What Was Once Old...
Two Recent Initiatives at HKU

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Project 1:
Rare Book Digitisation Project

A HKUL-iGroup Collaboration
Project Scope

• Digitization, i.e. scanning of images and production of 4,000 e-books (about 1,200,000 images) in 12 months

• Rare, out-of-copyright books on China and Asia written in English

• Project started in July 2008
Motivators

• Preservation
• Access
• Improving searching capabilities
• Supporting teaching and research
• Strengthening the role of HKU Libraries as a digital content provider
Books to be digitized

• Western Rare books about Asia, including:
  – Morrison Collection
  – Hankow Collection
  – Chater Collection ...
Morrison Collection

• Formerly Library of the Morrison Education Society, an educational institution set up in 1836 to further the work of Rev Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary in China
• Opened in Old English Factory, Guangzhou, in early 1838
Books from:

- Library at the English Factory (1806-1834)

*Thomas R. Colledge*
Robert Morrison’s books from his son, John R. Morrison, when he passed away in 1843
From Guangzhou to HKU

Morrison Hill

Old Court House

City Hall

HKU
The Collection

• No new additions since 1869
• Representative of the period
• Bible in different languages
• Some books on China
• 1,284 titles in 2,726 volumes
Hankow Collection

• The British founded the Hankow Club in 1878 to provide amenities for the foreign communities in Hankow
• A place for fun and social gatherings
• In Chinese the Club was called 「大波樓」 and 「波羅館」 (Chinese translation of pool?)
Where was it?
The first library in the foreign concessions in Hankow

- Honorary Librarian – Dr A.H. Skinner, a British physician who lived in Hankow for 30 years
- The Library came to accumulate one of the best Far Eastern Collections in any library in China in the early twentieth century
About the Library

- Card catalogue
- Book catalogue
- Book selection policy
- Library regulations
From Hankow to HKU

• China’s Recovery of the British Concession in Hankow in 1927
• Exodus of foreigners from Hankow
• The Hankow Club decided to sell books
• HKU bought the ‘China’ section of the library collection in 1932 for HK$25,000
• Three thousand volumes of books and journals with an emphasis on the Far East
Chater Collection

- Sir Paul Chater built up a fine collection of oil paintings, print sketches, books and photographs on China.
- He passed away in 1926 and bequeathed his collection to Hong Kong.
The Collection

• Sir Cecil Clementi, Governor of Hong Kong from 1925 to 1930, presented the Chater books to the University in 1927

• Book list available at *The Chater collection: pictures relating to China, Hongkong, Macao, 1655-1860* by James Orange (1924)

• Mainly 19th century imprints

• Some with excellent illustrations
Scanners

- Kirtas APT 2400 - an automatic book digitization device that features an integrated automatic page-turning robot
The Kirtas APT 2400

• 2400 images per hour
• Two 16.6 megapixel cameras – simultaneous L/R capture
• Auto adjusting cradle (as pages decrease/increase)
• Adjustable, robotic vacuum arm changes pages
• “Page fluffers”
ATIZ BookDrive DIY

• Book scanning platform with a v-shaped, auto-adjusting book cradle and platen to capture images with no page curvature and is easy on book bindings

• 700 pages per hour
A manual Kirtas!
The scanners in action
Regional Workflow

HKU (Hong Kong)
1. Inspect and select books (HKU)
2. Scanning at HKU Main Library (iGroup)

iGroup (Thailand)
3. Editing and cleaning
   - Quality control of every image
4. OCR for text and metadata
Regional Workflow

iGroup (Singapore)
• Publishing as an ebook on iGroup platform
• E-distribution, or,

iGroup (Taiwan)
• Print on demand
Some examples

Raw image from camera

Cleaned image

That father is guilty of a crime, who merely feeds his children, but does not teach them.

That master, who does not teach with due authority, is a sluggard.

The child who will not learn, acts very improperly.

The youth who does not learn,---what will he be good for in old age?

As the rough diamond not cut, never assumes the form of any jewel; so the man who does not learn, never knows fully the noble exercise of reason.
Some examples

Raw image from camera

Cleaned image
Challenges

• Lighting and setup/layout of book
• Removing book stains and OCR accuracy
• Tightly bound books/thick books
• Uneven surfaces from humidity etc
• Aligning pages and opposite pages
• Odd sized books
• Folded maps & plans
• Old fonts difficult to OCR
• Human intervention required most of the time.
Project 2:
RFID Collection Management and Circulation Project
RFID at HKUL

- First university library installation in Hong Kong
- Largest library RFID installation in Hong Kong
RFID at HKU Libraries: WHY?

• Circulating items
  – 1.1-1.5 million loan transactions p.a.
  – Large number of *return* transactions
  – Up to 11,000 loans in Main Library in 1 day
  – Over 100,000 registered library users
This is WHY?

Main Library: 08/10/08, 12:50
RFID at HKU Libraries: WHY?

• Self-check (in and out)
• Patron satisfaction
• Staff productivity/savings/redeployment
• Staff satisfaction
• Security
• Inventory control/collection management
• The needle in the haystack
• Long term benefits/savings
Our requirements

• *Interface* with the existing Library Management System;
• *Self check* which will reduce the need for staff to perform repetitive check-in and check-out activities;
• Achieve a goal of 60-80% *self-check*, resulting in staff savings;
• Implemented in the *Main Library* and in selected branches in the future;
• Improved decision making through the timely, accurate and comprehensive *reporting*;
• Efficient *collection management*, including stock-take, shelf reading, and identification of reserved items;
• Added *security* of Library items, resulting in a reduction in loss of Library resources.
RFID at HKUL

- In discussion pre 2001
- Lengthy tender process involving demonstrations from 7 vendors, (Nov, 2006 – Feb 2007)
- Tender awarded September 2007
Why this partnership?

• International reputations
• Customised solution
• Further expansion
• Developmental opportunity for HKUL staff
Implementation : Tagging conversion

• May, 2008-
• 22 temporary staff (3 supervisors, 19 taggers and shelvers)
• Workstations on each floor
Tagging milestone: 6 October, 2008

1,000,000th item tagged!!
Circulation milestone: 28 August 2008
28 August 2008
28 August 2008
Security milestone: 28 August 2008
Self check milestone: 9 October
Welcome to the self-check service of the HKU Libraries

Borrow / Renew  Return
Borrow Item(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>727.600099 M98 O85</td>
<td>Museum, gallery and cultural architecture in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region: essays</td>
<td>06-04-09</td>
<td>Checked-Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>299.935B S81 S</td>
<td>Rudolf Steiner: scientist of the invisible / A.P. Shepherd.</td>
<td>06-04-09</td>
<td>Checked-Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 G34</td>
<td>The science of philosophy / F.H. George.</td>
<td>06-04-09</td>
<td>Checked-Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155.646 P9</td>
<td>The Psychology of grandparenthood: an international perspective / edited by Peter K. Smith.</td>
<td>06-04-09</td>
<td>Checked-Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 F59</td>
<td>The new Tractatus: summing up everything / Bruce Fleming.</td>
<td>06-04-09</td>
<td>Checked-Out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important: Please remember to logout!

Continue placing items in the opening below until all books are borrowed. When you have finished, please remember to click the "Logout" button.
Future milestones: Returns room
Future milestones: Hand-held inventory

• Portable, powerful hand-held WiFi "wand" antenna with lightweight reader.

• Ergonomic device quickly scans up to 20 standing or stacked items per second.

• Used to search for and identify mis-placed RFID-tagged items and manage inventory.
Future milestones: 24x7 ATM?
Further phases

1. Evaluation
2. Cost/benefit analysis
3. Deployment in larger branches? All branches?
Thank you!