

## **Honorary Librarian's Report for the Year 2021/22**

### **RASHK Library Collection**

As of 28 February 2022, the library collection has reached 8,673 volumes, with a total of 101 new items added to the Collection. The year-on-year addition of new items has increased more than five-fold, showing a clear sign of recovery in the processing of library materials. Donations of books were received from Dr Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Dr Patrick Hase, Dr Helen Tinsley, Dr Gillian Bickley, Mr Patrick Dransfield, Dr Veronica Pearson, Mr John Strickland, Dr Sheng-Wei Wang, Mr Bob Bunker, Mr Bob Tatz, Dr Tony Banham, and Mr David Bellis. We also received books donated by The Harilela Group and the Library of Audrey G Donnithorne. Donations of journals were received from Instituto Cultural do Governo da Regiao Administrativa Especial de Macau, Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, The Asiatic Society of Japan, The Korea Foundation, Chinese University Press and Cambridge University Press.

### **Usage of RASHK Library Collection**

The number of reference enquiries and library books consulted had seen a robust rise although activity had not yet reached the levels in 2019 before the COVID pandemic. 2021/22 usage was approximately 60-70% of the usage recorded in 2019/20. As reported by the Hong Kong Central Library, the usage of our library collection for the current reporting year against the last is as follows:

<u>Library Usage</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
No. of reference enquiries	25	49
No. of books consulted	28	62
No. of borrowers	69	65
No. of books loaned out	102	96

One request to access the Carl Smith Collection was received with 48 index cards consulted. We are pleased to see that the use of this unique collection is gradually resuming.

## **JSTOR Digital Library**

Online usage tracked against the RASHK Journal on the JSTOR platform continues to be promising. JSTOR is a well-established online platform providing digital access to over 10 million academic journal articles. Since 2014, full text of the RASHK Journal has been made searchable and accessible worldwide under a pay-to-download/view arrangement with JSTOR. There were 48,909 article requests of the RASHK Journal in 2021/22 on JSTOR, sustaining a 25% year-on-year increase. The revenue generated under our collaboration with JSTOR in 2021 was USD 2741.65 (after tax), representing a modest 4% increase from the previous year's revenue.

## **A vote of thanks**

We welcome Ms Vanessa Tso as our new librarian liaison at the Hong Kong Central Library and her team's expert reference and operational support for our members is always much appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank her predecessor Ms Kat Lai for her many years of dedication in managing the RASHK Library Collection. The Hong Kong Central Library is an important partner of the Society and it is a privilege to have their support. I encourage members to visit our Collection and experience the friendly library service there!

Vivian So  
Hon. Librarian  
April 2022