Dedicated to

A True Library Lover

This Annual Report of the University of Hong Kong Libraries is dedicated to the memory of Dr Robert Y.F. Tam 譚益芳博士, who passed away on 29 March 2004 at the great age of 103.

A true believer in education and its power to change lives, Dr Tam was a stalwart supporter of the Libraries. He once said, “The Libraries have a key role to play in the education and training of new graduates and support for such a central institution is support for the University as a whole ... everyone, including the Hong Kong community, benefits from a strong University Library.”

Dr Robert Tam was a friend of the University of Hong Kong Libraries and education generally. He will be greatly missed. But generations of students and teachers will continue to be influenced by him as they read books purchased with the proceeds of the library endowment funds he established. This is one of his most important legacies.
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Message from the Librarian

As I reviewed our accomplishments this year, I also consciously tried to measure what we had done against the four areas of work established by the University as being “strategic” to its ability to achieve its mission of being “a pre-eminent international university in Asia” that sustains and enhances its excellence through “outstanding teaching and world-class research so as to produce well-rounded graduates with lifelong abilities to provide leadership within the societies they serve.”

As you read this annual report, I would invite you to do the same, that is to decide if our accomplishments helped the University enhance academic excellence, raise its global presence and prestige, partner with the society within which the University exists, and develop and support the members of the University family.

Our annual report is the summary of this year’s activities, the following highlights simply illustrate the ways in which the Libraries has helped the University achieve its goals:

Enhance Academic Excellence
• Catalogued 152,193 research titles with fewer professional librarians.

• Collaborated with HKU Press to make selected out-of-print works electronically available.

• Collaborated with the Registry and others to develop plans for a University Archive.

• Created three new collection development positions to improve our ability to help the faculty develop collections.

• Improved the physical infrastructure of the Libraries including lighting, air conditioning, emergency exits signage, equipment, etc.

• Increased the speed of information retrieval for our users with new MetaFind, WebBridge, and MyAlerts software tools.

• Moved 165,000 lesser used books to storage to free up space for library users and more frequently used materials.

• Purchased large electronic collections of previously not owned materials, e.g. the Eighteenth Century Collections Online of 150,000 important books published in England and America from 1701 to 1800.

• Saved money on the purchase of expensive databases by collaborating with other academic libraries in Hong Kong.
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All of our activities this year are again reported using the nine categories of the Libraries Strategic Plan: To expand the breadth and depth of our information resources; serve our users; improve user access to information; provide the right physical and technical infrastructure; empower our staff so that they use all of their talents to get the work done; communicate effectively internally and externally; lead collaboratively; secure the right amount of funding from internal and external sources; and to organise ourselves to get the work done as optimally as possible.

Raise the University’s Global Presence and Prestige
- The Libraries hosted the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute for library leaders from China, Taiwan, Singapore, Fiji and Hong Kong.
- Librarians presented papers at international conferences.
- Librarians published articles in journals and trade magazines.
- Librarian serving as leader of the Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance and the elected Asia Pacific representative to the Online Computer Center.

Partner with Society
- Collaborated with Peking University Library to create the Beijing Historical Geography Database.
- Exchanged librarians from Tsinghua and Fudan universities for short periods of time.
- Expanded alumni library access options to include over 10,000 e-journals and 60,000 e-books.
- Reached out to the campus and Hong Kong communities via our Reading Club events.
- Reached out to the secondary school community to tell them about electronic sources of information and to acquaint them with HKU Libraries’ resources.

Develop and Support Members of the University Family
- Answered 34,362 reference questions and provided 16,338 participants with information management skills and library tours.
- Extended our opening hours with no additional resources from the University.
- Opened an art gallery in previously unused space.
- Provided 250 plus staff members of the Libraries with plethora of opportunities to improve their language and professional skills.
- Surveyed our users to see how they rated the importance and performance of our services.

All of these accomplishments were the result of teamwork. I congratulate the staff and thank them for their efforts this past year.
Library Materials Inflation

While Hong Kong’s economy during much of the 2003-04 academic year showed weak signs of recovery, the upward climb in international prices for research journals has continued. In general, over the past 15 plus years libraries have increased their subscription expenditures by 7.8% annually. The average academic library journal subscription that cost HK$1,469 ten years ago is now priced at HK$2,208. At the same time, these journals began to be available in both print and digital formats – with the digital format available for an extra 10 to 15% additional premium and thus the problem of higher prices was further exacerbated.

In 2003-04, to combat these price increases, to continue to get the most important journals, and to reduce our expenditures whenever possible, the Libraries implemented a series of cost saving measures to increase the purchase of more unique contents. These measures include:

- Giving up print duplication when equivalent electronic versions were available.
- Eliminating duplication of journal subscriptions across branches.
- Purchasing the minimal number of needed duplicate copies of monographs.

Collection Development also continued to work with the JULAC Collaborative Development Committee and other international consortia to obtain the lowest possible prices. For example, we saved 60% off the list price when we purchased the *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* through a US academic libraries consortium, and we obtained access to an additional 28,322 electronic dissertations worth about US$1.5M by joining a consortium in Taiwan.

Print and Electronic Acquisitions Balance

Due to the continuous shift towards electronic formats and reliance on electronic versions, we have increased the proportion of resources we spent on the acquisitions of electronic information:

- E-journals subscriptions grew by 16%. Our students and faculty can now access more than 25,200 electronic journals.
- E-books by 294%. This results mainly from the acquisitions of major collections of out-of-print western language books and new Chinese books where the competition between sellers is intense. We now have 410,044 e-books.
- Electronic databases by 3%, bringing the total number of databases subscribed to...
517. This segment of the e-publishing world is already fairly mature and will probably not change radically over the course of the next five years.

Our print collections have nonetheless continued to grow.

<table>
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<th>30 June, 2003</th>
<th>30 June, 2004</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Library</td>
<td>1,075,491</td>
<td>1,125,820</td>
<td>50,329</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fung Ping Shan Library</td>
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<td>741,960</td>
<td>39,915</td>
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<td>179,247</td>
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<td>4,560</td>
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<tr>
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<td>53,682</td>
<td>57,026</td>
<td>3,344</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Library</td>
<td>51,856</td>
<td>53,324</td>
<td>1,468</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Library</td>
<td>25,839</td>
<td>27,574</td>
<td>1,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,170,471</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,279,741</strong></td>
<td><strong>109,270</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Created policy statements defining what our collecting goals should be to meet existing teaching and research needs.
• Created new collection policies for electronic resources.
• Developed assessment procedures to be followed when new courses and programmes emerge.

In the Internet environment, there is an increasingly vast amount of free Internet resources which are of scholarly value, including multimedia websites with digitised texts, art objects, maps, etc. During the report year, Collection Development identified and established links to more than 30 free e-book websites with over 90,000 titles. Some examples include:
• The Perseus Digital Library, a multimedia interactive collection of classical Greek works that supports classical Greek studies.
• Cornell University’s Library Windows on the Past collection.
• The American Memory Project.
• Digital Archive: Popular America Music.
• The Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) with more than 1,100 full-text e-journals.

Getting the Right Information
Buying more printed and electronic books and journals is the easy part. Getting the right books and journals is the difficult job that faces our librarians. At HKU we have:
• Worked with the faculty to refine approval plan profiles for UK and North American books.
• Created seven core publisher profiles to avoid missing their materials.
Serve Users

In February we surveyed our users on what they thought of our services. We were pleased that so many of our users appreciated the efforts library staff have been making to improve our services. Here is a sampling of the compliments received:

“As compared with other resourceful libraries in Europe or in the States, I find our librarians extremely helpful and efficient. I am proud of them and of our library. I sincerely hope that our librarians won’t be taken for granted and their commitment will be respected.”

“I am mostly in [the] Main Library at night. The staff taught me how to access information by using your database page. Afterwards, he also taught me how to download and save the pdf files on [a] CD. Although he was busy serving other users, he spent his spare time helping me. Good work.”

“The library staff are ideal, polite, helpful, knowledgeable, long-suffering. I wish to pay tribute to them.”

Of course we also received complaints but overall the tone of the comments we received was quite positive. Nonetheless we continued throughout the year to improve wherever possible. Specifically, we:

- Introduced an online document delivery service to facilitate the retrieval of resources located at our Hing Wai storage facility. The service enables library borrowers to request books to be delivered to their library of choice as well as to request specific articles from journals and have them delivered electronically.
- Allowed UGC funded undergraduates to apply for three months’ access per academic year to the libraries of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Lingnan University.
- Introduced a Fastcat Team in our Cataloguing Department to enable faster cataloguing of materials.
- Established a multi-function counter at the entrance of the Main Library to streamline registration processes, to perform loan check-ins and to provide first instance
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assistance to all library users. We believe this will serve to reduce the queues at the Loans Counter while at the same time making better use of the staff who manned the turnstiles.

- Extended our Research Consultation Service to both SPACE academics and graduate students and realised an 80% increase in usage of this service. The service is now also provided by our Branch Librarians and Subject Librarians.

- Established the Reformatting Team to undertake digitisation and other reformatting projects. The Team digitises materials available at the Libraries, and making these materials available to researchers, teachers, and students via the Internet. As well as routinely digitising materials for ongoing library projects such as e-Reserves and ExamBase, the Team also dedicates much of its efforts to special projects. Included among these are the digitisation and indexing of *The Asian Journal of Public Administration* in conjunction with the Department of Politics & Public Administration (HKU).

- Extended opening and service hours in several key areas based upon the user feedback we received from our 2004 survey as well as comments from individual readers. The Audio-visual Department extended its service hours from 7 pm to 10 pm during weekdays and from 1 pm to 5 pm on Saturdays during the summer; the Main Library now opens its doors at 8.30 am instead of 9 am; and the Law Library has extended its summer opening hours from 7 pm to 8 pm during weekdays and from 1 pm to 5 pm on Saturdays.

- Launched the MyLibrary@Hand service in October 2003. This programme gives users access to several key library services using their PDAs. Programmes for one-stop searching across multiple disparate databases, selective dissemination of information, searching Dragon and the Libraries’ electronic forms provide the basis of the initial suite of services. Subsequent services, including Wireless Westlaw™, the only wireless research service available to legal professionals and researchers in Hong Kong by seamless PDA access, have been added and additional services and enhancements will be introduced progressively.

- Provide library skills training sessions in order to make our users more independent and efficient information seekers. We appointed an Information Literacy Coordinator from our Reference Department to oversee all library information instruction programmes and to ensure quality, relevance and consistency in all our classes. On this front we conducted 702 classes, tours and presentations that reached 16,338 participants.
Improve Access

Libraries were once the place where people went for information. In the age of Google, this is no longer the case. Yet, HKU Libraries is still the place where both electronic and printed information resources are selected with our own students and staff in mind. Perhaps even more importantly, the information we collect is made accessible by organising it all for easy access.

This year library staff involved in what we call “bibliographic control” were kept very busy cataloguing a total of 152,193 titles (173,694 volumes), including 11,327 e-journal titles. This represents an overall growth in cataloguing activity of 20% compared to the previous year and a 48.2% increase in the number of electronic journals catalogued. What is phenomenal is that these dedicated librarians have done it with fewer staff members.

To improve reader access to information, staff members took part in the creation of several key databases:

- **Hong Kong Stock Market Archives and Artifacts Collection (SMAAC).** SMAAC is an online finding aid for the Hong Kong Stock Market Archives and Artifacts Collection. This spectacular collection has been on deposit in the Special Collections on a permanent basis since 1998.
- **Hong Kong Journals Online (HKJO).** This is a full-text image database providing access to selected academic and professional journals, in English and Chinese, published in Hong Kong. Titles cover disciplines including law, medicine, education and public administration. At its first release, more than 170,000 images from over 40 titles are accessible with the earliest issue dating back to 1872. We expect to include more titles in the future. Scholars doing research on Hong Kong will find this a valuable resource.
- **Beijing Historical Geography Database.** This Database was jointly developed by HKU Libraries and Peking University Library. The database presents research achievements and information resources related to the historical geography of Beijing. Currently, it provides 30 million words of full-text, more than one hundred maps and one thousand images. An official launch was held on 3 June with visitors from Peking University in attendance.
- **Digital Editions from HKU Press.** This is a project undertaken jointly by HKU Press and HKU Libraries working together to place online selected titles concerning Hong Kong or those written by Hong Kong authors. In the future, the Press and the Libraries plan to make most titles available in this manner three years after print publication.
- **HKU Registry Research & Scholarship Database Hyperlink Project.** For many years the Registry has produced this bibliography of faculty publications. Last year the Libraries undertook to provide...
online links from this bibliography to the electronic versions of the articles published by faculty members.

To help our users better access the thousands of electronic resources we own, we introduced several services:

- **WebBridge.** This is a context-sensitive linking tool that helps users link from an article citation in an online database to the full-text of that article or other related services. This eliminates the need to manually check the Libraries’ online catalogue (Dragon) to see if the full-text of that article is available in the Libraries.

- **MetaFind.** This is a universal search engine that allows one-stop searching of, and access to, multiple resources. These include Dragon, full-text databases, indexes and abstracts, as well as Internet resources. MetaFind provides users with an efficient and effective way of discovering relevant resources. It also streamlines the research process by providing direct hyperlinks to target records and documents.

- **MyAlerts.** This is a current awareness service that enables students and staff to keep up-to-date with the latest research developments in their field of interest. Tables of contents and announcements about new books and journals are delivered to readers via email as soon as they become available.

To enable readers to watch videos owned by the Libraries, we significantly improved our video streaming capabilities by installing new hardware and converting existing digital video formats. Following this effort, 154 videos can now be accessed remotely through the EZProxy server while 66 remain “in library use” only due to licensing restrictions. We have consequently renamed our Video on Demand (VoD) service as e-Video.

Recognising the significant value of many free Internet sites, we made efforts to identify the best scholarly sites, including those containing free e-books and e-journals. Having identified these we have been cataloguing them in Dragon to make them more readily accessible to our user community.

To improve reader access to Chinese materials we recently completed a number of bibliographic access projects:

- Completed the Pinyin Conversion Project in March of 2004 so that we can search the catalogues of other libraries in search of improved cataloguing records.

- Continued the project to reclassify our older Chinese/ Japanese/ Korean (CJK) books using the Library of Congress (LC) system. So far, over 210,000 titles have been converted. By using the LC system, we can earn income by sharing our bibliographic records with other major East Asian libraries. So far we have contributed 335,603 unique Chinese/ Japanese/ Korean (CJK) bibliographic records to the worldwide OCLC database. This not only enriches the database but also makes our holdings known globally.
Provide Infrastructure

Infrastructure refers to those structures which form the foundation for development. This year the Libraries made selected changes in the environments in which its collections continue to grow and develop, the facilities in which its users work, the conditions in which services are provided, and the hardware used by the students and teachers who come to the Libraries daily. To keep up-to-date, these structures must continue to evolve and change.

Collections Infrastructure
- Moved 165,000 lesser used volumes to the Hing Wai storage facility in order to free up shelf space for new and more frequently used materials. This change will also permit the better arrangement of the books that remain.
- Added more shelves to the Special Collections to accommodate its growing collection of materials published in or about Hong Kong.

Health and Safety Infrastructure
- Installed improved lighting in the Main Library, including energy-saving parabolic lighting fixtures.
- Installed upgraded 24-hour air-conditioning for the Western Rare Book Room to prevent the deterioration of rare and unique research materials.
- Upgraded the external street level entrance and lift service to allow our physically challenged students and staff easier access to the Main Library.
- Installed improved emergency evacuation signs throughout the Main Library under the direction of the Safety Office and the Estates Office.

Service Infrastructure
- Created an additional group study room in the Medical Library by partitioning the Photocopy Room.
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To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven
A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

Adapted from Ecclesiastes by Pete Seeger

- Set up a library user registration desk at the entrance foyer of the Main Library to make it easier for those purchasing library privileges and returning books without actually going into the library.
- Converted the atrium of second floor New Wing into an exhibition gallery. A variety of student and professional displays was held throughout the year.
- Renovated staff office areas to reflect the new workflows produced by staff taking part in the University’s early departure scheme and other organisational changes: Fung Ping Shan Library Reader Services was merged with Main Library Reader Services; the Interlibrary Loan and Circulation departments were merged to form the Access Services Department; the Serials and Acquisitions departments were merged to become Acquisition Services Department.

Technology Infrastructure
- Installed networked computers in each of the four Medical Library group study rooms to facilitate online access to library resources and the Internet.
- Established a handheld computer (PDA) downloading workstation at the Medical Library’s information counter to synchronise and beam free/trial use PDA resources.
- Installed personal computers with new and improved features to replace obsolete ones in many public service areas of the Libraries. Security features were added for these same terminals.
- Installed faster file servers.
- Installed two state-of-the-art video digitisation workstations in the Main Reference Department.
- Moved personal computers running Chinese programs from the Main Library’s fifth floor to the Knowledge Navigation area on the ground floor.
- Installed four new digital microform reader/printers in the Special Collections to give researchers the convenience of saving a microfilm image as a digital file or to send it to themselves as an email attachment.
- Purchased a webcam system for meeting and video-conferencing purposes.
Empower Staff

At the Hong Kong Library Association AGM, the Hon Emily Lau Wai-hing, J.P., Legislative Councillor presenting the H.A. Rydings Award to Ms Grace Chan (right) for her excellent performance in the Charles Sturt University’s GDpA (Library and Information Management) programme.

To provide quality user service in the ever-changing information age, the Libraries has focused a great deal of time and effort to upgrade the knowledge and skills of its staff. An array of training and development activities was organised with the participation of internal and external trainers:

- Change management, communication skills and team building, for staff of the Technical Support Services Team. Three workshops were conducted by Dr Gracemary Leung, Department of Psychology (HKU).
- Depression and suicide prevention, for supervisors. The workshop was conducted by Ms Natalie Tong, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention.
- Performance Appraisal Workshop for supervisors by Mr Lawrence Tam, Deputy Librarian (HKUL).
- Intra-library visits to Special Collections, Library Administration, Audiovisual Department, Reformatting Team, Bindery and Remote Storage.
- MS-Office workshops jointly organised with the Computer Centre.
- Lunch time IT mini-seminar, “Webmail” given by Mr Jimmy Sung, Systems Department (HKUL).
- Advanced Putonghua class jointly organised with the Chinese Language Division, Department of Chinese (HKU).
- Equal Opportunities in the Workplace Workshop conducted by Mr Kenneth Kwok, Equal Opportunity Unit (HKU).
- Digital library work, reforming scholarly publishing, fund raising and institutional knowledge repositories workshops by visiting librarians from abroad.
Additional Qualifications

Several staff members obtained additional qualifications in the area of librarianship:

- Ms Chibi Chan obtained the Joint Certificate in Librarianship from Hong Kong Library Association and HKU SPACE.
- Ms Grace Chan and Mr Mak Ka-lai received the Graduate Diploma of Applied Science (Library and Information Management) from Charles Sturt University. Grace also received the H.A. Rydings Award in the HKU SPACE and Hong Kong Library Association’s Diploma in Librarianship category.
- Ms Cheung Mo-ching and Ms Lilian Lucke received the Postgraduate Certificate in Archival Studies from HKU SPACE.

Conference Participation

As in previous years, professional librarians were encouraged to participate in many local and international conferences to broaden their horizon in the library and information field. Various librarians took part in the following conferences:

**Hong Kong**
- CNKI Conference (30 November-1 December 2003)
- 4th Hong Kong Innovative Users Group Meeting (8-9 December 2003)
- 2004 Hong Kong Macau Library Connect Seminar (11 May 2004)

**China, Macau, Taiwan**
- 中國數字圖書館可持續發展研討會2003, Hainan (16-17 August 2003)
- Beijing International Book Exhibition (17-21 September 2003)
- 2004 Beijing Book Fair (January 2004)
- 網路學術資料與閱讀新風貌研討會, Taipei (29 January 2004)
- 中國eBook 產業年會, Hangzhou (16-18 March 2004)
- 2nd Annual Library Leadership Institute, Shenzhen (16-19 May 2004)

**Overseas**
- 14th Meeting of the International Coalition of Library Consortia, USA (15-16 September 2003)
- Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance Meeting, Canada (27-29 October 2003)
- 8th Interlending and Document Supply International Conference, Australia (28-31 October 2003)
- Charleston Library Conference for Collection Development Librarians, USA (5-8 November 2003)
- Academic Library Directors’ Symposium, Innovative Interfaces, USA (1-2 February 2004)
- The Fiesole 2004 Collection Development Retreat Series, Italy (18-20 March 2004)
- Innovative Users Group Annual Conference, USA (2-6 April 2004)
- 2004 ALA Annual Conference, USA (24-29 June 2004)
Communicate Effectively

Communication remains a key aspect of our library services. We initiated several improvements aimed at facilitating communication with our library user community. We also sought to improve our internal communication to ensure that staff are aware of the Libraries’ directions and to strengthen ourselves organisationally.

During the year, to improve communication we:

- Created three Subject Librarian positions with faculty liaison responsibilities. In addition to other duties, these Subject Librarians have taken on a new liaison role to improve communication with faculty members and students. During the year, they met with new faculty members to discuss their research focus and with postgraduate students through research consultations, while at the same time working closely with members of their Faculty Library Committees. In order to better understand and to identify priorities of faculty needs, a survey was conducted in March.

- Surveyed our users to seek their opinions and suggestions. A record 2,564 responses were received from the 2004 User Survey. Several changes in library practice and policy have been made in response to user comments. A webpage was created outlining the results and the actions to be taken by the Libraries. An exhibition featuring our responses was also displayed in the Libraries’ Art and Exhibition Gallery.

- Conducted informal meetings with students to better understand their needs. Meetings with representatives from Arts, Architecture, Engineering, Business and Economics, Science, Social Sciences, and the Student Union have been conducted. Sessions for students from other faculties and for postgraduate students will continue next year.

- Organised 14 successful exhibitions using the area immediately adjacent to the entrance of the Main Library in order to reach out and engage our user community. Many of these were in partnership with other University departments, institutions and individuals including the General Education Unit (HKU), the Centre for Asian Studies (HKU), the Office of Student Affairs (HKU), Joint Publishing Company (Hong Kong) Limited, China Study Society, Hong Kong Institute of Professional Photographers, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong, Mr Cheng Po-hung, Mr Alfred Sung, and Mr Ng Bon-mai.
• Established The Art and Exhibition Gallery on the second floor of the Main Library. Several exhibitions were mounted including: Henri Michaux, French Poet and Painter; Calligraphy of Mr Lee Chik-fong (李直方先生); HKU Students Winning External Competitions in 2003-04; James Joyce’s Bloomsday: Ulysses; and Architecture Students Winning International, National and Local Awards. Once again several of these were conducted in partnership with others including the Office of Student Affairs (HKU), Department of Comparative Literature (HKU), Department of Architecture (HKU) and Alliance Française.

• Hosted a well-attended booth for prospective students during the annual JUPAS Open Day in order to introduce library services and resources to the leaders of tomorrow.

• Introduced an “Outreach to Schools” programme, where a librarian visits a local high school to talk about library resources, in particular digital resources, and students are given a three-day pass to visit the Libraries. The first school visit was held at St Stephen’s Girls’ College.

• Held a Libraries’ Annual Retreat at Robert Black College in November. All department heads and professional librarians spent time reviewing our goals and setting the course for our 2003-06 strategic plan.

• Implemented a series of improvements including revamping the Libraries Intranet, introducing staff forums, appointing non-professional staff to work in library projects and offering workshops to staff on communication skills in response to the results of an internal staff communication survey.
Lead Collaboratively

Once again, the University of Hong Kong Libraries provided both leadership and a lot of hard work to promote collaboration among libraries locally here in Hong Kong, China, and internationally.

Hong Kong

- Continued the Hong Kong Academic Library Link (HKALL) experiment with City University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University. This programme which allows users to place their own requests for books from other libraries in Hong Kong has been an overwhelming success with borrowing activity from the other two partner libraries increasing by 447% and lending to them by 394%.

- Collaborated with the other seven major academic libraries in Hong Kong in the joint licensing of six significant databases. These same libraries are now preparing a joint tender for the purchase of North American and British books. Our Collection Development Department also collaborated with libraries in Taiwan to share access to digital dissertations and with libraries internationally to obtain access to two large collections of English language books published before the year 1900.

- Shared with librarians in Hong Kong local enhancements made to our computerised library system at the Fourth Annual Hong Kong Innovative Users Group meeting. Of particular interest was the MyLibrary@Hand, a project which allows users to use Palm handhelds to search and display library information and records; a software programme that finds Pinyin errors in cataloguing records; and an experiment using the INN-Reach, a user initiated interlibrary loan software.

- Investigated with the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine how HKU Libraries’ resources could meet the information needs of the Academy Fellows programme.

- Joined HKEdCity in the recruitment of HKU students to become Reading Ambassadors, a programme dedicated to matching university students with children needing help learning to read.
China

- Demonstrated evidence based databases as part of a Medical Faculty sponsored exchange programme with Tsinghua University.
- Signed an agreement with Tsinghua Tongfong Optical Disc Company Limited to provide mirror site access for Chinese language research databases for the use of libraries in Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.
- Sent the Medical Librarian, Ms Julia Chan, to Tsinghua University for two weeks. During this time she also visited several other major medical libraries in China.
- Received two librarians from China. Tsinghua University Library’s Deputy Head of the Reference Department, Ms Wu Dongman worked in HKU Libraries for two weeks. Similarly, a reference librarian from Fudan University served in the Main Library for a month to acquaint herself with the types of services we offer.

International

- Exchanged Hong Kong-related materials with the Canada-Hong Kong Resource Centre in Toronto, a group set up in 1994 as a cooperative project between the University of Toronto and York University.
- Contributed 45,727 original cataloguing records to the OCLC international union catalogue for the use of its 50,000 member libraries in 84 countries.
- Coordinated the work of the Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance including the planning for meeting in Vancouver, Canada, where 28 library leaders from 15 libraries in 8 countries attended to share information about how IT can help libraries better meet the needs of their readers.
- Collaborated with the Shenzhen Joint Universities Centre Library and the Hong Kong Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee to sponsor the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute. A residential Institute, this event provides library directors and senior librarians from the East Asia region with the unique opportunity to develop new information management skills and to network with other professionals in the region.
Secure Funding

This year we continued to give the alumni, members of the Hong Kong community, and others interested in the Libraries opportunities to contribute to its growth and development. The HKU Libraries Circle of Friends organisation now has more than 500 individual and corporate memberships and has raised more than $1,000,000 since its official launching in January 2003. The Circle in turn sponsored a number of activities to bring the Libraries to the attention of the University and Hong Kong communities:

- A special one-year promotion for HKU alumni was offered from April 2004 to March 2005 to encourage their participation in the Platinum programme giving them remote access to over 10,000 e-journals, 60,000 electronic books, and numerous other electronic information resources.
- A special HKU SPACE alumni membership category was officially launched at the HKU SPACE Alumni Inauguration Celebration in June 2004.

Continuing the tradition of "inviting interesting people to talk about the books that interest them", the Circle sponsored nine meetings of the Reading Club during the 2003-04 season:

- Mr Xu Bing (徐冰先生) reviewed The Art of Xu Bing: words without meaning, meaning without words by Britta Erickson with Dr Colin Day as the moderator on 17 July 2003.
- Mr Martin Lee (李柱銘先生) reviewed Hong Kong Hansard with Dr Robert Chung (鍾庭耀博士) as the moderator on 23 September 2003.
- Dr Elsie Tu (杜葉錦恩博士) reviewed Colonial Hong Kong in the eyes of Elsie Tu with Ms Aileen Bridgewater as the moderator and Dr Judith Mackay and Mr Peter Moss as discussants on 9 October 2003.
- Mr Tsim Tak-lung (陳德隆先生) reviewed 閔野 / 阿爾著 on 30 October 2003.
- Dr Anson Chan (陳方安生博士) reviewed Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen with Dr Maureen Alice Sabine as the moderator on 27 November 2003.
- Ms Si-si Liu (廖麗珊小姐) reviewed The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler with Ms Chan Kong-sau (陳江秀小姐) as the moderator on 22 April 2004.
- Dr Chan Man-hung (陳萬雄博士) reviewed 《仰望陳寅恪》/ 蔡鴻生著 and 《讀史開世四十年》/ 何炳棣著 with Dr Chow Kai-wing (周佳榮博士) as the moderator on 13 May 2004.
The Circle of Friends Executive Committee was organised in October 2003 to assist the Libraries. Committee members include Ms Joyshan Lam (林在山女士), Mr Benny Chan (陳世彪先生), and Dr Chan Kow-tak (陳求德醫生). This group has been instrumental in advancing the Libraries' development programme. Mr Chan helped the Libraries develop its own brand identity based upon its understanding of what its users expect of it and its sense of mission. Consequently, our letterhead now communicates to all that we want to be their “partner in intellectual excellence” and that our goal is to provide “caring, collaborative, and creative” service.

Corporate donations are critical to the success of the Libraries. We are extremely grateful for the donations and sponsorships from the following organisations:

- Beijing Founder Electronics Company Limited for its support of the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute.
- Elsevier Asia Pacific for its support of the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute.
- IBM/V-Dragon donated more than $80,000 for the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute to provide scholarships to facilitate the participation of librarians from China.
- Sun Microsystems of California Limited donated a high-performance server for the MyLibrary@Hand programme and for its $15,000 donations to the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute.
- Sweet & Maxwell Asia sponsored the purchase of souvenirs as an inducement to get students to complete the annual library survey.
- Syracuse International Limited sponsored the software development for the MyLibrary@Hand project and will annually donate profits made from the sale of Palm handhelds through the MyLibrary@Hand programme.
- Tsinghua Tongfang Optical Disc Company Limited for its support of the Second Annual Library Leadership Institute.

During the year we also received several important gifts of research materials. Gifts like these enhance the distinctiveness of our collections:

- 102 scores from the Chinese Composers’ Festival 2003 facilitated by Dr Chan Hing-yen (陳慶恩博士), Head of the Department of Music (HKU).
- 320 video tapes and 75 audio-cassette tapes, consisting of valuable titles on Peking opera, Kunju (昆劇), Yueju (越劇), Chuanju (川劇), etc. from Mr Liao Gongcheng (廖公誠先生).
- 293 volumes of books from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong.
- 500 volumes of theses from the Reference Bureau of the Department of Architecture (HKU).
Organise Optimally

During 2003-04, we paid special attention to how the Libraries’ purchasing, receiving, payment, cataloguing, and shelf processing efforts were organised. This was partially in response to the decision of our Head of the Cataloguing Department, Ms Heung Wing-ngo and Ms Tang Sin-yee, one of her major deputies, to take part in the University’s early departure scheme, and also reflected a long held belief that changes in technology require a new kind of organisation.

We employed Ms Karen Calhoun, Director of Central Technical Services at Cornell University Library and a leading figure in North America on the best ways of cataloguing books and other materials, as a consultant to advise us on what to do, given the changes in library technology and our own particular situation. Based upon Ms Calhoun’s recommendations, the Libraries:

- Combined the existing Cataloguing, Acquisitions, and Systems departments into a single Technical Services Support Team headed by the Systems Department Head, Mr David Palmer. This Team includes the following units and leaders:
  - Systems: Mr David Palmer
  - Acquisitions and Western Cataloguing: Mr Thomas Hung
  - Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Materials; Music; Non-print Materials: Mr Chan Wai-ming
  - E-resources, Serials, and Shelf Processing: Ms Connie Lam

Additionally, all of the workflows of each of these units were reviewed to avoid duplication of effort and to streamline the processes employed to acquire, catalogue and process the more than 100,000 volumes added annually.

In conjunction with this change, we organised the Libraries into six additional teams to pull together members of our staff with the necessary skills to accomplish their segment of the Libraries’ overall mission to provide quality collections and services:

- Administration Services Team led by Ms Esther Woo. Includes staff working on budgeting, human resources, secretarial support, library facilities and premises upkeep, and those working to keep our libraries clean.
- Branch Services Team led by Ms Julia Chan. Includes the Dental, Education, Law, Medical, and Music libraries staff.
- Collection Development Team led by Ms Gayle Chan. Includes Subject, Electronic...
Information Acquisitions, Internet Resources, and Chinese Bibliographer librarians. Additional responsibilities include overseeing approval plans, and gifts and exchange.

- Fund Raising and Public Relations Team led by Ms Carmen Tsang. Includes graphic design, library publications in addition to library fund raising and public communications activities.
- Hing Wai Services Team led by Deputy Librarian Mr Lawrence Tam. Includes the Bindery and the Hing Wai storage facility.
- Main Library Services Team led by Dr Y.C. Wan: Includes the Access Services, Main Reference, Special Collections, Fung Ping Shan Library, IT and Learning Support and Audio-visual library staff in these units/departments.

During the year the Libraries also worked with the Registry and others to thoroughly investigate the need for a University archives and records management programme.

- The Libraries employed Dr Randall Jimerson, Professor of History and Director, Graduate Programme in Archives and Records Management, Western Washington University and president of the Society of American Archivists, to do a thorough analysis of the University’s needs and to advise it on the steps that might be taken. Deputy Librarian Mr Lawrence Tam undertook a more detailed analysis of the condition of materials seen as “endangered” during the summer of 2004.
RESEARCH OUTPUT


Ferguson, A.W. (Feb 2004). A modest proposal (Publishers should roll back their prices). Against the Grain, 16(1), 86.

Ferguson, A.W. (Jul 2004). Library patrons: continuity and "hello I think this is a new world". Against the Grain, 16(2), 93-94.

Ferguson, A.W. (Jun 2004). Radio frequency identification technology. Against the Grain, 16(3) 93-94.


Ferguson, A.W. (26 May 2004). Online service initiatives at the University of Hong Kong: Library@hand Program. Paper presented at National Seminar of Libraries in Malaysia, Langkawi, Malaysia.


COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chan, J.L.Y. Honorary Librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch); and Medical, Health and Welfare Liaison Officer of the Hong Kong Library Association

Ferguson, A.W. President of Hong Kong Library Association; Chair of Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee; Convener of Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance; Member of International Federation of Library Association, Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression; Asia Pacific Representative of OCLC, International; and President of LDS Church, Homantin Branch

Palmer, D.T. Secretary of Hong Kong Innovative Users Group

Sin I.F.S. Programme Coordinator of Hong Kong Library Association

Wong L.K.P. Honorary Secretary of Hong Kong Library Association

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

25 years of services – Ms Belinda Chu Sui-lin (Library Assistant II); Mr Peter Wong Hung-chiu (Senior Library Assistant); Ms Rebecca Yeung Siu-han (Sub-Librarian)
REDEPLOYMENT

New assignment
13 Assistant Librarians have been given new assignments:

- Acquisitions / Western Cataloguing Librarian: Mr Thomas Hung (ALI)
- Administration, Staff Development and Special Projects: Ms Annabelle Pau (ALII)
- CJK, Music & Non-print Cataloguing Librarian: Mr Chan Wai-ming (ALI)
- Dental Librarian: Mr Sam Lee (ALII)
- Education Librarian and Subject Librarian: Ms Irene Fung (ALI)
- (Social Sciences / Business and Economics) E-resources & Serials Cataloguing Librarian: Ms Connie Lam (ALII)
- Information Literacy Coordinator: Ms Antonia Yiu (ALI)
- Internet Resources Selector / Cataloguer: Ms Winnie Lam (ALII)
- Preservation Librarian: Mrs Amanda Harizan (ALII)
- Special Collections: Ms Cheung Mo-ching (ALII)
- Subject Librarian (Arts / Architecture): Ms Lucinda Wong (ALI)
- Subject Librarian (Science / Engineering): Ms Alice Wong (ALI)

19 supporting staff were redeployed to a new position in the following departments:

Access Services
- Mr Chiu Yu-kee (JLA)
- Mr Lam King-chung (LAIII)
- Ms Lee Miu-woon (LAII)
- Mr Sze Lu (Assistant Bookbinder)
- Mr Tam Hok-shing (JLA)

Access Services / Music Library
- Mr Wong Ngai-kwong (JLA)

Acquisitions Services
- Mr Pak Keung (LAIII)
- Ms Polly Leung (LAII)

Administration / Music Library
- Ms Valerie Ng (LAII)

Bindery
- Ms Ada Leung (Bookbinder)

Redeployment

19 supporting staff were redeployed to a new position in the following departments:

Access Services
- Cataloguing

- Ms Joan Sia (LAII)
- Ms Linda Law (JLA)
- Ms Tsang Man-yuen (LAII)
- Mr Joe Wong (LAIII)
- Reformatting Team, Systems Department
- Mr Kung Seen-man (LAII)
- Mr Elton Li (LAII)
- Ms Kitty Mo (LAII)

Acquisitions Services
- Mr Pak Keung (LAIII)
- Mr Kung Seen-man (LAII)
- Ms Elton Li (LAII)
- Mr James Chiu (JLA)

Bindery
- Ms Ada Leung (Bookbinder)

Ms Wu Kit-yung (third right) retiring after 15 years of service

A farewell party for the colleagues who were leaving under the voluntary departure scheme. Ms Kim Tung (middle) and Ms Tang Sin-yee (second right) are two of them

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RETIREE

Mr Kung Seen-man (Library Assistant II) after 37 years of service
Ms Wang Huen-wong (Cleaner) after 13 years of service
Ms Shirley Sin Yee-ying (Sub-Librarian) after 22 years of service
Ms Tong Siu-wai (Bookbinder) after 12 years of service
Ms Wu Kit-yung (Cleaner) after 15 years of service

VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE SCHEME

Ms Heung Wing-nga (Sub-Librarian) after 22 years of service
Ms Evon Lam Wai-hing (Junior Library Assistant) after 8 years of service
Ms Shirley Leung Suk-kuen (Library Assistant II) after 13 years of service
Mr Lo Tin-king (Senior Library Assistant) after 11 years of service
Ms Tang Sin-ye (Assistant Librarian II) after 9 years of service
Ms Tsang Man-yuen (Library Assistant II) after 13 years of service
Ms Tung Kim-yung (Assistant Librarian I) after 13 years of service
Ms Mimi Yeung Oi-woon (Assistant Librarian I) after 29 years of service
Ms Wong Shiu-leung (Library Assistant III) after 14 years of service

RESIGNATION

Ms Lee Miu-woon (Library Assistant III)
Ms Averil Robertson (Assistant Librarian III)

OBITUARY

Ms Shirley Sin Yee-ying, Sub-Librarian (Administration), after 22 years of service, passed away peacefully on 2 April 2004.
Notable Acquisitions


Launched in 2001 by Beijing Founder Electronics Company Limited, a commercial arm of Peking University, Apabi is an expanding collection of Chinese electronic books. More than 70,000 titles have been published in China since 2000. Of these, we have purchased 30,000 titles. Over 300 publishers are covered, including Tsinghua University Press, Peking University Press, and Fudan University Press. In addition to monographs, the Apabi collection does or will include yearbooks, reference works, and other types of publications.


A loose-leaf compilation of PRC laws and regulations, treaties, administrative regulations, administrative rules, local regulations, and judicial interpretations.


The Communist Party of Japan Archives document the relations between the Soviet Communist Party and its allies in Japan, the Far East, Europe, and America. Stored in the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow, these documents were classified as top secret and inaccessible to researchers until late 1991. They include the CPJ conference proceedings from the Congresses and Plenums of the Executive Committee of the Comintern, with hand-written personal corrections made by leading communists who had access to these materials.


Critically selected by one of the world’s leading Dante scholars, Richard Lansing, this eight-volume collection includes the most important critical essays and studies published about Dante’s life and works. The facsimiles included in this collection provide an invaluable resource for students and scholars.

**Early 20th Century Postage Stamps of Hong Kong and Postmarks of the University of Hong Kong Post Office**. Hong Kong : University of Hong Kong.

This valuable collection of postage stamps of Hong Kong contains 61 stamps. All the stamps were postmarked from March 11-16, 1912 by the University of Hong Kong Post Office, which was only open during that period to commemorate the opening of the University.
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This collection of literally millions of pages of early newspapers is based upon Clarence Brigham’s History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820. The core of this unique archive is formed by Isaiah Thomas’ collection of American colonial and early national period newspapers and supplemented by nearly two million issues added by Thomas’ successors at the American Antiquarian Society. Numerous other institutions and historical archives have contributed to the collection, including the Boston Athenaeum, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the Library of Congress.

This digital collection is a monumental project based on The English Short Title Catalogue, a comprehensive bibliography of the printed output of the hand-press era. It includes the texts of 150,000 titles on 33 million pages, including every significant English-language and foreign-language title printed in the United Kingdom, along with thousands of important works from the Americas, between 1701 and 1800. It compliments the earlier Early English Books Online collection which includes all English language books published between 1475 and 1700. This collection was previously acquired by HKU Libraries during the Second Millionth Volume Celebration. Taken together, they provide HKU with a nearly comprehensive collection of all English language books published before the year 1801.

ScienceDirect (backfiles: Immunology and Microbiology; Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology.) New York: ScienceDirect, 2004.
These two historical archives provide desktop access back to volume 1 issue 1 of over 160 titles, with the oldest issue going back to 1947. The collections include such important titles as FEMS Microbiology Ecology and Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, tracing important developments across the breadth of biology and genetics. Access and searching to these archives is seamlessly integrated with contemporary ScienceDirect titles.

Yongle Bei Zang (Buddhism - Sacred books) was compiled and printed using several versions of the Chinese Mahayana Cannon and is considered the most complete Chinese version of the Tripitaka which was kept in the Forbidden City of Beijing. It contained 1,662 titles and received official certification by the Emperor Yongle, who ruled China for 21 years (1403 to 1424) during the Ming dynasty.

Genealogical records have always been cherished by Chinese, both in ancient and in modern society. This 365-volume set contains 65 Chinese clan and lineage genealogies and other geological works are selected from very early time to Qianlong period (1736-1795) of Qing dynasty. Some genealogical records were preserved in written form, most of which are rare items and are now located in the National Library of China. The book traces the genealogical history of each Chinese name in China.
Statistics

A. Total Library Expenditure
- Staff: 47.5%
- Library Resources: 47.8%
- General Expense: 4.7%

B. Volumes in the Libraries
- General Library: 1,125,820
- Fung Ping Shan Library: 741,960
- Medical Library: 179,247
- Law Library: 94,790
- Education Library: 57,026
- Dental Library: 53,324
- Music Library: 27,574
- Total: 2,279,741

C. Who Uses the Libraries
- HKU Staff: 158,081
- HKU Students: 930,341
- Alumni: 152,535
- SPACE Staff: 16,519
- SPACE Students: 54,238
- Others: 50,508
- Total: 1,362,222

D. How We Spent Our Acquisitions Dollars
- Books: 26%
- Electronic Resources: 32%
- Journals: 42%

E. Staffing in the Libraries
- Professional Staff (FTE): 39
- Support Staff (FTE): 210.91
  (4.61 hourly-paid FTE is added)

F. Library Materials Use Statistics
- Items Checked Out: 1,362,222
- Manual Loans: 18,969
- Items Read In-house: 784,839
- Total: 2,166,030

G. Interlibrary Loan Transactions with Other Libraries
- ILL Items Loaned: 16,806
- ILL Items Borrowed: 13,373
- Total: 30,179
Donors

Donations and Sponsorships
Beijing Founder Electronics Company Limited
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IBM
Sun Microsystems of California Limited
Sweet and Maxwell Asia
Syracuse International Limited
Tsinghua Tongfang Optical Disc Company Limited

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Mr Raymond Yip Kin-man
Mr Patrick Yu Shuk-siu
Mr Perlie Yu Wan-tung
Ms Sarah Yuen Ka-ling
Miss Julia Yuen
Mr Alan Yu
Dr Zhu Yinghua

Gifts (Library Collections)
Organisations
American Consulate General Hong Kong
Asian Human Rights Commission
Asia Pacific Management Institute Hong Kong
Census and Statistics Department
Christie’s Hong Kong
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Geotechnical Engineering Office Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education
Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong
C.Y. Kwan & Co
Dui Hua Foundation
Education and Manpower Bureau
Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited
Hong Kong Institute of Education
Hong Kong Observatory
Hong Kong Tourism Board
Hong Kong Trade and Development Council Research Department
Independent Commission Against Corruption
Information Services Department
Legislative Council Secretariat
Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, China
Securities and Futures Commission
Trade and Industry Department
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University of Hong Kong. Faculty of Medicine
University of Hong Kong. The Institute of Human Performance
University of Hong Kong. Journalism & Media Studies Centre
University of Hong Kong. Reference Bureau of the Architecture Department
University of Hong Kong. School of Economics and Finance
Vocational Training Council

Individuals
Mr Andrew Cheng Kar-foo
Dr Chan Hing-yan
Mr Kwan Wing-keung
Mr Liao Gong-cheng
Mr Frankie Leung F.L.
Dr Roberts, Priscilla Mary

We would also like to thank another 1000 donors that are not listed here.
We were deeply saddened last year by the passing away of our colleague Ms Shirley Sin. She was an exceptional librarian known for her cheerful spirit, keen mind, and care for all who came in contact with her. She was also a low-key, but active participant in community service throughout the years. She had volunteered in the establishment of several small libraries and served as a Braille typist in the Hong Kong Society for the Blind. In recent years she devoted much of her efforts in setting up a charity for the poor children of the Yunnan Province in China. We miss her greatly.

In Memoriam
Annual Report
2003-2004

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