Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

The HKUST Library has recently joined the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. SPARC (http://www.arl.org/sparc/) is an alliance of libraries that fosters competition in scholarly communication. Its mission is to make scholarly communications more accessible by forging "partnerships" with high-caliber scientific societies to develop top-quality journals at affordable prices. Societies participating in SPARC include the American Chemical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, Evolutionary Ecology Research, the American Institute of Physics, and the German Physical Society.

These societies have established close relationships with researchers and scientists over the years and are in a unique position to attract leading editors to steer and shape the proposed new journals. Four journals, in the areas of physics, chemistry, physical chemistry and ecology have been released by SPARC with a fifth one on biological and environmental sciences in the pipeline. The Library has been discussing with some of the departments to determine whether it would be viable to eventually switch our subscriptions from certain high-priced journals to these alternative publications.

Currently, SPARC has a membership of over 180 of the most important libraries around the world, including Harvard, Princeton, MIT, Johns Hopkins, and seven University of California campuses. Presently, our Library is the only Asian member. After so many years of struggling with spiraling journal prices, educational institutions have finally gathered together to try to create new rules in the scholarly publishing marketplace. As an institution which stands to benefit from its outcome, we should offer support and work to be part of the solution to this prolonged problem.

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年畫珍賞 — 上海圖書館館藏珍品展
Gems of New Year Prints - An exhibition from the Shanghai Library Collection.

中國民間年畫有悠久歷史，其源頭可追溯自先秦時代的"周朝"，然而作為一種正式的民間藝術畫種，卻創始于明朝。以天津楊柳青和蘇州桃花塢為代表的南北兩大風格年畫，乃是中國美術發展史上的一個重要組成部分，人們追尋其發展的軌跡，既可從中領悟到中國的民俗風情、民間文學和傳統戲曲的脈絡，又可探尋到中國民俗文化豐富多彩、多元立體、變換演進的豐富底蘊和發展源泉。

上海圖書館收藏的年畫有三千餘件，其中大部分均是十九世紀末期至二十世紀初期創作和印刷的原畫，至今已有近百年。本次展覽從中精選了六十幅，它們從一個側面反映了清末民初民間木刻年畫創作的基本概況。這個精彩又獨特的展覽將於十二月十四日揭幕。
More importantly, participating in SPARC will offer our faculty an alternative to the cycle of giving away their scholarship. Up to this point, faculty have been submitting their invaluable research findings to commercial publishers and then having to buy them back again from expensive journals. The SPARC initiative, if successfully implemented, will change the landscape of scholarship publishing. A University of Wisconsin study has concluded that not-for-profit journals are more cost-effective than commercial publications. In one case, by a factor of 910-to-one! (http://www.library.wisc.edu/projects/glsdo/cost.html).

SPARC is also committed to encouraging and supporting innovative publishing projects in vital scientific, technical, and medical fields (http://www.arl.org/sparc/scipr.html). Their grants aim to stimulate and accelerate creation of new university-based information communities. Most recently, grants in the amount of US$519,000 were awarded to three specific initiatives: Columbia University Press' Columbia Earthscape, the California Digital Library's Scholarship, and MIT's CogNet.

Please visit the SPARC site and stay tuned to the future development of this worthwhile endeavor.

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: ProQuest - Bigger and Better Than Ever

After an intense negotiation with the vendor, the Library has successfully upgraded one of our primary electronic resources, ProQuest. This web resource incorporates the four PowerPages databases; known to many of our users as Business Periodicals Index (BPO), General Periodical Index (GPO), Social Science Periodicals (SSO), and Applied Science and Technology Plus (ASTP); with another thirteen new databases. The number of e-journals included in this resource amounts to 7,156 with over 90% containing searchable abstracts and 50% full-text articles and images.

Particularly worth noting is the inclusion of a wide range of journals in the fields of medical research, computer science and business. Over two hundred fulltext journals on topics such as neurology, pharmacology, cardiology, physical theory and nursing can now be searched online with simultaneous fulltext display. Brain, Biometrics, Annual review of Immunology, and the American Journal of Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology are just a few titles in the ProQuest Medical Collection. Faculty who have been urging the Library to acquire titles in the biomedical area will be happy to discover so many full-text journals here. We invite all of you to logon to this resource and send us your comments.

The collection in Computing and Telecommunications has been boosted with the addition of over three hundred and thirty top journals. Several hundred titles focusing on Asian and European business, accounting and banking have also been included to complement our strong business collection.

For descriptions of the education and science collection, consult (http://library.ust.hk/cgi-bin/databases/search.cgi?query=proquest). For a complete list of the 7,156 titles available in ProQuest, refer to (http://proquest.com/hp/Support/Titles/).

You can access ProQuest through the Library homepage, under Featured Site, or through the Online Databases of the Library Online Systems. For now, the Library also continues to support the four PowerPages databases.

INTERNET: Free Graphics

Have you ever considered spicing up your web pages with graphics? A well-chosen picture is worth a thousand words.
Where can you find graphics? You could buy a CD-ROM package like MasterClips which contains over 300,000 items. Or you can save some money and look through the thousands of quality graphics available on the Web for free.

When you find a graphic you want, check and see if it is copyrighted. Site authors usually provide a statement regarding the use of their artwork, and the ways by which the graphics should be accessed.

The University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Radiology maintains an enormous graphics archive at http://ftp1.rad.kumc.edu/artwork.htm. The site contains graphics in many different subjects including animals, cartoons, nature, space, technology, etc. Under animals, you can find pictures from giraffes to penguins and tigers. Under technology, you'll see moving atoms, motor, and robots.

At the NASA Photo Gallery (http://www.nasa.gov/gallery/photo/), you can find pictures on astronomy, earth science, oceanography, ozone, and more. It also has a searchable database called NASA Image Exchange that covers over 500,000 photographs and data images. A search for “Jupiter” will retrieve about 200 related pictures.

Another excellent resource is the Cool Archive (http://www.coolarchive.com/). Along with a wide array of graphics and fonts, they provide additional services, including an online button maker and logo generator.

In addition to individual sites, there are many places that provide compilations of links to other graphics sites, such as “Free Graphics - Animation Links” (http://www.free-graphics.com/) by A-1 Icon Archive and “Free Graphics Links” (http://www.designedtoat.com/graphiclinks.htm) by Designed To A. T. At “Free Graphics - Animation Links”, you can jump to Animation Central where you'll find some very interesting animation files.

If you still can't find the graphic you want, try one of the following Image Search engines: Amazing Picture Machine (http://www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm), Yahoo's Image Surfer (http://ipix.yahoo.com/), or AltaVista (http://www.altavista.com/).

In the spirit of the global Internet, hundreds of people are sharing their graphics work. If you end up creating icons and images yourself, consider sharing them on the web as well.

**MEDIA: Materials for the School of Engineering (third in a series)**


In civil engineering, we have several videos about major infrastructure in Hong Kong like 青馬大橋 (Media TG113.H85 C44 1997), which is available in English as Tsing Ma Bridge: Hong Kong's New Landmark (Media TG113.H85 C442 1997), and Made in Hong Kong (Media TC820.H65 M33 1970) which documents the creation of the first Cross Harbour Tunnel.

It is best to search a topic specifically. For example, using the subject “fluid mechanics” will enable you to find the 26-part series Fluid Mechanics (Media TA357 .F578 1990 v.1-26) while “wireless
communication systems” will yield the 6-part New Transport Technologies (Media TK5101 .N48 1993 v.1-6).

Remember to select the Library Catalog subset “Media” first, to simplify the searching process. Another method to try is the call number search. If you are (for example) an electrical engineer interested in computer networks and you know that most of the print materials you use are shelved in class number “TK5105”, do a call number search in the Media subset with that number and you will find over 50 titles; things like Gigabit/sec Data Communications Networks (Media TK5105.5 .G54 1993) and Data Networking (Media TK5105.5 .D36 1994 v.1-9).

The Media collection in Engineering is mostly on VHS, although lately more material are appearing on CD-ROM. Conference proceedings especially are often published on CD-ROM only, like Design Automation Conference Proceedings (Media TK788.3 .D452) or Proceedings of the 5th International World Wide Web Conference (Media TK5105.888 .I58 1996).

WEB: New Pathfinders

Our recent efforts to create self-help guides on the Web resulted in two new pathfinders: Conference & Proceedings and High-Tech Industrial Zones. Both are now featured on our Library home page or you can find them under Library home page - > Subject Guides - > Pathfinders.

Conferences & Proceedings

Have you ever experienced problems tracing conference papers in our Library Online Catalog? For example, if you need to find a paper from the International Conference on Web-Based Modeling & Simulation held in San Diego, California in 1998, should you attempt an author or a title search? Searching the Catalog for a known item usually involves a straightforward title search, but this is not necessarily the case for conference materials. Sometimes, an author search will be more appropriate as conference names are treated as authors in bibliographic records, like the example above. If in doubt, a keyword search is recommended since it searches the author and title fields as well as the content notes. This pathfinder exemplifies the various ways of searching the Catalog for conference materials. It also suggests relevant databases for finding/verifying conference papers and points to resources for organizing or locating future conferences.

High-Tech Industrial Zones

The Government’s policy to foster high-tech industries in Hong Kong has received a lot of media attention lately. Surely, all of us should have heard of mega-infrastructure projects like Cyberport, Science Park or Silicon Valley. Yet what are they, how did they come into existence and what are their latest developments? The pathfinder on High-Tech Industrial Zones offers relevant leads. In addition to Hong Kong, 13 other countries/regions are identified to have either established or emerging high-tech industrial zones. Selected books, magazine/newspaper articles and Internet sites outlining their development and other related issues are listed under each geographic division. At the moment, information is available for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Ireland, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States. Resources for Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore will be available at a later date.

Remember!
Turn off your phone in the Library!