Alumni Support for the Libraries

Unlike the Law, Medicine, etc. faculties, the Libraries doesn’t have alumni in the sense that students graduate with a degree. Yet, the Main and all the branch libraries have served as the second home for thousands upon thousands of students since its first library opened its doors in 1912. With this in mind, we decided that we would ask the 13,000 members of the alumni with whom we have kept in touch to participate in the Stanley Ho Alumni Challenge by making a gift to the Libraries. Dr Ho’s pledge was to match his classmates’ gifts up to $500 million dollars. The response to our call for support for the Libraries has been wonderful. We have received 568 gifts since we first began mailing letters out to appeal for support.

It is the job of one of our staff, Marina, to open the envelopes and to begin the processing of the gifts. At times like this she smiles a lot as the gifts flow in, but when a gift from Mr To Wai Ping Class of 1979, arrived, she had to count the zeros following the first digit on the cheque multiple times. After making sure her eyes were not deceiving her, she couldn’t help but shout with excitement to call all of us in the central office to come enjoy the view.

Soon after, we arranged for a lunch with Mr To in order to better understand what aspect of the library programme he hoped would receive this support. The lunch was also attended by the Vice Chancellor. I love libraries but I must admit I was more than curious why he had chosen to support the Libraries so generously. During lunch and a subsequent tour of the Main and Music libraries I learned about the role the library had played in his life. He said he spent most of the day in the library, meeting friends, and reading. In those days the Student Union Building was located next to the Main Library and so it was easy to go back and forth; eating and studying with friends. At night he lived in Student Union Building where he and others were good friends with “Uncle Fat” (Uncle Fat was the nickname for Mr Lui Kwan Fat) who ran the daily affairs for the Student Union,
including writing large Chinese banners in an era when computer production was not available. While there were students officially housed in the hall, nearly uncountable others also moved in each night. The VC asked, how did they take care of their laundry? He responded that clothes dried nicely up on the roof. The Student Union also had a piano and music was his great passion. Listening to all of this made me wonder if students went to class much. He said in his case he didn’t find it necessary too often and would simply read books and his friends’ notes and then take the tests. Apparently this regimen worked out well and prepared him for his life first as a math and later a music teacher.

I would like to use this space to thank Mr To and all the other alumni who have been so generous in their support of the Libraries. We welcome everyone’s gifts to the Libraries. We are using these funds to pay for books, journals, databases, and physical facility improvements that benefit the environment in which our current students study, research, and spend time with their friends. While the Libraries today’s students enjoy are quite similar to the ones their parents worked in, many things have changed as well. In addition 2.4 million printed volumes, we now have about half that many e-books, 40,000+ e-journals, hundreds of computers and space to use laptops, and the use of the Student Study Centre in the Main Library 24 hours a day where they can get snacks, hot and cold drinks, and tables for individual and group study - maybe we should add a piano.

Welcome to the Libraries!

Dr Anthony Ferguson
University Librarian

To encourage participation in the University’s Centenary Vision appeal, we would like to invite you to be part of it. To designate your gift to us, please go to: http://lib.hku.hk/friends/alumnichallenge/donation.pdf to download the form. Please complete the form and return it to the following address:

Alumni Challenge: Gift to University Libraries
Main Library 4/F
University of Hong Kong Libraries
Pokfulam Road
HONG KONG

For more information, please call (852) 2859-8903 or fax (852) 2858-9420.
Exhibitions

Sustainability Report
可持續發展報告 8 - 26 January, 2007

Spring Festival 春節
5 - 25 February 2007

All of us are related, each of us is unique
26 February - 20 March 2007 (Main Library)
2 - 30 April 2007 (Medical Library)

Triennial Intervarsity Games
(TIG) 四角大學賽
21 March - 23 April

Photo exhibition of Hong Kong Institute of Professional Photographer (HKIPP)
香港專業攝影師公會攝影展
24 April - 31 May 2007

No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave. - Calvin Coolidge
The Search for a Vanishing Beijing: A Guide to China’s Capital Through the Ages/ Michael Aldrich

Speaker: Mr Michael Aldrich (left)
Moderator: Jason Wordie (middle)
Date: 1 March 2007 (Thursday)

The Possible 30 stories = 無窮的可能 : 扶貧路上 30 個故事.

Speakers: Mr Chong Chan Yau (left); Mr Mok Chiu Yu (right)
Reading by: Amy Cheung Schwarting; Madeleine Marie Slavick
Date: 22 March 2007 (Thursday)

Performance art: One of our speakers Mok Chiu Yu invites some audiences to express the feeling of hunger with their bodies. This girl uses "feed on fancies" to elaborate her desire of food.
Strange tales from a Chinese studio / Songling Pu; translated and edited by John Minford.

Speaker: The Hon. Margaret Ng
Date: 19 April 2007 (Thursday)

In Critical Proximity: The Visual Memories of Stanley Kwan

Speakers: Dr. Esther Cheung and Mr Stanley Kwan
Date: 3 May 2007 (Thursday)
Reading Club

**Ten Eternal Questions / Zoe Sallis**
Speaker: The Hon Alan Leong
Date: 10 May 2007 (Thursday)

**An Apple a week/ David Tang**
Speaker: Mr David Tang
Date: 7 June 2007 (Thursday)
Language: English

**韜韜食經 : 圍村特色菜**
Speaker: 梁文韜 先生
Date: 19 July 2007 (Thursday)
Language: Cantonese

**Title to be announced**
Speaker: Ms Lu Ping
Date: 13 September 2007 (Thursday)
Language: Putonghua / English

Find out more about our Reading Club and its activities, visit:
http://www.lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club
Collaboration

Hong Kong 2007

It is an informal meeting of leading library and information industry participants devoted to thinking through and debating the new world order in collection development. This year, the University Libraries was very pleased to have held the Retreats in Hong Kong on 12-14 April 2007 with the theme of “The Quest for Information: Open or Closed, Democratic or Controlled? Perspectives from the Scholarly Community”.

The 5th Annual Library Leadership Institute

Following on from the successful Institutes held since 2003, the University of Hong Kong Libraries held the 5th Annual Library Leadership Institute with the theme of “Redefining Libraries: Web 2.0 and Other Challenges for Library Leaders”. This year, the Institute was held in Xiamen, with participants from Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and other countries in the region.

2007 Guangdong-JULAC Libraries Cooperation Meeting

It is an annual meeting between directors of academic libraries in Guangdong Province and HKSAR. This year, 14 Guangdong librarians from nine institutions and 19 Hong Kong librarians from eight JULAC libraries attended the Hong Kong meeting on 10 May 2007. They shared their experiences in cooperative projects such as JURA (Joint-Universities Research Archives), HKCAN (Hong Kong Chinese Authority Names Database) and HKALL (Hong Kong Academic Library Link).

Promoting 21st Century Scholarly Communication: The Role of Institutional Repositories in the Open Access Movement

With sponsorship from the Soros foundation and JULAC, the Libraries hosted this conference on 17-18 May.

Open access (OA) and institutional repositories (IR) are transforming scholarly communication and bringing new opportunities and challenges for Hong Kong researchers, librarians, publishers, and research funding bodies. Promoting 21st Century Scholarly Communication presented a conference with international “key players” and Hong Kong authorities to address the wide range of topics surrounding these dynamic movements.
Alumni & Students’ Support

Honour Mothers with Books Programme

More than 200 people chose to send gifts to their mothers through The University of Hong Kong Libraries Honour with Books Programme.

With a $200 gift to the Honour with Books programme in this Mother’s Day promotion, a commemorative bookplate bearing donor’s name and the name of this special person will be placed in a new book in the Libraries’ collection. A card with the bookplate will be sent to the honouree or to the family.

They expressed their deepest feelings to mothers in words:

“Thank you for your unconditional love and support since we were born! We love you!”;

"To my momma for her greatest love of all”;

“For her guidance, care and unconditional love”;

“Thank you mother!!! Without you, I cannot be so happy in the world. Happy Mother's Day forever.”;

“A million and one thanks to a mother who’s one in a million! Happy Mother's Day!”;

“"Mother” – a word that means the world to me.”

Bookplates donated by Sandy and Vincent.

Bookplate donated by Oi Sum.

Oi Sum and her mother Ms Chun Kwai Ying.
One of the donors, a HKU student Li Oi Sum said, “the bookplate speaks of my deepest love to my dearest mother. She is the best mother in my eyes, and also my most intimate friend. Without her enormous sacrifice, there would not be the present me. There is no greater idea than to dedicate my love for her in HKU’s library forever. For both my parents and I are book-lovers, I am sure that she will be overwhelmed and very happy at receiving the card of the bookplate on Mothers’ Day.”

Another donor, also a student of HKU Vincent said that his relation with his mother is very close. “Sometimes she has to be on night shift and I always wait for her to come back home before I go to bed. I will chat with her about my school life, her work, almost everything!” Vincent’s mother is always proud of him for being able to study in HKU. She always encourages him to read and learn more, so having a bookplate with her name on it also means a lot to both of them. “I am very sure that she will like this gift as much as I do.”

Mrs Lau received two bookplates from her husband and her four kids. Mr Lau said, “Carmen gave me the greatest gifts on earth – the four kids. She is a great supporter of big family!! She enjoys her role as a mother of four young kids (from 7 years old to 10 months old), and at the same time enjoys the challenge at work.” Mrs Lau always encourages her friends to have more children and she thinks that “Mother” is the most beautiful name for women.

If you want to honour someone special in a special occasion through the University of Hong Kong Libraries’ Honour with Books Programme, please visit: [http://lib.hku.hk/friends/honourwithbooks/](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/honourwithbooks/) or call 28598903.
We Value Your Views

Responses to Users’ Questions about Ebooks
Janny Lai
Electronic Resources Acquisitions Coordinator
jklai@hku.hk

Recently a number of users raised some questions about ebooks in an HKU Libraries survey. Since these questions concern issues that might be common among users, we have tried to respond to them below.

‘I can’t access an ebook. This can’t be because there are too many users, can it?’

While it is commonplace for ejournals to allow an unlimited number of users to access the same ejournal at the same time — and users might therefore expect unlimited access to all electronic resources — the situation is not so simple for ebooks.

It is not unusual for ebooks to be sold like printed books, with access restricted to one copy and one user at a time. Restrictions are often set by the publisher as part of an agreement with the ebook provider that runs the platform (e.g. netLibrary, ebrary or Superstar) used to distribute ebooks. Some publishers might require that a minimum number of copies of an ebook be sold if an institution or group of libraries (called a ‘consortium’) is of a certain size. This enables publishers to protect their revenue while they expand their business into the digital market.

However, some ebook products allow simultaneous access by an unlimited number of users, e.g. ebrary and ENGnetBASE (Cell Press/Taylor and Francis). Often this is because the ebooks are sold as a group, contain a mix of old and new titles, or are paid for on an annual subscription (with the price based on the size of the user population). This allows the ebook provider to have a steady income while still allowing multiple users to access a single ebook. Some ebook providers now charge a certain price for a specific number of uses of an ebook, so many users can access the same ebook at one time as long as the number of uses is within the limit.

HKU Libraries always tries to get the best possible deal for our users when we negotiate with ebook vendors.

‘Why can’t I download some ebooks?’ and ‘Why are some ebooks hard to browse and printing is limited, for example, five pages at a time?’

Different publishers set different limits on what users can do with an ebook, and ebook providers enforce these limits. Some platforms allow ebooks to be downloaded as pdf files that can be printed and copied without restrictions (usually because the pricing has factored in the maximum usage of the user population). More often, though, even if downloading is allowed, an ebook cannot be read without the proprietary reader designed by the ebook provider; and users can only view, print or copy one paragraph, one page, one section, or one chapter at a time. Some platforms also track and restrict how many pages can be printed or copied in one session. Some require personal login before viewing to ensure that any prohibited uses and problem users can be tracked down.
There has been much discussion between authors, publishers, ebook providers and users as to how to reach a balance between their respective rights. As librarians, we strongly encourage publishers and ebook providers to impose as few restrictions as possible on users, and to allow libraries and end users ‘fair use’ of the licensed material. On the other hand, users may also want to be reminded that use of any licensed material, including ebooks, is restricted to personal, scholarly and educational purposes, and that users need to respect the rights of copyright holders. Most ebook vendors have Terms and Conditions for end users posted on their sites. More information about copyright in teaching and learning at HKU can also be found at http://lib.hku.hk/copyright/.

‘Has the loan period for ebooks changed recently?’

For the HKU Libraries, only netLibrary and Apabi allow users to download ebooks for offline viewing in addition to online viewing. The loan period is usually set to one day to encourage faster circulation. However, the loan period might be different if HKU Libraries purchased the ebook together with other libraries and the majority of libraries decided on a different loan period.

‘I can’t access database X’ or ‘Access to database X is slow’

It’s difficult to say why a user might not be able to access a database at a particular time, or why access might be slow. The best thing to do when one encounters any access problem is to report it to the Libraries’ frontline staff. We will investigate and fix the problem.

Happy ebook reading!

Outreach

With committed goal to better serve the local community, the Libraries has partnered with the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) to provide research assistance to Hong Kong citizens. Any Hong Kong citizen who has a genuine research need can apply for a 3-day temporary pass to the Libraries via HKCL. HKCL will examine the research topics of the applicants. If no research resources can be identified from the Hong Kong Public Libraries network, a referral to the Libraries will be made. The collaboration will start 30 May 2007.

To meet the needs of the increasing trend and to encourage manufacturers to design products with the environmental impacts throughout their entire life cycle, the University of Hong Kong (Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Department) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council, implemented the “CEPD Smart eco-Design project” under the funding support from The Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS) of the HKSAR Government.

The project aims to facilitate professionals of related interest on eco-design of electronic/engineering products. It involves organising a 5-day intensive training programme, with invited speakers of three UK specialists, Professor Martin Charter, Dr Martin Goosey and Mr Vic Clements, arranged in 10 independent modules as well as preparation of a training pack in CD-ROM format:

- **Module 1** Strategic Developments
- **Module 2** Legislation
- **Module 3** Eco-Design 1
- **Module 4** Eco-Design 2
- **Module 5** Product Services System (PSS)
- **Module 6** Eco-Innovation
- **Module 7** Eco-Design Management
- **Module 8** Green Supply Chain Management and Marketing
- **Module 9** Materials
- **Module 10** No-lead Soldering

This valuable product, as a final deliverable of this project with limited production (500 copies of the bi-lingual CD-ROM) is now available at the Libraries.
Notable Acquisitions


This reference text is a compendium of fundamental theories and research that have been drawn from a wide spectrum of fields, including biology, biochemistry, physics, applied mathematics and computer, materials, surface and colloid science. It also provides key references, tools and analytical techniques for practical applications in industrial, agricultural and forensic processes, as well as in the production of natural and synthetic compounds.


The definitive reference on the biology of bacteria. Includes descriptions of genus and species, culture information, toxicity, pictures, charts, essays, and a list of works cited for each topic.


This eleven-volume set in A-Z format is the reference for students, researchers, librarians, and academics in the field. It provides a comprehensive survey of sociological theories, research and definitions with extensive bibliographies.

中國第二歷史檔案館．中國海關總署辦公廳
中國舊海關與近代社會圖史 1840-1949 [共十冊]
北京市：中國海關出版社，2006.

《圖史》以外籍稅務司制度下中國近代海關的創立、發展、實務為經脈，用歷史照片和檔案實物，揭示中國近代海關制度的發展、變遷以及因之建立而對中國近代社會各領域的影響，同時反映中國在近一個世紀中的近代化進程。書中收錄歷史照片和檔案原件 5000 餘幅，同時還補充部分珍貴少見的事件背景照片。
Second Book Sale

Thanks to the support of alumni, students, the second used book sale on 31 March - 1 April 2007 was a great success. Hopefully you were able to find many useful, if not treasured books at the sale. The proceeds from the book sale are used to support collections, services and library programmes.
Support the Libraries

The University of Hong Kong Libraries Circle of Friends aims to support the extension and improvement of the services and resources of the Libraries, encourage the use of the Libraries’ services and facilities by all members of the community, and encourage and support literacy in the community. Visit http://lib.hku.hk/friends/ for more information.

Celebrate an occasion, remember a special person, acknowledge an accomplishment, show your appreciation, give thanks or a memorial tribute with a bookplate placed in a new book in the Libraries.

 Honour with Books 憑書寄意

A HK$500 gift to the Honour with Books Programme will allow the Library to enhance and preserve collections for your and the future generations’ research and study needs. You can even select a title yourself from our collection with a gift of $1,000. For more information visit: at http://lib.hku.hk/friends/honourwithbooks

Alumni Challenge

To encourage participation in the University’s Centenary Vision appeal, we would like to invite you to be part of it. While any level of support is most welcome, if you make a one-time gift of $1,000 or more OR a monthly contribution of $100 or more to the Libraries, the HKUL Circle of Friends will send you a Sun Yatsen necktie or a Sun Yatsen lady’s scarf.

To designate your gift to us, please click here to download the form. Please complete the form and return it to the following address:

Alumni Challenge: Gift to University Libraries
Main Library 4/F
University of Hong Kong Libraries
Pokfulam Road
HONG KONG

For more information, please call (852) 2859-8903 or fax (852) 2858-9420.

No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave. - Calvin Coolidge
Accolades

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.

Ms Marine Yip from the Administrative Services Team, has been selected as the award recipient of the Staff Recognition Program for the second quarter of 2007.

Past Staff Recognition Award Recipients:
Leong Chau Iu (Access Services Department)
Jimmy Sung (Systems Department)
Lillian Lucke (Medical Library)
Chan Wai Sun (Administrative Services Team)
Chan Min Sze, Ivy (Lui Che Woo Law Library)