Library Digitization Projects: Digital Archives and Electronic Theses now Live!

Digital Archives
What other possible locations were considered for the HKUST campus? Where is the HKUST Time Capsule buried? What were the initial admission requirements for HKUST when it opened in 1991? Starting in the Fall of 1998, the answers to these and other questions can be found in the HKUST Digital Archives (http://library.ust.hk/cgi/db/archives.pl).

The Digital Archives is an ambitious project undertaken by the Library to revolutionize traditional access to archival documents. The goal is to provide effective searching and immediate online display of a large body of documents held in the University Archives. To achieve this goal, library staff have been working diligently for almost a year to customize BASIS, a commercial software acquired to meet the functional requirements of the digitization project. Via HKUST's Intranet, users can now search archives materials by keyword or phrase in the fulltext, the title of the document, and/or by the date of the event.

Two categories of records have been selected for scanning in the first phase of the project: public documents of general interest, and important administrative records which are frequently consulted by offices and departments throughout the university. The former contains publications such as the HKUST Newsletter and Genesis from the first issues, and press releases from the beginning of the University. The latter includes records of the University Administrative Committee, and the University Council and Senate dating back to their first meetings. The scope of information covered in the digital archives, though limited at this point, should provide a useful tool for tracking down important and interesting information on the history and development of the University.

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COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: New Electronic Resources

After almost a year of negotiation and efforts to resolve technical problems, three databases are finally available:

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Online (1998 ed.) is based on the printed Academic American Encyclopedia. It contains 35,000 articles, 6,000 pictures, photographs, and

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INTERNET: Finding Chinese Sources

Searching for Chinese sources on the Web has always been a difficult task. However, this is now simplified with a number of powerful search tools which have appeared on the Web.

Yahoo! Chinese 雅虎中文 provides two Chinese interfaces: 繁體中文(Big5)版 (http://chinese.yahoo.com/) and 簡體中文(GB)版 (http/
Suppose you want to look up “北京大學百年慶典”  in 繁體中文(Big5) 版, type “北京大學百年慶典” and choose “search”. The first item on the result list will link you to “北京大學百年慶典”. Besides searching, you can also find this site by browsing through several layers of information: 區域 -> 中國大陸 -> 教育 -> 大學院校 -> 北京大學 -> 北京大學百年慶典. To view the page, set your browser’s Chinese encoding to GB (國標碼簡體).

AltaVista – Let’s say you are interested in information on “克林頓訪華”. You could use Yahoo and find 3 results. However, for more results, you should turn to AltaVista (http://altavista.digital.com/) since it indexes many more Web sites than Yahoo. Before searching, choose “Search in Chinese” under “International” at the bottom right of Alta Vista’s homepage. Select “BIG5 (Chinese) encoding” or “GB (Chinese) encoding”. Now select the corresponding Big5 or GB setting for input in your computer (e.g. in RichWin), type “克林頓訪華” and choose “search”. You’ll find about 100 results. Most results on the first couple pages are relevant and those on later pages may be only marginally useful.

If you want to try other Chinese search engines, see “中文搜索引擎 Chinese Search Engines” at http://www.luc.org/misc/more.html which lists about 20 Chinese GB and Big5 search engines. Some of the best ones on the list include “GoYoYo 悠遊” and “蓋世引擎”.

“GoYoYo 悠遊” (http://www.goyo.com.hk) covers over 400,000 Chinese sites and has a resourceful subject directory. For example, many interesting sites including “香港風景照片集” and “布達拉風采” can be found under “藝術 -> 攝影”. However, its search capability is disappointing. A search on “香港環保” will lead to many unrelated sites including “香港人的網上安全套店”. Searching AltaVista on the same topic retrieved many more relevant sites.

蓋世引擎 (http://gais.cs.ccu.edu.tw/cwww2.html) is highly recommended if you are looking for information on Taiwan. For example, a search on “市長選舉” will yield several hundred Taiwanese sites on the topic.

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For documents which are to be digitized, inventories have been prepared and can be found on the archives homepage (http://library.ust.hk/archives/). Please take a look and see what collections are available. To comply with the policies concerning the use of archival records, access to certain documents is restricted to authorized users through “Staff Login.” Details on obtaining a user name and password are included in the FAQ section of the Archives homepage. If you have any questions, please contact LBARSC@ust.hk.

The Archives plans to hold workshops for university staff on how to use the Digital Archives, beginning in the Fall of 1998.

Electronic Theses

During the past year, the Library has been creating an electronic database containing the scanned images of all of the HKUST Theses. This database is now available at http://library.ust.hk/cgi/db/thesis.pl

The electronic theses database can be accessed using a web browser from any machine on the campus network. Retrieval is provided through standard author, title, and keyword searching. Each Thesis is available in a single PDF file, including low resolution versions of all charts and graphics. High resolution grey-scale or color versions of these graphics are also available in a separate PDF file, to reduce overall file sizes.

There are also links from the web interface of the Library Online Catalog to the Electronic Theses Database, so that anyone retrieving thesis records in the Catalog can immediately call up the full text of the work.

These are just two of the digitization projects being developed by the Library. Upcoming projects include the Reference section’s ‘Vertical Files’ database of pamphlets and other high-turnover materials; and a fully searchable database of the Public Affairs Office’s Media Reviews. The latter will be expanded to link to the indexed and scanned images of the articles on which the summaries are based.
INFORMATION SERVICES

Personalized Faculty Orientation

To familiarize our faculty members with the most up-to-date services and techniques in searching databases for research and teaching, the Library offers customized faculty orientation all year round. All faculty are welcome to take advantage of this hour-long program. In general, these programs consist of an introduction to the Library services, a demonstration of databases in the areas of interest, and a Library tour. The orientations are given by the Library’s School Contact Persons who are librarians specializing in serving a particular school in the University.

Library Classes

Throughout the year, the Library holds a variety of classes to meet the diverse interests and needs of our students and staff. In 1997/98, the Library offered 143 classes to 4,755 students and staff. In a sample of 31 classes, 577 participants (95%) commented that they would recommend the class to their friends. These classes fall into three main categories:

Classes for New UG Students: In the first two weeks of September 20 classes will be offered to new undergraduate students.

Course/Subject Specific Classes: Faculty may request specialized Library instruction programs for their students. These requests have included “Workshop for Computer Science PG Students”, “MARK 531: Marketing Research”, “BIOL 301: Advanced Seminars”, and “SOSC 343: Urban Geography”.

Open Workshops: In addition to those requests by faculty, the Library offers a variety of classes on topics of common interest. These included “Navigating the World Wide Web”, “Using Microforms”, “Searching Chinese Information”, etc. Similar classes will be organized this year.

Online Tutorials

Self-learners and those who miss a Library class may find the class’ handouts under ‘Library Instruction Notes’ at http://library.ust.hk/serv/lin/ 30 instruction notes are currently available. You may also learn techniques to search for various kinds of information with our Pathfinders at http://library.ust.hk/res/resource.html#path These include “Ten Steps to a Research Paper”, “Company Information”, and “Job Hunting”. In addition, over 40 database search guides have been prepared to facilitate your searching of the databases. They are accessible at http://library.ust.hk/res/guides/

For more information, or to arrange classes, please contact the Reference Counter at x6760 or by email to LBREF@ust.hk

Systems Updates: INSPEC on Ovid and 25 Dynasties Update

INSPEC on Ovid – The INSPEC database has moved from the ustlib server to the Ovid server. On ustlib, it could be accessed either through telnet or through the web. On the Ovid server, access is no longer available through telnet, but the coverage is expanded.

There were several reasons for this switch. Most important are the additional search capabilities including allowing users to efficiently search other works of individual authors; works in the same subject areas; and to narrow the search by years. It also offers much more sophisticated boolean operators. In addition, we anticipate that Ovid will soon be adding full text to a number of the indexed journals. We also benefit from a much lower subscription cost under the new plan. Please be reminded that, as with many online resources, you must dial in through the HKUST campus network or you will be denied access.

25 Dynasties Update – An updated and expanded version of the 25 Dynasties History Database (二十五史全文資料庫) has been successfully installed on the Library’s Web Server. Please point your browser to http://library.ust.hk/cgi-dynasty/ftmsw3 to explore this rich resource.
artwork, and 830 maps. Nearly half of the articles are linked to carefully selected Internet sites which provide additional information.

Encyclopedia Americana Online (1998 ed.) contains the complete full-text of its printed edition, with over 25 million words in 45,000 articles. About 75 percent of the articles are linked to relevant Internet resources.

Both encyclopedias can be accessed through the Web. On the Library Home page (http://library.ust.hk/), select Library Resources, then choose the category Miscellany under Electronic Resources by Subject.

Applied Science and Technology Plus (AST Plus (1994-)) is a new PowerPages database. It provides citations and abstracts to articles appearing in about 400 leading English language periodicals in applied science and technology. The database also contains full images of articles from over 120 of the periodicals indexed. To access AST Plus from a PC, select 'Online Databases' in the Library Online System menu, then choose PowerPages. As with other PowerPages databases, AST Plus sends all print requests of full images to the laser printers at the Library Circulation Counter for collection.

ProQuest Direct: In addition, the Library is making arrangements to provide access (on a trial basis) to Proquest Direct along with PowerPages. This is a service which provides web access to all our existing PowerPages databases, including Business Periodicals Ondisc (BPO), General Periodicals Ondisc (GPO), Social Sciences Ondisc (SSO), and AST Plus mentioned above. ProQuest Direct has many advantages over PowerPages.

The most important are: accessibility from Macintosh computers and Unix Workstations, not just PCs; off-campus access; faster updating of information; the ability to send article text and citations to any email address; the full images of articles can be viewed in PDF format; users can print full images of articles using their own printers; and it also includes the ability to perform full-text searching.

However, as Proquest Direct’s databases are hosted in the United States, the speed of retrieving full images of articles during peak hours may be slow. Please try it and let us know of your experience. Your comments will be very useful for our evaluation of this new service.

Who to Contact

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