

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG LIBRARIES FOCUS

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CARING, COLLABORATIVE, CREATIVE.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN



There is an old saying that goes “no good turn goes unpunished.” That is, paradoxically, it seems that whenever you try to do something good for someone, you will somehow suffer for the effort. Recently, I had that feeling regarding the decision to open the Main Library 24 hours per day and seven days per week.

The intention, or the good turn, was to keep the library open during the reading and examination weeks so that our students could prepare themselves for their examinations. Our punishments thus far have been three fold:

- The costs associated with providing security during the post 11:00 PM night hours when our staff goes home to eat and sleep have been fairly significant.
- The costs for extra cleaning staff to come in early in the morning to clean up after the hundreds of students who eat and drink while they are studying have mounted up.
- The need to deal with the anger expressed by some students, toward other students who attempt to lay claim to their favorite study tables, has been frustrating.

We are not new to the business of operating a round the clock study facility. We have had a 24X7 Student Learning Centre in the Main Library for the past four years. It is located on the Ground Floor next to Starbucks. It is situated there because it is the one section of the Library which has its own rear entrance as well as a lockable doorway into the library itself. This means we can lock it off from the Main Library at closing time, and then allow students to use their electronic ID cards to get into the back entrance whenever they like during the night until in the morning at 8:30 AM when the Main Library reopens. Since we don't have any books stored in the Student Learning Centre, we don't need any additional staff to operate the facility, and for human security we rely upon cameras in the facility but which can be monitored by the campus Security Office. This system works well to provide upwards of 80 students with an overnight safe and air conditioned study area. We even have vending with hot and cold drinks as well as snacks to help those who use it to keep their energy levels up.

Opening the entire Main Library to help hundreds of students prepare for their examinations, on the other hand, poses a much larger problem. Since it is filled with valuable books, journals, and computer equipment, we knew we needed to hire guards to take over after the time when the last of our staff went home for the night. We began with the idea that we would need two guards to allow one to circulate the five floors of the building while the other one stayed at the main doorway. Most of our library materials employ an RFID security system. However, since part of our collection lacks the RFID system, we found we needed to provide another pair of guards to deal with that part of the Main Library. Four guards for three weeks of course means a fairly significant amount of expense – yet, this extra expense to help students is a good investment, right?

Opening the Main Library all night long means another nine hours of use. As any parent with teenagers and young adults in the family knows, young people can make a mess. Actually all humans make a mess. And hundreds of people means hundreds of tissues, hundreds of empty water bottles, hundreds of scraps of paper, hundreds of paper wrappers from food consumed, hundreds of chairs and tables moved right and left, and thousands of books pulled out of the stacks and left lying around after they are used. All of these messes have to be cleaned up or the whole enterprise can go bad. When a facility is in an orderly well kept condition, most of the people who enter it act in an orderly fashion. Just the opposite can happen when a facility is in dirty and disorganized. Consequently, our decision to

keep the Library open all night meant that we needed to hire an extra cleaner to at least empty all the rubbish bins at the beginning of the evening. Early in the morning, however, after hundreds of messes were made but hundreds of new readers would descend upon the library beginning at 8:00, we found we needed to hire some extra help to get the library in super clean shape before it became mobbed with new students. Extra cleaners on a daily basis mean extra expenses – yet, this extra expense to help students is a good investment, right?

Opening the Library 24X7 produced another problem: Some students decide to take advantage of this opportunity to lock their computer to their favorite desk or otherwise pile their personal belongings on that desk. Then they will leave knowing that no one else can use the desk and that they can come back and use it anytime they want. Since we only have 1,200 seats in the library, however, when student 1,201 comes in we have a problem. If every seat had a student sitting on it, the new student would understand. Yet the problem is, many seats are empty but the desk has a computer or a pile of books and papers on it. In the words of one student who wrote me:

“I did a quick count this morning when I arrived at 10am on the second floor. There are totally 68 seats, 8 of them were occupied by students. 60 of them [occupied] by papers and books. 13 people were either standing, sitting on couches, or in front of the computers. I removed a book, a hand cream and a pen from a desk yesterday and place them at one of the computer tables and they are still there untouched. . . The problem is a very serious one. Students clearly abuse the concession from the library.”

Last semester we tried clearing desks that had lain idle for two hours or longer but that just resulted in disputes with students who complained that they had just stepped away when the library staff member came by their desk. We also detected that while seats with electrical outlets were in high demand, those without might stand idle. Consequently, for this term we added another 500 electric outlets in order to increase the number of attractive seats. It appears that this latter act was a success but the result is even more students coming to the library to study and use their laptops at the same time. Since the ability of students to “stake out” a seat was based upon the premise that the library never closed for three weeks, this year, when the Swine Flu arrived, we took advantage of the need to disinfect desks and now close it for two hours in the early morning for cleaning. This means students have to take their computers and things out at least for a couple of hours. The result has been the daily queuing up of a hundred or so students all rushing for their favorite seats – but it does give everyone willing to line up at 8:00 in the morning a fresh chance to get a coveted seat. Once again we have spent more money and effort: more electrical outlets, staff to deal with angry students, cleaners to disinfect desks -- yet, this extra expense to help students is a good investment, right?

We do think these extra investments are worth it. But, since no good turn goes unpunished, what is next?

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

“Ramblings from the Music Library”

To support students studying modules in film studies and other areas of music, Music Library has added a Sony Blu Ray player and a DVD-VHS combo player in the Music Library. These two players have HDMI connection to a 22 inch screen for maximum picture quality.

Teaching staff and students from the Music Dept are welcomed to recommend music and films of different media formats in support of your research, teaching and study. Please use the online “BRO” at the HKU Library Homepage via “Form”.

You will most likely see a “new” face at the Circulation Desk area in Music Library. He is Austin, an NBA fan, who joined us on 18 May 2009. The staff at Music Library would like to say a big thank you to Oliver the man who was holding the fort, June and Chee Bor the hardworking assistants and our student helpers Abel, an engineering student and Becky, a Law undergrad, who have done a great job during the absence of the Music Librarian. A sad start to summer of 2009 will be saying farewell to Wong Chee Bor who is retiring on 30 June 2009. We will miss his candidness!



NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

Call no. 306.44 S678 C85

Sociolinguistics : critical concepts in linguistics / edited by Nikolas Coupland and Adam Jaworski.
London ; New York : Routledge, 2009.

This 6-volume set provides a critical synthesis of the key ideas, findings, methods, and approaches that make up the interdisciplinary field of sociolinguistics. It includes both classic texts and contemporary, state-of-the-art research, with a bias towards the latter.

Call no. 952.033 bC93

Critical readings on Japan, 1906-1948 : countering Japan's agenda in East Asia.

Series 1, Books / series editor Peter O'Conner.

Folkestone : Global Oriental, 2008.

This collection provides scholarly introductions to a selection of essential books and pamphlets in Japan's propaganda arsenal, documenting Japan's drive for international acceptance, and her pre-war retreat into national victimhood and institutionalized mysticism.

Call no. 541.395 bH2

Handbook of heterogeneous catalysis.

2nd, completely rev. and enl. ed. / edited by Gerhard Ertl ... [et al.].

Weinheim : Wiley-VCH, c2008.

The completely revised and expanded second edition of this much-cited handbook collates the knowledge available on heterogeneous catalysis, providing easy-to-find yet comprehensive information.

Call no. PL2461.Z7 bM56 2008

民國時期經學叢書, 第1、2輯 / 主編林慶彰.

初版.

台中市 : 文听閣圖書有限公司, 2008.

本叢書每輯約六十冊, 搜集民國時期學者論述經學之專著, 提供學者較全面的研究文獻, 修訂以前片面的經學發展觀。

SUPPORT THE LIBRARIES

Ceremony marking the Gift of “Po Chung’s Personal Development Collection” and a Couplet composed by Mr Yeung Sui Sang, calligraphed by Mrs Helen Chung

On 8 April 2009, we held a celebration ceremony marking the gift of “Po Chung’s Personal Development Collection” supported by Mr Chung Po Yang SBS OBE JP and the couplet composed by Mr Yeung Sui Sang, calligraphed by Mrs Helen Chung to the University of Hong Kong Libraries.



Mr Chung Po Yang (Po Chung)

After attending university in the USA, Mr Chung returned to Hong Kong, joined DHL Express and co-founded its Asia Pacific division. Mr Chung has held a top-ranking position with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and helped establish the HKU Centre for Asian Entrepreneurship & Business Values in 2006. He is a committed community service leader, a social entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a patron of the arts and conservation, and an accomplished painter. Mr Chung founded the Creative Initiatives Foundation and the Good Life Initiative. His latest book, *The First 10 Yards: the 5 Dynamics of Entrepreneurship*, has just been published.

Mr Chung, who retired from the corporate world in 2001, saw his own life as “an entrepreneurial journey”. These personal insights, which led him to combine his ideas on entrepreneurship with his thoughts on redesigning life, can now be found in the “Po Chung’s Personal Development Collection”, a collection of books donated by Mr Chung. According to Mr Chung, the objective of setting up this collection was to help people to open their minds to “the science of life management and the art of living”.

Additionally, the University Libraries is pleased to receive a gift of a piece of verse, a couplet composed by Mr Yeung Sui Sang, with calligraphy by Mrs Helen Chung.

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Mr Yeung Sui Sang

Mr Yeung is a veteran media professional who loves the study of couplets, writing columns about them in several newspapers. His publications include: 《憑聯寄意》(Express Feeling through Couplets), 《聯賞聯想》(Imagination and Appreciation of Couplets), 《書聯碧合》(Antithesis of Couplets), 《意在聯外》(Meanings of Couplets), 《樂在聯中》(Enchantment of Couplets).

Mrs Helen Chung

Mrs Helen Chung started her artistic journey one Sunday afternoon in 1995, when two of her daughters were practicing for dance recital and were therefore late for a painting lesson with Mr Lam Yat-Chi (林逸之), who was waiting in the family's library. To keep Mr Lam from becoming impatient, Mrs Chung decided to take their place. It was her first painting lesson. For the next five years she joined the fun, mainly painting "flora and birds." During a group exhibition in 2003, Mrs Chung received many compliments for two of her works of calligraphy, which led her to concentrate on improving her calligraphic technique and style. Mrs Chung is now widely recognised for her "cursive script" (cao-shu), although she also practices the running script style of Lin Sanzhi (林散之).



The Couplet to celebrate the spirit of the Collection

The couplet has been specially composed by Mr Yeung, with calligraphy by Mrs Chung, for the HKU Libraries, and conveys the message about the importance of books and education for intellectual cultivation.

香港重培才，大學仁風留史冊
圖書能醒世，館藏寶典輔英賢

As Hong Kong attaches great significance to education,
This University has cherished in its records all acts of benevolence and excellence;
And as books can help to awaken the world,
Our Libraries' precious collections/dictionaries are of valuable assistance to all intellectual readers.

We were honoured to have Mr and Mrs Chung, Mr Yeung and Vice-Chancellor to officiate the Ceremony.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARIES

Donation from the Hung On-To Memorial Fund Ltd.

It is with much gratitude and appreciation that we thank the Hung family for the further donation of HK\$100,000 for the development of the Hung On-To Memorial Library (Hong Kong Collection) in building up its comprehensive stock of Hong Kong materials in the Special Collections of the HKU Libraries. On top of this, Mr Hung Hin Hong donated 27 boxes of annual reports of Hong Kong listed companies to the Collections. The continuing support of the Hung On-To Memorial Fund is greatly appreciated.

Donation

The History Dept, HKU donated 19 boxes of Hong Kong materials to the Special Collections in March 2009.

EXHIBITION

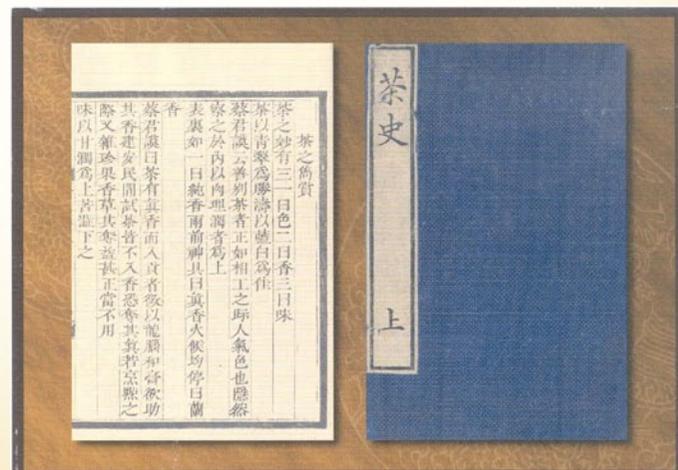
The Special Collections held an exhibition from 24 to 26 April on the best photos of the Joint - University Wildlife Photo Competition TOUCH, which is co-organized by Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU, Environmental Science Society, CUHKSU, Green Club, L.U.S.U and Greenbird, HKIEDSU.



Gleaming Qing Ming: Exhibition of Chinese Tea Culture Literature

Sixteen Chinese books on tea are now on display in the “Gleaming Qing Ming: Exhibition of Chinese Tea Culture Literature (明前清和：中國茶文化文獻展)”, in Macau Tea Culture Museum, Macau. The exhibition has been organized by Macau Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau in cooperation with the HKU Libraries, Peking University Library and Macau University Library, to promote cultural exchange between Hong Kong, Beijing and Macau and to encourage Macau citizens to learn more about traditional Chinese culture.

Books contributed by the HKU Libraries are largely twentieth century imprints, including a Japanese edition of Cha Shi (茶史) and titles reflecting the scientific development of modern Chinese tea studies. The exhibition will last until August 9, 2009.

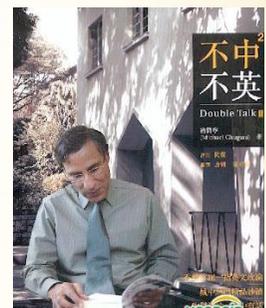
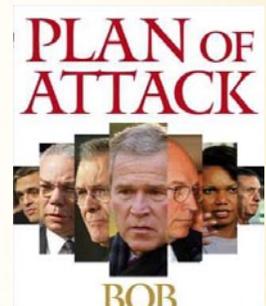


READING CLUB

For more about our Reading Club and its activities, visit
http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/

What Next: Surviving the Twenty-First Century Plan of Attack Double Talk 1 Double Talk 2

Speaker : Mr Michael Chugani (褚簡寧先生)
Moderator : Dr Anthony W. Ferguson
Date : 23 April 2009(Thursday)
Time : 7:15 pm - 9:00 pm
Venue : Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library, The University of Hong Kong
Language : English



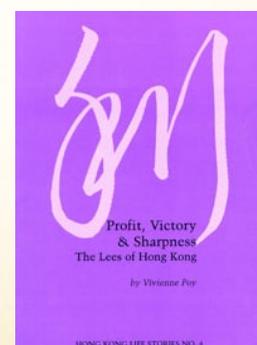
《走過死蔭的樹下》

Speaker : Dr. Catherine S.Y. Chong 莊紹賢醫生
Moderator : Dr. May Miao 苗延琮醫生
Date : 30 April 2009(Thursday)
Time : 7:15 pm - 9:00 pm
Venue : Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library, The University of Hong Kong
Language : Cantonese



Profit, Victory & Sharpness: The Lees of Hong Kong

Speaker : Senator Vivienne Poy
Date : 19 May 2009 (Tuesday)
Time : 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Venue : Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library, The University of Hong Kong
Language : English



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《人民不會忘記》二十周年再版 People Will Not Forget - reprint after 20 years

Speaker : Veteran journalists who covered the June 4 Incident in 1989

Ms Ida Chan Yun Chi (陳潤芝)

Ms Lucy Chan Wai Yee (陳慧兒)

Ms Mak Yin Ting (麥燕庭)

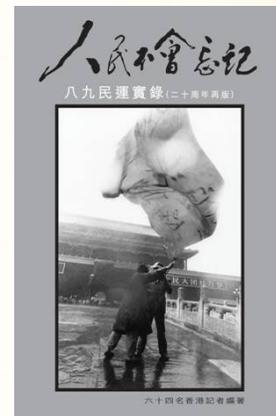
Moderator: Mr Chris Yeung (楊健興)

Date : 2 June 2009 (Tuesday)

Time : 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Venue : Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library, The University of Hong Kong

Language : Cantonese & Putonghua (Simultaneous Interpretation to English)



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CONTRIBUTORS

Iris CHAN

Anthony FERGUSON

Amanda HARIZAN

Thomas HUNG

Carmen TSANG

Yiu Chuen WAN

EDITORIAL

Carmen TSANG

PRINTING

Access Service Department

Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Phone: (852) 2859-2203

Fax: (852) 2858-9420

Website: <http://lib.hku.hk>

