

THREE MAJOR CHINA STUDIES RESEARCH COLLECTIONS IN HONG KONG

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During November and December 1994, I was in Hong Kong for three weeks. At that time I had the opportunity to visit three major China studies research collections and found that there was an impressively large amount of valuable material there. I would like to take this opportunity to share my findings with Australian China studies scholars and librarians. Below is my brief report.

CONTEMPORARY CHINA RESEARCH COLLECTION Hong Kong Baptist University Library

I visited the Hong Kong Baptist University on the 25th of November and was greeted by Mrs. Kitty Tse, the University Librarian and Ms. Kit-wah Lee, the Head of the Contemporary China Research Collection.

The Contemporary China Research Section of the Hong Kong Baptist University holds one of the famous contemporary Chinese studies research collections outside China. The Collection was established in 1984 and materials were mainly acquired from the former Union Research Institute Collection. It comprises newspaper clippings, microfilms, monographs, periodicals and newspapers.

The Collection has over 8,000 volumes of newspaper clippings. It adopted the Union Research Institute Catalogue Classification: clippings are divided into five major categories, namely: General category, Political and social category, Military category, and Cultural and educational category. Clipping sources were major newspapers published between 1950 and 1974 in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and overseas, such as *Ren min ri pao*, *Guang ming Daily*, *Nan Fang ri pao*, *Central Daily*, *Hsin sheng pao*, *Tai kung pao*, and *Sing tao jih pao*. Since 1985, clipping sources have been the major Hong Kong newspapers such as *South China Morning Post*, *Hong Kong Standard*, *Sing Tao Jih pao*, and *Ming pao*. The clippings contain news about China and related information. Recently, headings of current clippings have been entered onto a local PC from which an index was produced in printed form. It is very handy for researchers retrieving needed information.

The periodicals and newspapers of the Collection also contain valuable materials. The majority of the periodicals and newspapers were published on the China Mainland between 1950s and 1970s. All items are listed in the

Catalogue of mainland Chinese Magazines and newspapers held by Union Research Institute, Third edition, 1968.

The Collection has 4,000 rolls of microfilms which are produced mainly from the newspaper clippings, newspaper backups and back issues of periodicals. Copies of the microfilm in 35 mm are available for research purposes at HK\$1,000 per roll of about 100 feet. In addition, the Collection houses monographs relating to China studies published from 1950 onwards.

All materials in the Collection are used internally during opening hours. Overseas scholars who want to use the Collection for research purposes should obtain approval from the Librarian. Fees are charged: HK\$250.00 (for one month), HK\$500.00 (for three months).

Further enquires about the use of the collection should be referred to Mr. Ng or Miss Lee on +852-2339-7446 or fax +852-2339-7372.

FUNG PING SHAN LIBRARY **The University of Hong Kong**

I visited the Fung Ping Shan Library on the 29th of November. I had the opportunity to share with Mr. Lawrence Tam, Associate Librarian of the University of Hong Kong Libraries, matters regarding Australian's CJK experiences. I also had discussions concerning the collection of the Fung Ping Shan Library with Ms Mo-ching Cheung, Assistant Librarian of the Fung Ping Shan Library.

The Fung Ping Shan Library is the East Asian library of the University of Hong Kong Libraries. It houses mainly Chinese and Japanese language materials. There is a small proportion of Korean-language materials. The Library has total holdings of over 400,000 volumes of monographs, more than 8,000 periodical titles, 5,000 reels of microfilm, over 20,000 sheets of microfiche and 500 items of audio-visual materials.

The Library collection's strength is in the areas of Chinese language and literature, history, philosophy and the arts. The speciality of the Library covers rare books, genealogical materials, local gazetteers and periodicals.

The Library has two publications which provides valuable information regarding its collection, both of which are held by the East Asian Collection of the University of Melbourne Library:

Periodicals and newspapers in East Asian languages in the Fung Ping Shan Library of the University of Hong Kong, August 1994.

Chinese local gazetteers, Fung Ping Shan Library of the University of Hong Kong, compiled by Mimi W. Q. Young, 1990.

Since September 1989, all new catalogued items are entered onto an inhouse computer system. Records can be retrieved by entering the author, title, author/title, subject, keyword, etc. Materials catalogued before September 1989 can be retrieved from the card catalogue.

The Library is open to overseas scholars. The main collection is available for overseas libraries through interlibrary library loan (ILL). The fax number for ILL is +852-858-9420.

THE UNIVERSITIES SERVICES CENTRE Chinese University of Hong Kong

I visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong Libraries, including the Universities Services Centre, on the 5th of December, 1994. In the Main Library I met Dr. Michael Lee, the University Librarian, Mrs. Rita Wong, the Systems Librarian, Ms. Edith Wu and Mr. Yu. I had the opportunity to share with them my experiences with the Australian CJK Project. In turn, they shared their experiences in CJK automation, especially their CJK retrospective conversion from OCLC. I was also greeted by Ms. Jean K. M. Hung, Assistant Director of the Universities Services Centre.

The Centre is a separate unit of the University, and holds one of the best contemporary China studies research collections in the world. The Collection comprises materials published post-1950 covering newspapers, periodicals, yearbooks, statistical almanacs, county annals and local gazetteers.

The Collection is famous for its first-hand resources and references services. It has a complete set of national and provincial newspapers from the 1950s onward. Current newspaper subscriptions number about 480 titles. The Centre subscribes to more than 1,400 periodicals, which cover the areas of social sciences, economics, political parties and law. The Collection has more than 500 titles of national and local yearbooks, as well as statistical almanacs. It also houses 28,000 monographs, mainly in the social sciences and humanities, and more than 1,000 titles of currently published local gazetteers.

The Collection has an inhouse computer system. The online public access catalogue (OPAC) allows users to retrieve materials by searching the author, title and subject. It offers a monthly *List of Recent Acquisitions* and a computer search catalogue system of the Collection for subscriptions by individuals or academic institutions.

The Collection is open to overseas China studies scholars with no admission fee. Assistance is provided to overseas scholars in applying for visas to Hong Kong, arranging accommodation, etc.

Materials in the Collection are not available for loan; however a "Research Assistance on Hire" service is available to Scholars. This includes photocopying and research assistance. All requests for services should be submitted in writing. The charges for services are very reasonable. For further information, users may contact +852-2609-8763, or fax +852-2603-5030, or via e-mail usc@cuhk.hk

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

My visits to the above three collections were very rewarding. The librarians were extremely kind and helpful, and they were all willing to provide assistance to Australian scholars if they had the need. Hong Kong is the front gate of China. The China studies materials in these collections are very good and, as materials are received by them early, collections are more up-to-date than in East Asian libraries in western countries. If China studies scholars have the opportunity to visit Hong Kong or are passing through on the way to other places, visits to these three collections are recommended.

I should like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Kitty Tse and Ms. Lee Kit-wah, Hong Kong Baptist University Library, Dr. Kan Lai-ping, Mr. Lawrence Tam and Cheung Mo-ching, University of Hong Kong Libraries, and Dr. Michael Lee, Mrs. Rita Wong, Ms. Edith Wu, Mr. Yu and Ms. Jean K. M. Hung, Chinese University of Hong Kong Libraries, for granting me the opportunity to visit their libraries and for showing me around their collections. I should also like to thank Ms. Helen Hayes and Mr. Tim Meredith, University of Melbourne Library for granting me special leave for these visits.

