Global Partnerships – Libraries Working Together

The HKUST Library has a history of active involvement in cooperative endeavors. Recently, this has expanded to include some very exciting projects:

Peking University – Resource Sharing and Beyond

In addition to last October's general agreement on staff development and exchange programs, the Library has now entered a resource-sharing agreement with Peking University Library that will benefit researchers of both universities in obtaining much-needed materials.

These efforts further expanded our two libraries' cooperation, begun in January 1994 with a book procurement project. Under the project, whenever Peking University purchases a Chinese scholarly monograph for their collection, they also purchase a copy on behalf of HKUST. In this way, the Library is able to get Chinese materials much more efficiently and cost-effectively. This project has helped us to build a Chinese collection rapidly and the recent agreement will undoubtedly serve us well for many years to come.

OCLC – Cooperative Online Resource Cataloging Project

Since its inception, the HKUST Library has been a member of the OCLC library consortium, contributing and sharing bibliographic records with other institutions. With over 30,000 member libraries worldwide, OCLC is the largest such consortium, and UST has consistently been a leading contributor of Chinese bibliographic records.

Recently, the Library has advanced its participation by accepting an invitation to join the OCLC Cooperative Online Resource Catalog Research Project (CORC). The CORC

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: Library Digitization Projects

Following the successful launch of Digital Archives and Electronic Theses last year, the Library has been working on two other digitization projects, now available live!

Media Review Newspaper Clippings Online (http://library.ust.hk/cgi/db/newsclp.pl)

Want to know how the mass media cover UST activities? Newspaper and magazine articles from Media Review are digitised and can be retrieved by keywords in

Systems Updates: ILL and Y2K

ILL Integrated into Innopac – Starting from mid-August, Interlibrary Loan (ILL - books that are borrowed from other libraries for our users) transactions have been integrated into the main catalog system. The Library has begun checking in and out all ILL items using the same Circulation system as our own materials. This means you will automatically receive an e-mail when they arrive, and they will show up in your online borrowing record, so you can verify when they are due. You will also be able to pick up
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Project is using the Dublin Core metadata element set (http://purl.org/dc/) for the cataloging of Internet resources. The development of this set will aid in electronic resource discovery, and provides a simple mechanism to describe documents and other objects on the Internet. Approximately 100 libraries worldwide are contributing records to the CORC database by identifying useful resources, and creating metadata records for them.

Since 1995, HKUST Librarians have been actively identifying and selecting useful resources on the Internet. Resources which meet our selection criteria are linked from the Library’s web page (http://library.ust.hk/) in the Internet Resources section and the Pathfinders.

Library of Congress – Name Authority Cooperative Program

Because of our expertise in cataloging, we have also been invited by the Library of Congress (U.S.) to participate in their Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO), under the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. HKUST catalogers will receive special training this Fall, and will then begin contributing new and updated records for names, uniform titles, and series to the authority file maintained by the Library of Congress and used by librarians world-wide.

Nanking University – Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index Database

HKUST and the Nanking University have embarked on a project to produce the very first electronic social sciences citation index for major Chinese periodicals. The database will provide an index of citations to core humanities and social sciences journals published in the Chinese Mainland together with titles from Hong Kong, Taiwan and overseas.

A preliminary CD-ROM product, initially covering about 400 titles, is planned for early next year with Web access targeted for future development. HKUST will be responsible for the selection of 50 important Chinese journals published outside of the mainland and Taiwan. We are also coordinating with Nanking on software and thesaurus development and using our resource base for extensive product testing.

INTERNET: Meta-Search Engines

Most people are familiar with Web directories (e.g., Yahoo!) and search engines (e.g., AltaVista). Each has different coverage and search techniques. To search the Web comprehensively, you have to use several different tools. To avoid repetition, meta-search engines were created to let people search multiple tools simultaneously. Unlike Web directories or individual search engines, meta-search engines do not have their own database but search other sites’ databases.

MetaCrawler (http://www.go2net.com/) utilizes About.com, AltaVista, Excite, GoTo.com, Infoseek, LookSmart, Lycos, Thunderstone, Webcrawler, and Yahoo! It eliminates duplicates and integrates search results into a uniform format. MetaCrawler also offers some advanced search features such as double quotes for searching phrases and “+” for specifying words/phrases that must appear in documents. For example, +“Incan civilization” +Peru gives 28 hits from different databases.

Oogpile (http://www.dogpile.com/) simultaneously searches 3 search tools at a time and up to 11 altogether. It does not consolidate results, so you might have to wade through lots of duplicates. But it accepts boolean queries (with AND, OR, NOT) which are very useful.

Macintosh users should try Sherlock, which is included with MacOS 8.5. In Sherlock, you can select search tools and web sites (e.g., AltaVista, Amazon and Encyclopedia.com) without even launching Netscape! Sherlock also allows users to search their hard disks by content and file names. For more information,
see http://www.apple.com/sherlock/

Although meta-search engines provide the convenience of searching multiple tools, they tend to offer simple features which are insufficient for complex searches. When sophisticated searches are needed, try the advanced search commands available on most engines. Meta-search engines are good starting points for a quick overview of what's on the Web in a given topic. They are particularly useful when searching for obscure items.

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headlines or subjects in addition to sources, language, publication dates or Media Review issue no. Search results provide links to the full-text articles which are stored in PDF format. Although clippings come in all sizes and shapes, our project team tailors them to fit each scanned image into A4 size. Images can be rotated, enlarged or reduced in Acrobat Reader.

Clippings from 1998 to present have been processed, making up 2,000 records in the database. Retrospective conversion is underway to digitize earlier issues of Media Review which began publication in 1992.

Pamphlets Online
(http://library.ust.hk/cgi/db/pamphlet.pl)

Pamphlets and leaflets produced by government departments and public organizations offer a good source of statistics and social information. Pamphlets Online contains scanned images of these publications in PDF format, and is searchable using keywords, title, author, and subject terms. Currently, there are about 70 records in the database. Among them, you will find property market research reports, information on the West Rail Project, statistics from Urban Council, newsletters of the Legal Aid Department, information pamphlets produced by the Judiciary, and many others.

Both databases can be accessed via the Library Online Systems menu or through the Library Web Server.

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and return them from the Circulation Counter whenever the Library is open. In this way faculty and staff will receive materials 1-2 days earlier than before. However, faculty and staff who still prefer delivery will need to specify their preferences at the time of making requests. If you need to renew the item, you will still need to contact the Document Supply Service (x6754 or lbill@ust.hk), who will request a renewal from the lending library. Please keep in mind that renewal will not be possible once the item is overdue.

Y2K – Library Systems staff have been working on identifying and eliminating Year 2000 (Y2K) related problems for several years. During the summer, most of the final preparations were completed to ensure that any service disruptions will be minimal.

Two of the biggest tasks this summer involved upgrading the operating systems of the Library Catalog and Ovid servers. This involved much planning and coordination, and the final step was done in an all-night session by Systems staff in mid-July. Our various NT servers have also been upgraded with Y2K patches, which we will continue to apply as Microsoft releases them.

In recent years, we have tested all of the various CD-ROM databases for Y2K compliance. In almost all cases, these databases will continue to perform into the next year. A few products will not be ready in time, and will either be discontinued, or moved to a standalone environment where their problems will not be as serious.

The most difficult task this year involves upgrading the dozens of older public and staff computers. Priority has been given to public machines, and this upgrade was completed by the middle of August, with 35 new Pentium III PCs installed. Due to the budget situation, not every computer could be upgraded, so 15 were removed and the Macintosh computers were shifted from the Lab into main catalog/web stations. This Fall we will be trying to fund a similar upgrade for Library staff PCs.
WEB: Web Catalog Changes

The Web interface to the library online catalog (WebPac) was introduced in June 1996 and has gone through a number of changes. Two of the most significant are the ability to link directly to the resources, and the recent development of a Chinese interface.

After retrieving a catalog record of a Web resource or Web-based database, users can directly access the site by clicking on a hyperlink, which appears in a prominent location in the record. For e-journals where the Library subscribes to both the print and online versions, users can view the holdings information for the print edition and access its Web site via the same record.

The WebPac has always been able to display the records for Chinese materials, in both romanized and Chinese character forms. We have recently rolled out a complete Chinese (Big5) interface (http://ustlib.ust.hk/search*chi/).

We welcome suggestions for future improvements.

MEDIA: Materials for the School of Science (second in a series)

HKUST Library has an extensive collection of media materials on science and mathematics, mostly on VHS. The collection includes detailed descriptions of university level research. Some examples are the series SIGGRAPH video review (Media T385 .S54 1980) and SIGGRAPH’s Conference proceedings (Media T385 .S539) which show examples and applications of advanced computer graphics, or Introduction to pure mathematics (QA3 .1577 1996) a 27 part series on many of the basic areas like linear algebra, sets and functions, analysis, curve-sketching, etc.

Practical “how-to” videos on scientific procedures such as Organic chemistry laboratory techniques (QD261 .O8 1983) or the 12 part Elements of Safety (T55 .E45 1992), which covers general chemical laboratory safety are also available. These videos might be helpful for an instructor to show to students before starting the “lab” portions of a course.

There are also works with application to different fields of study. For example, Open University’s 8-part Real Life Statistics (Media QA402 .R37 1996) which covers how statistics can be used in many diverse fields from ecosystem simulation to quality control systems for manufacturers. The Ring of truth (Q175 .R5 1987) is a 6-part series that explores how science knows what it knows by showing the experiences of gathering and evaluating scientific evidence.

The Library also collects individual works that originally appeared as television series. These include “Horizon” in the UK and “Nova” and “National Geographic Special” in the USA. Use these series names in a title search in the online catalog and browse. You can also try entering the names of famous “hosts” like David Atteborough in an author search.

Exhibition: “歐豪年國畫展 – Chinese Paintings by Au Ho-nien”

On September 9th, please join us for the Opening reception of An Exhibition of Chinese Paintings by world-renowned Lingnan master Professor Au Ho-nien and meet the artist.

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