space in the new library

Overlooking the harbour views, students can relaxingly learn, discuss and connect in the discussion room



An array of discussion rooms equipped with interactive whiteboard or TV displays panels that support collaborative learning



Relaxing views from the window



Library users can enjoy a bird's-eye view of the city from the roof top garden

View of historical red brick Edwardian-style buildings

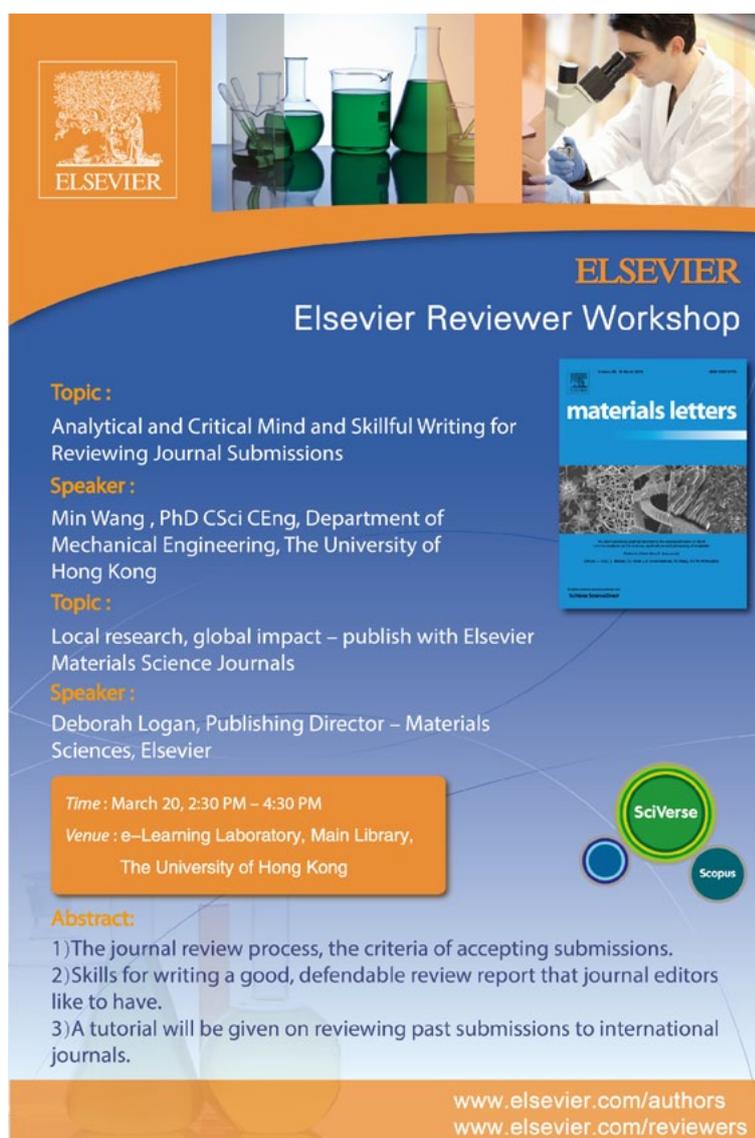


2013 Reviewer Workshop

The Reviewer Workshop arranged in collaboration with Elsevier on 20 March 2013 was well received by nearly 50 young researchers at HKU. At the session, Professor Min Wang of Mechanical Engineering Department shared his experience on how to become a good reviewer for scholarly publications and to enhance research outcome and visibility in the global academic community.

Participants found the workshop very useful as from their comments:

1. The workshop is very good for me. I never heard about a peer review before. I am looking forward to be a good reviewer in future
2. Thank you Prof. Wang, your presentation is useful for young students
3. More similar training should be provided
4. Very good and helpful, thank you!



The poster features a top section with the Elsevier logo and two images: laboratory glassware and a scientist at a microscope. The main text area is blue and white, detailing the workshop's topic, speaker, and abstract. It also includes a 'materials letters' journal cover image, logos for SciVerse and Scopus, and a website URL at the bottom.

ELSEVIER
Elsevier Reviewer Workshop

Topic :
Analytical and Critical Mind and Skillful Writing for Reviewing Journal Submissions

Speaker :
Min Wang , PhD CSci CEng, Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Hong Kong

Topic :
Local research, global impact – publish with Elsevier Materials Science Journals

Speaker :
Deborah Logan, Publishing Director – Materials Sciences, Elsevier

Time : March 20, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Venue : e-Learning Laboratory, Main Library, The University of Hong Kong

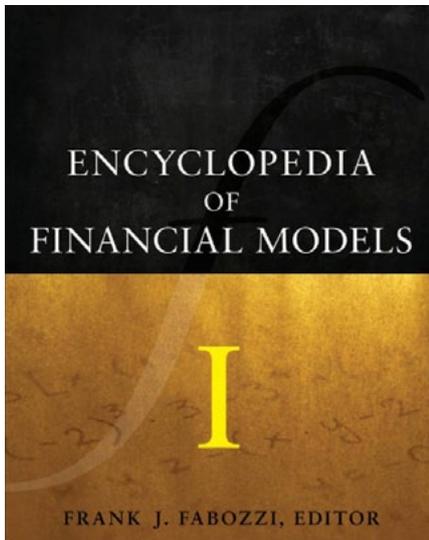
Abstract:
1)The journal review process, the criteria of accepting submissions.
2)Skills for writing a good, defensible review report that journal editors like to have.
3)A tutorial will be given on reviewing past submissions to international journals.

materials letters

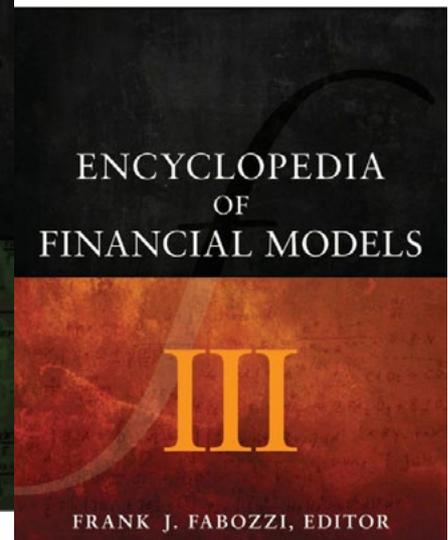
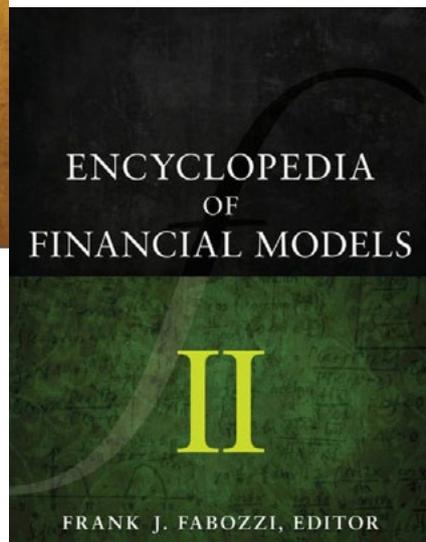
SciVerse
Scopus

www.elsevier.com/authors
www.elsevier.com/reviewers

**Encyclopedia of financial models / Frank J. Fabozzi, Editor.
Hoboken, N.J. :John Wiley & Sons,c2013.**



The need for serious coverage of financial modeling has never been greater, especially with the size, diversity, and efficiency of modern capital markets. With this in mind, the Encyclopedia of Financial Models, 3 Volume Set has been created to help a broad spectrum of individuals—ranging from finance professionals to academics and students—understand financial modeling and make use of the various models currently available



**The Far East and Australasia.
44th ed., Europa Publications, 2013**



This comprehensive survey, fully revised to reflect current economic and political developments, is an essential resource for the Asia-Pacific region.

The 2013 edition includes:

- coverage of recent elections, including those in Taiwan, Mongolia, South Korea, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea
- expert analysis of the accession to power of Kim Jong Un in North Korea
- in-depth coverage of the progress of President Thein Sein's reform agenda in Myanmar

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