



# FOCUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HONG KONG LIBRARIES

Vol. 14 | Issue 2 | January 2015



## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

### The Libraries' 2014 Survey

The library biennial survey was conducted from 13-26 October 2014, to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate the performance of the Main Library and the six branches. We aimed to identify performance gaps in order to help us focus on areas of most need as well as to study preferences for print and electronic materials. 1,257 completed questionnaires were received. Happily, the survey results show that our performance has improved from the last survey conducted in 2013, with the weighted performance index increasing from 78.4% in 2013 to 80.2% in 2014. The **satisfaction index for 2014 is 5.73**, on a scale of 1 to 7 (7 being the most satisfied), compared with 5.62 in 2013.

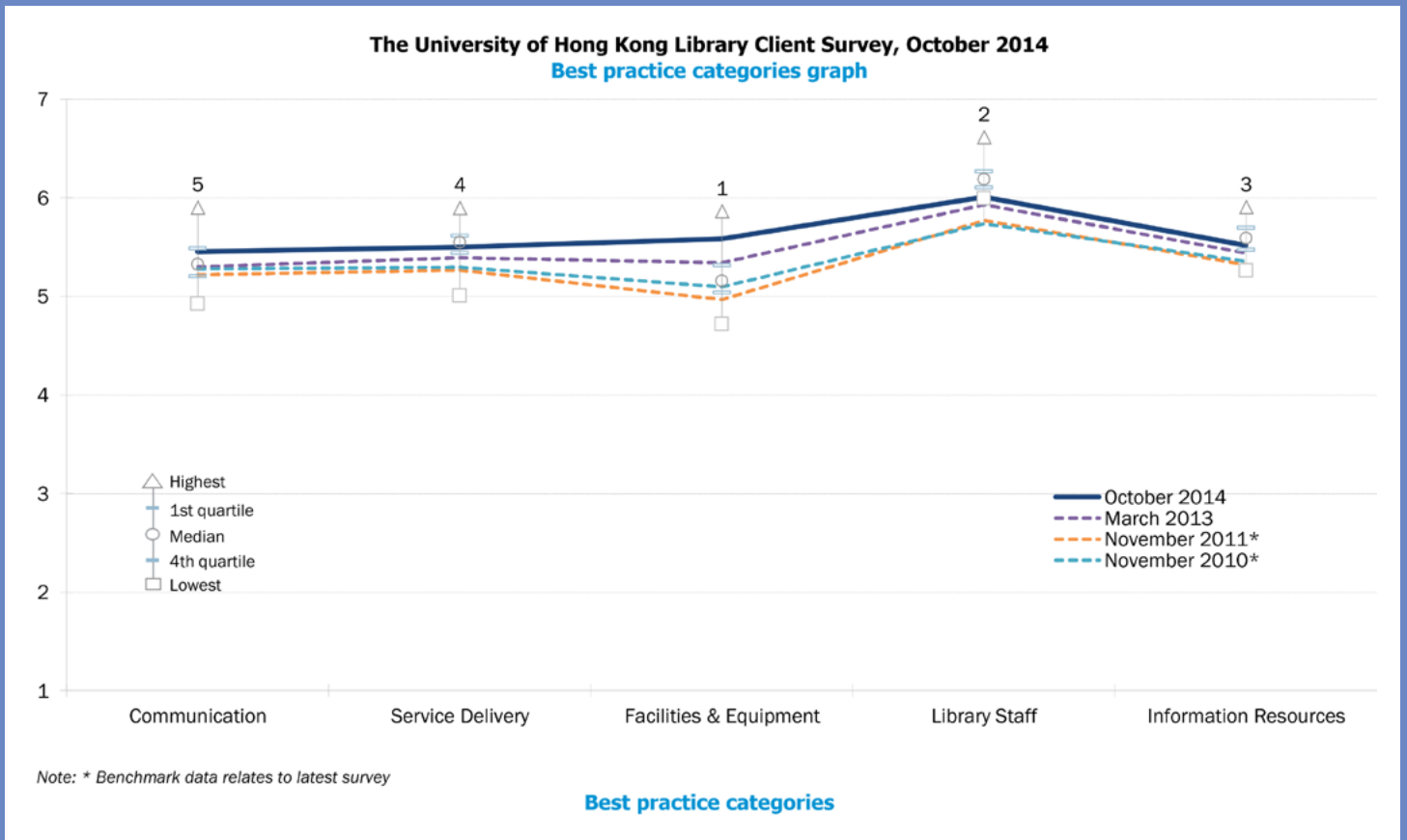
Comparing the 2014 results with those of 2013, we can see that the five areas with the **biggest gaps between importance and our performance** are:

	2013	2014
1	The items I'm looking for on the Library shelves are usually there (1.38)	The items I'm looking for on the Library shelves are usually there (1.16)
2	A computer is available when I need one (1.28)	A computer is available when I need one (0.89)
3	I can find a quiet place in the Library to study when I need to (1.09)	Find@HKUL is easy to use (0.77)
4	Printing, scanning and photocopying facilities in the Library meet my needs (0.94)	The Library website is easy to use (0.75)
5	Laptop facilities (e.g. desks, power) in the Library met my needs (0.9)	Printing, scanning and photocopying facilities in the Library meet my needs (0.72)



While 3 of the 2013 issues have reappeared in 2014, it is at least pleasing to note that **the gap in 2014 has reduced for all five areas.**

With this survey, the fourth time the Libraries have utilized this particular instrument, it is reassuring to note that in all 5 categories of the Libraries' performance (communication, service delivery, facilities and equipment, library staff, and information resources), the **latest results are our best to date**, as evidenced from the graph.



A more complete analysis, the full data report and responses to the most common freeform comments can be found at <http://lib.hku.hk/survey2014/>.

# New Main Library Entrance



## New Entrance for the Main Library

As I reported in the last issue of Focus (October, 2014, <http://www.lib.hku.hk/general/focus/2014/Focus-201410.pdf>), construction work for a new entrance for the Main Library was imminent. Subsequent to then, the Buildings Department of the HKSAR Government had revised its approval of our plans leading to the necessity for a re-tendering exercise. This has caused an inevitable delay which will now see work commence for this project in the middle of 2015 and completion in early 2016.



## The Libraries and Research Support

On the issue of surveys, we will be running another survey in the months ahead targeting researchers with a view to asking “**how can the Libraries better support your research needs?**” The survey will be facilitated by Ithaka S+R, a US based research service aimed at analyzing scholarship, especially digital scholarship (<http://www.sr.ithaka.org/>) and we will use a similar instrument to those they have used in other parts of the world including the UK (<http://www.sr.ithaka.org/research-publications/ithaka-sr-jisc-rluk-uk-survey-academics-2012>) and the US (<http://www.sr.ithaka.org/research-publications/us-faculty-survey-2012>). Six of the 8 UGC libraries will participate in this initiative.

We have recently hired a **Research and Data Services Librarian**, Fred Chan. Fred will be based in our Information Services Division and is tasked to facilitate the Libraries’ support for research based activity as well as assisting faculty members with their data retention needs. Since he began in December, 2014, Fred has been defining metadata required for describing various types of data, choosing & adapting a suitable thesaurus for this metadata, evaluating best practices of data management done elsewhere and identifying data visualization packages. Fred can be reached at [fhfchan@hku.hk](mailto:fhfchan@hku.hk).

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2015!

Peter E. Sidorko  
University Librarian



# READING CLUB: UPCOMING BOOK TALKS

## Old Hong Kong

Speaker: Dr Peter Cunich  
Moderator: Professor John Carroll,  
School of Humanities (History), HKU  
Date: 5 February 2015 (Thursday)  
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Venue: Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library  
Language: English



To register for this book talk:

[http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading\\_club/bt2015\\_01.html](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/bt2015_01.html)



### About the Speaker:

Peter Cunich has been teaching history at the University of Hong Kong since 1993, but his first visit to the then British colony was during an airline stopover in 1986. Although his main field of research is late medieval and early modern English history, he has taken a keen interest in the history of Hong Kong and European missionary activity in China. He is currently Director of the HKU Centenary History Project, spending much of his spare time researching and writing the second volume of his definitive history of the University.

### About the Book:

Peter Cunich's latest book, *Old Hong Kong*, combines a stunning collection of photographic images of colonial Hong Kong from the FormAsia Collection with a descriptive text offering fresh insights into the early history of Hong Kong. Many of these images have never been published before, so they add significantly to our knowledge of Hong Kong's built environment and social milieu from the 1860s to the early 1940s, but they also create numerous problems of identification and interpretation. In this book talk, Dr Cunich will discuss the reasons for the recent surge of interest in historical photographs of Hong Kong and the ways in which these images can be used by historians and others to elucidate various elements of our local history.



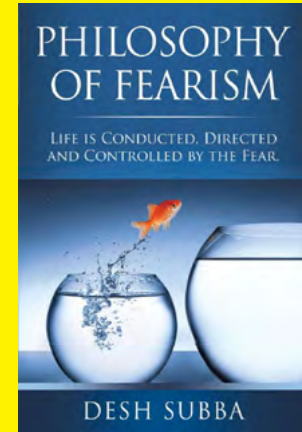
# READING CLUB: UPCOMING BOOK TALKS

## Philosophy of Fearism

Life is conducted, directed and controlled by the fear.

Speaker: Desh Subba  
Moderator: Dev Raj Rai,  
(Radio host/Education Activist)  
Date: 26 March 2015 (Thursday)  
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Venue: Special Collections, 1/F, Main Library  
Language: English

Registration will open 2 weeks before the book talk.



### About the Speaker:

Desh Subba is a philosopher, novelist and poet. He was born in Dharan, in the eastern part of Nepal and currently lives with his family in Hong Kong. He started fearism philosophy and has written four novels.

### About the Book:

Mr Desh Subba finds most people are fearful. Decided to help humanity ease their fear, Subba shares the *"Philosophy of Fearism"* in an attempt to theorize fear that is applicable to both distinct and general philosophical purpose.

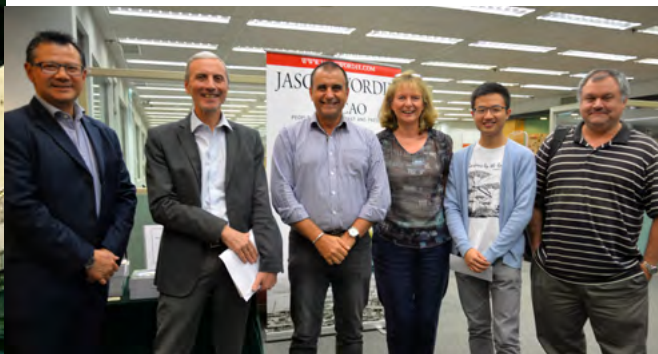
The first to coin the word, 'fearism', Subba imparts a study that deeply examines what is fear, its manifestation in humans and the ways how man can minimize it. A dictionary definition refers to fear as a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain and many more, whether the threat is real or imagined. As it is, Subba asserts that man is bombarded by fear everyday with news of wars, epidemic and violence.

*"The missing Malaysian airline, civil war in Iraq and Afghanistan, spreading of new viruses and economic crises are happening everyday in the present world. It horrifies people,"* Subba declares. *"They want to escape from this fear. Fearism works as medicine for them."*

Working on the premise that fear is the most important consciousness in life; Subba uses the concept of fearism as a therapy for everyone who wants to get rid of fear in different names like business, work and prestige.

# READING CLUB: PAST BOOK TALKS

For more about upcoming Book Talks: [http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading\\_club/](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/)



## Macao – People and Places, Past and Present

Speaker: Jason Wordie

Moderator: Mr Peter Sidorko, University Librarian, HKU

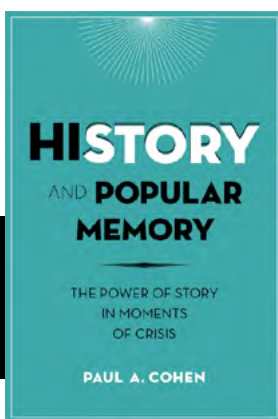
Date: 30 October 2014 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=4869478>

Mr Wordie shared some of his stories and photos from his book *Macao – People and Places, Past and Present*. A compelling, multi-layered social history, *Macao – People and Places, Past and Present* with stunning photographs by Anthony J Hedley and Colin Day - takes the reader on a series of journeys across physical, geographical, chronological and cultural space and time from the Barrier Gate in the north to Coloane in the south. In the process, Jason Wordie reveals the many dimensions that make Macao the uniquely special place that it is – and has always been.

The book includes 22 original hand drawn maps by Wee Kek Koon.



## History and Popular Memory: The Power of Story in Moments of Crisis

Speaker: Paul A. Cohen

Moderator: Professor Douglas Kerr, HKU Dean of Arts

Date: 13 November 2014 (Thursday)

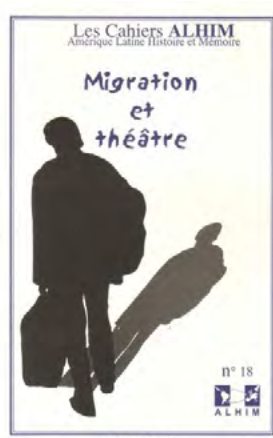
Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=5054715>

Professor Cohen talked about his book *History and Popular Memory: The Power of Story in Moments of Crisis* and how when people experience a traumatic event, such as war or the threat of annihilation, they often turn to history for stories that promise a positive outcome to their suffering. In his new book, influential historian and award-winning author Paul A. Cohen identifies this interplay between story and history as a worldwide phenomenon, found in countries of radically different cultural, religious, and social character.

# READING CLUB: PAST BOOK TALKS

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## Migration and Theatre (Migration et theater – Migración y teatro)

Speaker: Dr. Nora Parola-Leconte

Moderator: Mercedes Vázquez, School of Modern Languages and Cultures, HKU

Date: 20 October 2014 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=4869662>



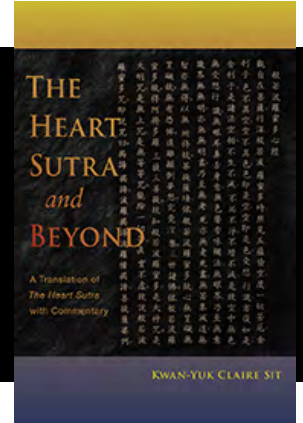
When people or families emigrate to a new country, they bring a part of their heritage and culture with them as a reflection of the themselves. They share their food, music, dance, and arts with their new neighbors and friends. Dr Parola talks about the arts of the theatre to Argentina in her book *Migration et Théâtre*. *Migration et Théâtre* reveals the great influence of immigration across the social, political and literary spectra in Argentine Theatre. One of the social foundations of this South American country is the concept of the “melting pot”. Massive immigration from eastern and southern Europe doubled the population between 1880 and 1920, therefore changing forever the cultural identity of the country. The imported theatrical genres – mainly *sainete* – became favorites of the public. Its main characters represented the different nationalities of this melting pot, most of the time shown through caricature. The same characteristics can be seen in the second half of the Twentieth Century when the country witnessed three phenomena: the immigrations from neighboring countries; the immigration of Asians, mainly Chinese; and the minor migration of the first immigrants’ descendants back to Europe, carrying in their luggage new forms of theatre techniques that enriched the Old Continent.

Book talks are also available for viewing on Youtube.com  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HKUlib>



# READING CLUB: PAST BOOK TALKS

For more about upcoming Book Talks: [http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading\\_club/](http://lib.hku.hk/friends/reading_club/)



## The Heart Sutra and Beyond

Speaker: Dr. Claire Sit Kwan-Yuk 薛羅君鈺

Moderator: Dr. Y. C. Wan 尹耀全, Deputy Librarian, HKU

Date: 4 December 2014 (Thursday)

Click here to revisit the book talk

<http://evideo.lib.hku.hk/play.php?vid=4869167>

The main theme and purpose of the book, *The Heart Sutra and Beyond*, is to show how one may practice the *perfection of wisdom*. Dr Sit analyzes *The Heart Sutra* with metaphors, stories, and illustrations, in addition to excerpts from Buddhist scriptures, relevant Taoist texts, and anthroposophic teachings. She delves into Anthroposophy to explore the mystical connection between form and emptiness, between Buddhism and esoteric Christianity, between Buddha Gautama and the young Jesus, and between the future Buddha Maitreya and Jesus Christ. She applies her deep understanding of the two Chinese names for Avalokitesvara (*Guan-zì-zài*) and Sariputra (*Shè-lì-zì*) to reveal the essence of the sutra. Finally, she notes that anyone can gain great blessing by meditating on a short mantra presented in the sutra. Her commentary on this timeless text brings profound insights to those who are new to *The Heart Sutra*, as well as to those who may have studied and practiced Buddhism for many years.

Book talks are also available for viewing on Youtube.com  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HKUlib>

# EXHIBITIONS



## HKIPP Annual Exhibition

In association with the Hong Kong Institute of Professional Photographers (HKIPP), the Main Library's Level 3 provided the venue for the 2014 HKIPP Annual & Circulatory Exhibition held from 6th – 17th October.



## Equal Opportunities Festival 2014 To build a barrier-free society for all

To compliment the 2014 Equal Opportunity Festival held from 5th – 21st November, the Libraries showcased a number of books echoing the festival's theme, To Build a Barrier-Free Society for All. The exhibit features a small number of books available from the Libraries' vast collection on accessibility. The exhibit was very well received.





## Jorge Luis Borges - of Tigers and Labyrinths Exhibition

November 2014 was the Argentina Festival Month. In addition to the events held throughout Hong Kong, Special Collections on the 1/F, Main Library hosted the Jorge Luis Borges - of Tigers and Labyrinths Exhibition from 10th – 21st. The exhibition was a collaboration with the Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau. The private collection of Consul Luciano Battaglia featured rare and first editions, photo books and book collections of the great Argentine author.

Jorge Luis Borges (born August 24, 1899, Buenos Aires, Argentina - died June 14 1986, Geneva, Switzerland), is by any account one of the greatest writers of the Twentieth Century, standing alongside such immortal figures as James Joyce, Marcel Proust, Robert Musil, Franz Kafka, Samuel Beckett, Vladimir Nabokov, Hermann Broch, T.S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Fernando Pessoa, etc.

As poet, essayist, scholar and most notably, a short-story writer whose works have become classics of world literature. Borges created an opus of staggering originality, one which challenged the conventions and boundaries of every genre and which fundamentally altered the way we write, and perhaps more importantly, read, today. Borges has won countless accolades, among them the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, one of the most important awards in Spanish-language literature. His most famous books are "The Garden of Forking Paths", "Fictions", "The Aleph", "The Book of Sand" and "Shakespeare's Memory".

Aside from being an exquisite writer, Borges is famous for his sharp use of irony, his individualistic and cosmopolitan worldview, his encyclopaedic knowledge of countless subjects, and his mastery of numerous languages, among them English, German, Anglo-Saxon and Icelandic.

The *oeuvre* of Jorge Luis Borges has many recurring themes, among them tigers and labyrinths.

The exhibition displayed relevant works by Borges in chronological order, presenting visitors with a general overview of his life and career.

ARGENTINA MONTH | 10-21 November, 2014

# JORGE LUIS BORGES

## Book Exhibition

An exhibit of the Libraries' Borges collection



**Ficcionario: una antología de sus textos / Ficcionario: an anthology of texts** by Emir Rodríguez Monegal

Esta antología preparada por Emir Rodríguez Monegal cubre prácticamente toda la producción de Borges y, además de sus textos famosos, incluye algunos perdidos o soslayados hasta por los eruditos más tenaces.

This anthology prepared by Emir Rodríguez Monegal covers practically the entire production of Borges and, besides his famous texts, including some missing or circumvented by the most tenacious scholars.



**La expresión de la irrealidad en la obra de Jorge Luis Borges / The expression of unreality in the work of Jorge Luis Borges** by Ana María Barrenechea

El infinito, el caos, el tiempo, la materia y la personalidad, son temas centrales sobre los que Borges construye su nitido orbe de sombras.

Ana María Barrenechea, maestra inspiradora de vocaciones e inquietudes intelectuales, intenta agotar todas las formas de expresión de la irrealidad, sobre una obra literaria que presenta un poder de invención y de belleza pocas veces alcanzado.

Infinity, chaos, time, matter and personality are central issues on which Borges builds its crisp shadow. Ana María Barrenechea, inspiring vocations teacher and intellectual concerns, try to exhaust all forms of expression of unreality, a literary work that has a power of invention and beauty rarely achieved.

During the Jorge Luis Borges - of Tigers and Labyrinths Exhibition, the Libraries took the opportunity to display some of its own Jorge Luis Borges book collection.



**The Book of Sand** by Jorge Luis Borges

A 1975 fictionalized short story version of Borges himself meeting an elderly Scottish Bible seller, who hands him a cloth-bound book that he bought in India called 'The Book of Sand,' because neither the book nor the sand has any beginning or end. Upon opening the book, Borges is shocked to discover that the book, which is written in an unknown language and occasionally punctuated by illustrations, is in fact infinite: if one turns the pages, more pages seem to grow out of the book. He trades his retirement pension and a Wycliffe Bible to the bookseller in exchange for the Book of Sand and places it on a bookshelf behind his copy of Arabian Nights.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Book\\_of\\_Sand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Book_of_Sand)

**Dreamtigers** by Jorge Luis Borges

Dreamtigers has been heralded as one of the literary masterpieces of the twentieth century by Mortimer J. Adler, editor of Great Books of the Western World. It has been acknowledged by its author as his most personal work. Composed of poems, parables, and stories, sketches and apocryphal quotations, Dreamtigers at first glance appears to be a sampler—albeit a dazzling one—of the master's work. Upon closer examination, however, the reader discovers the book to be a subtly and organically unified self-revelation.

<http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/bordre>

**Other Inquisitions** by Jose Luis Borges

"A necessary book of essays, a genre which Borges was very good at. Very easy to read and very humorous and ironic in his dealing with deep topics."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau

**Chronicles of Bustos Domecq**  
by Jose Luis Borges and Adolfo Bioy-Casares

"I am very fond of the collaboration Borges and Bioy-Casares undertook under the pen name "Bustos Domecq", but those books really require a lot of context and their irony and humour is lost even in many Argentinians. Still, this was an essential chapter in Borges' life."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau

**Borges - A Life** by James Woodall

"An in depth biography that is very clear for non-native Argentinians, explaining local elements of Argentine culture that give context to Borges' life. While I think that some of his psychological delvings and interpretations are debatable, the book is a very good one."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau



**A Universal History of Infamy** by Jose Luis Borges

"The opposite of "Doctor Brodie's Report", this is a very baroque book of Borges' youth, his first take on fiction with a blend of essay and short story that I am very fond of. The contrast between this work and the books written in his old age is very evident. The prose is not as clean as that in "The Aleph," "the Garden of Forking Paths" or "Fictions", from the same period, but it is equally as baroque and ironic."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau

**The Narrow Act: Borges' Art of Illusion**  
by Ronald Christ

"This book is very well known as it "explores both the substance and aesthetics of Borges' literature and almost twenty years after being published, it still stands out among the many books on the matter."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau

**Borges and Philosophy: Self, Time and Metaphysics**  
by William Bossart

"While I have not read this book in particular, Borges' apparently simple stories and poems have deep philosophical roots that require educated explanation in the form of these types of works. It is always useful to have a volume such as this available for those who start reading his books. I've read similar books on Borges' philosophical influences, but not this one."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau

**Doctor Brodie's Report** by Jose Luis Borges

"This book is a short story one, equally suited for Borges' lovers and those who just start approaching the great master. It was his first short-story book after losing his sight in the 1950s, and the prose is simpler than those of his earlier books. It is perhaps the fiction book with the most "local colour" Borges wrote."

Luciano Battaglia, Consul  
Consulate General of the Argentine Republic in Hong Kong and Macau

# NEWS

## Information Services Division

### Open Access Week

The Main Library became a sea of orange balloons during the Open Access Week from 20 to 24 October 2014. The event is a collaborative effort with the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) and aims to foster awareness of Open Access to students and faculties. Curious students passing by learnt more about the benefits and current developments of this movement through the posters and leaflets prepared by PGSA. Retweets in Twitters also reflected the popularity of the event. We look forward to the 2015 Open Access Week and other related events!



Posing in front of the Main Library amidst the sea of balloons are Jianzheng Liu and Wesley Teter of the Postgraduate Student Association.

### Research Seminar Series @ HKUL

To promote academic writing and publishing, HKUL will be organising a series of research seminars from 28 January to 12 February 2015. Topics will cover undergraduate and postgraduate academic writing for research, tips for getting published, open access trends and technology foresight.

Details and registration are available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/HKUL-seminars>



## Wiley Online Quiz

The Wiley Online Quiz organised from 20 October to 28 November 2014 attracted over 700 entries! Mr Peter Sidorko (Librarian) and Dr Y.C. Wan (Deputy Librarian) picked the winners on 18 December and the prizes were presented in late December just in good time to celebrate Christmas.

Congratulations to the winners:

- Grand prize: iPad mini - Miss Yuen Yee Lam Jolie
- Consolation prize: iPod Shuffle - Mr Chun-kit Chung, Mr Joseph Ho & Miss Xinyu Zhang

Wiley Online Library (<http://sunzi.lib.hku.hk/ER/detail/hkul/2111114>) is a HKUL-subscribed database offering access to over 15,000 e-books. The quiz featured four sets of questions, each covering a subject discipline. Participants attempting the quiz were able to gain a better understanding as to the e-book resources through a fun way. The quiz is a collaborative effort between Wiley and the HKU Libraries.



Dr Wan, Deputy Librarian (left), presented the iPad mini to representative of Miss Jolie Yuen.



Winners of iPod Shuffle



A discussion on web accessibility with Mr. Keny Yuen in the barrier-free reading corner, HKSB.

## Visit to the Hong Kong Society for the Blind

Six colleagues from the Information Services Division and the Technology Support Services Division visited the Information Accessibility Centre of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind (HKSB) in Shek Kip Mei on 21 November 2014.

During the visit, Miss Fung-kam Chung (Senior Library Assistant, HKSB) showed the collections available in various accessible formats and the facilities such as the recording studios. Mr Keny Yuen (Adaptive Technology Officer, HKSB) shared his tips as to how to improve web pages to facilitate equal access to information and functionality.

Although the Libraries has been supporting students with special education needs (SEN) in their research and study for many years, the visit has certainly deepened our understanding as to the resources and web accessibility issues for the visually impaired. A big thank you to Miss Chung and Mr Yuen for arranging the visit!

## Preservation Workshops

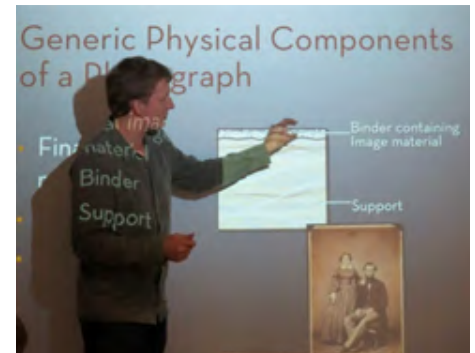
In 2014 the Libraries played a key role in establishing a workshop series designed to provide basic training in various aspects of cultural preservation. The workshops—developed as intensive, hands-on short courses—are an initial step in filling the shortage of preservation-related educational opportunities in the Hong Kong region. Over sixty people participated in the first two workshops, with participation from over twenty different local libraries, archives, museums, and government and private cultural institutions within Hong Kong. Other attendees traveled from Macao, Malaysia and Myanmar. All eight JULAC institutions took part. The first of these courses was a four-day workshop on the Care and Identification of Photographic Media, followed by a two-day intensive on Collections Emergency Response.

The overall workshop series is intended for curators, collectors, conservators, archivists, and collections managers working across the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) sector. The preservation of books, paper, photographs, paintings and objects are all discrete disciplines that require extensive programme-based training that includes a thorough knowledge of materials science, as well as the social histories surrounding the cultural items. With this in mind, the workshops have been structured not to create conservators, but to emphasize collections care for a broad number of related professionals. The ultimate goal is to provide instruction on knowing how to assess a collection, how best to handle and preserve it and when to hire preservation experts.

A HKU cross-institutional initiative, the series has benefited from the expertise of a significant number of HKU divisions—most notably the Preservation and Conservation Division of the Libraries (PCD), the Museum & Art Gallery, the Archives and also the Architectural Conservation Programmes at HKU. Other organizing and advisory partners include M+, the cornerstone of the ambitious West Kowloon Cultural District Project and Hong Kong's new museum for visual culture and AXA Art Insurance.

In the four-day intensive workshop on the Care and Identification of Photographs, conservator Gawain Weaver worked with participants to develop identification skills and knowledge about fine art and historic photographic processes, from the daguerreotype to digital prints.

Using handheld 60x microscopes and a set of photographic and photomechanical samples, the class learned how a variety of processes are created, why they look the way they do and how each deteriorates. Group ID sessions, digital microscopes and screen projection allowed participants to practice their identification skills in a guided setting. Preservation topics included enclosures, handling guidelines, environmental monitoring, the effects of temperature and relative humidity on collections and the importance of cold storage for certain photographic materials. Over 30 different processes were studied in great detail, from how daguerreotypes are made and how they are best preserved, to how long-lasting inkjet prints are created, and how to preserve and store color photographic materials along with cellulose nitrate and cellulose acetate-based film.



Gawain Weaver describing the components of a photograph



Participants and instructor examining historical photographs for identification purposes



■ Tightly rolled photographs cannot be accessed in their current state



■ Mold damage on the upper right corner of the image



■ Silver mirroring due to exposure to improper storage conditions

It is estimated that the HKU Libraries Special Collections holds more than 10,000 loose historical photographs, as well as an unknown number of photographs in books and albums. There are ongoing digitization projects that will make many of the images more readily available to the public, but so far the work of caring for the fragile originals is yet to begin. Many photographs are donated with only minimal information related to content, photographer and provenance, not to mention the numerous photographic processes. The following images are recent donations in need of conservation treatment.



■ Lead Instructor **Priscilla Anderson** (center of photo) is Senior Preservation Librarian at Harvard University, where she manages preservation programs and outreach for over seventy repositories that constitute Harvard Library



■ Participants practice response to a mock water emergency



■ Special Collections staff making use of newly acquired skills during a real-life water incident Note: All items were salvaged!

The second workshop on Collections Emergency Response was designed to prepare staff to carry out response and recovery procedures during emergencies that threaten typical library and archival collections. The workshop, which was co-taught by Priscilla Anderson of Harvard University and Jody Beenk of HKUL, consisted of lectures, demonstration and hands-on practice in how to respond to an emergency effectively, to prevent damage to the most vulnerable collections and then how to salvage a variety of wet collection types during the recovery phase. Based on a recently developed workshop offered to Harvard University staff, a template for a collections emergency plan was shared as well as an in-depth discussion of different roles and responsibilities of staff members. Communication and decision-making can be more effective if it is planned ahead and also integrated into staff members' formal duties. Format-specific collections salvage training included how to prioritize, move, clean, freeze and dry the most common collection formats. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to develop skills in how to train others in basic response and salvage techniques.

Forthcoming workshops will include intensive sessions on Integrated Pest Management and Art Packing and Handling.



# NEWS

## HKUL is number 1

The University of Hong Kong Libraries is again the number one contributor of original cataloguing records to WorldCat.

### Top 10 online original catalogers

Original records added FY14

University of Hong Kong	69,905
National Central Library (Taiwan)	36,891
Peabody Essex Museum	29,066
National Library Board, Singapore	24,947
National Taiwan University	19,891
National Agriculture Library	16,920
Stanford University Library	15,024
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign	13,642
New York Public Library	12,600
The Ohio State University	11,722



Source: OCLC Annual Report 2013-2014

<http://www.oclc.org/en-US/annual-report/2014/home.html#letter-video>

## The Libraries received...



### Scroll painting by Chao Shao-an

On Wednesday 21st January, the Libraries received on loan a scroll painting by the famous painter Chao Shao-an from Mr Lee King Hin. Chao Shao-an (1905 – 1998) was one of the four most important Lingnan School painters. He was awarded Doctor of Letters(DLitt) *honoris causa* by HKU in 1994.

**148th Congregation (1994)** <[http://www4.hku.hk/hongrads/index.php/archive/graduate\\_detail/158](http://www4.hku.hk/hongrads/index.php/archive/graduate_detail/158)>

## Special Collections NOTABLE DONATION

We are very grateful for the generous donation of HK\$100,000 from the Hung On To Memorial Fund Ltd.

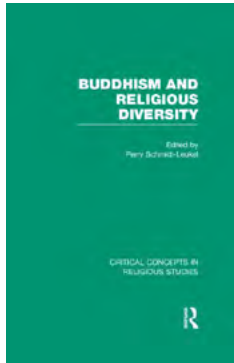
### Other Donations:

We are very grateful to receive the following donations:

1. 20 boxes of materials from the Hung On To Memorial Fund Ltd
2. 11 Boxes of materials from Ms Cynthia Gomes
3. 7 boxes of materials from Ms Emily Lau
4. 7 boxes of materials from the Community Advice Bureau
5. 2 boxes of materials from the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Hong Kong
6. 3 bags of materials from Dr Lee Pui Tak
7. 1 rare dictionary from Mr Lee

# NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

September – December 2014



**Buddhism and Religious Diversity**  
edited by Perry Schmidt-Leukel.  
(Critical Concepts in Religious Studies series)  
Oxon : Routledge, 2013.

This new four-volume collection brings together the best thinking on Buddhism's relationship with other faiths and provides a one-stop collection of classic and contemporary contributions to facilitate ready access to the most influential and important scholarship.



**明代基本史料叢刊·奏摺卷 (全100卷) / 責任編輯任夢強, 李莉**  
北京市：線裝書局，二〇〇五 [2005]

本書匯總了明代朝廷大臣或地方大員就政事向皇帝提出的奏疏，可以從中探究明政府處置事件的措施、政策的形成過程，具有重要的史料研究價值。



**中國設計全集 (全20卷)**  
北京：商務印書館；深圳市：海天出版社，c2012.

全集以中國社會數千年設計事物為載體，從時間上涵蓋了華夏民族從新石器時期到民國時期的8000年文明發展歷史。這套書系根據中國設計史的具體特點和現代設計學的新觀念，採用了直接切入主題的方法進行分類：建築類編（4卷）、服飾類編（4卷）、餐飲類編（3卷）、工具類編（3卷）、用具類編（3卷）、文具類編（3卷），囊括了中國歷史上3000個經典設計案例和約18000幅圖（每卷一百五十個案例），涉及了與中國社會生產方式與生活方式密切相關的方方面面，填補了中國設計史學的空白。



# FOCUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG LIBRARIES

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## EDITORIAL

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