

CARING, COLLABORATIVE, CREATIVE,  
YOUR PARTNER IN INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE

# FOCUS

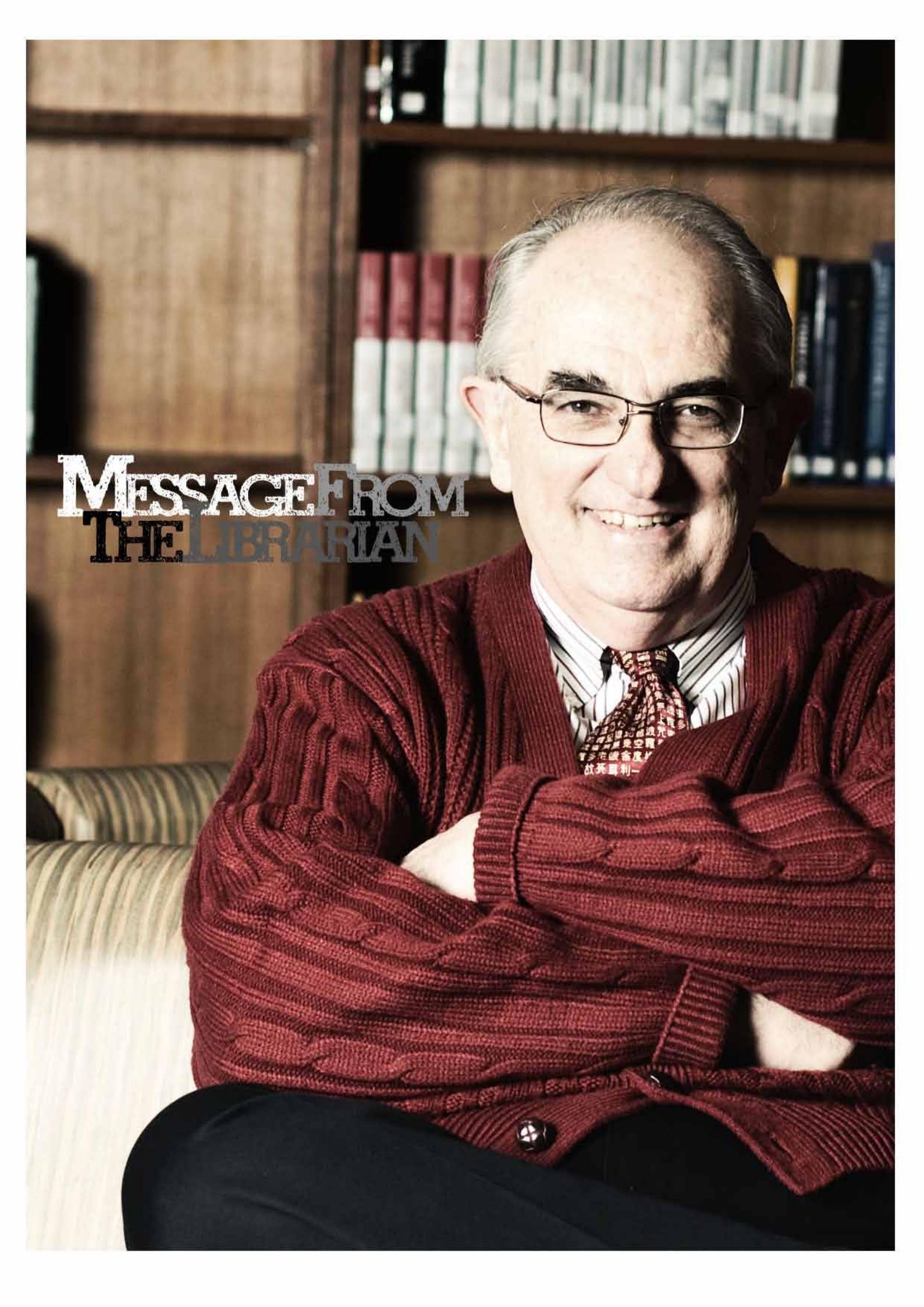
## THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG LIBRARIES

Vol. 10 Issue 1



The University of Hong Kong  
**Libraries**

Caring Collaborative Creative  
Your partner in intellectual excellence



# MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

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# MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

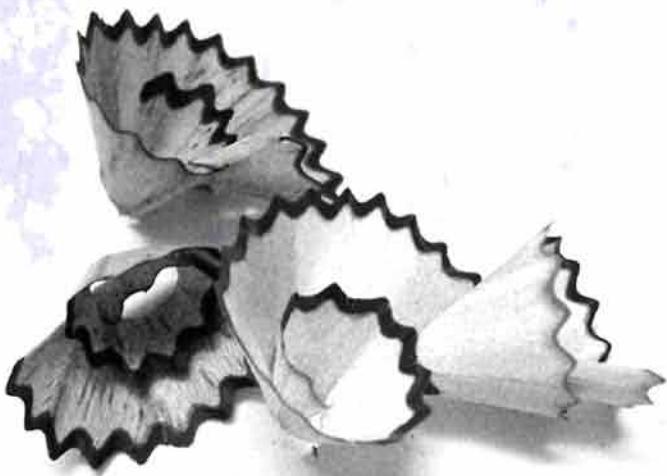
Beginning in the 1970's, the affects of information technology upon the operation of libraries became very pronounced. Catalogue cards had up to that point in time been produced using small printing machines which could put out card sets which had to be filed by hand. Since this filing work was very tedious and time consuming, I remember all librarians, irrespective of their other skills, had to help catch up with the backlog of filing at all the libraries I worked in the early 1970's. The rules for filing author, title, and subject cards were arcane and really only understood by cataloguing department staff. But they had to allow others to help. We would file the cards but would not pull the rods which passed through holes in the bottom of each card to keep them from being stolen for use as scratch paper. Instead our cataloguing department colleagues would first check our work, fixing our mistakes, and then pull the rods out allowing our cards to drop down into place.

But with the 1970's, all of this cataloguing information began to be input into the computer. Initially, when I went to library school in 1971 each of us had to create small programs employing "IBM cards" which were then loaded into card readers (taller and longer than a desk) in order to input the information into the computer (about the size of a car) which could then print out the card sets to be filed.

After a number of years, depending upon the particular library and its faith in computer technology, catalogue cards were no longer produced. These catalogues were still kept out in the open for students and staff to use, but they were no longer updated. About 15 years ago these catalogues began to be removed to the horror of many but not all cataloguers and older researchers alike. I was at Columbia University when many were moved into back rooms or hallways just in case computers turned out to be a passing fancy. At Columbia these catalogues contained thousands upon thousands of two inch by five inch handwritten cards. For more than 100 years staff with beautiful penmanship was specially employed to compose these cards. Consequently, the removal

of the catalogues in some libraries seemed more like a funeral service replete with the tears of the people who day-by-day tenderly cared for and nourished them. Of course there were other libraries where young irreverent young librarians with champagne and confetti celebrated the superiority of computers and their liberation from the drudgery of filing cards. But even in these "advanced" libraries, because they greatly feared that the computers would go down; backup catalogues would simultaneously be produced on microfiche. Librarians were all sure that research would grind to a halt if their hallowed catalogues could not be accessed. This safety measure, however, lasted only a few years since when the computer did go down, students would simply go away until the computer was fixed.

But the use of computers to generate library catalogues was only one edge of the library automation revolution. Soon we began to order books using computers – evolving from the use of cards to tapes to online connections with the vendors via telephone lines and finally to the use of the Internet.



# MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

The whole nature of reference work also changed. Before the automation age, at the University of Washington where I was a Chinese politics graduate student, we only had a shelf list of printed cards (the cards were arranged by call number since the librarians didn't believe in or have the time to file separate author, title, and subject cards). This required you as the researcher to really know the classification system used by that library if you wanted to find anything. At Washington, this meant you had to know both the Library of Congress system for new books and the Lai Yung-Hsiang system for older Chinese books. But of course we all soon discovered that if you couldn't find what you wanted, you could go ask Mr. Chao whose memory was phenomenal. He would listen to your request, ask you a few questions for clarification, and then motion with his lower lip for you to follow him (for his generation it was not polite to motion with your finger in what direction to go). He would then take you to a shelf and pull the book you needed and hand it to you with a satisfied smile. That was service and a hard act to follow if you were an aspiring young reference librarian as I was soon to become.

But with the advent of computers, reference work changed radically. Students could now do key word searching. This meant that they could at least partially ignore knowing the classification system (forget the catalogue) and the official Library of Congress subject headings (forget the librarian and the Mr. Chaos of this world) and what we librarians call corporate authorship, something few understand but is quite helpful in a traditional catalogue. Instead they could in a pre Google fashion just type in the words they were interested in and voila they would get results (and official subject and author headings which could be "clicked" on to get more information. This started students down the trail of self help. New catalogues even read the tables of content, book jacket information and even the entire text of the book or journal article for the researcher – nothing seems to be sacred. Yet, with so many new electronic tools available, the position of a subject librarian is still valued since students and staff both

need help navigating the labyrinth of resources which grow by the day. (We still have cataloguers as well but they have computers to help them with their work – no one needs to worry about their penmanship)

Well, enough reminiscing let the 2010-11 academic year begin. Today's library is beehive of IT activity that makes life much easier. The physical library has also changed and continues to change. At the end of this academic year we will "de-book" the third floor to create a learning commons for more the students who will soon come with the advent of the 334 curriculum revolution. Welcome back to campus OR, for the new students, welcome to the campus and the Libraries, Your Learning Place.

TONY



# READING CLUB

## Poor English: Why Should Hong Kong Care?

Theme Book: *You Can Write Better English*  
Speaker: Mr Barry Kalb (Hon. Lecturer, JMSC, HKU)  
Moderator: Prof. Ying Chan (Director, JMSC, HKU)  
Date: 9 September 2010 (Thursday)  
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm  
Language: English

[Click here to re-visit the book talk by Mr Barry Kalb](#)

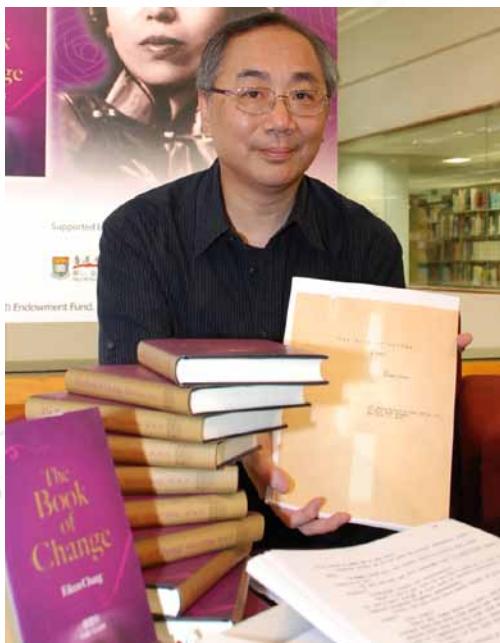


## BOOKLAUNCH

### Eileen Chang's The Book of Change

Guests: Dr Roland Soong & Prof. Leo Ou-fan Lee  
Date: 3 September 2010 (Friday)  
Time: 12:00 pm  
Language: English

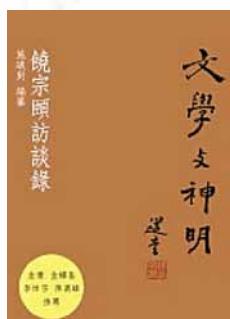
[Click here to re-visit the book launch on The Book of Change](#)



## UPCOMING BOOKTALK

### 文學與神明——從詩歌到哲學的提升

Theme Book: 《文學與神明——饒宗頤訪談錄》  
(*Literature and Gods: Interview with Professor Jao Tsung-I*)  
Speaker: 施議對先生 澳門大學社會科學及人文學院中文系教授,  
(Professor Sze Yee-Tui) Department of Chinese, University of Macau  
Date: 30 September 2010 (Thursday)  
Time: 7:15 - 9:00 pm  
Language: Putonghua



# EXHIBITIONS



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## The Visitor's Guide to Old Wanchai 老灣仔指南

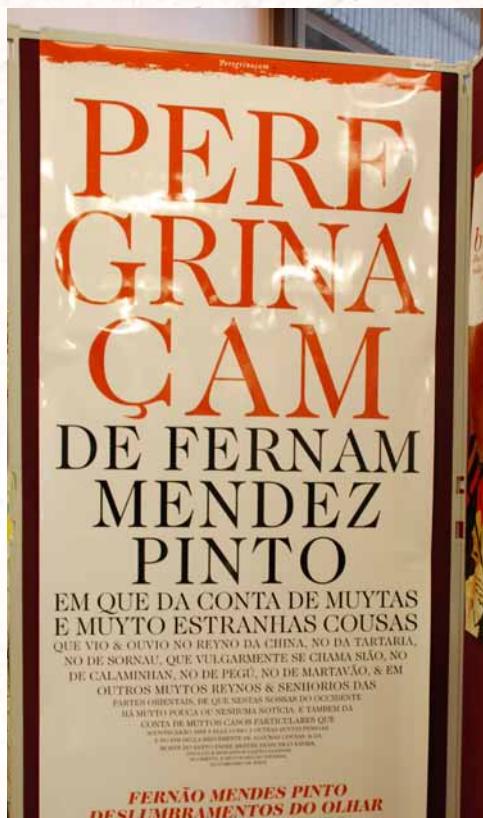
19 April 2010 ~ 23 May 2010

Exhibition talk by Mr. Yam Ching Chuen on May 12, 2010.



## Fernao Mendes Pinto

24 May 2010 ~ 16 June 2010



# EXHIBITIONS

## Hong Kong Nature Landscapes

17 June 2010 ~ 2 August 2010



## Satellite Images Reveal The Invisible 衛星圖像揭示了肉眼看不到的東西

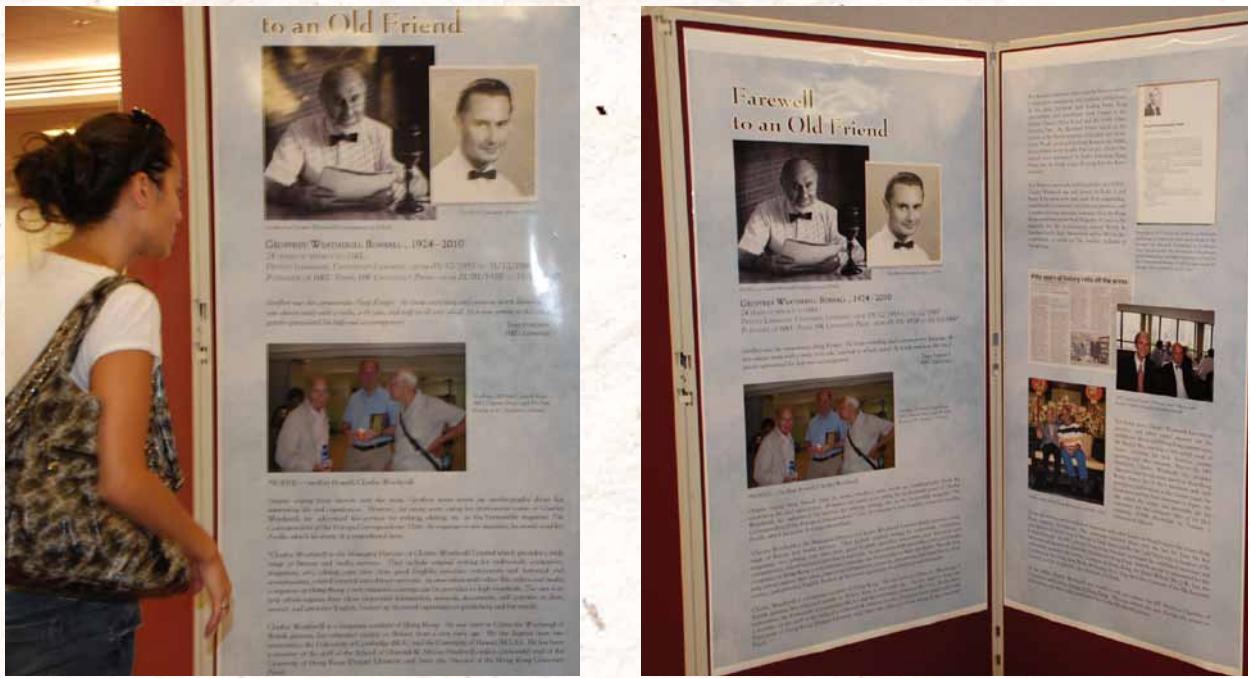
3 August 2010 ~ 31 August 2010



# EXHIBITIONS

## Farewell to an Old Friend - Geoffrey Weatherill Bonsall, 1924 - 2010 collaberated with University Archives

6 August 2010 ~ 10 September 2010

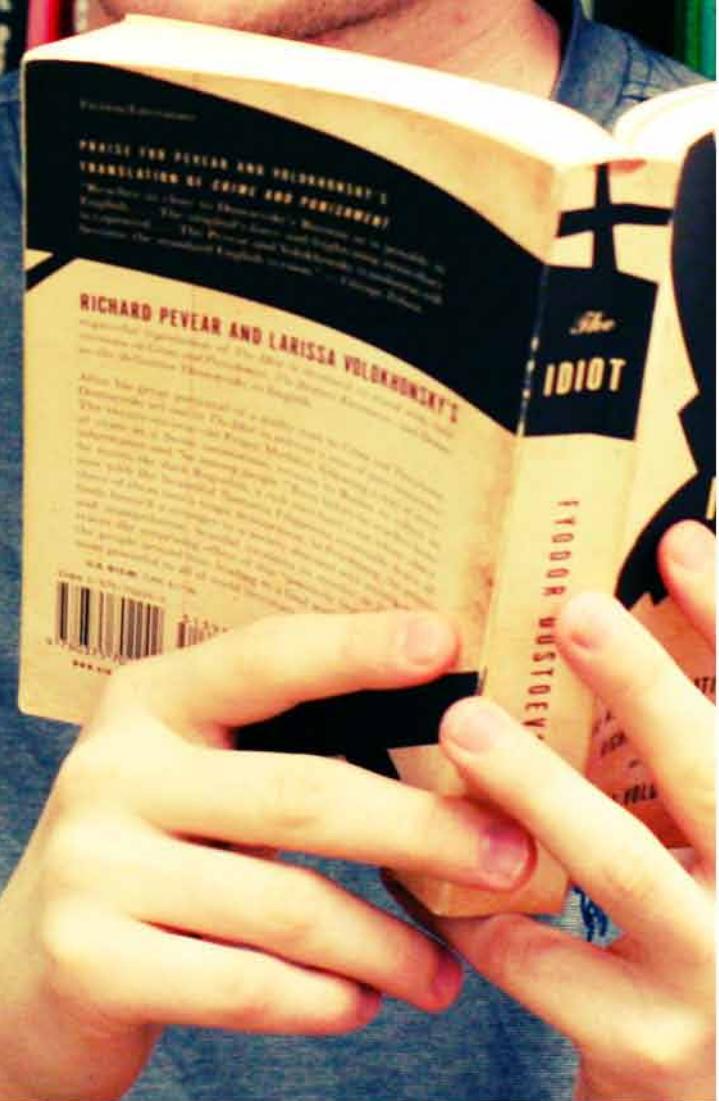


## Welcome to The University of Hong Kong Libraries 香港大學圖書館

1 September 2010 ~ 16 September 2010



**NEW AND  
NOTEWORTHY**



# NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

## Renovation works in the Main Library

- **Facelift of the Main Library Entrance**

The old cranky turnstiles were replaced by a new set of access gates this summer, aiming to facilitate user flow and minimize the noise generated by related traffic. In addition to the two normal aisles for general use, one extra wide aisle is tailor-made for disable users and official delivery. The facelift also includes a wooden panel matching the design of the registration/reception counter. All these changes have created a much different ambience at our entrance lobby.

- **Voice synthesizer in lifts and tactile route**

To cater for the need of visually impaired users, you may realize that a voice synthesizer was installed in the two lifts of New Wing broadcasting the level of landing. A tactile route was also constructed all the way from one of our entrance doors to a room on 4/F specially equipped for these users.

- **Anti-slip flooring**

On expiry of the last application over ten years ago, a special coating was re-applied to the granite floor of our lobbies to prevent accidents caused by slippery floor.

- **Upcoming works in this academic year**

Additional power points on 1/F and 6/F for user laptops; replacement of the ceiling tiles at entrance lobby; additional close circuit television cameras on various locations of Main Library.



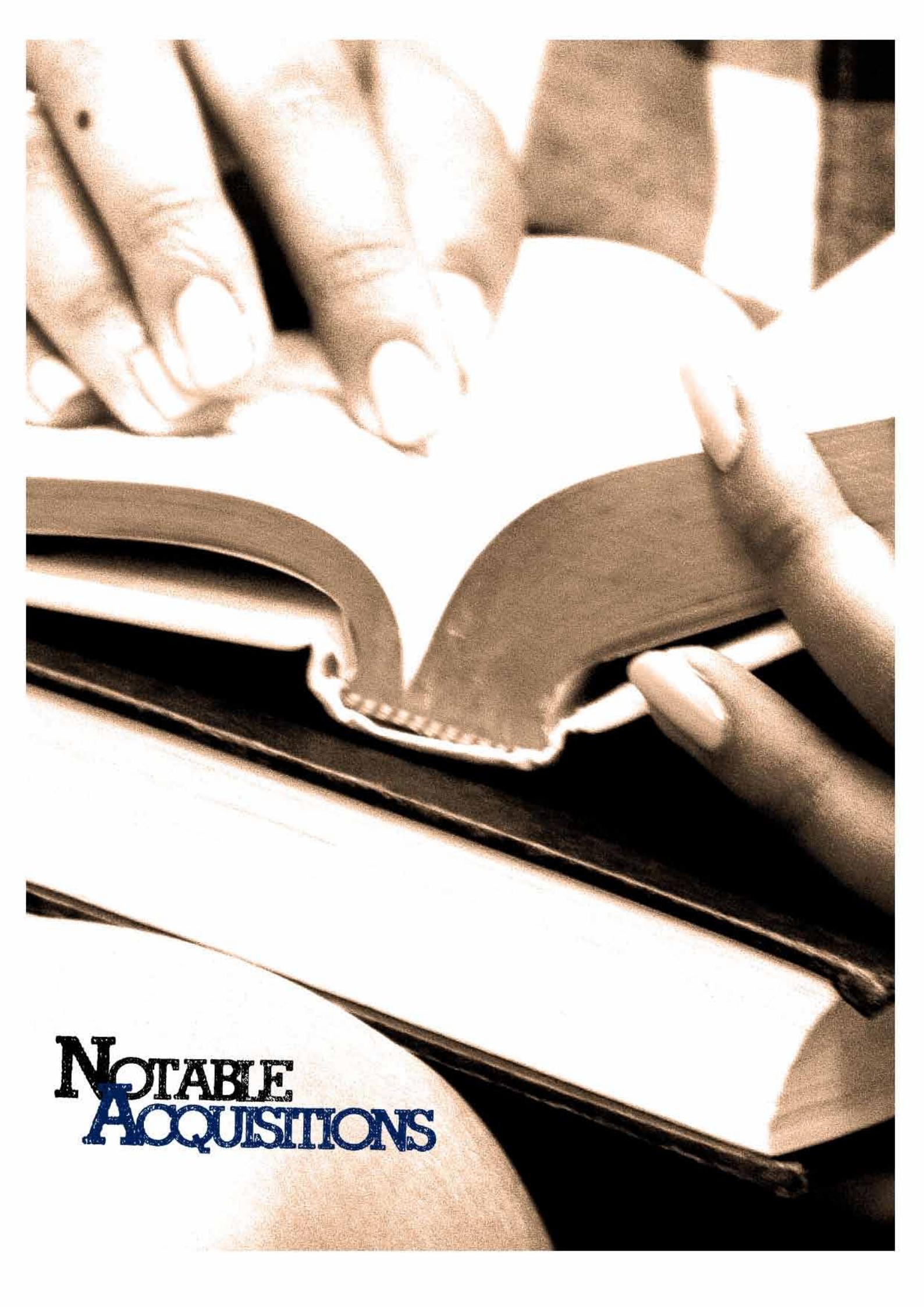
## Electronic resources rationalization

To maximize the use of our limited budget and in order to improve access, the library has been conducting a series of journals de-duplication and cancellation exercises since 2002. With the faculty's participation and support, we were able to reduce the number of duplicate or non-core print subscriptions to a core of about 2,800 subscriptions, saving over \$10M over these years. While this has helped us to contain cost and paid for much needed new resources, the library is now in a position where further rationalization and cancellation of electronic resources must be carried out.

At the last meeting on May 10, 2010, The Shared Electronic Resources Advisory Fund Committee (SERFAC) endorsed a set of broad principles including reduction strategies to guide future use of the electronic resources fund. These principles were further endorsed by the Senate Library Committee at its meeting on June 8, 2010.

Over the course of the next month, the library will be reviewing the content, usage, and costs of many of the library's aggregated databases (e.g. EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier and WilsonWeb OmniFile Full Text Mega) and non-subscribed journal packages (see p13, Focus 2005 January article). We hope that through this exercise we will be able to maintain access to core electronic databases and journals, minimize duplication and lower the library's recurring resource liability to compensate for its budget deficit.

Further information on the targeted items under review, which includes non-subscribed e-journal packages and aggregator databases will be posted via the library news blog at <http://obelix.lib.hku.hk/newsblog/>.



# NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

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CALL NO. 620.5 M58 U

Metal oxide nanostructures and their applications

edited by Ahmad Umar, Yoon-Bong Hahn.

Stevenson Ranch : American Scientific Pub, 2010

This work covers theoretical and experimental aspects of metal oxide nanostructures dealing with materials design, modeling, synthesis, fabrication, processing, spectroscopy characterization, structure-property relationships and their device applications at nanoscale.

CALL NO. JZ1644.A57 C5 2009

《葡萄牙外交部藏葡國駐廣州總領事館檔案：清代部分·中文》/ 澳門基  
廣州市：廣東教育出版社，2009。

葡萄牙駐廣州總領事館，為其最早在中國大陸設立的領事館，所領粵閩二省轄內外事。葡國廣州總領事館所藏檔案，涉及中葡兩國、粵港澳三地關係諸多事宜。至今尚未公諸於世，與學界緣悭一面。清末和民初廣東許多重大事件在這批檔案中都或多或少有所體現，歷任葡領與廣東軍政大員的個人風格、粵港澳地區的社會民情等在檔案中亦有充分展現，這些文獻資料對於研究清末民初粵澳港關係具有重要的史料和收藏價值。

CALL NO. 158.7 D56

Difficult people and situations [DVD]

[South Melbourne, Vic.] : Seven Dimensions ; 2009

Excellent case studies to help develop effective communication and leadership skills. Covers: Open communication, conflict resolution, and teamwork; Leadership, feedback and problem solving; Diversity, bullying and sexual harassment; Customer service, managing complaints and quality assurance.

CALL NO. 305.89240174927 J59

Jewish communities in Arab countries, 1841-1974 / edited by B. Destani.

[Slough] : Archive Editions, 2005.

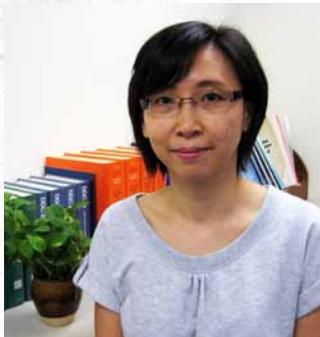
It covers the arrangements and conditions for Jewish communities living under Islam, throughout the Arab world, from 1840 to 1974.



**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 Chan Lai Lin Maggie from the Bibliographic Discovery Services Team has been selected as the award recipient of the Staff Recognition Program for the second quarter of 2010.

### Past Staff Recognition Award Recipients:

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

## FOCUS THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG LIBRARIES

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