

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
HONG KONG BRANCH
LIBRARY**

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008

As of 1 April 2008, the library collection had increased to 6,190 volumes. A total of 118 volumes were added during the year including 24 items of A.V. materials, 10 items of electronic resources (CD-ROMs & DVDs), 3 titles of microfilm, 4 newspapers, 2 titles of learning kits, and 1 package of postcards. Donation of books were received from Ms Ruth Benny, Mr Rocky Dang, Mrs Jennifer Day, Mr Douglas P. Franklin, Dr Patrick Hase, Ms Helene H.T. Ma, Ms Anne Marden, Mr Robert Nield, Ms Janet Lee Scott, Mr Peter Stuckey, and Dr Dan Waters.

Gift of books were also received from Columbia University Press, Instituto Cultural do governo da R.A.E. de Macau, Hong Kong SAR Government. Information Services Department, Leisure and Cultural Services. Dept of Antiquities & Monuments Office, and Swedish Institute. New books received are regularly listed on the RASHKB Newsletter and webpage.

The digitization process is progressing well. The *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* was updated, accessible from Hong Kong Journals Online. Processing of the RASHKB symposium proceedings was also completed. Full text of the e-proceedings could be retrieved from HKUL online catalogue.

Digitization of RAS Talks is again up to date. All the tapes were processed except for a few older tapes due to poor quality of the master cassettes. Members could re-visit these talks from the Public Libraries' Multimedia Information System.

Carl Smith's index cards are now located in the Special Collections Section on the 7th Floor, safely stored in new cabinets and easily accessible by researchers. The original cabinets are placed adjacent to the new cabinets to serve as an archive. Usage of the index cards is impressive. There were 11 requests and 360, 218 cards were consulted during the year.

Hong Kong Central Library has kindly helped to promote the Royal Asiatic Society. A poster has been developed and a display highlighting some of our rare book collection and catalogue was set up outside the Special Collections Section. This has aroused interest and enquiries in the Collection by the general public.

Concerning usage of the RAS Collection, as compared to last year, there is slight decrease in usage. As reported by the Hong Kong Central Library, usage of the RAS Library for the period from 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008 was as follows:

Library Usage

	2006/2007	2007/2008
No. of reference enquiries	220	175
No. of books consulted	329	319
No. of borrowers	64	50
No. of books loaned out	86	71

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 April 2008