As part of its annual Capital Works Resource Allocation Exercise (CWRAE), the Government has once again assigned a Category B-status to the Joint Universities Research Archive (JURA). This means that we must wait another year before the decision is reviewed and, if the status is raised to Category B+, before we can proceed with submitting the project to LegCo for funding approval.

To recap readers’ memories, JURA is a collaborative effort among the libraries of the 8 UGC institutions to develop a purpose built, state of the art joint storage facility for lesser used, but still very necessary, print library materials. The initial planning for such a facility dates back to 2003. The facility will be jointly owned by the 8 institutions, will be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the 8 librarians of the institutions and chaired by the HKU Librarian. The facility will have a “single copy” guiding principle. This means that a library wishing to send an item to JURA for storage can only do so if there is no existing copy already in the facility. This will serve to maximize the use of space at JURA. Additionally, it is intended to store the materials in bins that will be housed in high density storage racks and will be retrieved using a robotic Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS). Books will be retrieved and delivered to requesting libraries on a daily basis, operating along the same lines as the existing HKALL.

The benefits of this system are numerous and obvious. First and foremost, it will free up precious space at each of the 8 library systems for future collection growth, and it will help us to meet the growing demands for different and innovative learning and research spaces in our libraries. Secondly, working collaboratively as a group of 8, it provides the most cost effective solution opposed to 8 separate storage facilities, which is the current situation. When discussing “deep collaboration” in its 2010 report, Aspirations for the Higher Education System in Hong Kong, the UGC stated “areas of success: ... the collaboration by libraries on a new joint storage facility and sharing of books (p.109). They are, of course, referring to JURA and HKALL respectively.
This delay means that we must endure yet another year of “wait and see” as all conditions for the project funding have been met by the JURA Project Committee and the JURA Working Group including: developing the detailed design; establishing a governing body (a company limited by guarantee), and; the identification and in principle allocation of land. As a best case scenario we will not see JURA completed before 2018 and it may well be longer as the UGC has indicated that the B-status “may persist in view of the significant expenditure on public sector projects”. HKU is the most affected by this delay as we have the most dire need in terms of space and storage. During peak periods our libraries operate at full capacity and study space is scarce. Our existing remote storage at Hing Wai, Aberdeen, is full, holding almost 600,000 volumes. Between now and the completion of JURA we will be seeking alternatives to open shelf access to our collections including boxing up backsets of journal runs, weeding print items that are duplicates (retaining a single copy for those that are very low use), selectively weeding print items for which we have perpetual electronic access, among others. We will be identifying other options for freeing up shelf space for our near future collection growth but this cannot be at the expense of reduced space for researchers and learners. I would be grateful for your patience and understanding as we wrestle with this less than satisfactory situation and I would also welcome your views and ideas.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all a Happy 2014 and a prosperous and healthy Year of the Horse.

Peter E. Sidorko
 University Librarian

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Steps to Paradise and Beyond: Hawaii to China, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Elsewhere by Verner Bickley

Speaker: Dr Verner Bickley, MBE
Moderator: Dr Gillian Bickley
Date: 23 January 2013 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm
Venue: Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library
Language: English

About the Speaker:
Dr Verner Bickley, MBE has lived in Asian and Pacific countries for over fifty years, enjoying a long and distinguished career of service in Singapore, Burma, Indonesia, Japan, Hawaii, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong, including influential and path-breaking work on behalf of the British Council, the US federally-funded East-West Center housed at the University of Hawaii, and the then Education Department in Hong Kong. In his work at the East-West Center, in particular, he was at the forefront of a pioneering effort to embrace cross-disciplinary knowledge on the cutting edge of what subsequently became the “Pacific Rim” in academic and wider discourse. In Hong Kong, he was first director of the Institute of Language in Education (now incorporated in the Hong Kong Institute of Education) and contributed much to the understanding of the standard of English in Hong Kong.

About the Book:
Steps to Paradise and Beyond, the second volume of Dr Verner Bickley’s autobiography, describes some of the fascinating experiences and cross-cultural insights derived from his work and travels in many Asian and Pacific countries, including his official visit to China in November 1979 and his experiences in South Korea just before the assassination of President Park Chung-hee. He writes briefly about President Obama’s mother as an East-West Center grantee during Verner’s time as Director of the EWC Culture Learning Institute and the President’s own education in Hawaii. Verner concludes with a brief description of how the Institute of Language in Education (now incorporated into the Hong Kong Institute of Education) was set up (in the early 1980s) by the Hong Kong Government “to raise substantially the professional standards of English and Chinese in the schools” of Hong Kong.

To register for this book talk:
Conan Doyle: Writing, Profession, and Practice by Douglas Kerr

Speaker: Professor Douglas Kerr
Moderator: Dr Evelyn Chan (Department of English, CUHK)
Date: 6 March 2014 (Thursday)
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm
Venue: Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library
Language: English

About the Speaker:
Douglas Kerr is Professor of English and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Hong Kong University. He has written books about the English war poet Wilfred Owen, the political writer George Orwell, and the ways the East has been imagined by British writers in the colonial and postcolonial period. He is a former Chairman of the Board of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, and presenter of the RTHK Radio 3 programme *The Big Idea*.

About the Book:
Arthur Conan Doyle is best-known as the creator of the perennially popular detective Sherlock Holmes, but he also wrote historical adventures, scientific romances like *The Lost World*, supernatural tales, journalism and memoirs. He was a campaigner against injustice, and a believer in Spiritualism. This book is a cultural biography and critical study which investigates Conan Doyle as a maker of culture, an important interpreter of the times he lived in, especially in the spheres of sport, medicine, science, law and order, army and empire, and the life of the spirit.

To register for this book talk:
READING CLUB:
PAST BOOK TALKS

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

Stumbling Giant: The Threats to China’s Future
Speaker: Mr Timothy Beardson
Moderator: Professor Zhigang Tao, Associate Dean, Knowledge Exchange and China Development and Director of HKU Institute for China and Global Development
Date: 31 October 2013 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk

Passage to Promise Land: Voices of Chinese Immigrant Women to Canada
Speaker: Dr Vivienne Poy
Moderator: Professor C. F. Lee, GBS, SBS, JP, Director, HKUSPACE
Date: 23 November 2013 (Saturday)

Click here to revisit the book talk
EXHIBITIONS

Book Sale
5 November 2013

Equal Opportunities Festival 2013:
To build an inclusive society with respect to sexual equality
11-15 November 2013
Conditional Spaces: Hong Kong lesbian desires and everyday life  
by Denise Tse-Shang Tang, Ph.D.

Description: This book is the first book-length ethnographic study on Hong Kong women with same-sex desires and transgender lesbians in relation to urban spaces. This book aims to discuss how multi-faceted experiences of living in density shape one’s life and determine lesbian and transgender sexualities within and beyond the city of Hong Kong.

Ceasefire! Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality  
by Cathy Young

Description: Are men and women really from different planets? In Ceasefire, journalist and cultural critic Cathy Young argues that our current obsession with personal problems between the sexes has had disastrous consequences for women’s progress - and for men’s as well. Young believes “the myth of gender difference” has allowed feminists to continue to see women as victims, at the same time......

Gender Inequalities In The 21st Century: New barriers and continuing constraints  
by Jacqueline L. Scott, Rosemary Crompton, Clare Lyonette

Description: Both women and men strive to achieve a work and family balance, but does this imply more or less equality? Does the persistence of gender and class inequalities refute the notion that lives are becoming more individualised? Leading international authorities document how gender inequalities are changing......

Gender Equality: Dimensions of women’s equal citizenship  
by Linda C. McClain, Joonna L. Grossman

Description: Citizenship is the common language for expressing aspirations to democratic and egalitarian ideals of inclusion, participation, and civic membership. However, there continues to be a significant gap between formal commitments to gender equality and equal citizenship - in the laws and constitutions of many countries as well as in international human rights documents......

Gender Stories: Negotiating identity in a binary world  
by Sonja K. Foss

Description: Essential for anyone who seeks to understand the contemporary gender landscape, Gender Stories defines gender as the socially constructed meanings that are assigned to bodies. The book helps readers navigate issues of gender by introducing them to the ubiquitous gender binary......

Shortchanged: Why women have less wealth and what can be done about it  
by Mariko Lin Chang

Description: The first book to focus on the differences in wealth between women and men, Shortchanged is a compelling and accessible examination of why women struggle to accumulate assets, who has what, and why it matters. Mariko Lin Chang draws on the most comprehensive national data on wealth and on in-depth interviews......

Gender Agenda: Asia-Europe Dialogue: New visions and perspectives for women and men  
by Colomé, Meguro, Yamamoto

Description: The publication from the inaugural Gender Agenda dialogue conference focused on social, economic, and political implications arising from gender differences. The event drew 65 participants from 20 ASEM member countries, and presentations......
Automated Book Drop officially launched in Law Library

Law Library’s newly installed automated book drop was officially launched on 28 November. Professor Johannes Chan, SC, Dean of Faculty of Law, Professor Albert Chen, Chairman of Faculty Library Committee, and Mr Peter Sidorko, University Librarian, launched the new facility at a simple but well attended ceremony which attracted crowds of students, faculty members, librarians, and other library users from across the campus.

The Law Library’s automated book drop is the first of its kind in HKU. Books returned through the book drop will be automatically checked in and updated in the user’s library account in real time, even when the library is closed. The system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Scan to revisit the highlights of the launch ceremony

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB19mc6EXBc>

55th Hong Kong Library Association Annual General Meeting

University Librarian, Mr Peter Sidorko was conferred the title of Fellow of the Hong Kong Library Association at a ceremony on the 55th Hong Kong Library Association Annual General Meeting which was held on 6th of December 2013 at YMCA Salisbury.

Mr Sidorko was presented a certificate by the 2013 Hong Kong Library Association President, Mr Li Haipeng. The certificate signified that he has fulfilled the Constitutional requirements of Hong Kong Library Association for this higher level of membership and his elevation has been duly ratified by the HKLA Council and was accepted to the register granting him the permission to use the initials FHKLA (Fellow of the Hong Kong Library Association).
Japan Association of Private University Libraries Visit

From the 25th to the 30th of November 2013, four delegates from the Japan Association of Private University Libraries (JASPUL) visited the Libraries for a series of workshops and discussions. The visitors were: Professor Keiichi Uchida, Kansai University (Library Director); Kato Hiroyuki, Kansai University (Rare Book Storage and Provision & Foreign Language Book Cataloguing); Yano Keiko, Meiji University (Digitization of Rare Books & IR Operations); and, Imafuji Satoru, Nakamura Gakuen University (Rare Book Storage and Provision & Foreign Language Book Cataloguing).

During their stay, HKU Library staff gave presentations and facilitated discussions covering the visitors’ areas of interests including:

- The Scholars Hub and Open Access
- Hong Kong copyright
- Digitization at HKU Libraries – logistical, practical and technological aspects
- International, regional and local networking and collaboration
- Special Collections and rare books, and
- Cataloguing practices at HKU Libraries

The Libraries also organized visits to the libraries of Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, City University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Central Library. The visit culminated with the four attending the JULAC (Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee) Forum.

“On behalf of members of the study group organized by Japan Association of Private University Libraries, I would like to thank you and your staff at HKU Libraries ... It was indeed a very exciting, extensive, informative and fun week for all of us. We were so overwhelmed with information that we don’t know how to start telling our colleagues about our experiences!”
(Yano Keiko, Meiji University).

Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Collaboration with Kansai University

During the JASPUL visit, the Libraries formalised its collaborative activities with Kansai University Library with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Academic Collaboration. The MoU encourages the sharing of resources, the exchange of publications, and other academic exchanges such as staff and conferences for a period of five years.
SUPPORT TO THE LIBRARIES

Treasures from the Family of a late Qing Zhuangyuan
晚清狀元吳魯家族家珍公藏

On 13 January, the Libraries hosted a donation ceremony to honour Mr Ng Tsz Tung (吳紫棟) and his family for donating their family treasures to the Fung Ping Shan Library. Mr. Ng is the great grandson of the late Mr Wu Lu (吳魯), who ranked first in a palace examination held during the Guangxu (光緒) era (1871-1908) and was honoured with the widely-admired title Zhuangyuan (狀元). The donation includes Mr Wu Lu’s script for the imperial examination, manuscripts of the poems he wrote grieving at the Eight Power Expedition (八國聯軍) to China in 1900, as well as a number of calligraphy and books written by four generations of the Wu family. These are not just treasures of the Wu family but also gems of the Chinese culture.

Mr Ng is a senior member of the reputable Hong Kong Chinese Art Association and has arranged two art exhibitions in Hong Kong. He started learning Chinese calligraphy from his uncle during his boyhood days and since that time, grown to appreciate the erudition of his great grandfather. Unfortunately, the Wu family collection was dispersed during the Cultural Revolution and as a result, Mr Ng embarked on the long journey of collecting the scattered materials in 1992.

Mr Ng has been actively promoting the study of Wu Lu by attending academic conferences, writing articles, and engaging in dialogue with scholars. Donating the family’s invaluable collection to the Fung Ping Shan Library is yet another step to promote the Wu Lu study and ensure these treasures will be properly preserved.

1月13日本館舉行了一個捐贈儀式，感謝吳紫棟先生及家人把家傳文物捐贈馮平山圖書館。該批文物既是家珍，也是瑰寶。有：吳先生曾祖晚清狀元吳魯先生的殿試答卷、哀歎八國聯軍侵華的詩史百哀詩手稿、臨董華亭龍感應碑的真跡，附有弘一法師的題跋、吳氏四代的書法著作等等。

吳先生是香港中國美術會的資深會員，曾在港曾二度舉辦個人書畫展。幼年隨父輩習曾祖書法，傳承家學。深感曾祖書稿文章，實為一代文宗。惜在文革期間，家族文物散佚流離。遂於1992年開始，展開漫長的尋訪補遺之旅，在舊書市、文物拍賣場購回家族文物，進行修復維護，並珍藏於保險庫中。

吳先生為推廣發揚“吳魯學”，多年來參加學術會議，撰寫文章，與教授宿儒研討暢酬。為繼續發揚曾祖文章與家學傳承，決定私珍公藏，為家族文物覓一個可妥善永久保存，又可供學者研究的地方。

吳先生遷居香港近40年，常到位於馮平山圖書館原址的香港大學美術博物館馮平山樓參觀藝術展覽。鑒於馮平山中文圖書館歷史攸久，備有庋藏宋元明清的善本書庫，而香港大學亦為香港最高學府，認為是家珍最理想的地方歸宿。

是次參與儀式的，均為吳先生的至愛親朋，共同見證先生私器公藏的無私和慷慨。
1. Gonzalez de Mendoza, Juan, 1545-1618. 
Dell' historia della China ... 
Venetia: Appresso Andrea Muschio, 1588.

Relazione della grande monarchia della Cina. 
Roma: Sumptibus Hermann Scheus, 1643.

Athanasii Kircheri E Soc. Jesu China monumentis ... 
Amstelodami: Apud Jacobum à Meurs, 1667.

4. Staunton, George, 1737-1801. 
An authentic account of an embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China ... 
London: W. Bulmer and Co. for G. Nicol, 1798.
古文淵鑑六十四卷 (清) 徐乾學等編註
清康熙廿四年 (1685) 五色套印本
Reflecting the origin of classical writings by Xu Qianxue. A 17th century multi-coloured imprint.

文體明辨六十一卷 (明) 徐師曾編
明萬暦元年 (1573) 建陽活字本
Distinguishing literary styles by Xu Shizeng. A 16th century movable type imprint.

金剛經 北齊泰山摩崖拓本
The diamond sutra. A rubbing of an ancient carving on Mount Tai.

明 文徵明書法真蹟
Calligraphy by Wen Zhengming (1470-1559).
方興勝覽七十卷（宋）祝穆編 宋咸淳三年（1267）刊本
Scenic historical places revisited by Zhu Mu.
A 13th century imprint.

十竹齋書畫譜（明）胡正言摹 清光緒五年（1879）多色套印本
A copybook of drawings and calligraphy from the
Ten Bamboos Studio by Hu Zhengyan. A late 19th century
multi-coloured imprint.
自警編五卷 (宋) 趙善撰 宋端平元年 (1234)
九江郡齋刊本

Essays on self-discipline by Zhao Shan.
A mid-13th century imprint.

清 李鴻章手札
A manuscript of Li Hongzhang (1823-1901).
Mr David Palmer’s interview is featured in HKUSA newsletter:

The HKU Scholars Hub
An interview with Mr David Palmer of HKU Libraries

Our interview with Mr Palmer took place on a cool and windy evening. However, his work unit and team in the building of Kennedy Town Centre was filled with warmth and calmness. It was our first encounter with a back-of-the-scene library space.

Unsurprisingly, it was full of books: on the shelves, on the trolleys, by the desks, and even piled up on the floors...yet, there must be a sense of order out of this apparent chaos, as each of them has a bright colour post-it note inserted in it. From the start of the conversation, we quickly discovered that Mr Palmer’s working world is largely composed of the virtual organization of potentially infinite electronic resources extending far beyond this physical space. The year 2012 marks a fruitful year of awards and recognitions to Mr Palmer for his over two decades’ of dedicated efforts in IT related services and innovations at the HKU library. He received an ETD (Electronic Theses & Dissertations) Leadership Award, which recognizes individuals worldwide whose leadership and vision has helped raise awareness of the benefits of ETDs and whose efforts have improved graduate education and research through the use of ETDs. He told us that there are now over 21,000 HKU theses, including not only PhD, MPhil thesis but also taught postgraduate theses that are all available on-line for the public. Proud to say, HKU is the first university in Asia to have made such a huge achievement. As for the library digitisation work, Mr Palmer’s experience in this goes back as far as the 1990s, when he started as an assistant librarian at HKU Library. The first such project was digitising the past exam papers. In the same year of 2012, he and his Hub team received yet another very significant award which is the Knowledge Exchange award. He was proud to tell us that this award is so far the only one received by a non-academic unit. It is in recognition of the great achievement of the Hub team, under the leadership of Mr Palmer, in transforming the HKU Scholar Hub (first launched in 2005) in just over 2-3 years into far more than a simple Institutional Repository. It now holds not only HKU records of publications, but also records of grants, patents, scholars, and their expertise.

The Hub has since gained international recognition for its innovations in supporting research and open access by all. Yet, the process of transformation into a real function hub, with each facet of research data integrated and presented in search engine optimised (SEO) web pages, was not all plain sailing. The tasks of amalgamating the scattered yet rich information concerning the Universities research outputs and the achievements of the researchers was not only a tedious one, but also required the most efficient communication to gain permission from data owners of information held in very dispersed silos within and outside HKU. The Hub now continues to prove a success by getting over one million views by mid-2012. Mr Palmer was most delighted to say that just recently; a professor expressed great appreciation for the HKU Scholars Hub. This professor was invited to be an editor of a high-impact journal because the publisher was impressed by the professor’s comprehensive research profile as revealed on the Hub. Mr Palmer was also promoted last year to the post of Associate University Librarian, responsible for digital strategies and technical services. His 23 years of service and now his two recent awards show that he has contributed significantly to HKU’s leading position in digital libraries and services. Mr Palmer is reaching out now to sister Universities both locally and overseas in attempt to make the data in the Hub more interchangeable with other institutions. He also informs us that there are also several new projects currently being carried out. For example, the “Altmetrics” project is aimed at offering a measure of a scholar’s publications alternative to traditional ones such as citation count. These altmetrics include the number of twitter messages, blog posts, and other mentions in social media. Another interesting new project which has recently secured funding from the Office of
the Knowledge Exchange is called the “ORCID” project, whereby unique identifiers are assigned to HKU scholars in a scheme used worldwide. Chinese names especially are prone to ambiguity when written in Roman script. Because of this, proper attribution is a big problem for scholars in this part of the world. Once assigned these unique identifiers, HKU scholars can use them in grant applications, publishing, patent applications, etc. and be assured of proper identification. This system is rapidly gaining international popularity. Hence with his finger on the pulse of the current international trends and development, Mr Palmer is yet again helping HKU to gain worldwide recognition and reputation. Having given us so much insight to the present and future development of the virtual organization of potentially infinite electronic resources, we believe that this softly spoken yet determined Mr Palmer who has been so politely sitting with us, has built an aura of strong dedication and mission in his service to HKU and the HKU libraries. We learned that his surname of Palmer—which he translates as “宗樹朝”– shows similar dedication. His ancestor in medieval times went on long and arduous pilgrimage to the holy land, from where he brought back a palm branch to prove his pilgrimage.

More than that, we also discovered that Mr Palmer lives his life in the physical world to the full as well. Restless for adventure, as a young man from Utah, USA, he travelled and lived in Japan soon after obtaining his undergraduate degree. Later, after obtaining a postgraduate degree in library science back in the US, he settled in Hong Kong in 1990. Although fluent in Japanese, he is less so in Mandarin. He wishes that perhaps one day he may have an opportunity to live for a length of time in China to really improve his mandarin language skills. He also shared with us his passion for music, by showing us his beautiful concertina which he plays once a month as a member of the Hong Kong Folk Club, in a pub in Wan Chai.

Please click on the link to view Chinese Version of the interview and for the HKUSA newsletter:
Notable Donation

We are very grateful for the generous donation of HK$100,000 from Professor Moira Chan to the Special Collections in October 2013. With Professor Chan’s generous donation, we are able to purchase an ultrahigh definition microfilm scanner and additional equipment to help researchers, students, and alumni with their access to the Special Collection materials.

Exhibition of “Szeto Wah Collection”

You are cordially invited to visit the Exhibition of “Szeto Wah Collection”. The exhibit will be held at Special Collections, 1/F Main Library, the University of Hong Kong, from 2 January to 23 February 2014.

The “Szeto Wah Collection” is permanently housed in the Libraries’ Special Collections since the turnover ceremony in January 2012. The University of Hong Kong Libraries is very fortunate to have been chosen by the family of Mr Szeto Wah as the recipient of this unique Collection.

This second biennial exhibition features Szeto Wah’s speech manuscripts relating to education, June Fourth Incident, democratic movement, and personal experience that he shared with students at schools and academic institutions.

For enquiries, please contact Special Collections at libspeco@hku.hk or 2859-2207.
The fabric of the human body:
an annotated translation of the 1543 and 1555 editions
by Daniel H. Garrison, Malcolm H. Hast.

This title recreates the masterpiece of science and art for the first
time in a way that is understandable to 21st century readers who do
not have any knowledge of Latin. The texts of both the 1543 and the
1555 editions have been translated with the utmost care by North-
western University Professors Emeritus Daniel H. Garrison and Malcolm
H. Hast, a task they completed in over 20 years of painstaking and
dedicated work.

Women’s suffrage literature
edited by Katharine Cockin, Glenda Norquay and Sowon S. Park.

This work makes available in facsimile key texts which represent the wealth
of creative writing that emerged around the issue of women’s suffrage in
the early twentieth century. The collection includes five significant novels,
a wide range of drama and representative short stories.