

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
HONG KONG BRANCH
LIBRARY**

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2006/2007

As of 1 March 2007, the library collection had increased to 6,072 volumes. A total of 280 volumes were added during the year including 20 items of A.V. materials, 9 items of electronic resources (CD-ROMs & DVDs), 3 titles of microfilm, 2 titles of learning kits, and 1 package of postcards. Donation of books were received from Mr Shiona Airlie, Mr Phil Bruce, Mr Edwin Chow, Mr Brian Cuthbertson, Mr Peter Crush, Ms Jennifer Day, Mr Fung Chi-ming, Dr Patrick Hase, Dr James Hayes, Ms Pamela Hunt, Ms Veronica Johnston, Mr Tim Ko, Mr Robert Nield, Mr Peter Stuckey & Mr Rocky Dang, Mr C. Varadarajan, Dr Dan Waters, Dr Betty Wei, and Mr Zhang Jian-guo.

Gift of books were also received from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Museum of History, Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and The Institute of Ethnology Academia Sinica. New books received are regularly listed on the RASHKB Newsletter and webpage.

To facilitate searching and accessing full text of the *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, RASHKB Council gave permission to HKU Libraries to digitize all the articles of the Journal except the latest three years of publication and those specified not to be digitized. The process has now been completed. A Copyright Statement is added to HKJO webpage informing authors to contact RASHKB if they do not wish their articles to be available online. These will be promptly removed.

At the Society's request, HKU Libraries will also be digitizing RASHKB symposium proceedings and indexes. These will not be placed in HKJO (Hong Kong Journals Online) since they are not journals. They will be placed in HKUL online catalogue and searchable in the catalogue.

Carl Smith index cards are now placed in better and safer custody. A set of tailor-made steel cabinets were ordered and the cards had been migrated to the new cabinets. A re-count showed that there are actually 120,793 instead of 140,000 cards stated previously. Some information was printed on both sides of some of the cards which might have been counted as 2 cards. The content covers the history of Macao and China coastal cities in the 19th century, which is of great value to scholars in Asian studies.

The RAS Newsletter is found to be a great source of information for some specific research. In order to compile a complete set of the Newsletter, Council members attempted to trace personal copies and make photocopies of old copies where available. After a searching process, newsletters gathered cover the years from 1987 – 2006. These were bound into 3 volumes and placed in the RAS Collection for ready reference. The Hong Kong Central Library has also kept the RAS Newsletter from 20 April 2001 - 20 July 2006 in the Newspapers & Periodicals Section. They had now been transferred to the RAS Collection.

The Hong Kong Central Library has kindly continued their free service to digitize RAS talks, both retrospectively and prospectively. A total of 37 talks from 1991 – 1995, 12 from 2005, and 6 from 2006 were successfully digitized (some were withdrawn due to poor condition). Members could re-visit these talks from the Public Libraries' Multimedia Information System.

Concerning usage of the RAS Collection, as compared to last year, the numbers of borrowers were increased by 45% and borrowing of books had increased by 30% reflecting well use of the RAS resourceful collection. As reported by the Hong Kong Central Library, usage of the RAS Library for the period from 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007 was as follows:

Library Usage

	2005/2006	2006/2007
No. of reference enquiries	209	220
No. of books consulted	322	329
No. of borrowers	44	64
No. of books loaned out	66	86

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 2007