Historical Documents on the Chinese in Southeast Asia:
Digitization and Collection
Development in the NUS Libraries

Sim Chuin Peng NUS Libraries



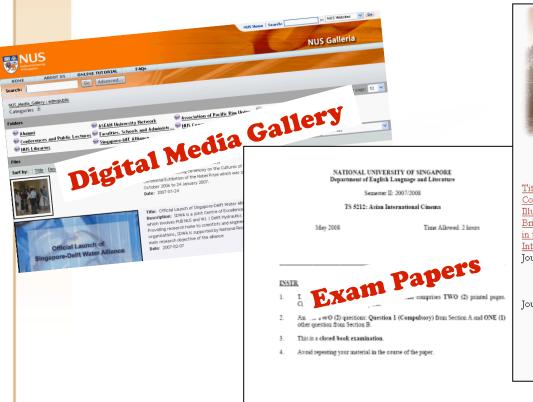
#### Outline

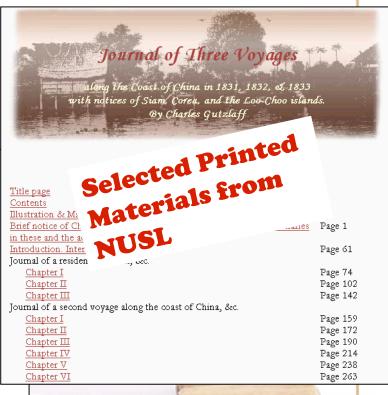
- Introduction
- NUS Chinese Library and Its Southeast Asian Chinese Collection
- HDCSEA Project
- HDCSEA Website & its Benefits
- Conclusion



#### Introduction

 NUSL has initiated several digitization projects over the years





### **NUS Chinese Library**

- Established in 1953, at University of Malaya
- Over 490,000 volumes of Chinese materials
- Ranked after Library of Congress and Harvard Yenching Library

#### Southeast Asian Chinese Collection



### First Digitization Initiative -- Lat Pau



# First Digitization Initiative -- Lat Pau (cont.)

- Singapore's 1st Chinese
   Daily Newspaper
- Published 1881-1932
- NUS Chinese Library covers 1887-1932
- Available Online in Jan 2000

# First Digitization Initiative -- Lat Pau (cont.)

Lat Pau (1887)

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1725	20 Aug, 1887	View Document
1726	22 Aug, 1887	View Document
1727	23 Aug, 1887	View Document
1728	24 Aug, 1887	View Document
1729	25 Aug, 1887	View Document
1730	26 Aug, 1887	View Document
1731	27 Aug, 1887	View Document
1732	29 Aug, 1887	View Document
1733	30 Aug, 1887	View Document
1734	31 Aug, 1887	View Document
1735	1 Sep, 1887	<u>View Document</u>
1736	2 Sep, 1887	View Document
1737	3 Sep, 1887	<u>View Document</u>
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1743	10 Sep, 1887	<u>View Document</u>
1744	12 Sen 1887	View Document

#### HDCSEA Project

(Historical Documents on Chinese in Southeast Asia Project)

- Proposed in 2004
- To digitize available documents of research value and relevant to the historical studies on Chinese in Southeast Asia
- Purposes :
  - 1. Preservation of fragile primary source materials
  - 2. Provide convenient access to researchers and students

### HDCSEA Project (cont.)

- Includes:
  - a) Historical Documents from NUS Libraries
  - b) Other institutions
  - c) Individuals
- Priority: Primary Resources
   Newspapers, Magazines, Commemorative Publications, Textbooks, Manuscripts, Travel and Descriptions, and Private
   Correspondences

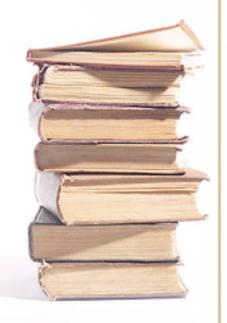
## HDCSEA Project (cont.)

Also Include :

Secondary Materials
Important historical writings by
Chinese authors in Southeast Asia
which are out of print and had not
been widely circulated before

• Important:

Only non-copyrighted materials are included



# HDCSEA Project (cont.)

#### A Five Year Plan

A five year schedule has been drawn up for the Project.

0 2004

Digitization of NUS Library Collection with imprint of 1933 and before. So far, we have completed the digitization of two local Chinese newspapers, the Lat Pao (1887-1932) and The Sin Kuo Min (1919-1933) and made them available online.

2005

Lunch e-SEA : a digital Library of h Documents of Chinese in Southeast which, during this phrase, cover doc ments about Chinese in Singapore, lacca and Penang.

2006

Cover East and West Malaysia and Brunei

Cover Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

2008

Cover Philippines and Indonesia.

#### Financial Support

The number of documents involved in this 5 year project is estimated as about 30,000 titles. The total estimated cost for the 5 year project is estimated as S\$ 550,000. This is not a small sum that NUS Libraries could afford to absolve it without financial support from external sources.

As such, we would be most grateful if you could consider funding the pro-

Brochure on HDCSEA Project

deductible.

For Donation, please contact:

#### **NUS Libraries**

12 Kent Ridges Crescent

Singapore 119275

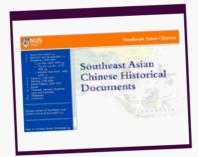
(Attn : Mr. Lee Ching Seng,

Senior Manager, Chinese Library)

Phone: (65) 6874 2872 Fax: (65) 6777 -3571

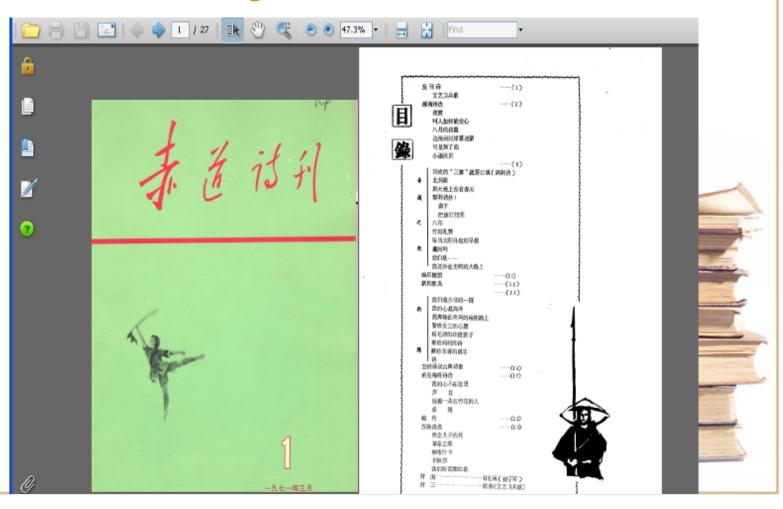
Email: clbleeak@nus.edu.sg

Southeast **Asian Chinese** Historical **Documents Project** 

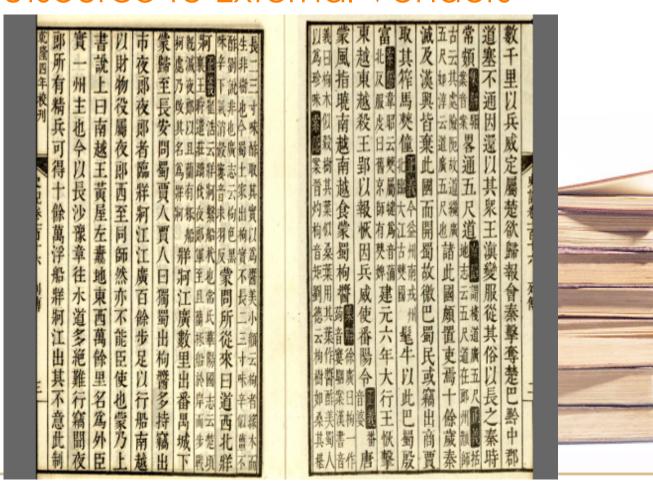




 Materials in good physical conditions – In-house Digitization



 Materials in microfilm, fragile materials, thread-bound Chinese books – Outsource to External Vendors



#### **HDCSEA** Website

Launched in March 2007



新加坡国立大学图书馆 > 中文图书馆 > 东南亚华人历史文献

#### 东南亚华人历史文献数据化计划



#### 缘起

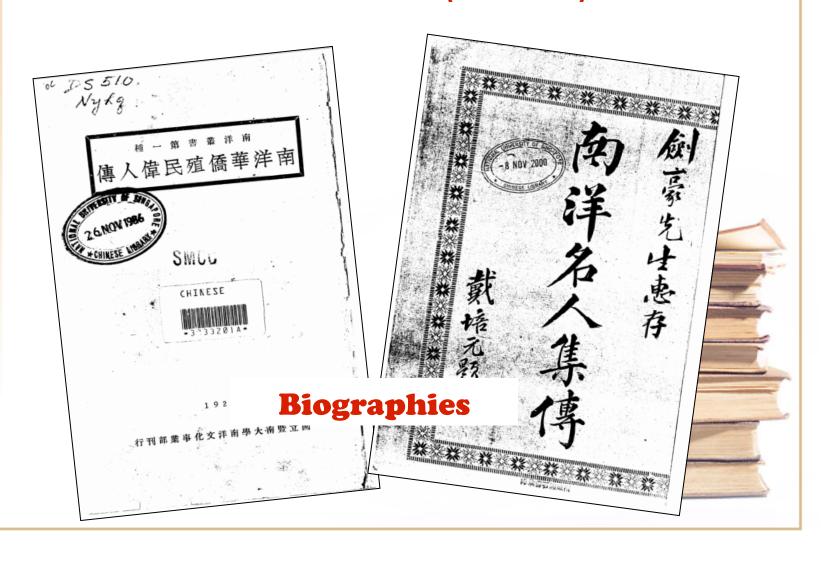
东南亚(旧称南洋)是中国移民海外历史较久,人数最多的地区。远在宋朝时期,中国的南贾与工匠(包括矿工及技术人员)就开始额洋过海,把中国国内的商业,手工业及矿业实践引申到菲津宾、爪哇、西婆罗洲与秦国等地,成为东南亚最早的一种移民:其后,中国移民以华商、华工、华侨、华裔或再移民等形态移居东南亚,从落叶归粮到落地生粮,逐渐形成海外华人的最大社群。

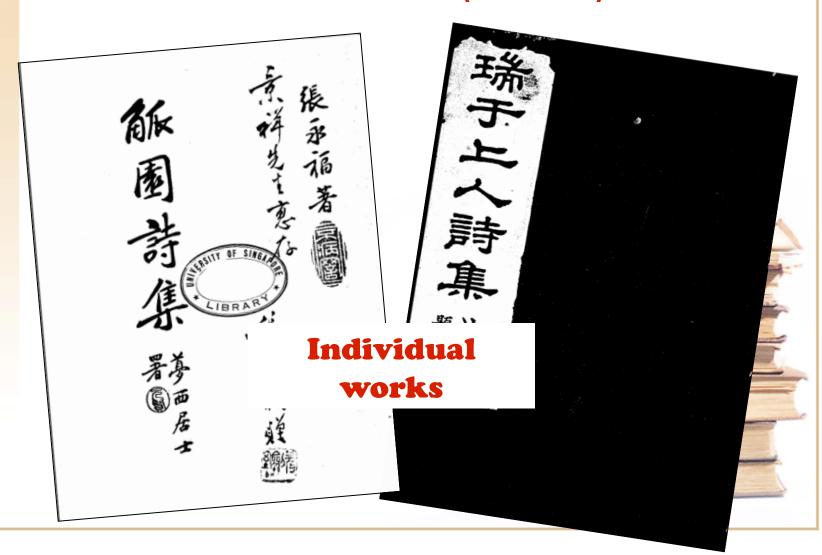
几百年来,移居东南亚的华人在各个居留国组织社团、创办学校、开办报馆、出版刊物,留下了数以万计的历史文献。这些珍贵的文献,是研究东南亚华人移民史、社会史、经济史、政治活动与宗教传播等各方面的第一手资料,但可惜却因没有获得社会的重视,任由之随时日流逝而湮灭,不复留存者为数难以估计。



http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/chz/SEAChinese/index.html











#### 东南亚华人历史文献

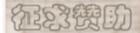
主页 麒麟系统 数据表格 数据图书馆 新加坡国立大学图书馆 > 中文图书馆 > 东南亚华人历史文献 > 主要內容

#### 东南亚华人历史文献数据化计划

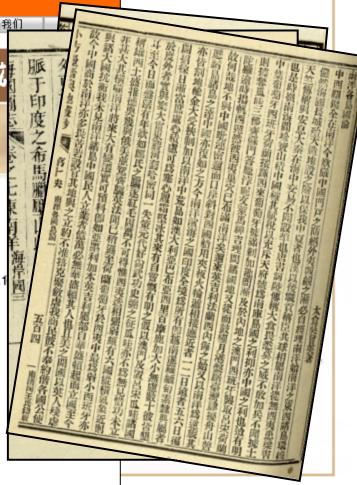
#### 主要内容

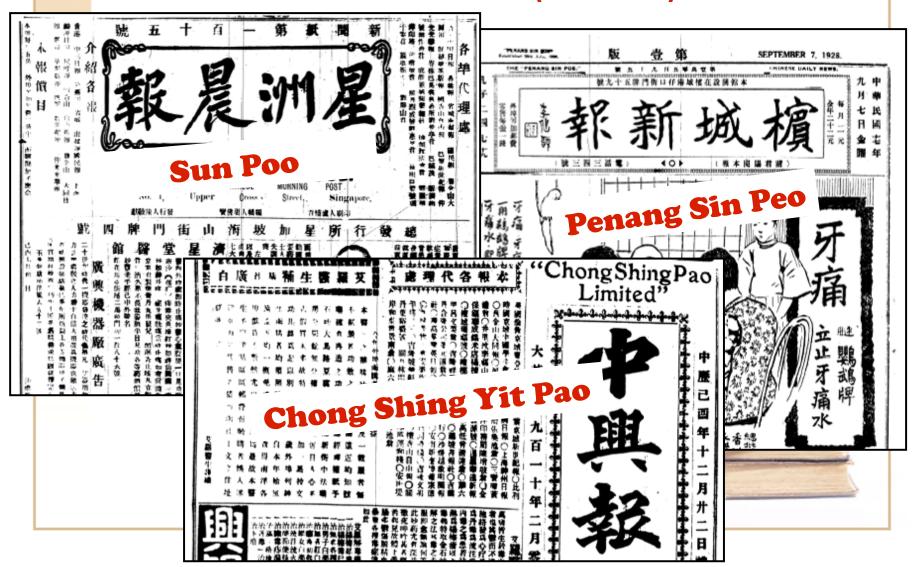






- . 背景篇:历史文献中的南洋古国
- 2. 文通篇:中外文通史籍中的南洋
- 3. 南洋印象: 早期的南洋文献
- 4. 下南洋:东南亚华人移民史料 中国殖民伟人列传(又名南洋华侨殖民) 中华民族拓殖南洋史(1934)
- 英属海峡殖民地 海峡殖民地,1786-1942 马六甲华人史料,1511-1942 槟榔屿华人史料,1786-1942 新加坡华人史料,1819-1942
- 6. 英属马来亚, 1874-1957
- 7. 英属婆罗洲, 1821-1963
- 8. 英属缅甸、1886-1948
- 9. 英属汶莱, 1888-1984
- 10. 法属中南半岛, 1893-1954







# Access via Library Catalogue

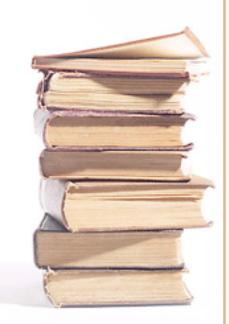


#### Benefits

- Institutions and individuals to offer their publications to NUSL
  - Received a total of 557 titles on Chinese Overseas Studies and Southeast Asian Studies from March 07 to February 2008

### Benefits (cont.)

 Persuading others to donate or loan their collections for digitization



#### Some Examples...

 The children of Mr Chua Boon Hean donated screenplays and literary works collected by Mr Chua

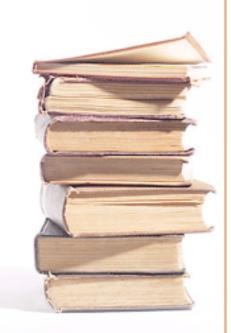


 Mahua Literature Resource Centre helped in obtaining copyright clearance and loaned lacking issues for digitization



## Benefits (cont.)

 Attracting donors to fund our acquisition and digitization effort



#### Conclusion

- Demonstrating a virtual product to donors proved to be more effective than just a descriptive brochure
- Digitizing unique materials in the library collection can be an important component of an Institution's collection development strategy

