Planning for a shared research archive:
The Hong Kong experience.

Peter Sidorko
The University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong Libraries

Caring Collaborative Creative
Your partner in intellectual excellence

Snapshot

- Hong Kong, its Higher Education system, their Libraries and more

- The University of Hong Kong's repository experience

- Bringing JURA (Hong Kong's joint repository) to life

- What this means for the future!

First, it's great to be in Kuopio

Originally

ASIA: The
World's
largest land
mass

Now...

A Dot!

Hong Kong

But back to the DOT!

Hong Kong

- Geographic and cultural bridge between east and west

- 7 million people living on about 1,100 km^2

- Major international financial centre

- Currently under the "one country, two systems" policy

- Astronomical real estate prices (World record set on 14/10/2009; HK$439m (US$57m), HK$88,000 per ft^2).

Hong Kong Higher Education

- 8 government funded institutes of higher learning (7 universities)
- 3 ranked in the top 50 in the world, 5 in the top 200 (THES, 2009)
- British and US based systems
- Recent Changes to Higher Education
  - Student demographics (3+3+4)
  - Economy (knowledge based priority – CE Policy Address Oct 2009)
  - Impact of technology
  - Reduced funding - unprecedented
  - Desire for "deep collaboration" among the eight
- Wish to be *THE* Asian education hub
- Move towards 3+3+4 Curriculum Reform

The University of Hong Kong - HKU

My University: HKU

- Evolved from the Hong Kong College of Medicine, founded in 1887
- Founded 1911, HK's first
- Multidisciplinary/comprehensive - undergraduate & postgraduate
- 22,000 students (Government & self funded)
- 111,000 students (Continuing education school)
- Ranked **24** in the world's **top** universities (THES, 2009), 18th in 2007
- Ranked **1** university in Asia (Quacquarelli Symonds, May 2009)

HKU content (June 2009)

- 2,729,901 physical volumes
- 1,895,309 e-books (400,000 more to be ordered 09/10)
- 57,862 e-journal subscriptions
- 707 databases
- Many locally created databases

Hong Kong Academic Libraries

- **JULAC: Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee**
- Long tradition of *the silo*
- Competitive ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ Collaborative
- Recent collaborative efforts
  - Purchasing, e and print
  - Cataloguing (within reason)
  - Statistics (within reason)
  - Reference (within reason)
  - Reciprocal (walk in) borrowing (within reason)
  - LibQual (within reason)
  - HKALL – greatest success

But what is HKALL?

- Hong Kong Academic Library Link
- User initiated, unmediated ILL among the 8 JULAC libraries
- Books delivered to your home library
- Union catalogue of all monograph holdings of the 8 libraries
- First of its kind in Asia
- First in the World to include a large number of Chinese vernacular items
- A virtual distributed shared storage!!

HKALL

Hong Kong Academic Library Link

港書網 香港高校圖書聯網

(Search History) ▼

Local Record ▼ | 9hkul b2099012 | Search

Record: **Prev Next**

Title	Scenario planning for libraries / Joan Giesecke, editor.
Publisher	Chicago ; London : American Library Association, 1998.

Permanent URL for this record=> http://hkall.hku.hk/record=b10027729

HOLDINGS FOR HKALL CENTRAL DATABASE
Request this title

CityU Library	HKIEd Library	PolyU Library
CUHK Libraries	HKU Libraries	

Library	Shelving Location	Call# and Holdings Detail	Status
CityU Library	Circulation Collection	Z678 .S35 1998	AVAILABLE
CUHK Libraries	UL	Z678 .S35 1998	AVAILABLE
HKIEd Library	MMW Lib Book	Z678 .S35 1998	AVAILABLE
HKU Libraries	Main Library	025.1 S28 G45	AVAILABLE
PolyU Library	Compact Store 2	Z678 .S35 1998	AVAILABLE

| Description	x, 128 p. ; 23 cm.
Note	"For the Library and Information Technology Association and the Library Administration and Management Association."

ILL Activity among the 8 JULAC Libraries
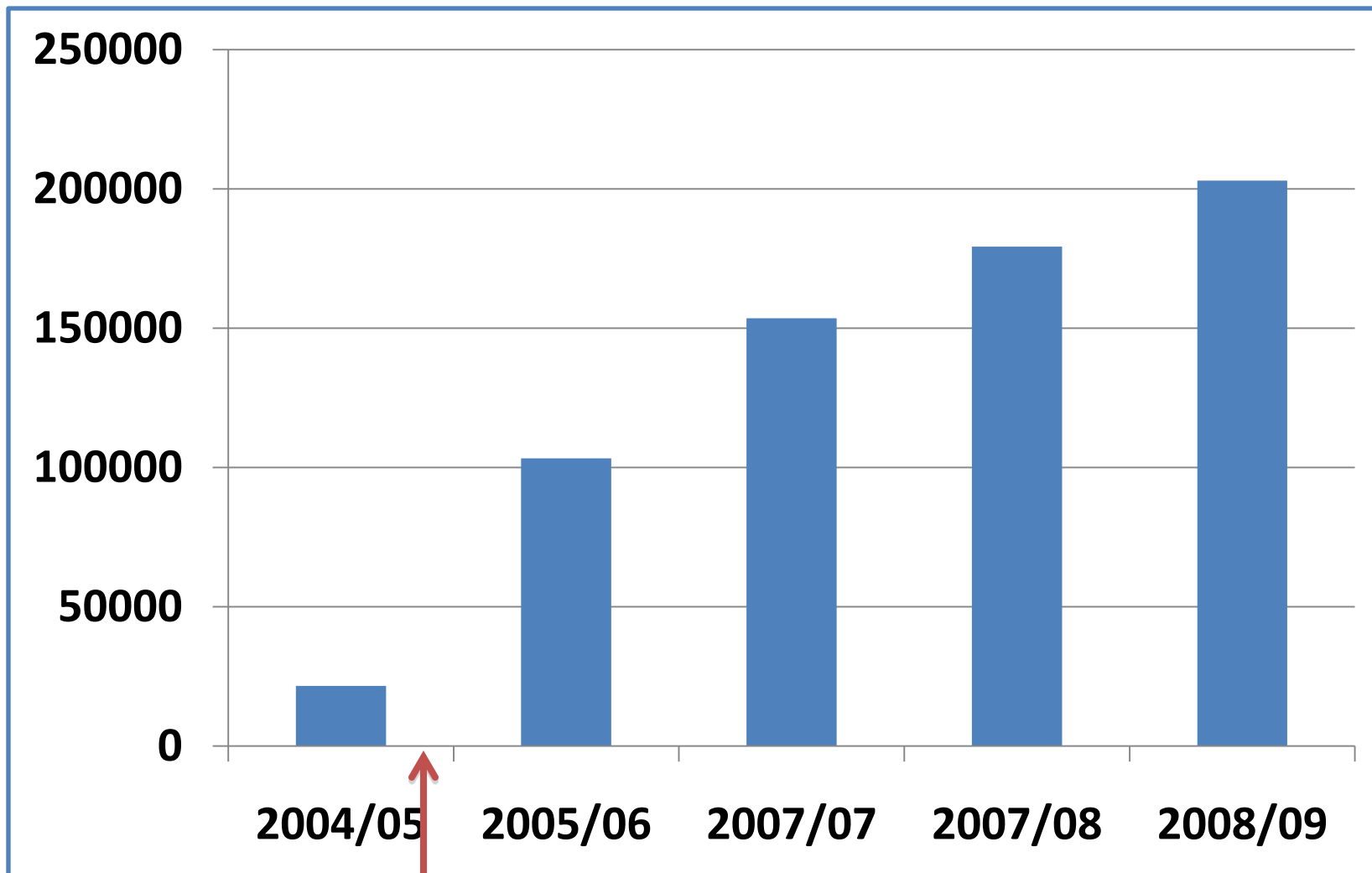
… and why is this important?

- It set a new standard for *collaborative efforts* in Hong Kong academic libraries
- It has created an *expectation* among users and stakeholders
- It forms a basis for *future* collaborative efforts, in particular – joint storage.

The information environment, 2017?*

- A unified web culture
- *The inexorable rise of the e-book*
- More content explosions
- Emerging forms of scholarship and publication
- Virtual forms of publication
- The semantic web

information behaviour of
the researcher of the future
11 January 2008

a ciber briefing paper

UCL
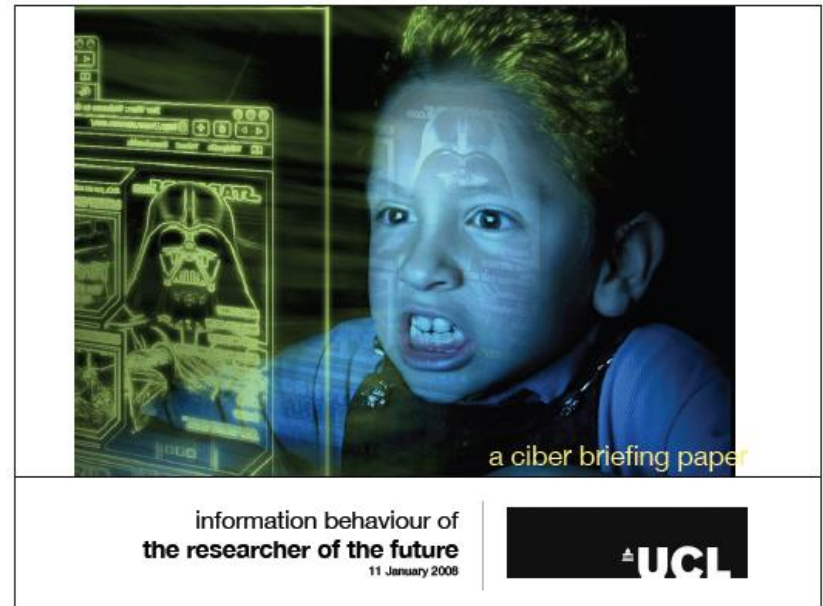
Information behaviour of the researcher of the future: a CIBER briefing paper. London: UCL, 2008.
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/infostudies/research/ciber/downloads/ggexecutive.pdf

And this…

The university library of the future will be sparsely staffed, highly decentralized, and have a physical plant consisting of little more than special collections and study areas…

INSIDE HIGHER ED

Take Our Reader Survey.

Get Daily E-mail | About U

October 7, 2009   Home   **News**   Views   BlogU   Audio   The Lists   C

News

Search News

[   ] [Search]

Browse Archives

Libraries of the Future

September 24, 2009

NEW YORK CITY — The university library of the future will be sparsely staffed, highly decentralized, and have a physical plant consisting of little more than special collections and study areas.

That's what Daniel Greenstein, vice provost for academic planning and programs at the University of California System, told a room full of university librarians Wednesday at Baruch College of City University of New York, where the higher education technology group Ithaka held a meeting to discuss "sustainable scholarship."

Share This Story

⊕ SHARE   ✉→   🖨

Related Stories

» Open Letter on Open Access
September 23, 2009

» Speak Now, or Forever Hold Your Copyrights!
September 4, 2009

» Brand New, Again
August 3, 2009

» The Equal Opportunity Library
July 30, 2009

» The Interdisciplinary Science Library
June 17, 2009

FREE Daily News Alerts

[Enter e-mail address]

"We're already starting to see a move on the part of university libraries… to outsource virtually all the services [they have] developed and maintained over the years," Greenstein said. Now, with universities everywhere still ailing from last year's economic meltdown, administrators are more likely than ever to explore the dramatic restructuring of library operations.

Within the decade, he said, groups of universities will have shared print and digital repositories where they store books they no longer care to manage. "There are national discussions about how and to what extent we can begin to collaborate institutionally to share the cost of storing and managing books," he said. "That trend should keeping continuing as capital funding is scarce, as space constraints are severe, especially on urban campuses — and, frankly, as funding needs to flow into other aspects of the academic program."

Under such a system, individual university libraries would no longer have to curate their own archives in order to ensure the long-term viability of old texts, Greenstein said. "What is the proportion of a library

Libraries of the Future

September 24, 2009

- Within the decade, he said, groups of universities will have shared print and digital repositories where they store books they no longer care to manage. "There are national discussions about how and to what extent we can **begin to collaborate institutionally to share the cost of storing and managing books**," he said. "That trend should keeping continuing as capital funding is scarce, as space constraints are severe, especially on urban campuses — **and, frankly, as funding needs to flow into other aspects of the academic program**."

Daniel Greenstein, Inside Higher Ed (vice provost for academic planning and programs at the University of California System)
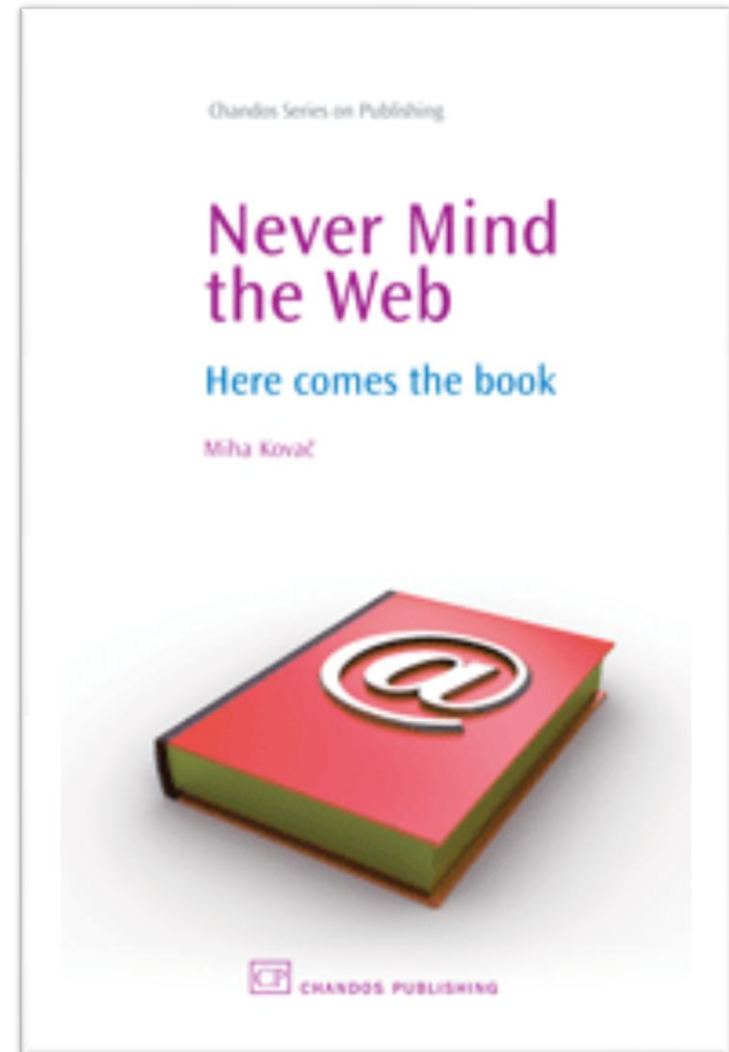http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/09/24/libraries

The balanced debate?

Print or e-books,

Artifact or technology

or…

The "charming old lady" or the "paper tiger"

- *Never Mind the Web: Here Comes the Book*, Miha Kovač, Chandos Publishing: Oxford, 2008.

Continuity?

- "Digital futures assumed are not always guaranteed"
  - (O'Connor, *Kuopio-3*, 2 hours ago)

- "You may not have the equipment to play a vinyl from the 1960's or an 8-track from the 1970's, but you can still pick up Shakespeare's First Folio and read it."

  - Phillips, A. (2007) Does a book have a future? In: *A Companion to the History of the Book*. Blackwell Publishing

Repository experience at HKU

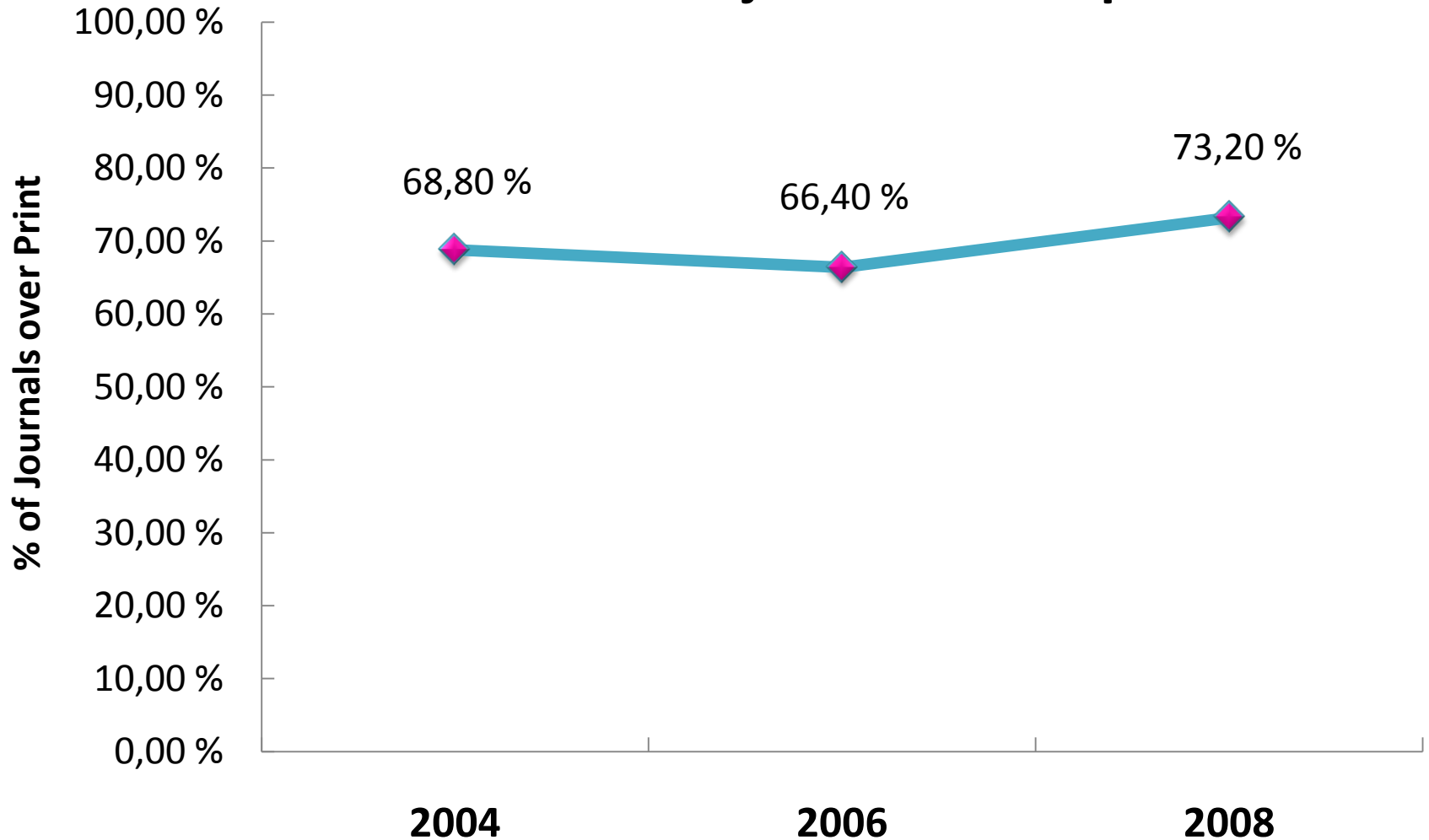# Current Print Journals vs. Current E-Journals HKU
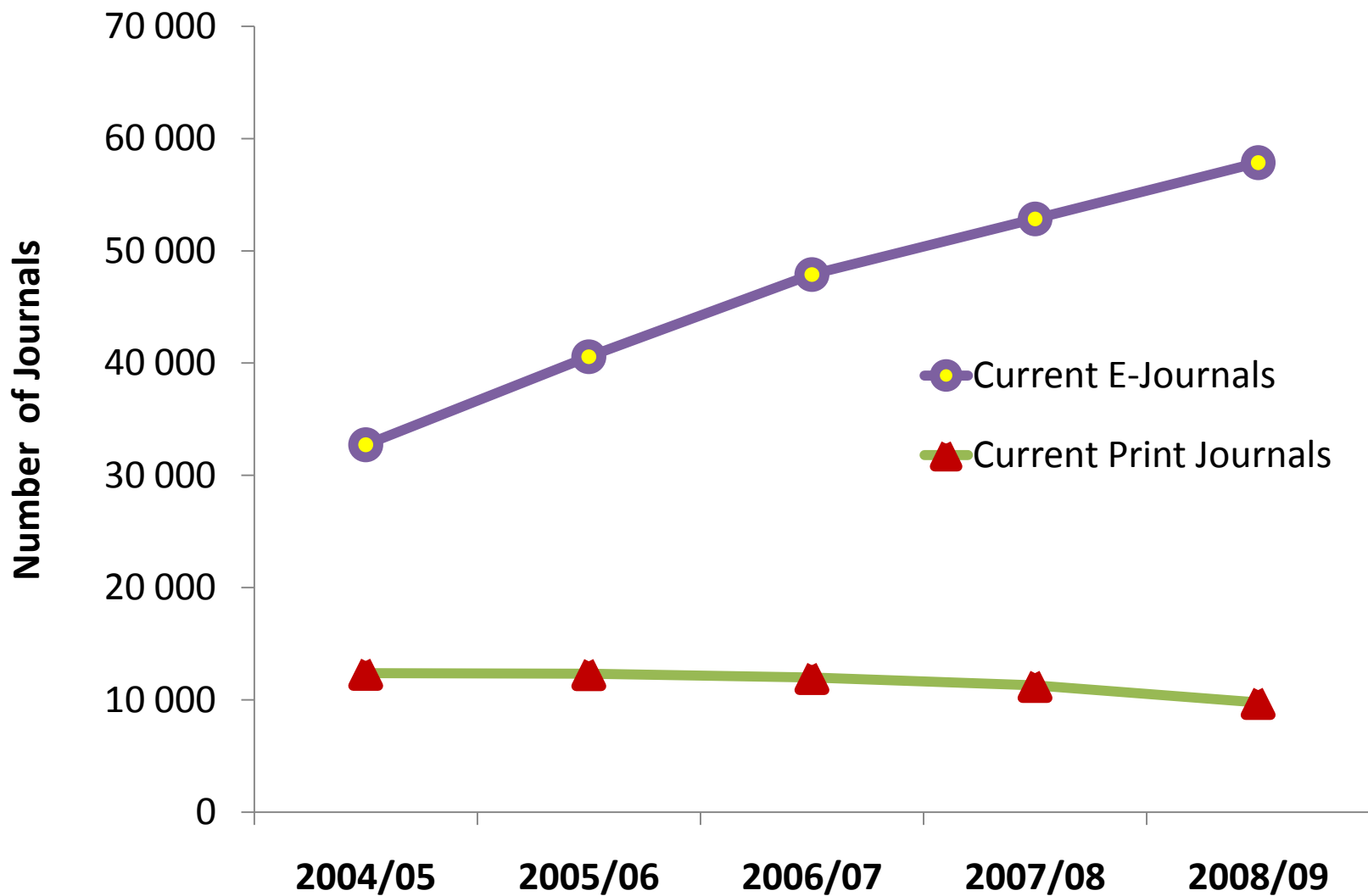
Print Books vs. E-Books Purchased (HKU)
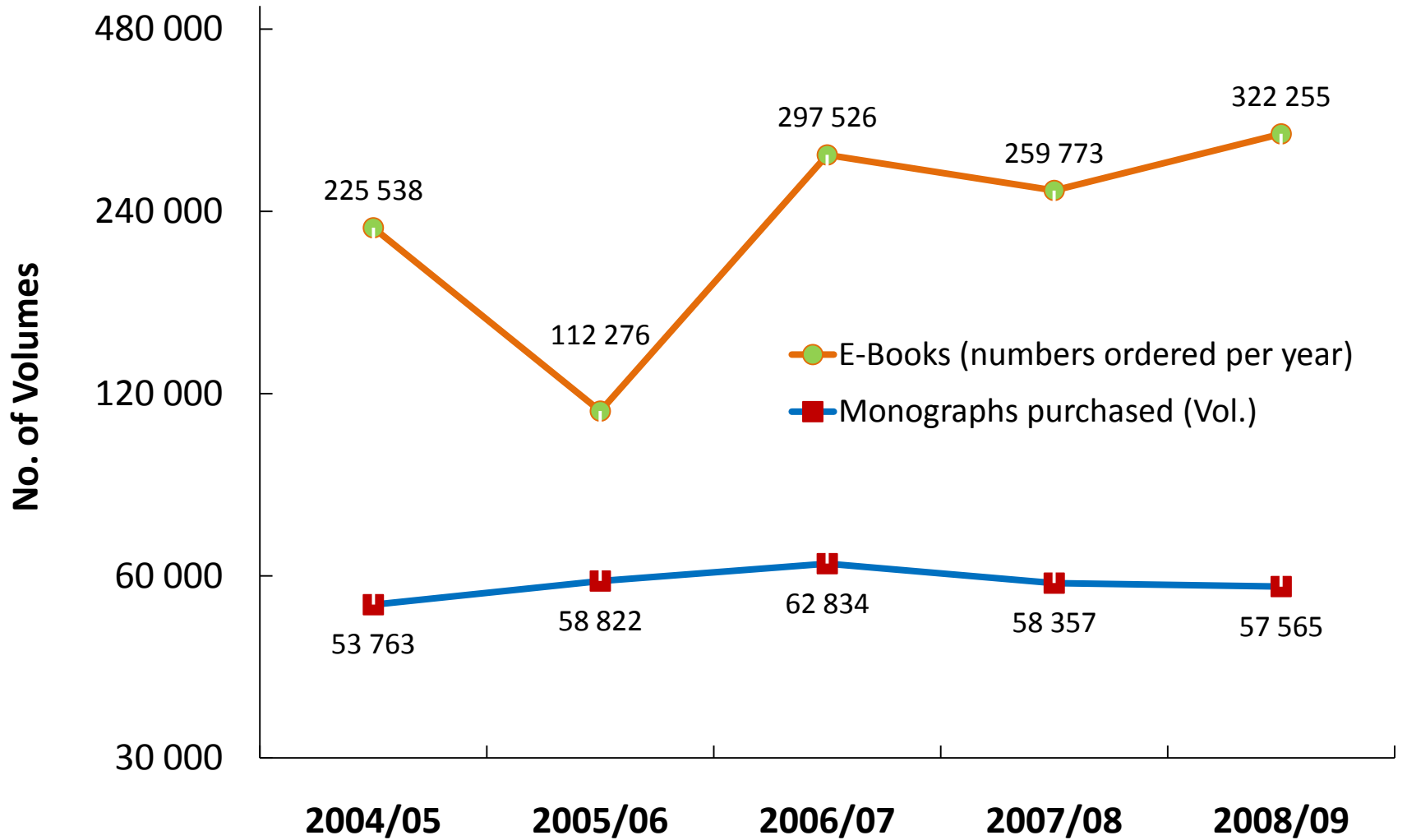
The University of Hong Kong Libraries Biennial Survey

Preference for e-journals over print

Y-axis: % of Journals over Print (0,00 % to 100,00 %)

Data points:
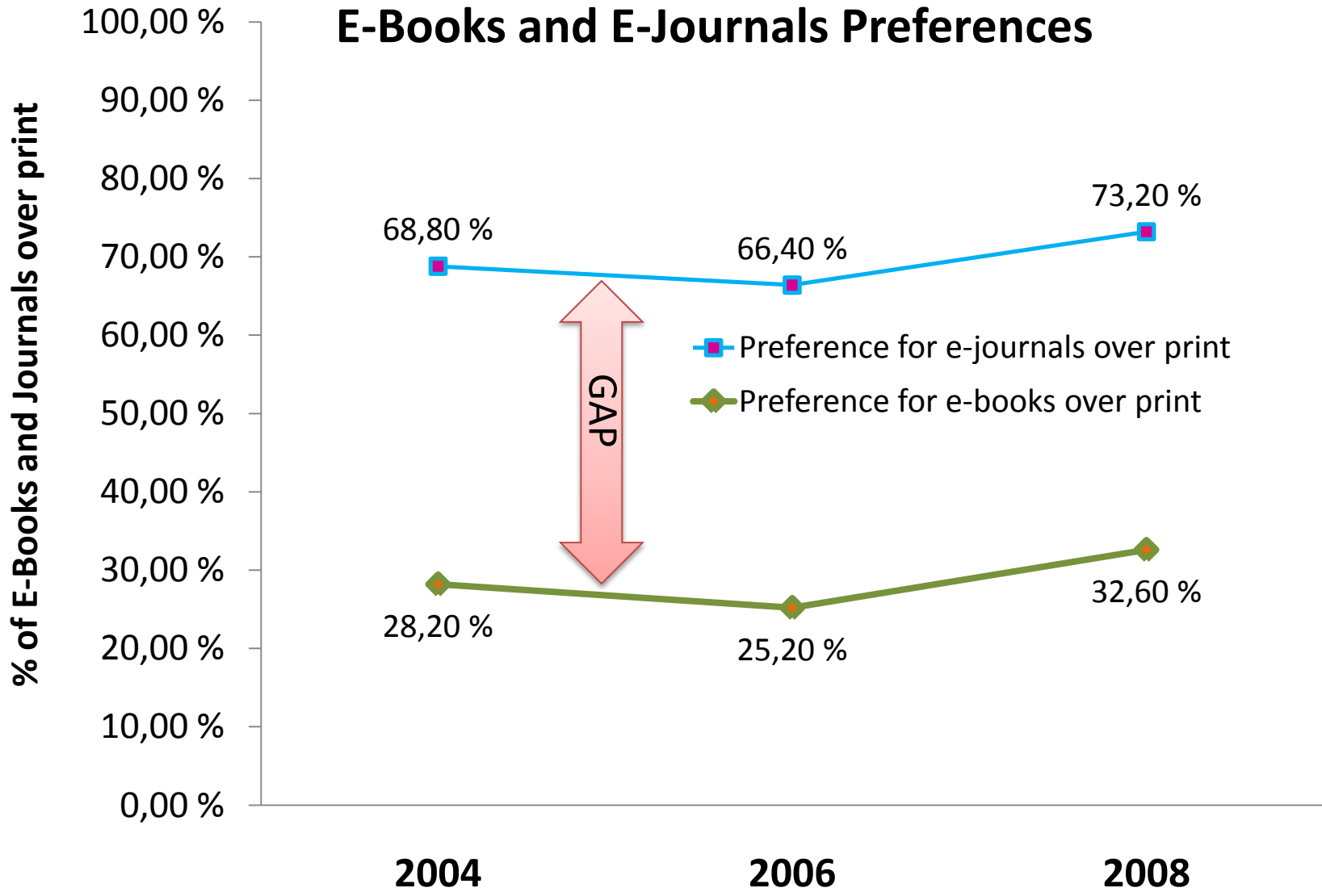- 2004: 68,80 %
- 2006: 66,40 %
- 2008: 73,20 %

The University of Hong Kong Libraries Biennial Survey

Preference for e-books over print

The University of Hong Kong Libraries Biennial Survey

E-Books and E-Journals Preferences
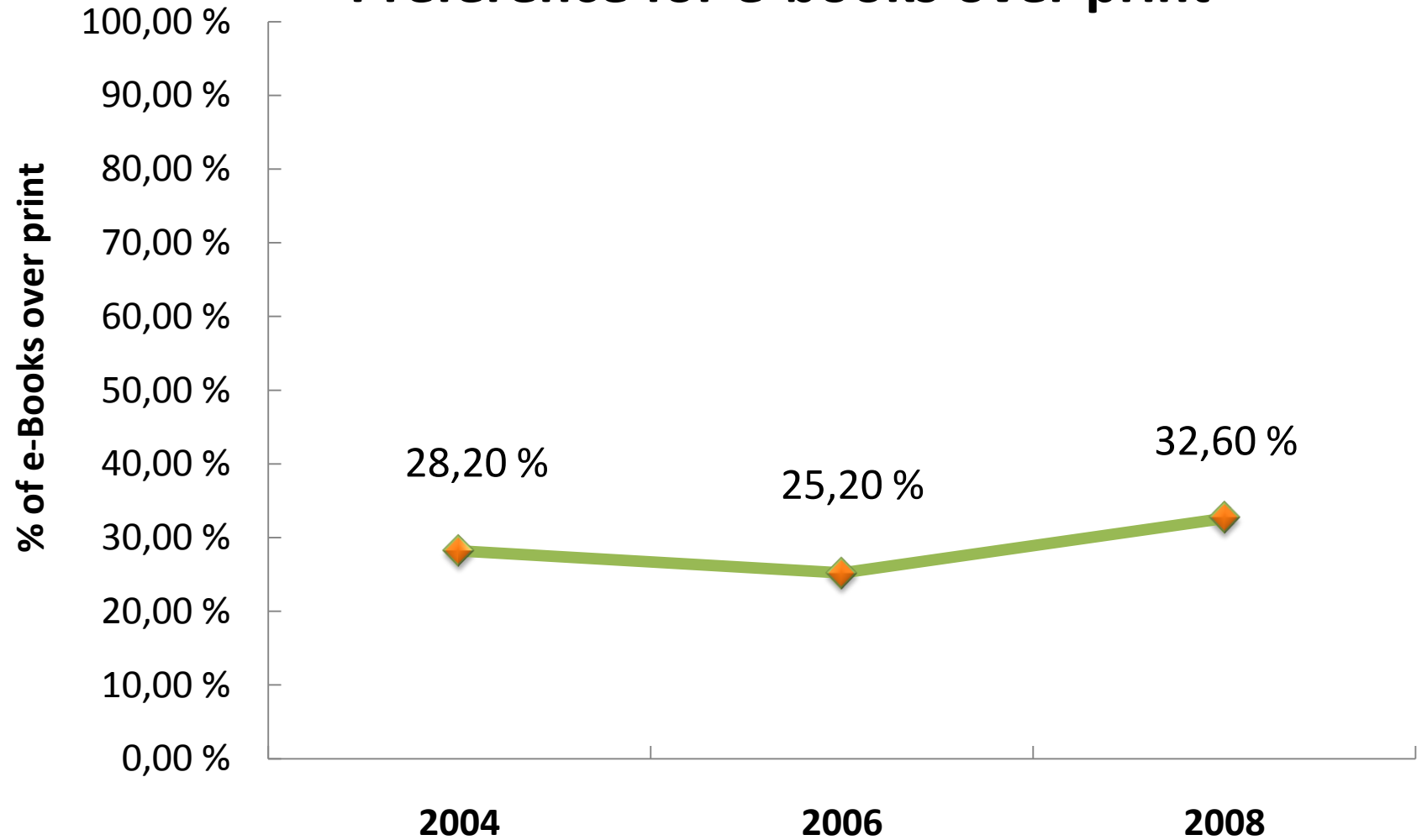
HKU's repositories
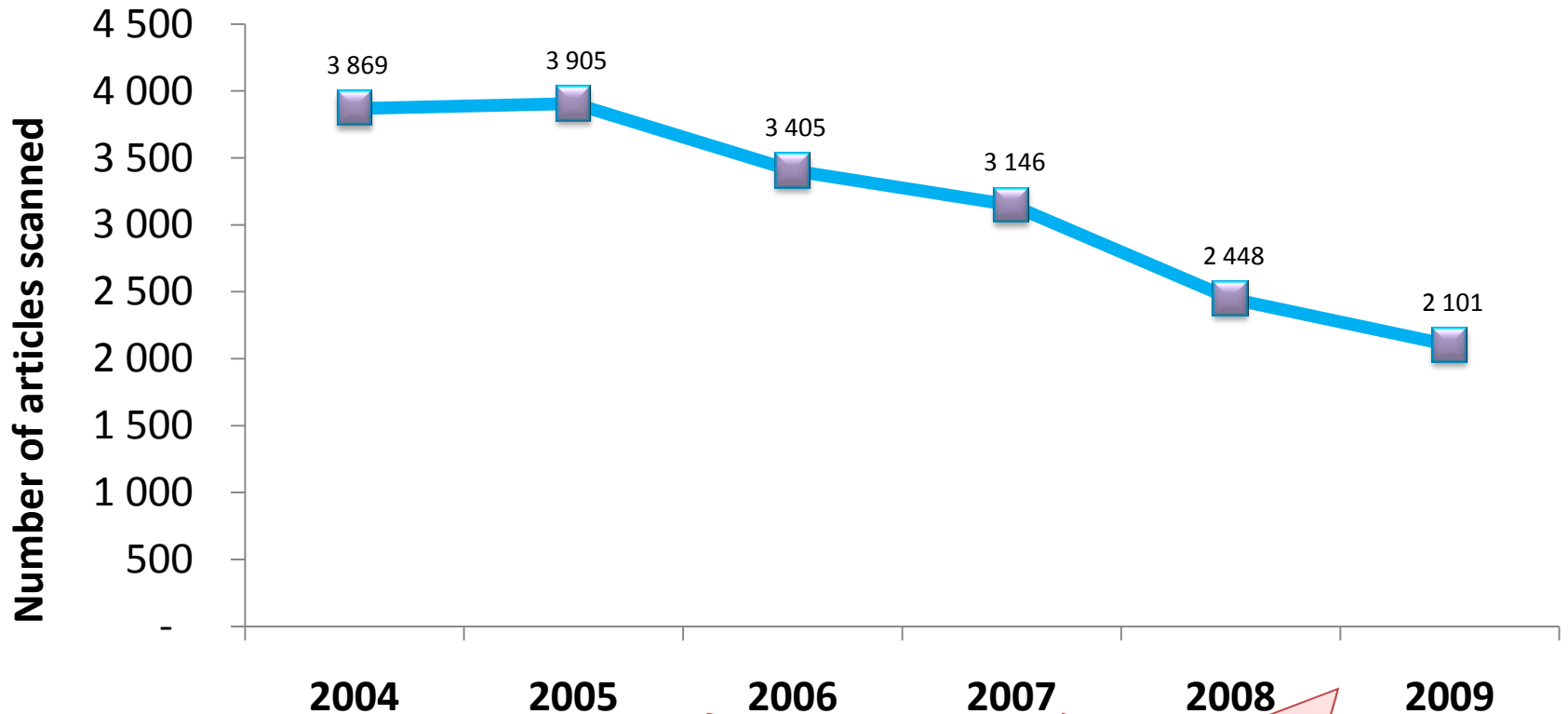
On site (300,000 vols 11%)

Remote (500,000 vols 19%)
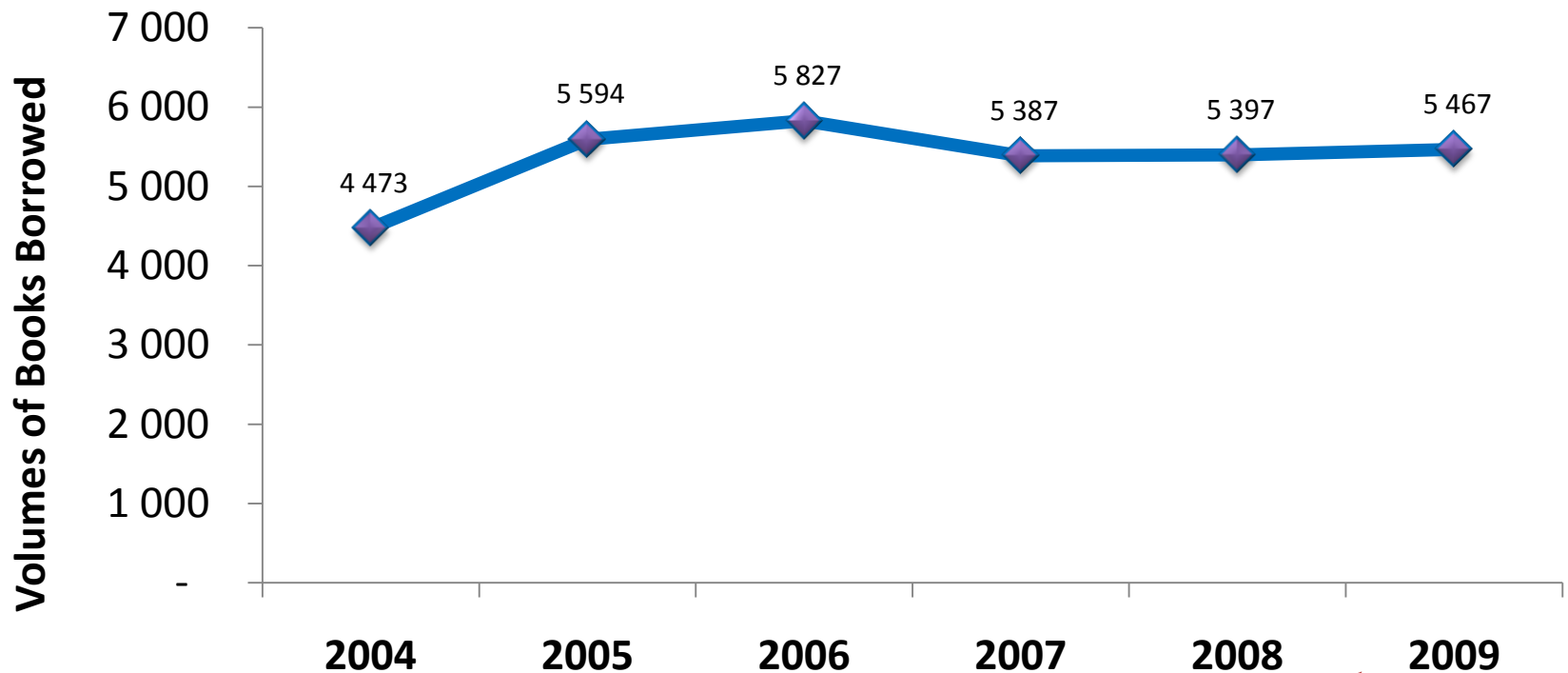
Remote storage usage

Articles Delivered

Down 45.7% in 6 years

Remote storage usage

Books Borrowed

Up 22.2% over 6 years

Best areas of service delivery*

- Book delivery notified by email   88.96%**
- Service courtesy of staff   80.77%
- Ease of article retrieval   80.60%
- Book delivery turnaround time   80.46%

* 2006 Survey of HKU storage services
** % = Excellent *or* Good rating

Poorest areas of service delivery

- Locating the e-form   15.04%**
- Quality of scanned articles   10.72%
- Unfriendliness of the form   10.44%

* % = a rating of Fair *or* Poor

Typical comments

- [It] is in fact providing a much better service when compared to other library services

- Another great service from the library!

- Excellent service all round!! And thanks!!

- Make it easier to request the items.

Lessons

- Very surprising positive responses
- Very tolerant user community when the message is conveyed
- Seemingly trivial things (the forms) cause the most consternation
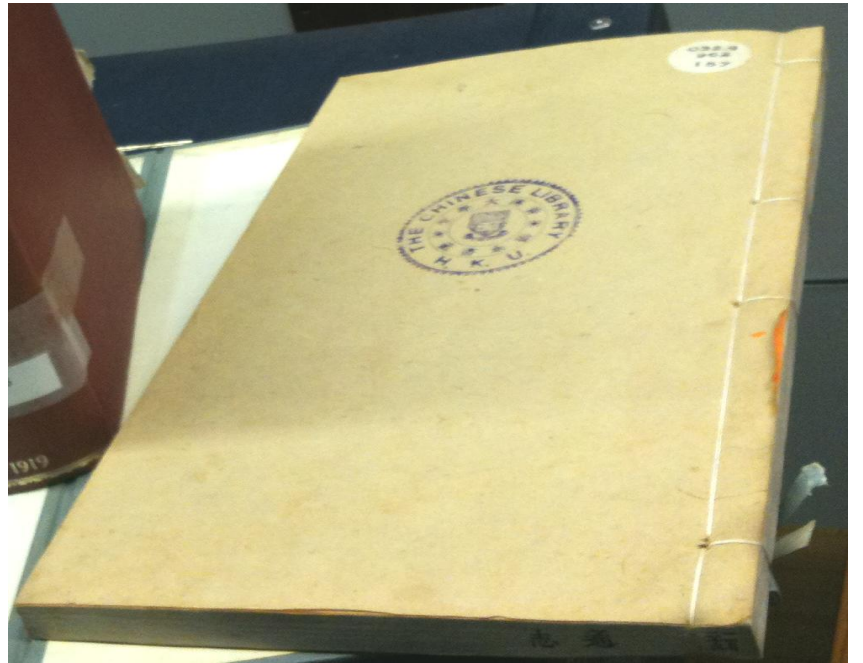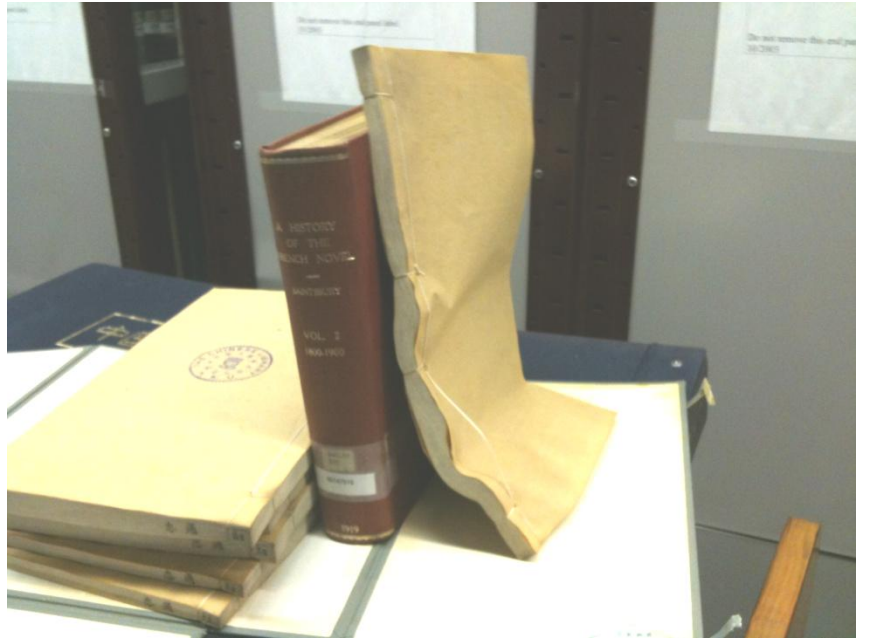- Delivery time was not a major issue.

One other lesson: Chinese materials

- 30%+ of HKU print

- Fragility – books encased in 5-6 volumes for added protection

- Thread-bound

- Many large multi-volume sets (200+ vols)

- Poor indexing and table of contents
  - often need to request 10s or 100s of volumes to find the right section

This brings me to … JURA

The Joint Universities Research Archive

- A Cooperative (share space) and collaborative (share space and collection) repository for Hong Kong's 8 government academic libraries.

Why Collaborate?

- *Finance, efficacy, spirituality*
- Building costs: 1 to 3
- Rationalisation: less to manage
- Staffing: centralised, economies of scale
- Space
- Preservation
- Central ILL/DD

Issues arise, decisions to be made

- The facility: sharing or managing?
- The collection: sharing or managing?
- Ownership?
- Access?
- Costs?
- Logistics?
- Management?

- "Civilization exists within the context of … irresolvable tension born of compromise. To reap the benefits of a civilized existence, we need to curb certain natural tendencies. **Library consortial activities … embody and reveal *several irresolvable tensions*.**"
  - Peters, Thomas A. "Consortia and their discontents." *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 29:2 111-114, March 2003

Typical obstacles to collaboration

- "rivalry and competition, mistrust and jealousy, politics and personalities, different institutional priorities and indifferent institutional administrators, unequal development and parochialism ... negative attitudes, such as skepticism, fear of loss, reluctance to take risks, and the **pervasive lack of tradition of cooperation**"

  - Fe Angela M. Verzosa, The future of library cooperation in Southeast Asia, p.7, *2004 Asian Library and Information Conference (ALIC)*, 21 -24 November, 2004. Bangkok, Thailand

Obstacles to *JURA* collaboration

- Metrics – perceived library status
- Personalities
- Funding
- Physical access
- Intellectual access
- Geography (really!)
- Competition vs collaboration
- Faculty reactions
- Institutional commitments

J
U
R
A

JURA Operational Characteristics

1. Overall goal
2. Size
3. Facility Ownership/Operation
4. Materials Ownership
5. Libraries Responsibilities
6. JURA Responsibilities
7. Use Policies

1. Overall Goal

- Provide fast and cost-effective access to lesser used, but still important, research materials

2. Size

- Hold, in a climate controlled environment, 7.9 million lesser-used, non-duplicate, book-like items which will be deposited between 2013 and 2029.

2013 Opening day	2018	2025	2029 Full capacity
2.9	4.3	6.25	7.9

Monograph overlap (Sept 2009)

Libraries	Titles	
1	4,444,828	72.00%
2	901,017	14.60%
3	435,440	7.05%
4	177,679	2.88%
5+	214,136	3.47%
	6,173,100	

3. Facility Ownership/Operation

- Jointly owned by eight JULAC Libraries.
- Recurrent costs shared by the 8 libraries in a manner to be determined by its Governing Authority -- the heads of the JULAC libraries who are responsible for defining JURA's vision, mission and goals.
- One library will manage the operations (an independent unit reporting to a JURA Board of Management).

4. Materials Ownership

- Materials remain the property of the depositing library.

- The intent is that they will be deposited in perpetuity, but they can be withdrawn as long as they can continue to be borrowed by the other seven JULAC libraries.

5. Libraries Responsibilities

- Responsible for the work and costs associated with the selection, processing and deposit of the materials to be sent to JURA.

- Materials must be in sufficiently good condition to be freely circulated to the patrons of these libraries.

- Materials must be catalogued and accessible via HKALL, and must have bar codes.

6. JURA Responsibilities

- In a cost effective manner, receive, preserve and circulate materials obtained from JULAC's libraries.

7. Use Policies

- *Policies* governing use will follow those for HKALL.
- There will be no onsite access to the collection.

Physical Characteristics

Automatic storage and retrieval system (ASRS) in multi-storey buildings?

- Lowest operation cost of E&M systems is the lowest among the 5 cases studied
- The smallest building area (footprint)
- Shorter period of construction is needed
- Stored items can be tracked automatically and picked up fast. The computerized system also allows easy management
- Human effort greatly reduced
- Quicker access and retrieval gets material to end user in short time
- System speed and convenience will encourage use

Ultimately a 12 Storey Building
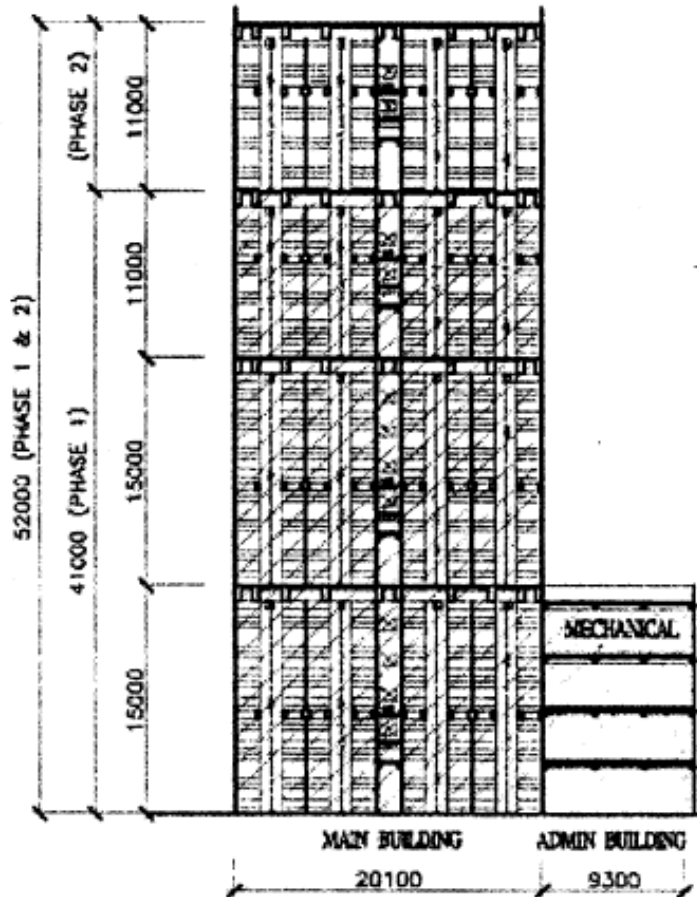
SECTION A-A
SCALE 1:500

- 4 stories high ultimately but initially only 3

- 1 JURA storey = 3 regular stories

- So ultimately like a 12 storey building

JURA will have

- 59,000 metal bins (2'x4' footprint).
- Different heights: 6" to 18" deep.
- Each bin can hold 750 lbs.

- Each storey has 2 aisles, each with own robotic crane.

- Each aisle is 35 -40 tiers high.

- 2 workstations per aisle with barcode scanners & printers.

JURA

- It builds upon the successful sharing of resources through the HKALL program.

- It creates the largest single historical archive of western research materials in Asia and will become an unrivaled centre for scholarship and research.

- It employs technology that will reduce the cost of maintaining access to an important and large amount of information acquired over the course of decades.

- It enables each of the eight libraries to free space for other purposes.

JURA

- Uses advanced ARS technology to provide rapid access to articles from older remotely-stored journals.

- Reduces the per volume cost of permanently storing these research materials in an optimal and preservation-sound environment.

- Strengthens the research material support provided to all of Hong Kong's students and staff while allowing the libraries at each institution to continue to support their unique roles and missions.

- Provides the potential for greater exposure through better indexing, metadata, table of contents and even digitisation (scan on demand).

JURA: The Dawn of a New Era

JURA: A catalyst for change?

- Commitment
- Common, new goals: strategic
- Common, new goals: operational
  - Cataloguing and bibliographic services
  - Processing
  - Digitisation
  - Digital repository

JURA: A catalyst for change?

- Better and more coordinated planning efforts
  - Joint strategies
  - Evaluation, qualitative and quantitative, RoI
- Better communication, across multiple levels
- Strengthened alliances: unified and targeted
- Catalyst for change – intra and extra

JURA: A catalyst for change?

- Better knowledge of our collection(s), and each others
- Improved collection development
- Greater innovation
- Transformation of existing spaces for new user needs or trading /returning space to the campus for other priorities.

JURA: A catalyst for change?

- The opportunity for Hong Kong to participate in, and contribute to:

  The Universal Repository!!

  Wish us luck.

Thank you!

Kiitos!

谢谢！