

Honorary Librarian's Report for the Year 2023/24

RASHK Library Collection

As of 29 February 2024, the library collection has reached 8,951 volumes with a total of 121 new items added to the Collection, depicting a 1.37% increase. Gifts of books were received from Ms. Vaudine England, Mr. Les Bird, Mr. Mark O'Neill, Mr. Gordon Andreassend MBE, Mr. John Strickland, Dr. Richard Kirkby, Professor Lai Chi Tim, Ms. Pimpim de Azevedo, Dr. Helen Tinsley, Hong Kong University Press, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica and the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library. Donations of journals were received from Mr. William Waung, Cambridge University Press, Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, Instituto Cultural de Macau, the Siam Society, the Korea Foundation and the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The implementation of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology was scheduled to commence in January 2024 to replace the current barcoding system of the RAS library collection as part of the Hong Kong Public Libraries Smart Library System project. The RFID system would improve operational efficiency and user experience. Special attention would be paid to the Collection's rare materials using appropriate tagging techniques to prevent damage.

Usage of RASHK Library Collection

In comparison with last year's usage, the number of reference enquiries handled and library books consulted had seen a welcoming increase of 48% and 42% respectively. As reported by the Hong Kong Central Library, the usage of our library collection for the reporting year against the previous year is as follows:

<u>Library Usage</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
No. of reference enquiries	82	121
No. of books consulted	132	187
No. of borrowers	62	60
No. of books loaned out	88	84

No usage was recorded for the Carl Smith Index Cards in 2023/24.

JSTOR Digital Library

Online usage tracked against the RASHK Journal on the JSTOR platform shows a robust year of activity. There were 55,625 article requests of the RASHK Journal on JSTOR, representing a 14% year-on-year increase in usage. The royalty generated under our collaboration with JSTOR was reported to be USD 2791.74. JSTOR is a well-established online platform providing digital access to over 12 million academic journal articles, books, images and primary sources in 75 disciplines. Since 2014, full text of the RASHK Journal has been made searchable and accessible worldwide under a pay-to-download/view arrangement with JSTOR.

A vote of appreciation

I would like to express my gratitude for the help and support provided by the professional and friendly team at the Hong Kong Central Library. From operational support to maintenance of the RAS library collection, the Hong Kong Central Library's librarians and library paraprofessionals have demonstrated continuous excellence in their jobs for which we are always grateful.

Vivian So
Hon. Librarian
April 2024