



香港圖書館協會  
HONG KONG LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# Collaboration Among Hong Kong Academic Libraries

**Peter E Sidorko**

President, Hong Kong Library Association  
University Librarian, The University of Hong  
Kong

# Hong Kong in Brief

- Situated at the south-eastern tip of China
- A total area of 1,104 square kilometres, comprising Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories and Outlying Islands
- A population of about 7 million
- Both Chinese and English are official languages



# A Place Where East Meets West

- A Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997, after a century and a half of British administration
- Described as a 'barren rock with hardly a house upon it' some 150 years ago
- Hong Kong is now a financial, trading and business centre, and a city of towering buildings



# HKLA in brief

- Established 1958
- Activities:
  - Study tours
  - Local visits
  - Regular seminars
  - Conferences
  - Job and information dissemination <[hkla.org](http://hkla.org)>
- Awards
  - Heleni Linton Bursary (\$5000)
  - Hong Kong Library Association Biennial Award (\$10K)
  - Swets Scholarship
  - Kan Lai Bing Award



# About HKLA

- Membership
  - ca 600 members
  - Over 350 students
  - 40+ institutional
  - Remainder mostly library practitioners
- Governance
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Honorary Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Other Council members (10)



# About HKLA

- Education
  - Collaborate with HKU SPACE
  - Endorse their library programmes (Diploma and Certificate courses)
  - Give students recognition for professional development at HKLA events



# Members here today

- **CHENG Kit Ying** Hong Kong Public Libraries
- **TAM Suk Ying** Lingnan University Library
- **LAM Sau Lai Connie** The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- **YIU Ching Han Antonia** The University of Hong Kong Libraries
- **CHU Chun Wang Wilson** Learning Resources Centre, Hong Kong Design Institute
- **KO Yu Lily** Chinese University of Hong Kong Library
- **SHIU Po Chu Monique** Hong Kong Public Libraries
- **HUNG Wai Pui Thomas** The University of Hong Kong Libraries



# JULAC

- Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee
- Founded in 1967
- A forum to discuss, co-ordinate and collaborate on library information resources and services among the libraries of the eight tertiary education institutions of the University Grants Committee (UGC) of HKSAR





# Hong Kong UGC Funded Universities



Chinese University of HK (CUHK)



City University of HK (CityU)



HK Baptist University (HKBU)



HK Institute of Education (HKIEd)



HK Polytechnic University (PolyU)



HK University Science & Technology (HKUST)

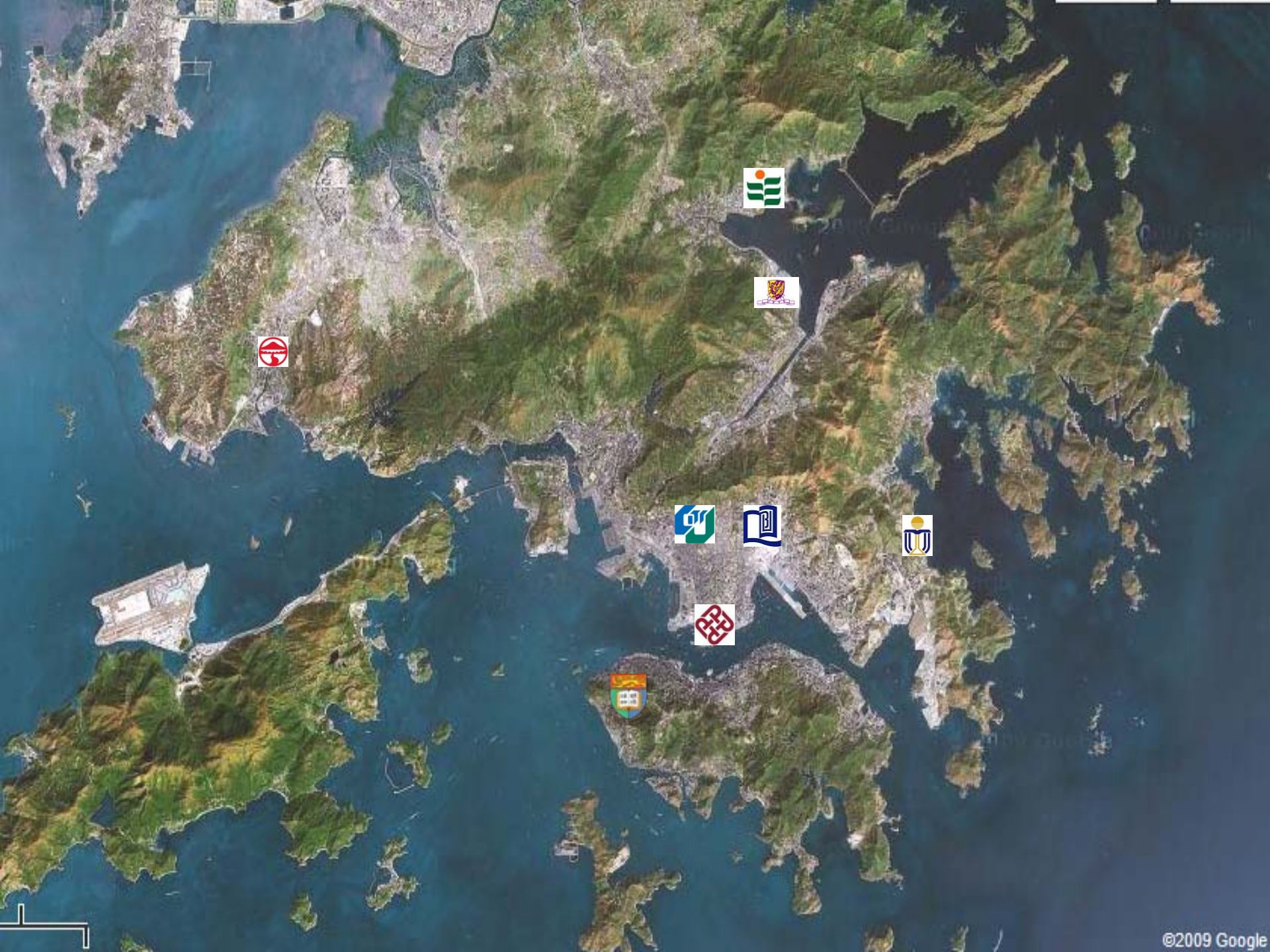


Lingnan University (LU)



University of Hong Kong (HKU)





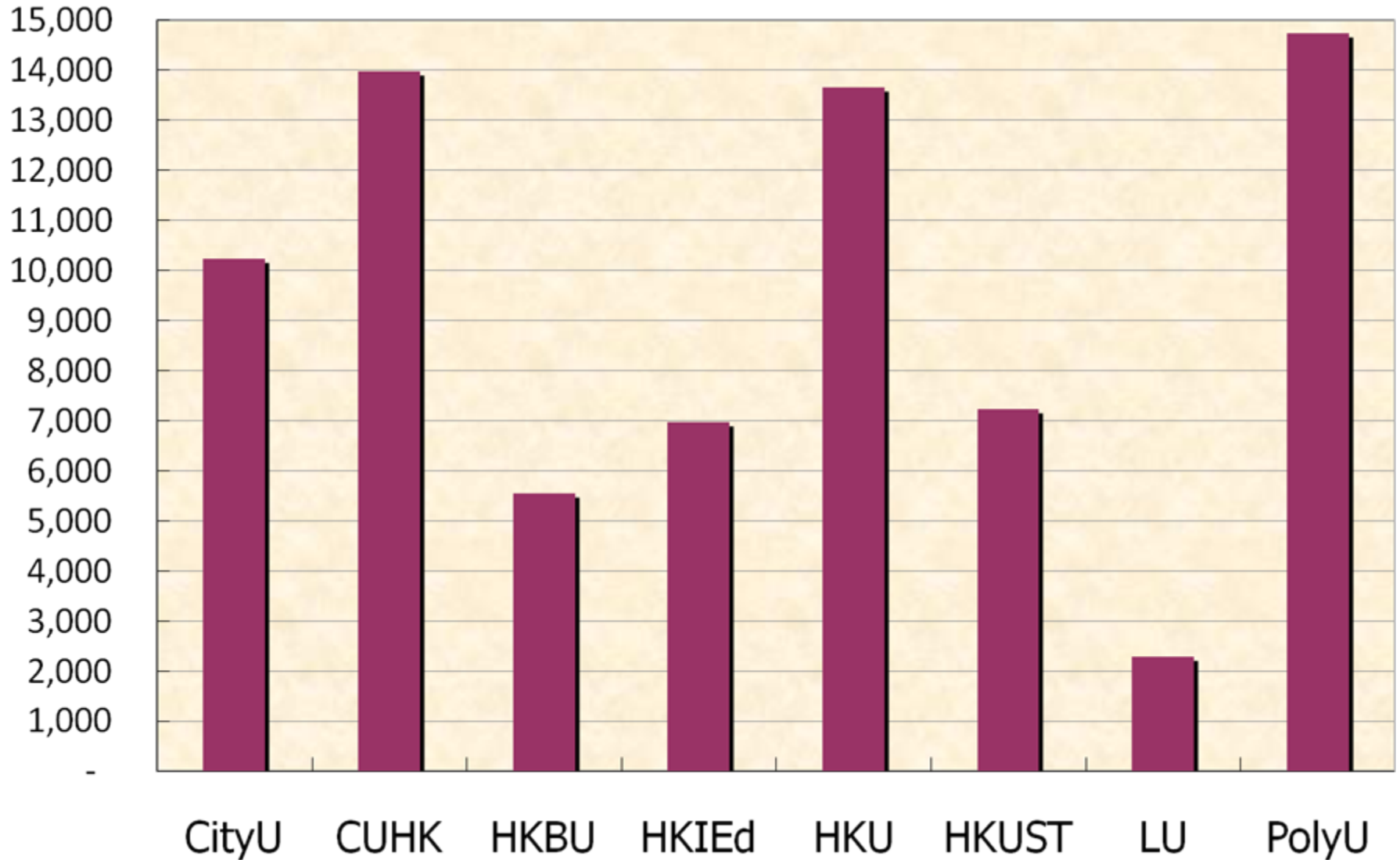
# JULAC

June 1, 2012

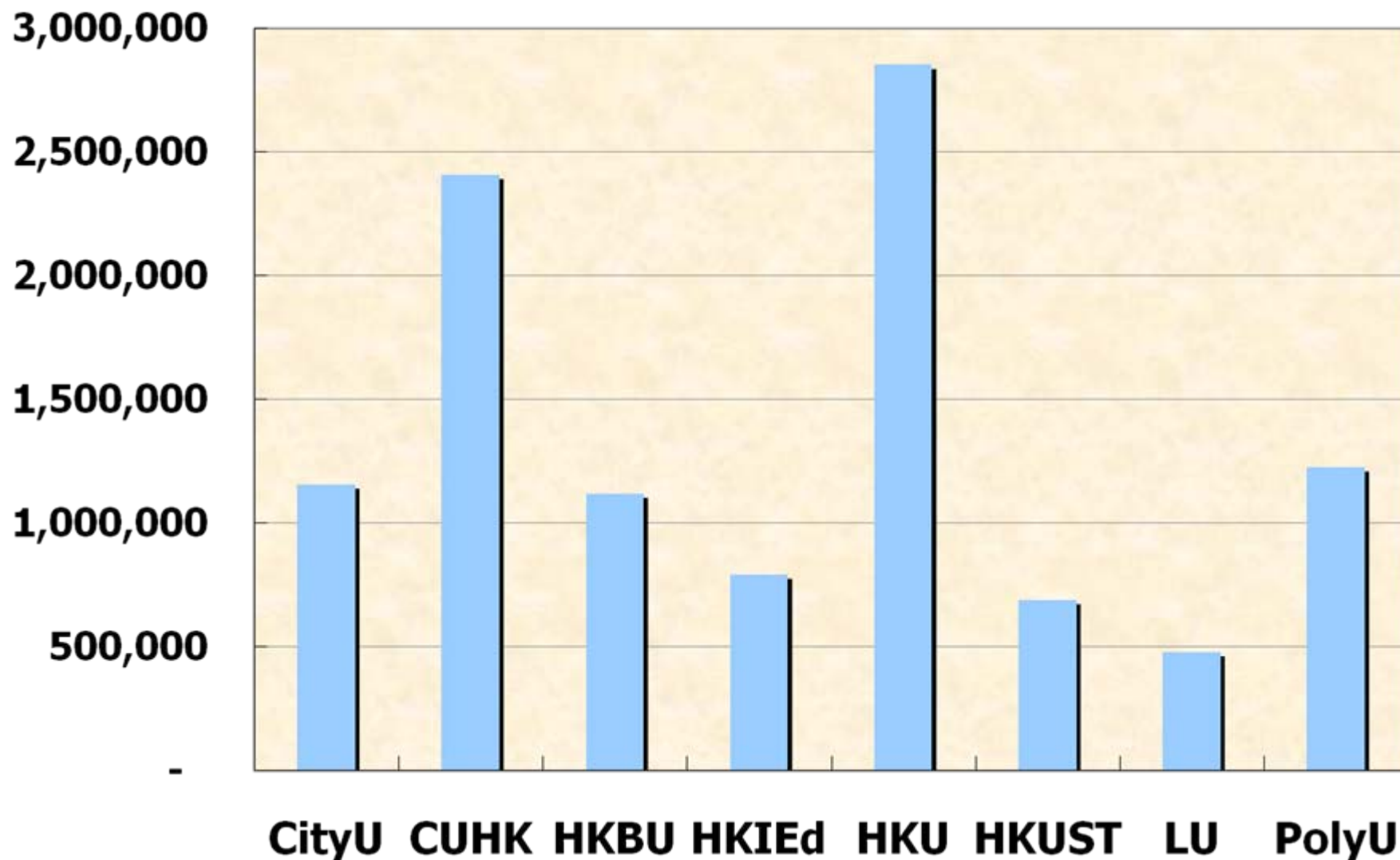
JULAC



# UGC Funded Student Headcount 2010/11



# JULAC Libraries Total Volumes 2010/11



# 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



- “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



# Why Co-operate?

- Common resource and service challenges
- Geographical and logistical opportunities
- Benefit for staff/student communities of each institution
- Potential cost-efficiency – saving money
- Potential cost-effectiveness – likely to obtain a greater benefit if resources are pooled
- Realization of innovative services through common effort and shared expertise
- Potential support and funding from government
- Likelihood of support from individual institutions





# Principles of Co-operation – 1

- **Clients**

Every student and staff member a customer of all JULAC libraries

- **Collections & Services**

The collections and services of JULAC libraries represent a combined resource available to all JULAC

- **Integration**

Aim to provide comprehensive and seamless access to information resources or services at each library



# Principles of Co-operation - 2

## ■ Strategic Fit

JULAC programs aim to extend, enhance and supplement the resources and services of individual libraries. Programs must be aligned with the overall strategic objectives of both JULAC and the participating member libraries

## ■ Consensus

A program is pursued by JULAC only if at least 6 of the 8 member libraries are in support

Individual libraries may choose not to participate in all programs based on needs, priorities and circumstances



# Principles of Co-operation – 3

- **Participation**

Commitment to JULAC programs entails active participation of Directors and staff of each library (eg: Committee membership)

- **Funding**

Programs will be jointly funded according to their anticipated level of use by each institution and the size/capacity of the institution



# JULAC Organizational Structure

- JULAC Directors
- Access Services Committee
- Consortial*ll*
- Bibliographic Services Committee
- JURA Working Group
- Statistics Committee
- Learning Strategies Committee
- Systems Committee
- Committee on Media
- Copyright Committee
- Staff Development Committee
- JULAC Project Manager
- Preservation and Conservation Committee



# Three collaborative examples:

Building, sharing and storing resources



# 1 Building resources: JULAC Consortia*all*

- Consortial electronic database acquisitions
  - Consortial monograph acquisitions – HKMAC (Hong Kong Monograph Acquisitions Tender)
- E-book acquisitions –
  - ERALL (Electronic Resources Academic Library Link)
- Inter-Regional e-book consortia
- Perpetual Access and Escrow-CLOCKSS



# JULAC Consortium Development

- Leverages member libraries' collective purchasing power to obtain savings on e-databases and e-journals
- Libraries propose products to negotiate - two or more libraries can form a consortium
- Over 140 consortia have been formed
- Non UGC affiliates may join to increase spending power (15 affiliates in Hong Kong and Macau)
- Flexibility and equity in the packages negotiated



# 2 Sharing Resources:

## JULAC Access Services Committee

### ■ **Library Access**

Undergraduate & above reader access to JULAC libraries.  
(126,482 visits 2010/11)

### ■ **Library Borrowing & Inter Library Loans**

Postgraduate & Staff “in-person” borrowing from JULAC libraries.(74,028 loans & ILL, 2010/11)

### ■ **HKALL (Hong Kong Academic Library Link)**

Local unmediated book request and delivery service (197,754 loans, 2010/11)

### ■ **Document Delivery & RAPID**

Overseas and local unmediated article level request and delivery service.

(12,479 requests 2010/11) – (8,415 RAPID = 67%)



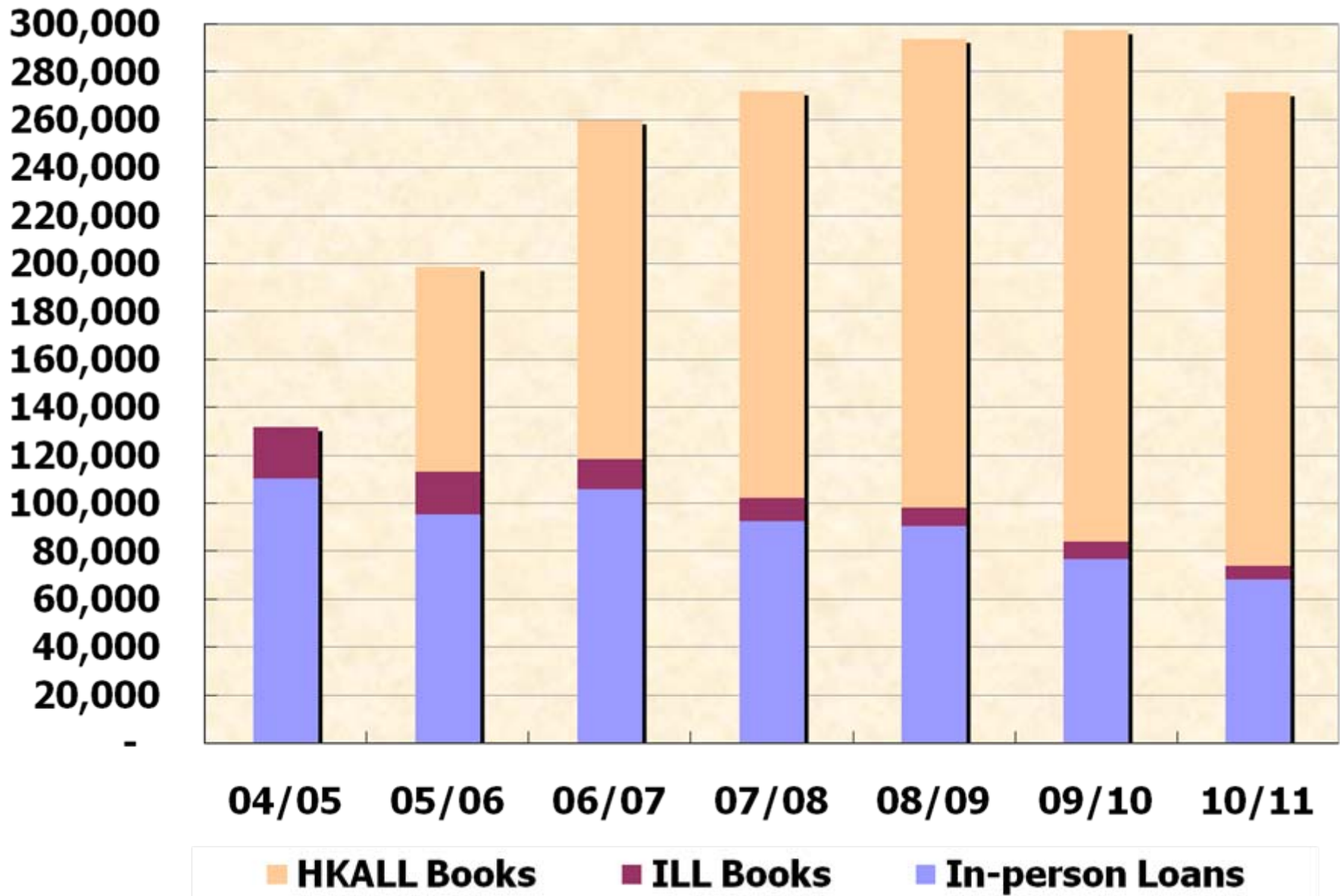


# Principles of Co-operative Inter-lending

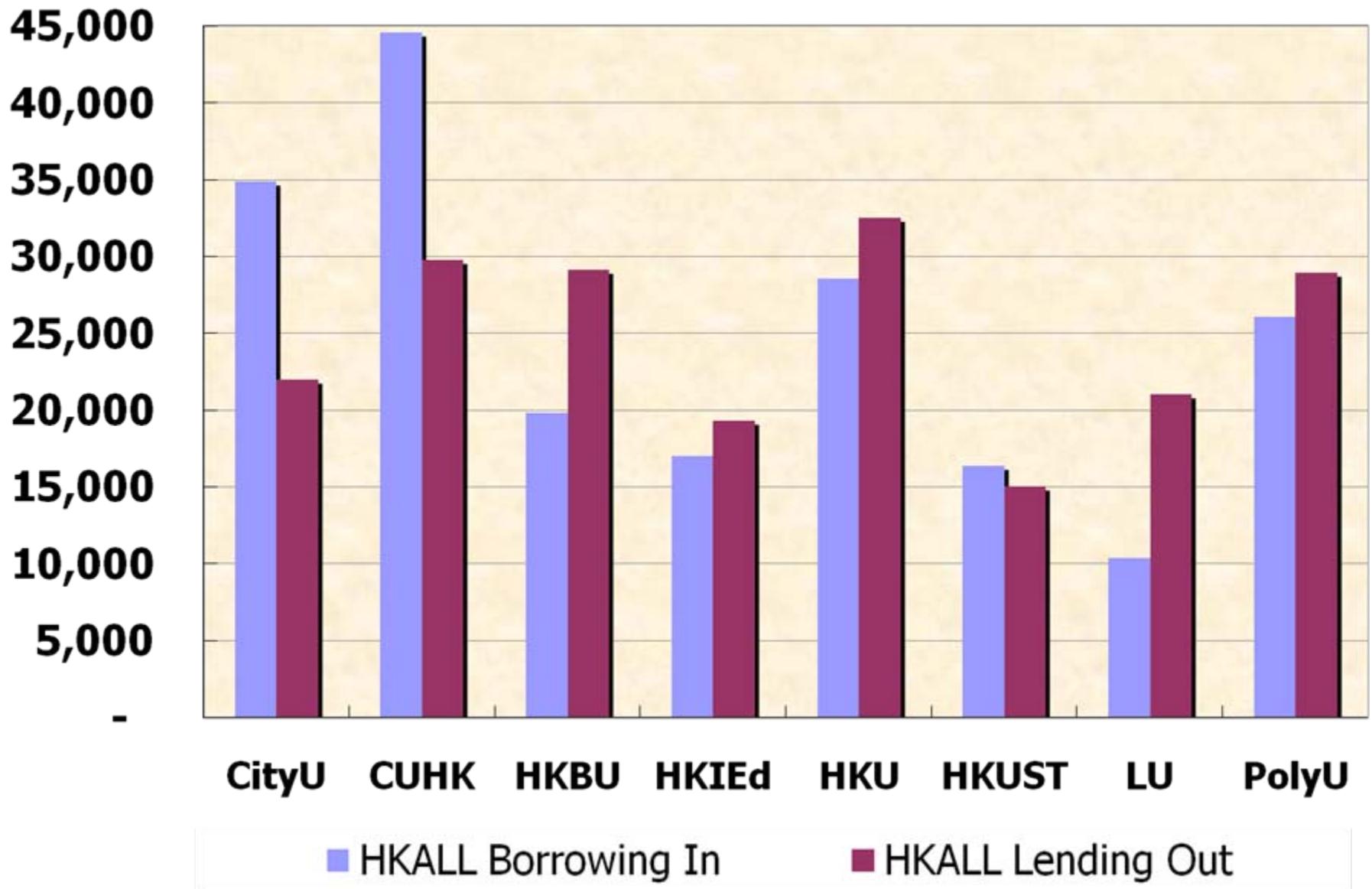
- Shared financing & balanced cost-sharing formulae
- Common agreed policies and procedures
- Common systems and catalogue access
- Strong IT infrastructure
- Logistics & transportation (local delivery)
- Load balancing
- Flexibility and restrictions on access allowable



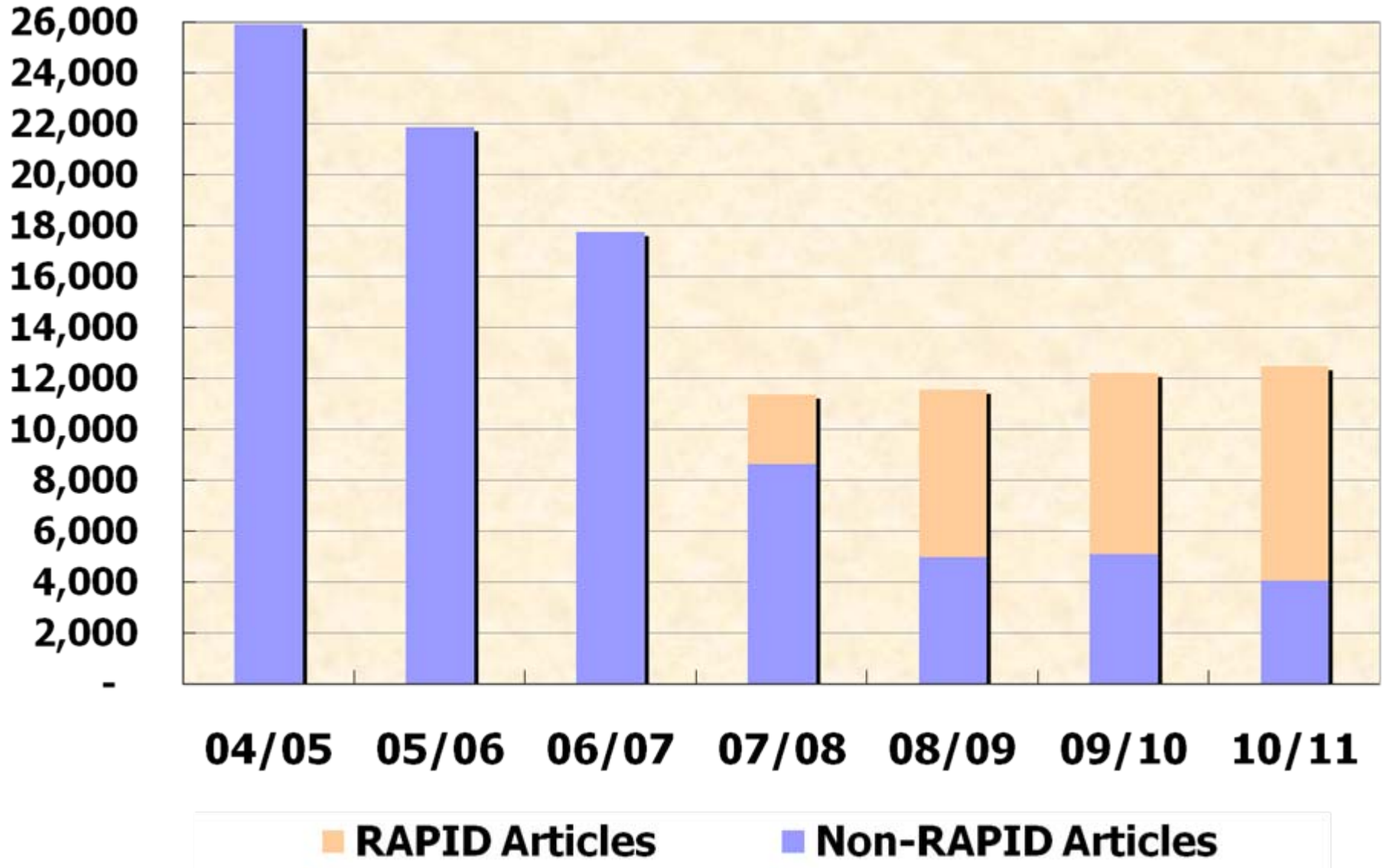
# JULAC Lending 2004 - 2011



# HKALL Load Balance 2010/2011



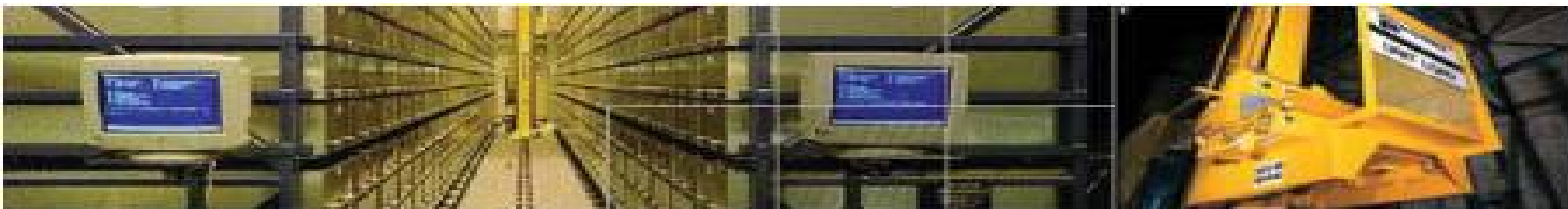
# JULAC Document Delivery 2004 - 2011



# 3 Storing resources:

## JULAC “JURA” Co-operative Storage

- Joint University Research Archive (JURA) Inc.
- Co-operative research collection, single copies of items from UGC university libraries
- Space and construction savings at each university library
- Initial capacity of 6.3 million volumes and Projected capacity of 9.95 million volumes, to 2030
- Equal institutional shares in ownership of facility
- Shared operating costs



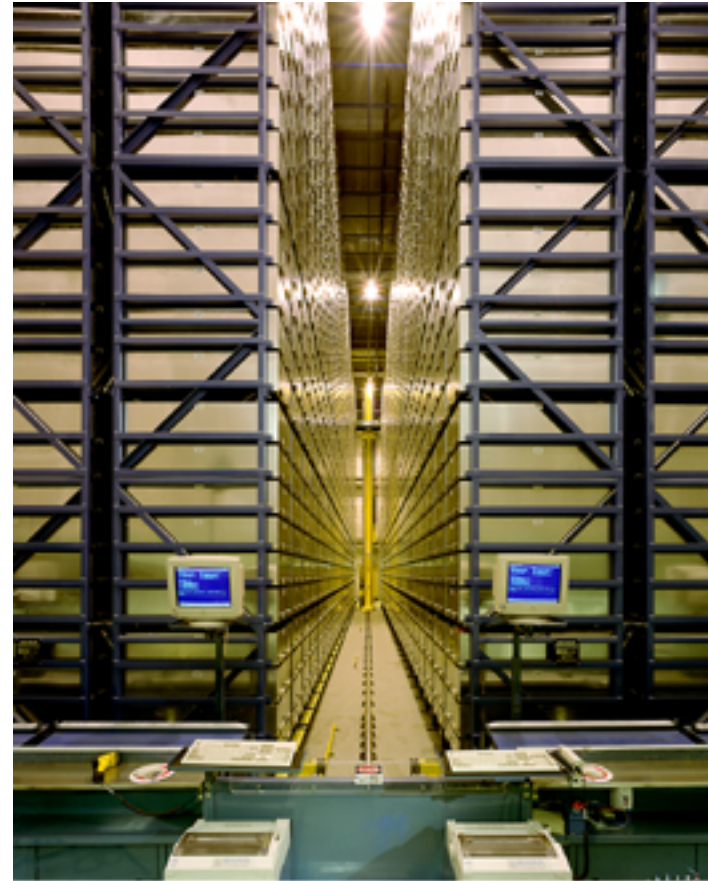
# Automated Storage & Retrieval System

A random-access  
robotic storage & retrieval system



# Materials kept in bins

- 59,000 metal bins (1.2 x 0.6m).
- 4 different heights: 20cm (4%), 26cm (49%), 31cm (42%), 39cm (5%)
- Bins will be divided into sectors.

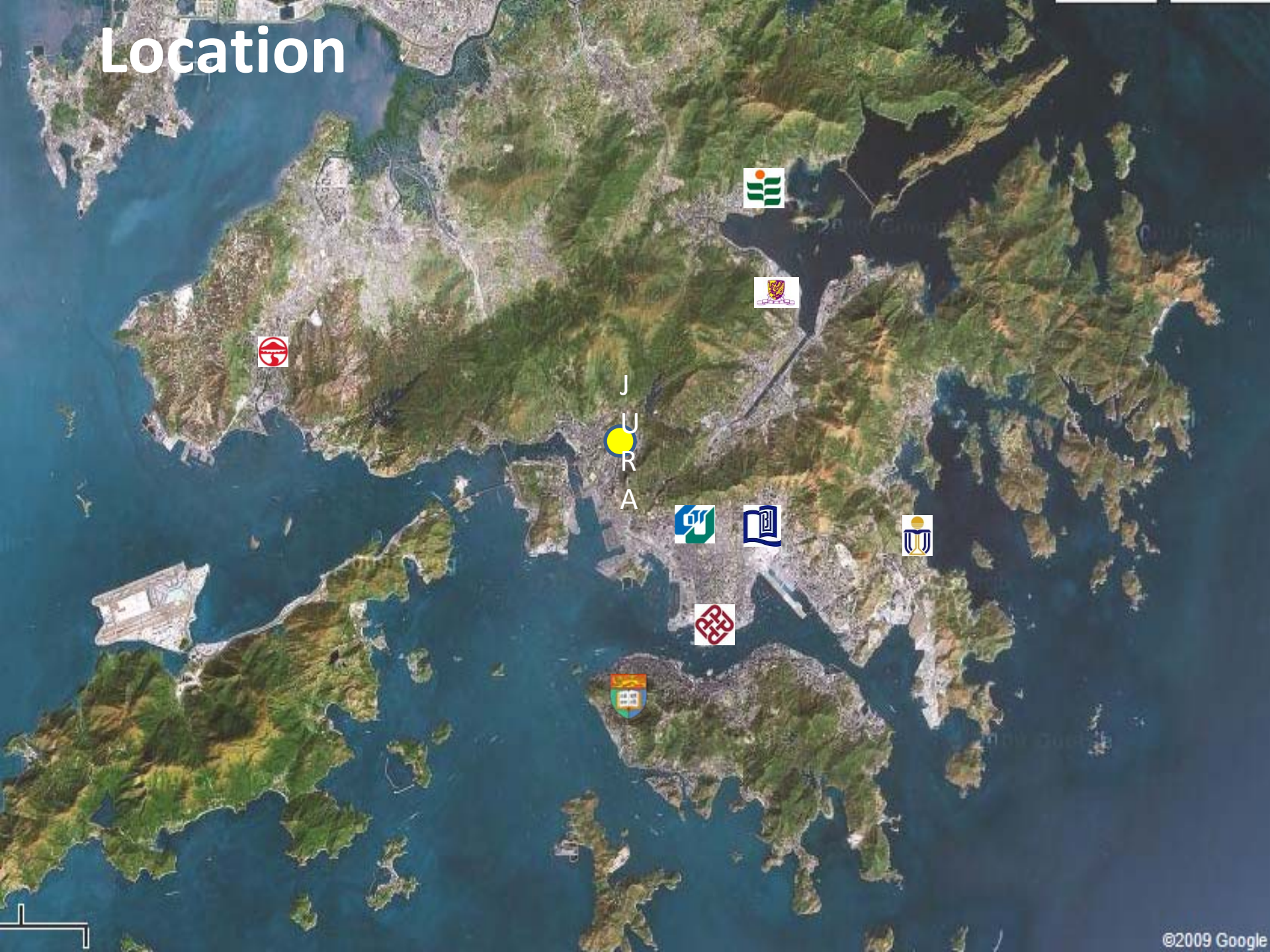


- 4 aisles, each with own crane on 2.5 floors.
- Each module is 35 - 40 tiers high.
- 2 workstations per aisle with barcode scanners & printers.





# Location



# Progress to date

- Completion of the detailed design report;
- Incorporation of the eight JULAC Librarians into a company (JULAC Joint Universities Research Archive Limited), a pre-requisite by the Government before land can be allocated for the building of the facility;
- The JURA Board of Directors has developed a twelve month action plan;



# Progress to date (cont.)

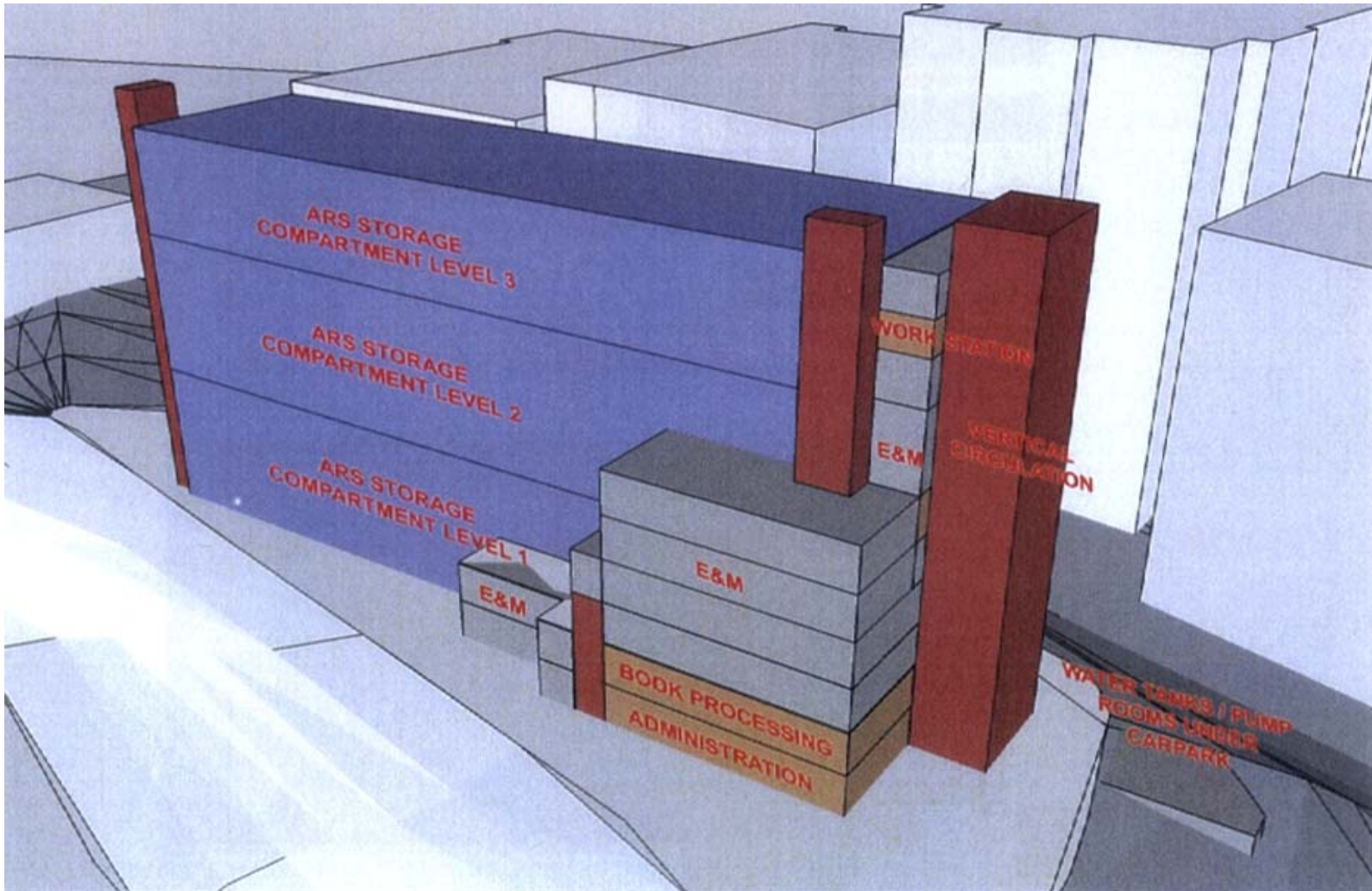
- Preliminary research into robotic storage systems with likely startup costs and annual maintenance;
- In principle agreement for the leasing of land for JURA;
- Government did not raise priority status of the project – 12 month waiting period.



# JURA Building – Architects Impression



# JURA Building – Architects Impression



# JULAC Initiatives 2012-

- 3+3+4 / Double Cohort management
- JURA construction
- LibQUAL+ Survey
- Staff Development - JULAC Staff Forum
- JULAC Common Access Card project
- Ethnographic study of Hong Kong university students
- International conference on library co-operation and consortia
- Discovery tools
- Hong Kong Heritage Alliance project





<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jaako/3273714163/sizes/l/in/photostream/>

**Salam dari Hong Kong dan terima kasih!**

