Conference on Institutional Repositories (IR)

Skyrocketing journal prices have caused massive journal cancellations in libraries worldwide. They have also sparked the Open Access Initiative (OAI) which attempts to regain lost access to academic publications. In response, academic institutions build Institutional Repositories (IR) that collect, disseminate and preserve in digital format the scholarly output created by the institutions (journal articles, books, theses, working papers, etc.). On December 9-10, our Library held the "International Conference on Developing Digital Institutional Repositories: Experiences and Challenges". Jointly organized with the California Institute of Technology Libraries, the conference attracted 130 local and overseas representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Mainland China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the UK and the USA.

President Paul Chu and University Librarian Dr. Samson Soong each gave a welcome speech. Kimberly Douglas, the University Librarian at Caltech, delivered the keynote speech by emphasizing our important roles in the changing modes of scholarly communication. Then key players shared on their developments, achievements, issues and solutions, illustrating the evolution of the IR over time. Speakers included Kimberly Douglas and Eric Van de Velde (Caltech Libraries), MacKenzie Smith (MIT Libraries), Peter Morgan (Cambridge University Libraries), Catherine Candee (California Digital Library), Thornton Staples (University of Virginia Libraries), and Diana Chan and K.T. Lam (HKUST Library). These early
adopters showcased different software and functionalities - CODA, FEDORA and DSpace. Presenters also demonstrated the great visibility of scholarly output deposited in IR. For example, the 1,600 documents at HKUST had 9,000 downloads in November 2004. Caltech recorded a thousand unique IP accesses to its electronic theses in a month. California Digital Library registered 20,000 full-text downloads in a week. What are especially thought-provoking are the lively discussions on standards, strategies, policy issues and future developments on the second day.

The open access movement has gained considerable support from public agency groups. For instance, the U.K. Science and Technology Committee, the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and the National Scholarly Communications Forum in Australia have announced that the results of publicly funded research must be made openly available to the public. IR would be an ideal home for these open access research output.

All presentations and abstracts are available at the conference site at: http://library.ust.hk/

Collection Spotlight: Kluwer Online

Subject to successful migration of Kluwer Online to Springerlink, our users will soon have seamless access to over 650 Kluwer journals via the SpringerLink platform. The Kluwer Online collection (http://library.ust.hk/cgi/db/misc.pl?kluwer) contains journals that were previously published by Chapman & Hall, Plenum, Baltzer Sciences and Kluwer in disciplines including arts and humanities, business and economics, biological and physical sciences, engineering and social sciences. The database contains over 265,000 articles, with over 50,000 new ones with figures, tables and high-resolution images being added each year. Conversion of journal back issues is ongoing with an aim to include them for all journals dating back to 1997.

Using the SpringerLink platform, users can simultaneously search over 1,200 scholarly journals published by Springer and Kluwer. Links to citation databases such as ISI/Web of Science (WOS), BIOSIS, PubMed as well as links that utilize DOIs to link from article citation to the abstract and fulltext of the original materials are supported.

A quick review of the Kluwer titles revealed that over 50% (332/650) of them are indexed by WOS and have very high impact factors. Due to budget constraints, the Library could only afford to subscribe to less than 40 such journals in the past. By paying a relatively small premium through the JULAC consortium in 2005, we are now able to expand our access to this quality collection by more than eight times. New journals featuring new scientific discoveries or economic trends, etc. published by Springer and Kluwer will automatically be added to the collection and accessible to our users.
In addition to the rich STM contents, Kluwer includes a significant number of journals in economics and psychology - journal titles that are badly needed by our users but which we would otherwise not be able to justify adding to our collection due to their high costs and our small user population.

**Courtesy Notices from Library Circulation**

If you have received an email with this heading, then you are already aware of one of the new features in the Library's integrated online system. The Courtesy Notice reminds patrons of the due date for library materials, the DAY BEFORE the material is due. Thus giving patrons a reminder to renew it, if possible, or to return it on time and avoid those annoying little overdue fines.

Sending out notices, before material comes due, is the one improvement most requested by our patrons over the years. Because most libraries still send printed overdue notices - HKUST was a leader in the use of email notices - it took a long time for our system vendor to acknowledge the usefulness of pre-overdue notices, and do the programming to develop this feature. After years of lobbying, we are delighted that it is finally here, and hope you are too.

**Book Approval Plan Refinements**

To ensure that books pertinent to our teaching and research needs are being acquired and to find ways to free up some money to build up our collection in specific areas, certain measures were taken by the Library to exert more control over the books sent to us.

First, our YBP Book Approval Plan profile was revised to target receipt of more relevant scholarly works in science, engineering and business. Books in humanities and social sciences including major works will now be selected by the Library selectors. By eliminating automatic receipt of materials in some areas, we hope to divert some money within our tight budget to strengthen our collections in nanotechnology, globalization and Asian and Asian-American Studies.

Second, the Library will perform a thorough analysis on receipt of Springer and Kluwer series. In 2005, all works published by Springer & Kluwer will be shipped to the Library. Our selectors will evaluate each of the series/books based on the usage of the previous items and the relevance of these items to the University's academic and research needs for a period of six months. It will then make recommendations to place the chosen series on standing orders and to retain them permanently.
Information Services: Library Class Survey in Fall 2004

To help users explore Library resources more effectively and to enhance their information skills, the Library offers a wide variety of classes throughout the year. To assess their usefulness and quality, we solicit users' feedback with a short questionnaire. But this assessment cannot tell us whether our classes have longer-term value, or whether attendees continue to use the information skills learned in the classes.

Therefore, we conducted a survey in the Fall Semester 2004. 24 of 133 classes were sampled. Questionnaires were sent to over 800 users and about 540 responded. The results indicate that over 66% of participants continued to use the skills they learned in the classes. The overall rating for both the class content and instructors was above average.

We would like to express our gratitude to all respondents, and we also appreciate the support of the professors who distributed and collected the questionnaires in their classes. Each comment from you is crucial to us while we strive to improve the quality and effectiveness of our instructional programs. What we learn from this survey will certainly help us tailor future classes to better suit your information needs.

Survey of journal usage / Thank you for not reshelving

During 2005 the Library staff will conduct a journal usage survey. In order for this study to accurately reflect HKUST usage patterns, please do not reshelve any journal that you use, whether bound or unbound. They will be reshelved by Library staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

Library Web Site Changes

Several changes were made to the Library Web site in December, from a content reorganization to the inclusion of holiday graphics.

The home page (http://library.ust.hk/), and its sub-pages, have been reorganized to present what we hope is a better structure. It is divided into three main categories: Resources, Services and Information; complemented by a new Site
At the same time, the main banner on the home page, and all of the sectional banners throughout the site, were updated. The new banners are more text-based with CSS style controls, rather than using graphics in the older manner. This looks better and also allows them to more flexibly adapt to different monitor settings.

The security of your connections has also been improved, as all Library Web Forms now use a secure server connection. This way, your username and password are encrypted when you authenticate.

For Christmas and New Year, we added some seasonal graphics and messages to the rotating images on the home page. We plan to do the same for the Chinese New Year. December also saw the return of our "Info-Elves" on all database and subject guides.

We hope you liked them, and that your holidays were happy ones. Welcome back.

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**Systems Update: Library Catalog Enhancements**

In recent months, several improvements have been made to our Library Catalog:

**CJK punctuation:** Our Systems staff have worked with the software vendor to solve a search and sorting problem related to CJK punctuation. After much work, our efforts have resulted in significant improvements: 1. CJK punctuation is now correctly ignored from sorting in the search results. 2. Searching with or without CJK punctuation will now correctly retrieve entries whether they have the punctuation or not.

**Variant Chinese characters:** We are also working with the software vendor to improve the Catalog's handling of variant forms of simplified and traditional Chinese characters. This is now in beta test, and you may see some improvements in the next month or two.

**Limit to available:** The "Limit results to available items" option in the Library Catalog was enhanced to include more items than just those marked "Available". "Available" items now include those labeled "Available", "Online Access", "Lib Use Only", and "On Display".

**Courtesy notices:** The Library Catalog will now e-mail you "courtesy notices" one day before your checked-out items are due.

**Subject lines:** Circulation notices from the Library now have customized subject headings, giving patrons a much better idea of what information is included inside the email. Also, most email notices are now automatically generated and sent out by the system, so that they can go out in a timely fashion every day - even on
Automated request processing: Another improvement is the patron-initiated recall of material. Previously, if you placed a "Request" for a book, the request would go into a queue, waiting for Library staff to process it. Now, the system automatically processes the hold request and generates the recall notice. The online record is automatically updated, showing the new hold on the book, and providing immediate feedback to the patron making the request.

Scholarly Publishing Workshop

A Scholarly Publishing Workshop, co-sponsored by the HKUST Library and Elsevier, was held on our campus on 2 November, 2004. Elsevier, a leading global STM publisher, produces around 1,800 peer-reviewed journals in virtually all areas of research. The workshop was aimed at both academic staff and PhD students.

The speakers at the workshop were Dr. Paul Evans, Vice President of Elsevier Science & Technology, China and Clare Marl, Senior Marketing Manager, Materials Science and Engineering, Elsevier.

The presentations provided an overview of scholarly publishing, including a background to STM journals and publishing in the context of larger scholarly publishing trends; the rigorous peer review process; and copyright and publishing etiquette. They also provided insight into the importance of impact factors and choosing the right journal in which to publish one's scientific findings or research results. The presentations were well-received and generated useful discussions among attendees.

All presentations are available online for those who are interested: http://library.ust.hk/info/other/nov2004/