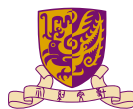


# The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library

## Annual Report 2020/21



香港中文大學圖書館  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Library

## Introduction – the Digital Experience

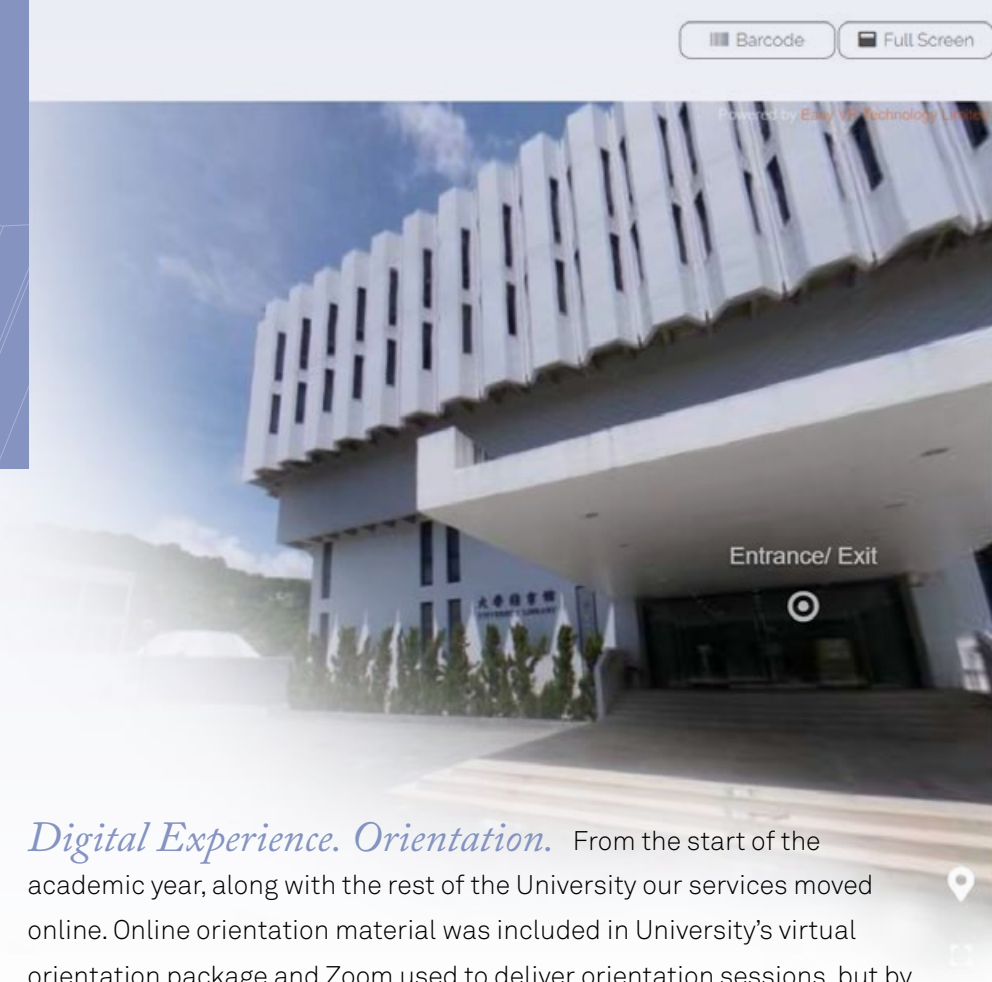


Despite another year of Library operations dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, our service continued, and will continue as a blend of physical and digital services. However, acknowledging the vital role of the digital library, woven throughout this report is the substantial progress we made this year enhancing our users' digital experience, from virtual tours to a new platform for our very popular Hong Kong Literature Database to name but a few advances.

There were also two significant developments this year that we believe will have long-term impact. The first is the Library taking responsibility for the Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) Collection. One of the most renowned collections on post-1949 China in the world, combined with the strength of the Library's collections we are well positioned to support modern China students and researchers with outstanding collections. The second development is the start of CUHK's research data service in which the Library is a prominent partner. The gradual move towards open science in Hong Kong is signposted by the Research Grants Council and the new research data service will be a key element to support resesarchers over the coming years.

Once again the backing we have received from the University has been fundamental to all that has been achieved, as has the attitude of all library staff who coped with the challenges of this extraordinary year with patience and their customary professionalism. Throughout the year I heard many expressions of thanks for the efforts of library staff. We should all be immensely proud of what has been delivered, and I would also like to record my thanks to both the Univeristy, and all Library staff for their creativity and resilience.

## Education – Supporting the Student Journey



**Digital Experience. Orientation.** From the start of the academic year, along with the rest of the University our services moved online. Online orientation material was included in University's virtual orientation package and Zoom used to deliver orientation sessions, but by far the most popular were the 360o virtual library tours with almost 12,500 views.

**Digital Experience. Training and workshops** moved online, in both synchronous and asynchronous modes, and attendance grew by 21% comparing year-on-year figures. The Library also experimented with hybrid events such as *Data Hack 2021*. Over 48 hours 13 teams of student participants at Innoport, the Learning Garden or online, applied data mining skills they had learnt in the pre-hackathon workshops about to solve problems in the post-COVID-19 era.



**Digital Experience. Self-learning Materials.** The Library offers self-learning material online ranging from *LibGuides*, a starting point for subject-based information sources to full discipline-specific information literacy courses. Usage suggests these are valued resources for students accumulating 427,000 plus views. Unsurprisingly the most popular guide this year was “Support for your studies off campus”.

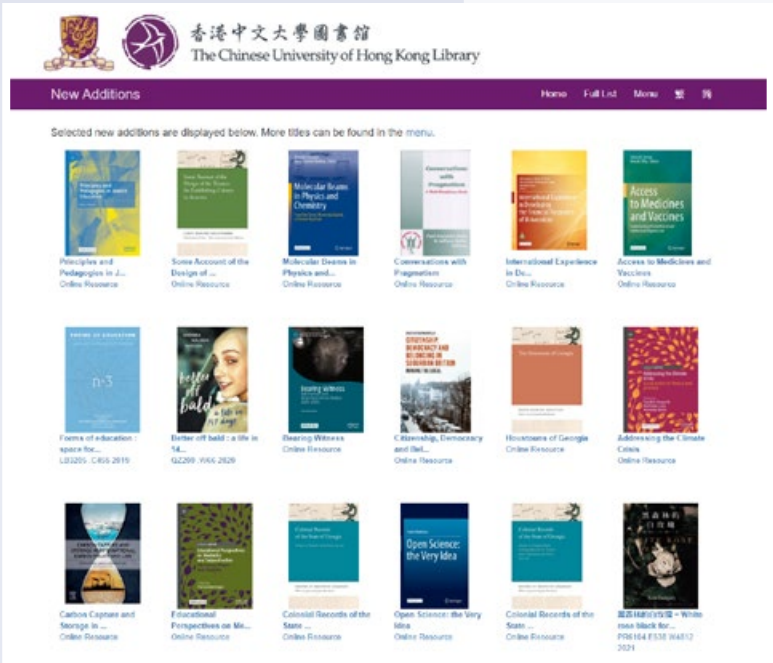


*Digital Experience. Library Space.* With the health and safety of the CUHK community paramount, changes made at entrances and reduced seating capacity continued with a notable addition, Zoom Zones. To enable students to participate in online teaching sessions each library created a Zoom Zone where talking and zooming are encouraged. The Library also became responsible for emergency temporary notebook loans to students with 70 loans during the year.



*Digital Experience. Accessing the Collections.*

Unsurprisingly use of the print collections was impacted by the pandemic, although use of electronic books and journals remained stable. Perhaps most encouraging was the year-on-year jump in the use of *ReadingList* materials. While the number of reading lists created grew by 35%, up to 610, usage increasing even more rapidly by 89% to 45,034 views, indicating ReadingList will grow in popularity. During the year we also upgraded our ‘New Additions’ website, that lists new acquisitions on a weekly basis, to include electronic books and other material.



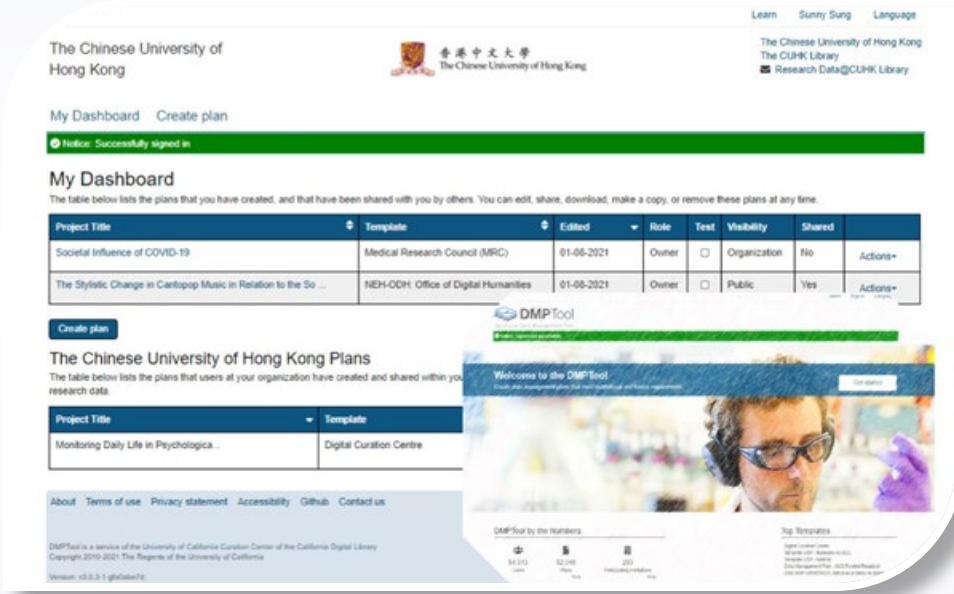
Not all material is digital, and we continued our ‘print to e-book’ service. We also made Chung Chi College Library’s collection of teaching materials used in Hong Kong schools’ available for loan. Our inter-library loan service was enhanced by both requesting and providing book chapters in addition to the usual articles and whole books.

*Digital Experience. Service Flexibility.* Technology is enabling us to improve processes and deliver increasingly flexible services. This year, working with the Graduate School, we moved to a fully online process for submission of theses to the repository. Another popular development made picking up requested items more convenient than ever, with a choice of all CUHK libraries as pick-up points. We also moved to unlimited automatic renewal of most loaned items unless recalled by another user, and we continued waiving fines for those unable to return to campus. Online payment by credit card was introduced, complementing Octopus payment.

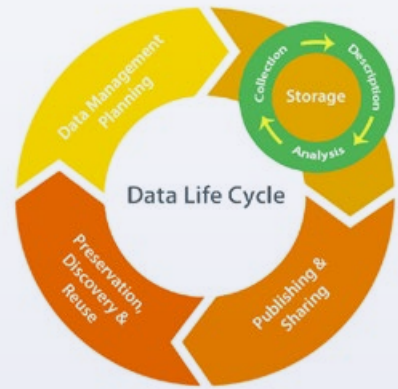
# Research – Transforming the Library’s Support for Research

With the UGC recently revisiting its existing open access policy and exploring the opening up of both the publications and data, library support for researchers has never been more vital.

*Research Data Management (RDM).* Planning for the Research Data Service came to fruition with 5 years funding from the University and support from the Committee on Research Data Management (CRDM) chaired by Prof Liwen Jiang. A Research Data Librarian was recruited, and with input from CRDM and ITSC a data repository based on open-source software is being built, to launch early in the next academic year.



Data managements plans (DMP) are increasingly requested by research funders and to help create DMPs, online software *DMPTool* has been established. Research Data Service ran a number of workshops on RDM and DMP and is working on online interactive versions. The Graduate School has included RDM in its training for postgraduates in 2021/22 and will mandate RDM training from 2022/23. The Research Committee has been deliberating on RDM guidelines and these will be published in the coming academic year.





*Scholarly Communication.* Research funder interest in open access (OA) publishing continues to grow as evidenced by the Library working with ORKTS to provide statistics on OA publications by CUHK authors as requested by the RGC. Of more immediate interest are the two ‘read and publish’ licenses the Library signed with Cambridge University Press and Karger. Rather than a subscription license, the Library funding pays for the cost of article processing charges while maintaining access to the journals themselves. These are 3-year pilot schemes (2021-23) and the response from CUHK academics has been positive, with 10 OA articles published by Cambridge using the license in the 2020/21 academic year, and 5 published by Karger. We will continue to explore new models for OA licensing with other publishers.

*Digital Scholarship Projects.* 2020/21 saw some significant achievements. The launch of the Interactive Guanyin project was one of the highlights. The Digital Scholarship Team collaborated with Dr. Irene Lok from Centre for the Study of Humanistic Buddhism in visualizing, with a website, interactive map and timelines, the temples with Guanyin statues and worship in Hong Kong based on her 2021 book *Avalokiteśvara: Guanyin Festival and the Origin of Guanyin Belief in Hong Kong*.



Another was organizing the 1st Chinese Classic Text OCR Challenge in March 2021. Chinese OCR is an important element for digital scholarship and is the first step for research using text analysis. 13 teams from CUHK, China, Taiwan and the USA took part in the 10 day online challenge, developing an app to daily test for accuracy and speed of their OCR process on increasingly challenging rare book material from the Qing dynasty. Much was learnt by all participants including the Library, and the enthusiasm was such that we plan to collaborate on a second OCR challenge next year.



The Hong Kong Literature Database has been in use for more than two decades. The database consists of 588,000 records, many full-text, and its rich content has attracted both local and overseas researchers, making it the most popular resource created by the Library. To match the increasing demands of users and advances in digital scholarship methodologies, the Library worked closely with CUHK's erature Research Centre to modernise the platform with linked data and enhance its search capabilities. With groundwork carried out by the Library on collecting authors' pseudonyms, the new platform allows a user to search across an author's many different names. The response to the new platform has been very positive and there will be further development in the coming year.



HKLit Database Webpage



# Engagement – Working in Partnership

Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic our collaborations have continued to flourish.



*Campus Partnerships.* Aside from the various joint projects mentioned elsewhere in this report there are two additional events that should be noted. Special Collections holds a small but important collection of European rare books with particular strengths in the history of medicine, architecture and China-Western relations. The collection ranges linguistically from Latin to early modern English, and geographically from Venice to Glasgow in terms of place of publication.

We were delighted to have Professor Stuart McManus from the History Department work with us on a video to introduce this collection. Another fruitful partnership that contributed to the University's diversity and inclusivity agenda was exhibiting the first large scale transgender photography show in Hong Kong. Using photography to present the most authentic side of 11 transgender people in Hong Kong, the Transcendence Photo Exhibition was organised with CUHK's Gender Studies Programme.



黃永玉贈戴天畫

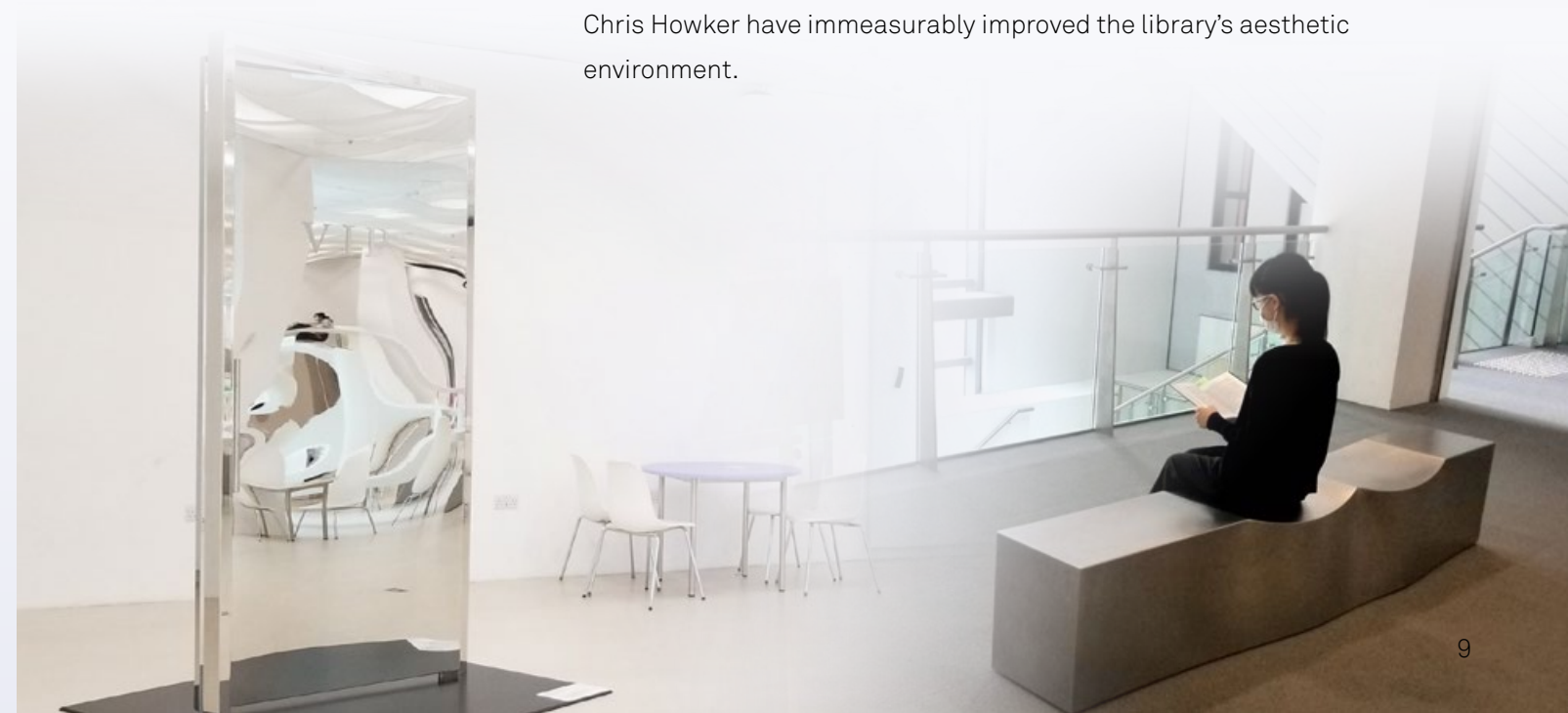
*Within the Community – Donations.* The Library is always grateful to our donors who enrich our collections and the Library environment with their generosity. The Library received a significant donation from the late Mr. Dai Tian (戴天) (1935-2021), a renowned poet, writer and editor in Hong Kong. This collection consists of over 1,000 items including manuscripts, correspondence, art works, autography books, news clippings, etc.



Graduation photo of Professor Ma Lin in 1955

Another important donation came from the Ma family. The Ma Kiam and Ma Lin Collection consists of over 500 items from the late Professor Ma Kiam (馬鑑), former Head of the School of Chinese, The University of Hong Kong, and Professor Ma Lin (馬臨), son of Professor Ma Kiam and the second Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The collection includes personal records, family photos, correspondence, art works, video tapes/discs, etc.

We are also delighted to have two pieces of art donated by the CC Wu Cultural & Educational Foundation Fund Ltd. A witty VIP piece by Scandinavian artistic duo Elmgreen & Dragset, and a bench by designer Chris Howker have immeasurably improved the library's aesthetic environment.









# Resources - Realising the Potential of the Library's Collections

The significance of collections for researchers and the vital role the Library plays in preservation of materials was highlighted this year with two major developments, the inclusion of CUHK Library rare books in the People's Republic of China National Catalogue of Precious Ancient Books, and the incorporation of the Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) Collection into CUHK Library.



## *National Catalogue of Precious Ancient Books*

In November 2020 CUHK Library was honoured by the announcement that fifteen of our Chinese rare books had been selected for inclusion in China's National Catalogue of Precious Ancient Books. The selection criteria for the National Catalogue of Precious Ancient Books are extremely strict - listed materials must be of scholarly value, historical and cultural significance, and they should be handwritten or printed before 1912 in the form of classical binding. This is the first time that Chinese rare books from a Hong Kong academic library collection have been selected since the inception of the Catalogue in 2008. Notable titles among the collection are *Yi Benyi Fulu Zuanshu* (易本義附錄纂疏) from the Yuan Dynasty, *Qinghu Xiansheng Wenji* (青湖先生文集), *Ji Gu Dian Shuoyuan Ji* (紀古滇說原集) and *Zongxuan Xiansheng Wenji* (宗玄先生文集) from the Ming Dynasty, and *Shuying* (書影), *Zhongcheng Ji* (中丞集), *Yihai Jianwen* (乙亥見聞), and *Nenger Zhai Yinpu* (能爾齋印譜) from the Qing Dynasty. The editions are comprehensive, including woodblock printing, multi-colour printing, manuscripts and handwritten copies.



## *Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) Collection*

The USC Collection is one of the most renowned collections on post-1949 China in the world. In January 2021 at the request of the University, CUHK Library took responsibility for the collection. The Library has been guided in this work by a newly established Advisory Group of pre-eminent international and CUHK modern China scholars.

The collection has remained accessible throughout the transition, materials are still being purchased and local and international scholars are very much welcomed. There have been a number of developments initiated by the Library; the USC collection records are now integrated in the Library's catalogue, IT infrastructure has been upgraded, physical access is now via the University Library entrance and opening hours are extended to match the Library's. The University has been generous in its support for long-term preservation of the collection, and has funded a digitisation project for the unique newspapers from the late 1940s to the 1960s which will begin next year.

*Archival and Special Collection Developments.* During the year nine noteworthy archival collections were fully catalogued and made available to researchers; the Zeng Xiying papers (曾希穎手稿), Xinqishi papers (辛其氏書信文件), Liu Huiqiong papers (劉惠瓊書信文件), Dong Rui papers (東瑞手稿), Chai Wawa papers (柴娃娃書信文件), Li Luoxia papers (李洛霞手稿), Hu Juren papers (胡菊人手稿), Maike papers (邁克手稿), and Hu Chunbing papers (胡春冰書信文件).



The Library continued its book series on Hong Kong's literary scene with the publication of *An Annotated Bibliography of the Classical Writings of Hong Kong Poets*. Sequel: Poetry Societies, making full use of our collection and expertly edited by YW Chau.

*New Digitised Special Collections* The Library continued with its digitisation programme and aim of opening our digitised collections to all and usage of resources in our digital repository grew to 280,000 plus views. To celebrate the inclusion of fifteen of our rare books in the National Catalogue of Precious Ancient Books, a digital collection of the fifteen titles was created and made open to all.

The most significant digitised collection launched this year was the Lingnan Collection. Curated in partnership with the Institute of Chinese Studies the initial phase consists of 2,149 volumes covering writings of people either born in Guangzhou or long-term residents, about the history, economy, society and culture of Guangdong and Guangxi, as well as Western discourses published in the region which have been translated into Chinese and commented on by modern Lingnan scholars.

*Born digital material.* Preservation of born digital material is challenging and important. The University Archives began preservation of University websites by web-crawling from February 2021.



## Infrastructure – Sustainability

*Staff.* The Library worked to ensure that staff safety remained the highest priority with appropriate measures in place when working on campus, as well as ensuring the tools needed to work from home were available. The working environment was upgraded with renovations of the University Library staff room used for those working evening and weekend shifts, backroom processing space, and a large staff office.

For new staff joining us in the midst of the pandemic we created online induction and were pleased to participate in the pilot of the University's mentoring scheme for administrative staff.

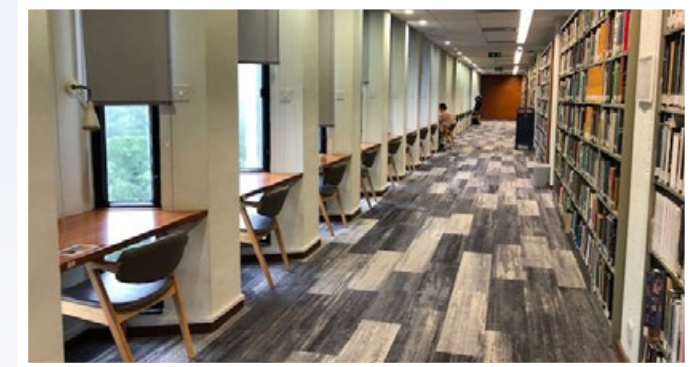


It is fitting in this report to mark the retirement of Dr. Maria Lai Che Lau, the Library's Deputy University Librarian. Joining in 1992 as a cataloger, Dr Lau came to lead our technical teams and gained an international reputation for her expertise in cataloguing Chinese material. In 2014 Dr Lau became Deputy University Librarian, and from the conception of the Digital Scholarship Lab to the new Research Data Management service, her passionate belief in the Library's preservation role for Hong Kong published material and the exciting work around digitization of our Special Collections, thanks to her vision and leadership the Library have been at the forefront of innovative library practice. We are deeply appreciative of all she has done during almost thirty years at CUHK Library.

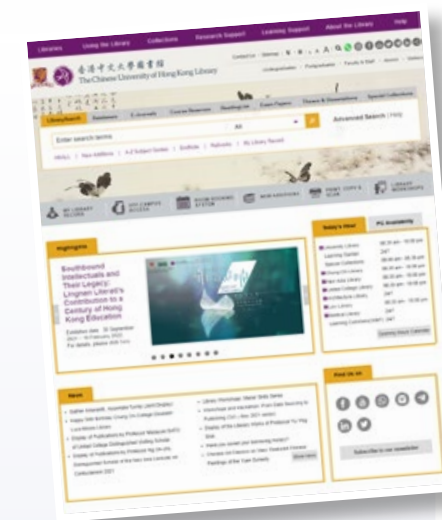
*Facilities.* To improve barrier free facilities in the libraries the first phase of an AA&I project was completed with automatic doors installed in wheelchair accessible toilets, and our entrance gates widened to allow wheelchair access. Phase II of the project next year will focus on improving disabled access to the external entrance and lift in Chung Chi College Library.



Elsewhere the University Library was refreshed with new carpet and replacement of worn-out furniture. At New Asia Library the programme to renovate all floors was completed with the renovation of the first floor and the late reading room.



*IT.* Triple Gold Web Accessibility Design. The Library was delighted to win a Triple Gold Web Accessibility Design award, the highest award possible, making it three successive years of a more inclusive library website. Accessible design was carried forward with the launch of a refreshed library homepage offering a more vibrant colour scheme, new search boxes and a better navigation menu with all important links prominently displayed.



Green IT infrastructure moved a step closer with the energy-saving closure of the Library's own server room and the move of servers to CUHK's centralized server hub.

**Louise Jones**  
University Librarian  
November 2021



# CUHK Library in Figures 2020-21



## Collections Statistics

Category	Eastern Languages	Western Languages	Total
Books	1,231,929	1,245,679	2,477,608
Bound Periodicals	82,116	210,027	292,143
Current Printed Serials	1,889	1,290	3,179
Electronic Books	3,669,978	1,440,327	5,110,305
Electronic Journals	44,778	138,308	183,092
Electronic Databases	179	805	984

## Library Users and Visitors

Visits to the Libraries	987,919
Registered Library Users	60,559

## Library Digital Experience

Library website views	3,081,627
CUHK Digital Repository views	280,166
CUHK Research Portal views	190,969
CUHK Archival Collections Portal views	21,128
Self-learning materials views (e.g. <i>LibGuides</i> )	427,000
<i>ReadingList</i> views	45,034

## Library Activities

Library Orientations	39
Participants in Library Orientations	1,807
Library Workshops	153
Participants in Library Workshops	4,277
Enquiries	63,789
Special Collections visits	431

## Library Collections Usage

Database Usage*	7,878,779
E-Book Usage*	3,490,996
E-Journal Usage*	5,962,308
E-A/V Usage*	14,463
Print Book and AV Loans	219,095

## Library Facilities

Seats**	3,773
Public Computers**	400
Group/individual room bookings	37,480
Public computer logins	122,194

## JULAC Activities

CUHK Users registered for a JULAC card	1,642
JULAC Users registered for a CUHK Library card	774
Loans to CUHK users from other JULAC libraries	9,249
CUHK Library loans to other JULAC users	9,909

\* COUNTER compliant usage only. COUNTER is the international standard for counting online usage of electronic resources

\*\* Reduced in response to COVID-19