

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY  
HONG KONG BRANCH  
LIBRARY**

**REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004/2005**

As of 1 March 2005, the library collection had increased to 5,519 volumes. A total of 438 volumes were added during the year, which is an increase of 95% compared to last year. Donations of books were received from Mr Peter Crush, Dr Colin Day, Dr Patrick Hase, Dr Orlan Lee, Prof Peter Lisowski, Mr Frederick Ng, Ms Elizabeth Teather, Dr Dan Waters and Mr Jason Wordie. Gift of books were also received from Canton Cultural Affairs Bureau, Foundation of Islamic Cultural Propagation in the World, and Hong Kong Museum of History.

Our Library has been enriched by some very valuable and interesting gifts. Dr Betty Wei, who has finished her research on the Qing Dynasty, donated her valuable collection of 260 volumes written in English, Chinese and European languages. She has promised that more will be delivered later. Mr David Hodson also sent us some books of archival value, one of which is entitled: *Japan: its history, traditions and religion* by Sir Edward J Reed, published in 1880. We would like to thank all our donors and welcome further contributions of old and rare books.

The Hong Kong Journals Online (HKJO) has recorded increasing usage. It is HKU's full-text image database offering access to selected academic and professional journals published in Hong Kong. Titles in this database cover a wide range of disciplines including law, medicine and education. With permission of the Society, the *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* has been digitized and included in this database. Hong Kong Journals Online is now indexed in 'Google Scholar' providing scholars around the world efficient access to resources relating to Hong Kong. Already, our Council members have received enquiries about articles in the RAS Journal found on the Web. Researchers previously requesting interlibrary loans of an article in the Journal can now access it directly on the Web. However, not all articles in the Journal are indexed. Copyright of older issues resides with the authors and some of them could not be traced.

The Hong Kong Central Library has made an effort to compile an index of the books and journals in the RAS Collection with information on the title, author, imprint, volume, call number and a brief description. It was found that some information on the book does not match information in the Online Catalogue and detailed checking is being undertaken to ensure accuracy of the data. Some of the required information is also difficult to locate in old and rare books. To date, 35% of the books and 60% of the periodicals have been checked. With over 5,000 volumes, it is expected to take quite some time to finish checking and working on the index.

The Hong Kong Central Library has kindly offered, at no cost, to digitize talks of RAS speakers. Good progress has been made. Six records (10 tapes) are now available for use, 38 records (39 tapes) are being checked for quality and 34 records (37 tapes) are being processed. The digitized versions will be loaded onto the

Multimedia Information System, available for convenient access in the Public Libraries via the System.

Usage of the RAS Collection, as compared to last year, has increased. Borrowing has increased by 67%. As reported by the Hong Kong Central Library, usage of the RAS Library for the period 1 March 2004 to 28 February 2005 was as follows:

**Library Usage**

	<b>2003/2004</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>
No. of reference enquiries	229	191
No. of books consulted	325	336
No. of borrowers	19	23
No. of books loaned out	24	40

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Hong Kong Central Library for their assistance and highly professional service to our members during the year.

Ms. Julia Chan  
Hon. Librarian  
1 March 2005