

**The University of Hong Kong Libraries**



# Donation Prospectus

September 2015

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## Executive Summary

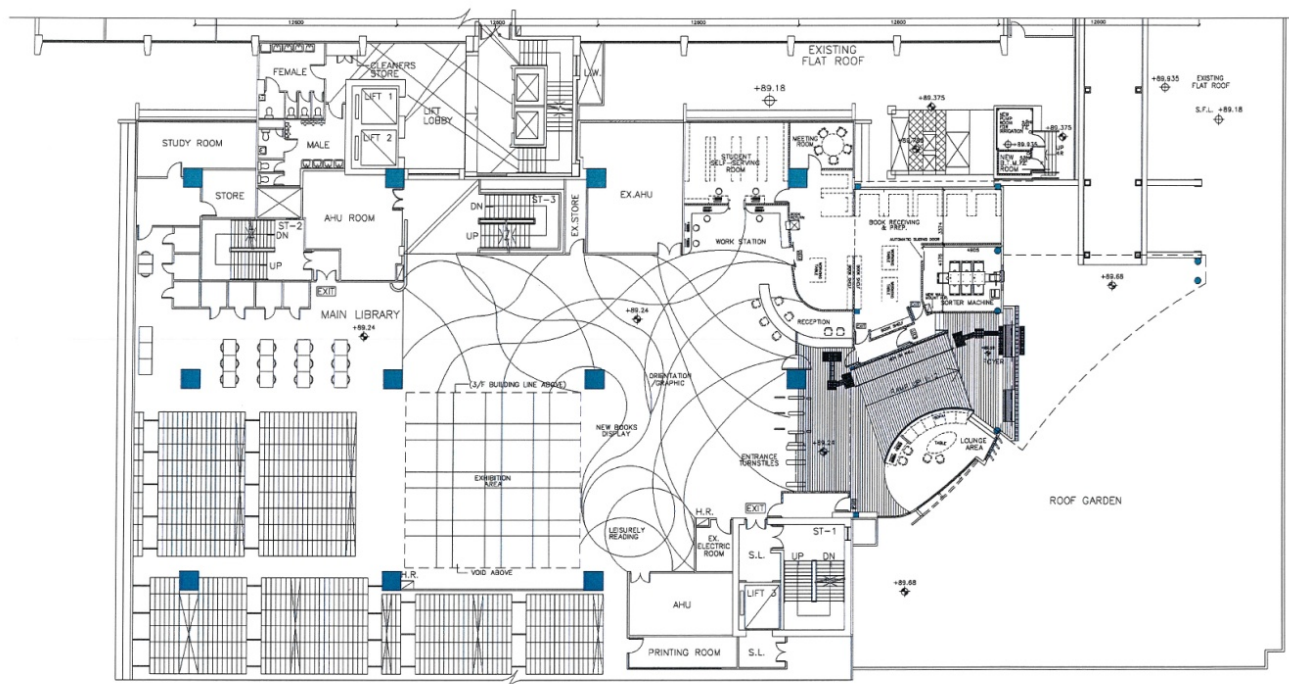
The University of Hong Kong Libraries seeks to enhance its capabilities in providing resources, services and facilities that are beyond its existing financial capabilities. Donations are sought to enhance the Libraries' vision to "advance the teaching, learning, research, and knowledge exchange pursuits of the University" and bring this support to a superior level befitting a world-class institution such as The University of Hong Kong.

Donations are currently sought to fund a number of projects related to the new entrance for the Main Library, the Libraries' Preservation and Conservation Division, and for special collection enhancements.

### New Entrance for the Main Library

Since the early days of planning the Centennial Campus and University Street, there has been the view held that somehow the Main Library should be better integrated into the human traffic flow emanating from these structures and the imminent MTR station. For some years now the notion of a new Main Library entrance has been proposed, discussed and approved by various committees including the Senate Library Committee and the University's Accommodation Committee. Construction work commenced in July 2015 with a projected completion of January 2016.

### Layout Plan



## Preservation & Conservation

The HKU Libraries established a preservation division and conservation laboratory in 2010. HKU is the first and only academic institution in Hong Kong to have dedicated resources to library and archives preservation and conservation. The Preservation & Conservation Division (PCD) supports the mission of the Libraries and the University by working to make the collections accessible for future generations. PCD actively protects and conserves collections by educating staff and readers, setting policies and guidelines, and making recommendations and treating collection items.

Beyond the University, archives and library leaders in the greater Hong Kong region recognize HKUL Preservation & Conservation Division's expertise. PCD has conserved treasures from the HSBC Archives, Swire Archives, Jockey Club Archives, Department of Justice Library, M+ Museum/West Kowloon Cultural District, HK Maritime Museum, and for many other private institutions and individuals as a fee-based service, not available elsewhere in Hong Kong.

## Collection Development

The Libraries continues to focus on supporting the university's 10 academic faculties, responding to the changing needs of the university's academic directions and research areas. With support from our alumni and friends, we continue to acquire rare and significant works and offer the rich collections and services required of a top-tier academic library in the 21st Century. Acquisitions currently available range from traditionally published books to digital based collections that exist only online.

All cited costs are estimates only.

Peter Sidorko

University Librarian

## New Entrance for the Main Library

The new entrance will be located at the west side of the New Wing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. When completed, the entrance will connect the Main Library to the University Street via the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Green Roof and will serve as the main entrance to the Main Library. The existing main entrance on the ground floor will continue as a point of access but all services currently on that floor will be relocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

With this new entrance and relocation of services we are taking the opportunity to remedy some of the existing main entrance shortcomings through intelligent design: the new entrance will provide improvements in traffic flow movements for entry, exit and orientation; face to face staff services will be provided to users before entering the Library; a secure 24 hour book return using RFID technology with a book sorting mechanism; an improved dedicated, yet flexible, exhibition space; a small presentation area for book talks etc.; a new books display area, and; a variety of flexible, casual seating. Additionally, the new entrance will provide a warm, welcoming and inspirational environment as users will enter the library immediately beneath the existing atrium with its vertical expansiveness. Furthermore we will improve the existing Green Roof with new, landscaping foliage and furniture befitting the entrance's ambience.



## Exhibition Space

As part of the construction of the new 2/F Main Library Entrance, the Exhibition Space will be a generous open area used to display material from the Libraries' Special Collections. The Exhibition Space also will become a vibrant new location for the Libraries' outreach programmes to host art exhibitions, book talks, and a wide range of HKU community sharing events.



New Entrance to Main Library 2/f University of Hong Kong

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**Project Estimated Cost:**

**Exhibition Display Panels: HK\$200,000**

**Climate Controlled Display Cases (8): HK\$500,000.**

## Touch Screen Kiosk Project

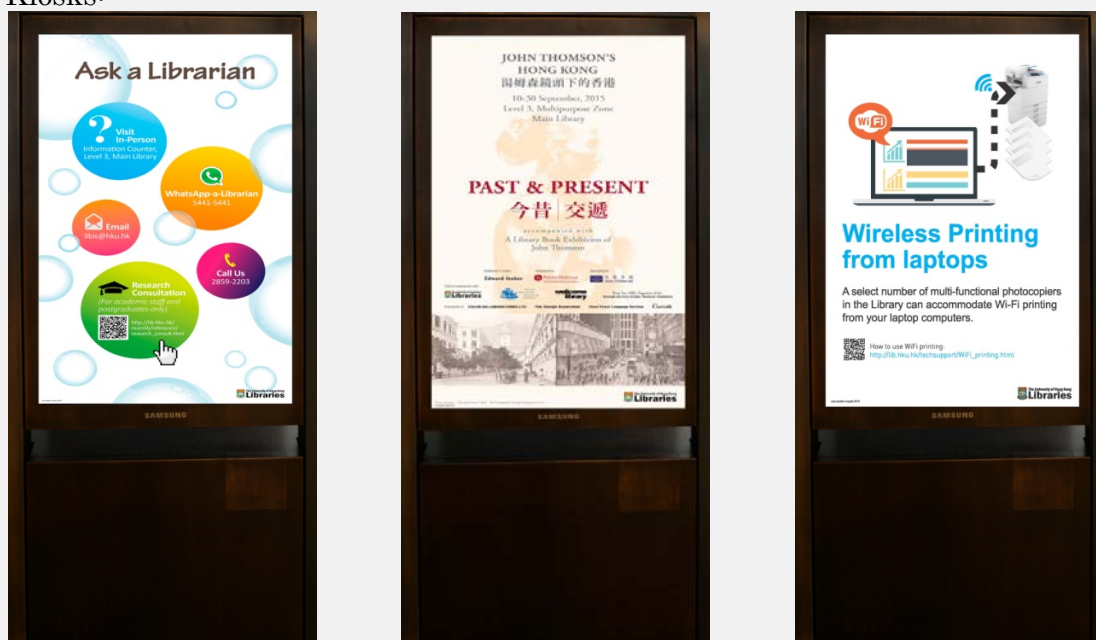
Touch screen kiosk stations would provide an interactive interface for the Libraries' readers. In today's world of mobile devices, individuals have become accustomed to touch screens for accessing information, viewing collections, searching for online information, and providing valuable feedback and comments. Touch screens kiosks provide a fast and intuitive interface for readers and can greatly simplify reader interaction by means of a few display selections. No keyboard is required, which saves space and simplifies the search process. Space saving is also gained by the removal of poster stands and roll-up banners.

The Touch Screen Kiosk Project would help provide an easy-to-use interface and easy-to-access content for the HKU Libraries' readers.

Three Panel Kiosk:



Individual Kiosks:



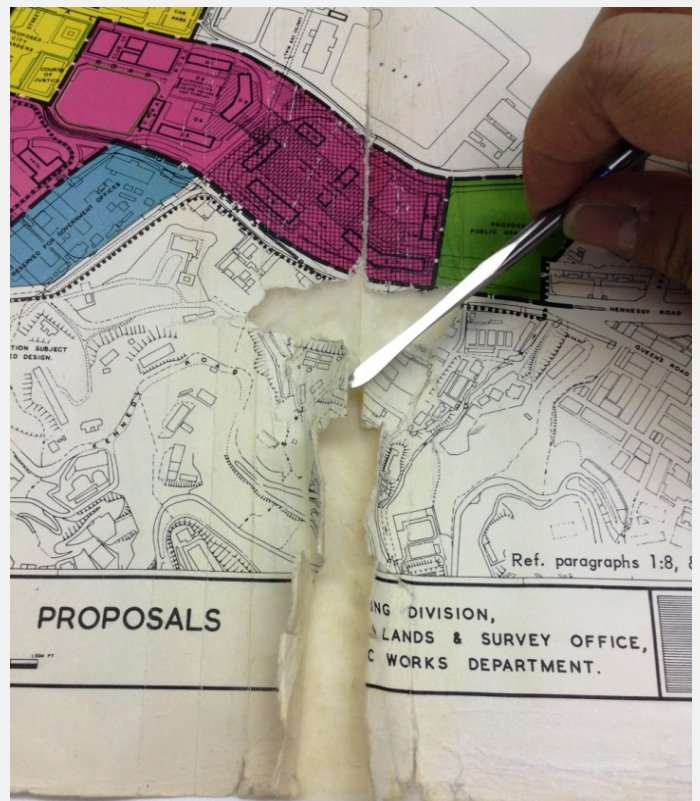
Project Estimated Cost: HK\$850,000 (7 Units).

## Preservation & Conservation

Over the past five years, the Preservation & Conservation Division has responded to the enormous need for preservation services, expanding its services and making significant contributions to HKU and the broader Hong Kong community. PCD's ultimate goal is to continue developing PCD's expertise and facility in order to be on par with well-established conservation departments at universities such as Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia. In order to take this next step, much needed funding for staff, equipment and facilities upgrades are required.



Figure 1: Deacons Archives, before and after treatment



## Research Collections

### The FormAsia Archive

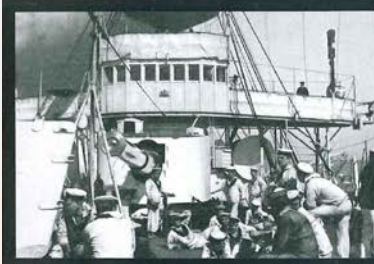
The FormAsia Books Limited archive comprises approximately 10,000 images compiled, purchased or self-generated during a publishing record of more than 40 years. Every image in this collection is a tangible document, either in the form of a black and white photograph, glass plate, original negative or colour transparency. A century and a half of copyright and public domain images depict Hong Kong's colourful history.



1930 Central District with the shoreline significantly advanced into the harbour



1930 When steam replaced sail, grime from smoke-belching funnels would soon pollute the white washed façades lining the praya



1935 H.M.S. Tamar naval exercises were frequently conducted in the harbour



1935 The main terrace of the Botanical Gardens with Government House



1928 Marshal Li Chai-sum visits Government House at the invitation of the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi



1960s Central District, not long after which most of the core buildings surrounding Statue Square would be redeveloped



1960s Kai Tak runway was located in just about the last place anyone would expect an airport to be

Acquiring this collection will give HKU the longest historical collection of Hong Kong photographs and will actively support researchers, students and the Hong Kong public at large.

Collection Cost: ????

## China: Culture and Society

Spanning three centuries (c1750-1929), this digital collection makes available for the first time extremely rare pamphlets from the Charles W. Wason Collection on East Asia, at Cornell University Library; one of the oldest and most distinctive collections of its kind, and a very rich source for research on China.



The Wason Pamphlet collection has been digitised in its entirety and in full colour. It is full-text searchable, allowing for the collection to be comprehensively studied and fully appreciated. An image gallery showcases the superb colour illustrations and highly designed cover art.

As there is no comparable digital project offering this type of material, this project will meet the need and growing demand for English language research sources relating to China and the West, and will address a wide variety of research interests and topics surrounding Chinese history, religion, culture and everyday life. <sup>1</sup>

**Collection Cost: £21,000 (HK\$255,000)**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.amdigital.co.uk/m-collections/collection/china-culture-and-society/>

## China, America and The Pacific



Covering the 18th and 19th centuries, *China, America and the Pacific* provides primary source materials for the study of the history of North American trade and cultural exchange with China.

This collection also provides coverage of China's economic dealings with the whole of East Asia and the Pacific.

Sourced from American and Canadian libraries including the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, *China, America and the Pacific* includes some of the strongest collections on the subject of the 'Old China Trade', including:

- The logbooks of the first American ship to visit China
- A rare letter book of Hoqua, a Canton trader
- Trade letters from King Tamoree and Queen Charlotte Tapolee of Kaua'i (Hawai'i)

Until the opening of the Western frontiers of the United States in the mid-1800s, the East Coast dominated American finance and merchanteering. This early period in American trading history is captured in the papers of key shipping families and their extended influence beyond maritime circles.

*China, America and the Pacific* offers insights into the early commercial development of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Salem, Providence and Baltimore, with maritime routes between East and West Coasts detailed and mapped.

Other key Pacific trading posts are covered, including Hawai'i, the Philippines, India, Sumatra, Mauritius and Batavia.

Early fur traders in Canada and the Pacific Northwest are also well covered.<sup>2</sup>

**Collection Cost: £35,000 (HK\$423,000).**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.amdigital.co.uk/m-collections/collection/china-america-and-the-pacific/>