

# The University of Hong Kong: Two Project Updates

Peter Sidorko  
Deputy University Librarian

29 October 2008

**Project 1:**  
**Rare Book Digitisation Project**

A HKUL-iGroup Collaboration

# Project Scope

- Digitization, i.e. scanning of images and production of 4,000 e-books (about 1,200,000 images) in 12 months
- Rare, out-of-copyright books on China and Asia written in English
- Project started in July 2008

# Motivators

- Preservation
- Access
- Improving searching capabilities
- Supporting teaching and research
- Strengthening the role of HKU Libraries as a digital content provider

# Books to be digitized

- Western Rare books about Asia, including:
  - Morrison Collection
  - Hankow Collection
  - Chater Collection ...



# Morrison Collection

- Formerly Library of the Morrison Education Society, an educational institution set up in 1836 to further the work of Rev Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary in China
- Opened in Old English Factory, Guangzhou, in early 1838



*Old English  
Factory*



# Books from:

- Library at the English Factory (1806-1834)

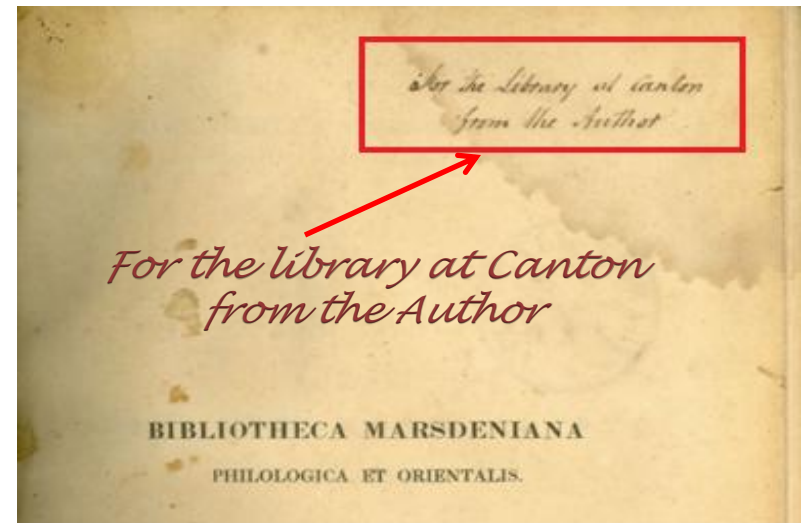


*Thomas R. Colledge*

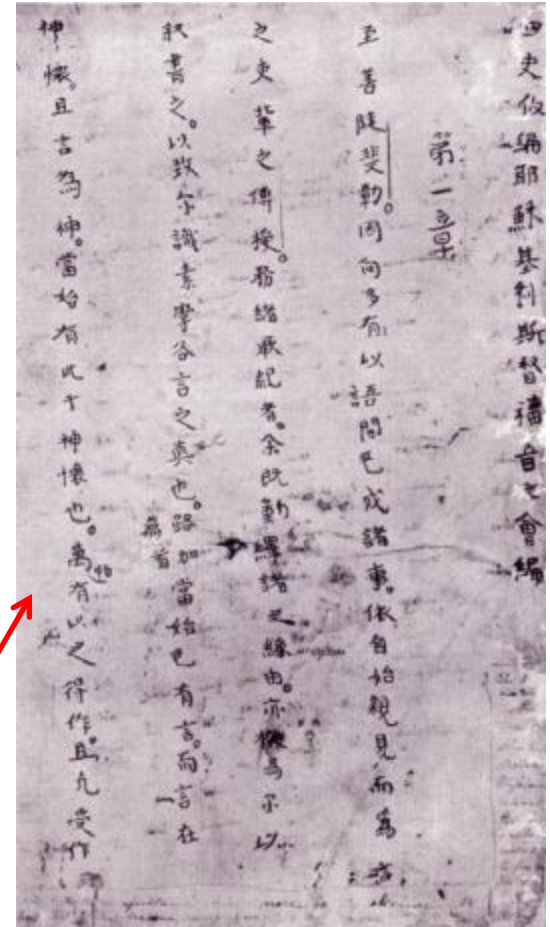
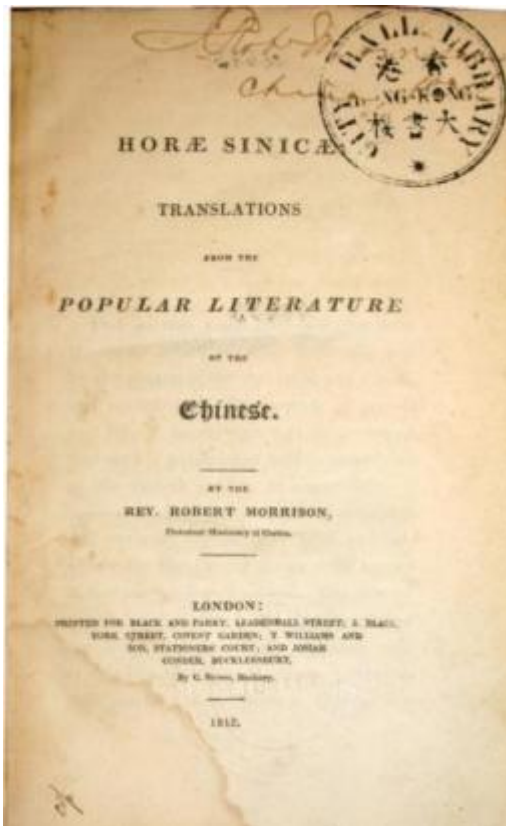


No. 10. Canton Factories. c. 1815. Oil.

Chinese Artist.



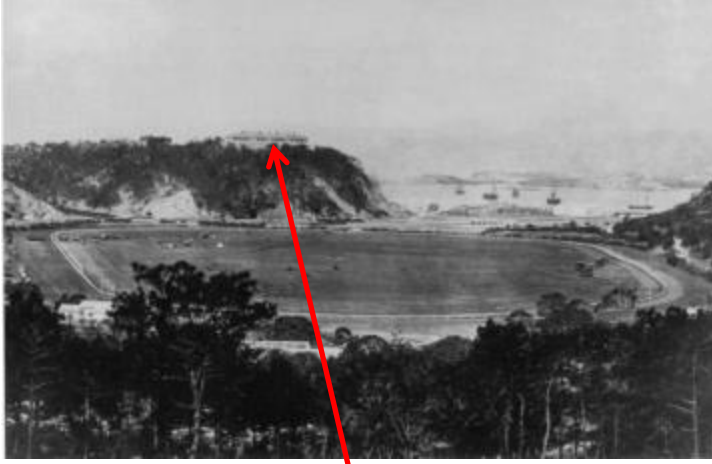
# Robert Morrison's books from his son, John R. Morrison, when he passed away in 1843



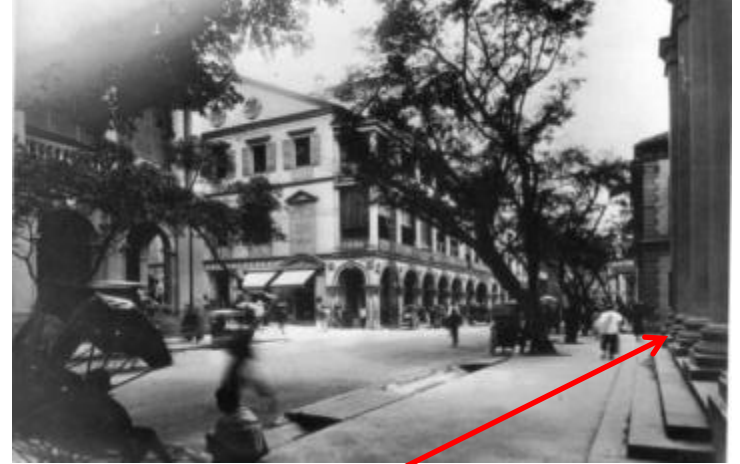
*Bible Manuscript*



# From Guangzhou to HKU



*Morrison Hill*



*Old Court House*



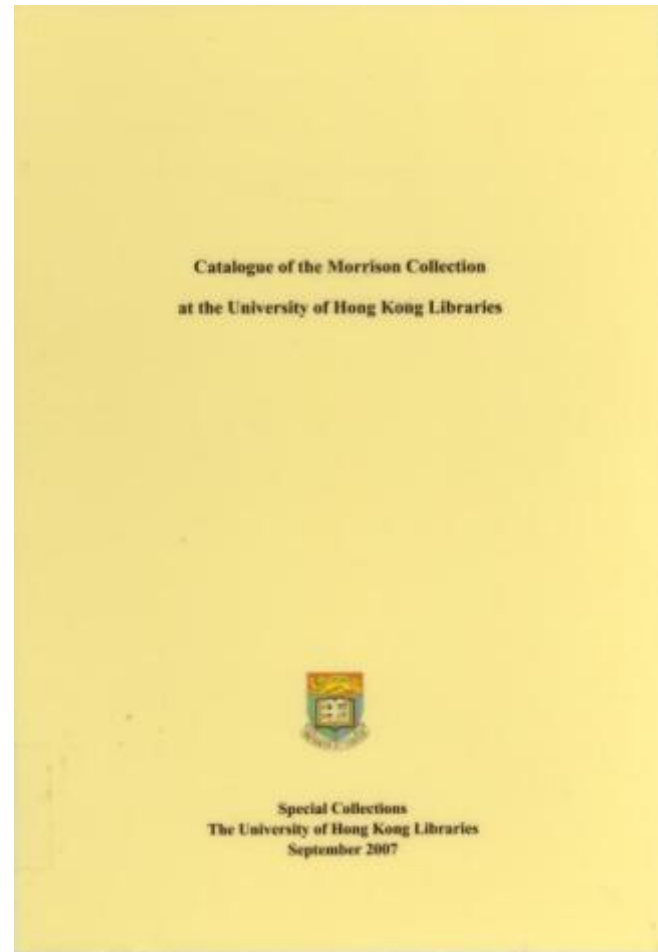
*City Hall*



*HKU*

# The Collection

- No new additions since 1869
- Representative of the period
- Bible in different languages
- Some books on China
- 1,284 titles in 2,726 volumes



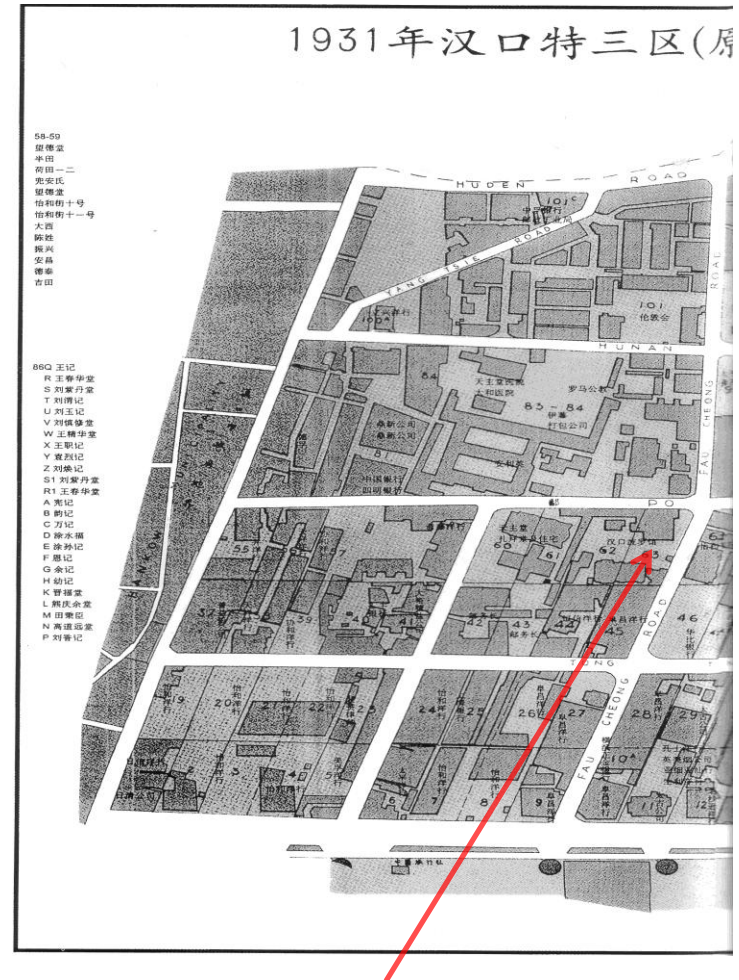
# Hankow Collection

- The British founded the Hankow Club in 1878 to provide amenities for the foreign communities in Hankow
- A place for fun and social gatherings
- In Chinese the Club was called 「大波樓」 and 「波羅館」 (Chinese translation of pool?)

# Where was it?



*Hankow*



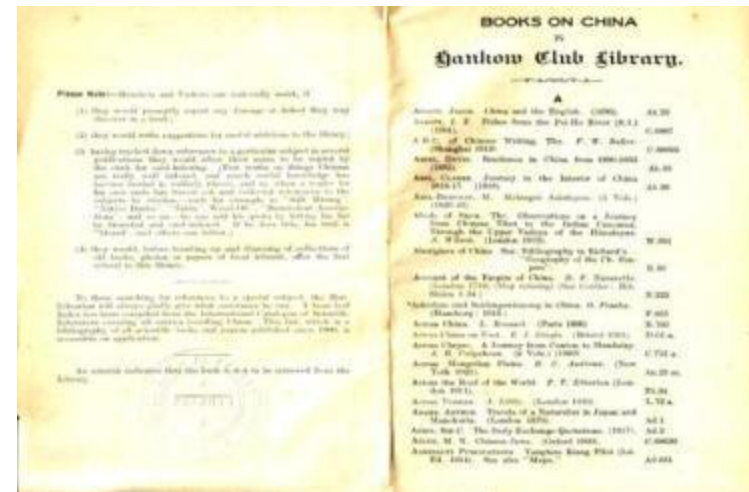
*Hankow Club*

# The first library in the foreign concessions in Hankow

- Honorary Librarian – Dr A.H. Skinner, a British physician who lived in Hankow for 30 years
- The Library came to accumulate one of the best Far Eastern Collections in any library in China in the early twentieth century

# About the Library

- Card catalogue
- Book catalogue
- Book selection policy
- Library regulations



# From Hankow to HKU

- China's Recovery of the British Concession in Hankow in 1927
- Exodus of foreigners from Hankow
- The Hankow Club decided to sell books
- HKU bought the 'China' section of the library collection in 1932 for HK\$25,000
- Three thousand volumes of books and journals with an emphasis on the Far East

# Chater Collection

- Sir Paul Chater built up a fine collection of oil paintings, print sketches, books and photographs on China.
- He passed away in 1926 and bequeathed his collection to Hong Kong.





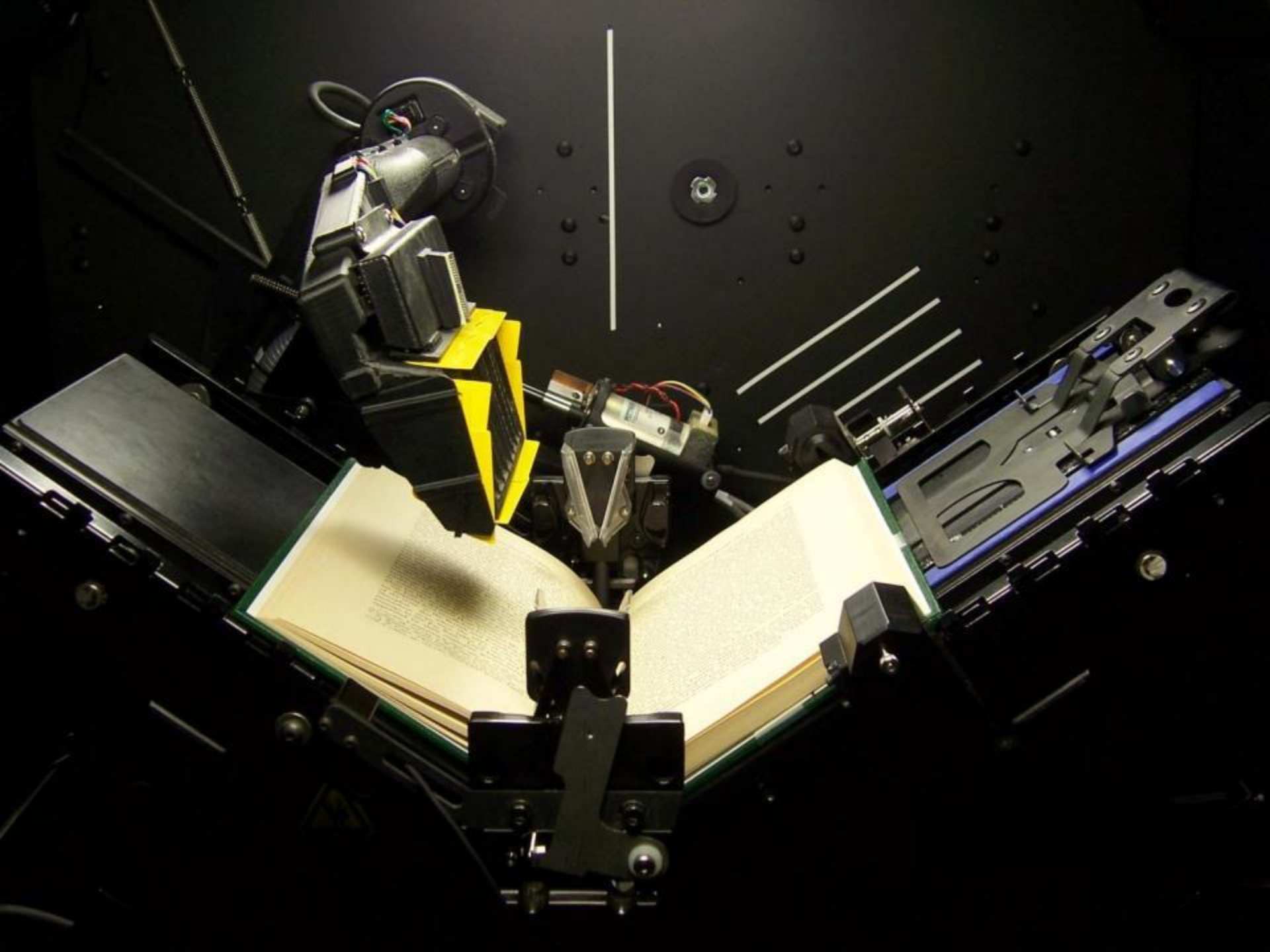
# The Collection

- Sir Cecil Clementi, Governor of Hong Kong from 1925 to 1930, presented the Chater books to the University in 1927
- Book list available at *The Chater collection: pictures relating to China, Hongkong, Macao, 1655-1860* by James Orange (1924)
- Mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century imprints
- Some with excellent illustrations

# Scanners

- Kirtas APT 2400 - an automatic book digitization device that features an integrated automatic page-turning robot





# Scanners

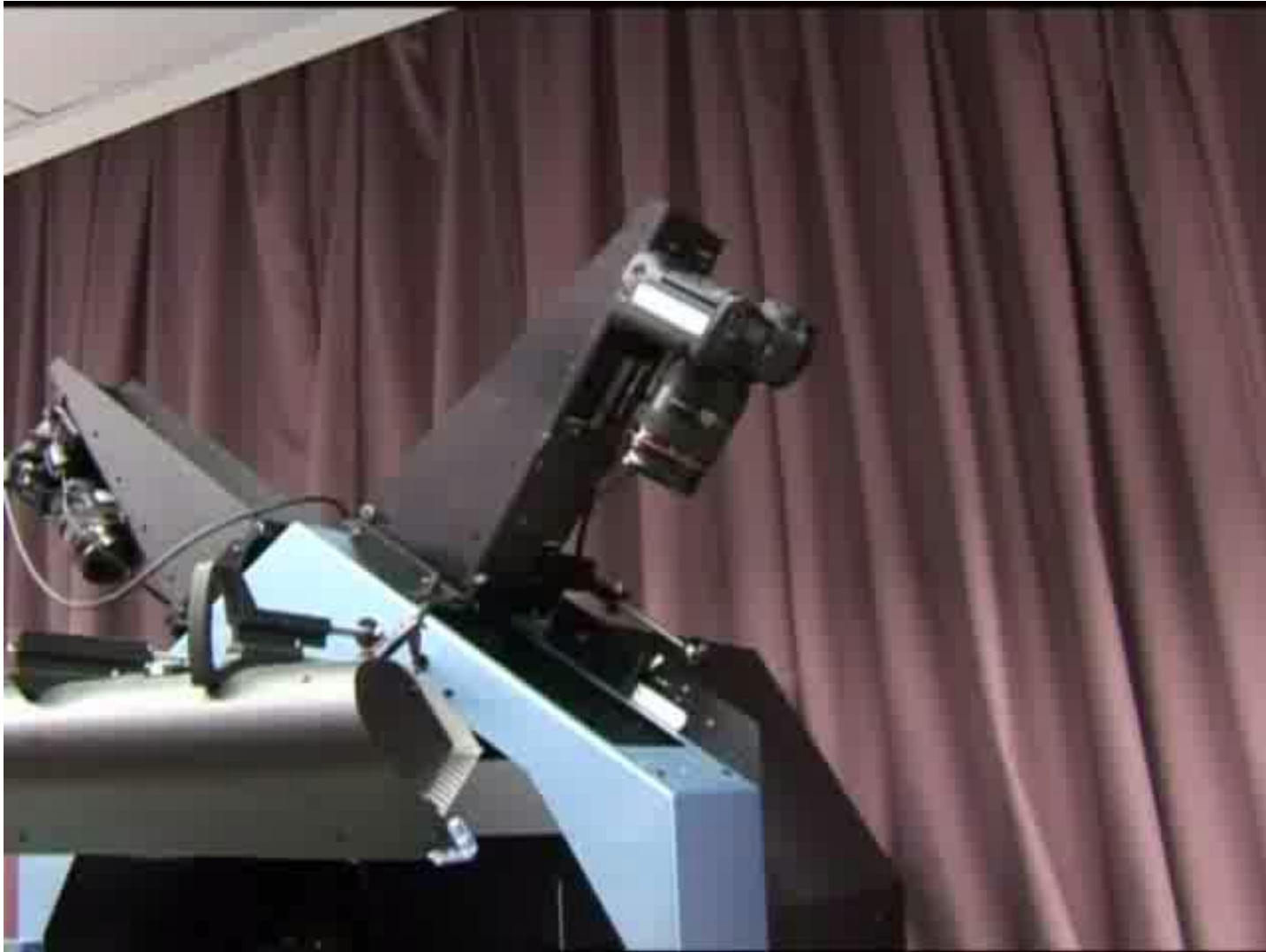
- ATIZ BookDrive DIY – a book scanning platform with a unique v-shaped, auto-adjusting book cradle and platen to capture images with no page curvature and is easy on book bindings



# A manual Kirtas!



# The scanners in action



# Regional Workflow

Last updated: 24 Jan 97



# Regional Workflow

HKU (Hong Kong)



1. Inspect and select books (HKU)
2. Scanning at HKU Main Library (iGroup)

iGroup (Thailand)



3. Editing and cleaning
  - Quality control of every image
4. OCR for text and metadata



# Regional Workflow

## iGroup (Singapore)



- Publishing as an ebook on iGroup platform
- E-distribution, or,

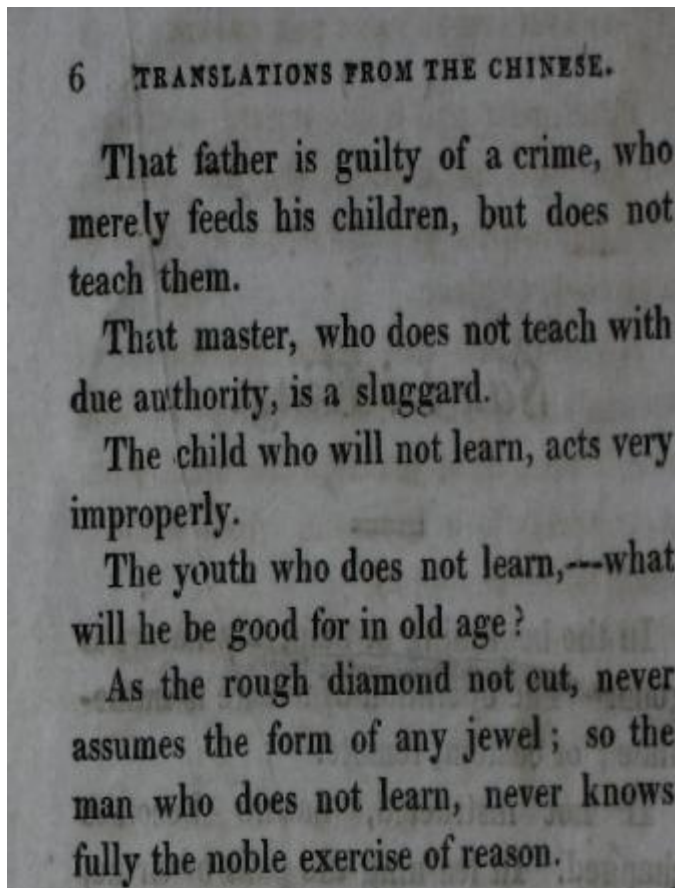
## iGroup (Taiwan)



- Print on demand

# Some examples

Raw image from camera



Cleaned image

6 TRANSLATIONS FROM THE CHINESE.

That father is guilty of a crime, who merely feeds his children, but does not teach them.

That master, who does not teach with due authority, is a sluggard.

The child who will not learn, acts very improperly.

The youth who does not learn,---what will he be good for in old age?

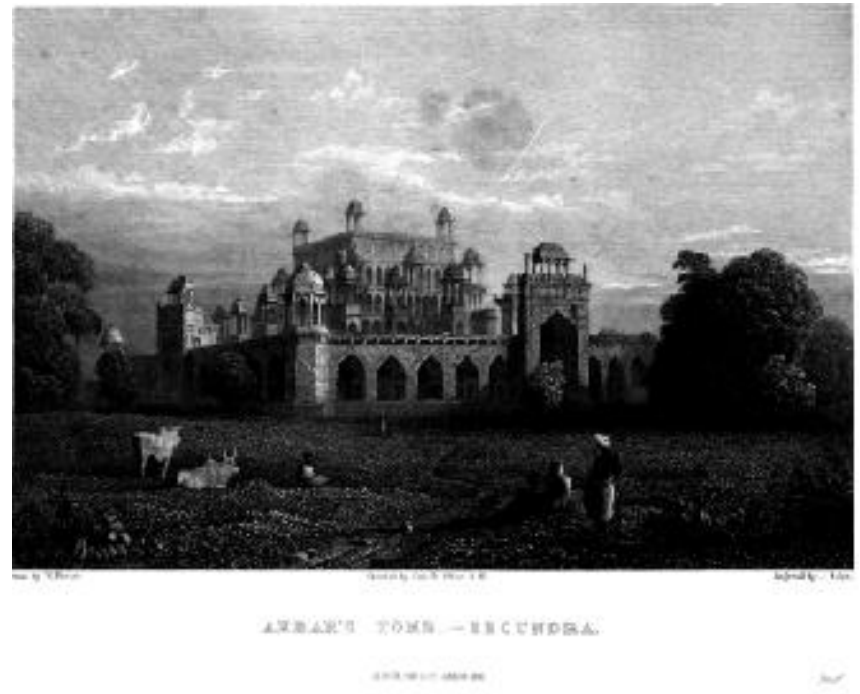
As the rough diamond not cut, never assumes the form of any jewel; so the man who does not learn, never knows fully the noble exercise of reason.

# Some examples

Raw image from camera



Cleaned image



# Challenges

- Lighting and setup/layout of book
- Removing book stains and OCR accuracy
- Tightly bound books/thick books
- Uneven surfaces from humidity etc
- Aligning pages and opposite pages
- Odd sized books
- Folded maps & plans
- Old fonts difficult to OCR
- Human intervention required most of the time.

**Project 2:  
RFID Collection Management  
and Circulation Project**

# RFID at HKUL

- First university library installation in Hong Kong
- Largest library RFID installation in Hong Kong

# RFID at HKU Libraries: WHY?

- Circulating items
  - 1.1-1.5 million loan transactions p.a.
  - Large number of *return* transactions
  - Up to 11,000 loans in Main Library in 1 day
  - Over 100,000 registered library users

A photograph of a busy library interior. In the foreground, a man in a striped shirt and dark pants is walking towards the left. In the middle ground, a group of people is walking away from the camera. In the background, a long counter area is visible with several people standing in a line. To the right, a person is sitting at a computer workstation. The floor is a mix of brown and red tiles. A yellow sign with the text "NAVIGATION CENTER" is visible in the upper right corner. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, active public space.

**This is WHY?**

**Main Library: 08/10/08, 12:50**



# RFID at HKU Libraries: WHY?

- Self-check (in and out)
- Patron satisfaction
- Staff productivity/savings/redeployment
- Staff satisfaction
- Security
- Inventory control/collection management
- The needle in the haystack
- Long term benefits/savings

# Our requirements

- **Interface** with the existing Library Management System;
- **Self check** which will reduce the need for staff to perform repetitive check-in and check-out activities;
- Achieve a goal of **60-80% self-check**, resulting in staff savings;
- Implemented in the **Main Library** and in selected branches in the future;
- Improved decision making through the timely, accurate and comprehensive **reporting**;
- Efficient **collection management**, including stock-take, shelf reading, and identification of reserved items;
- Added **security** of Library items, resulting in a reduction in loss of Library resources.

# RFID at HKUL

- In discussion pre 2001
- Lengthy tender process involving demonstrations from 7 vendors, (Nov, 2006 – Feb 2007)
- Tender awarded September 2007

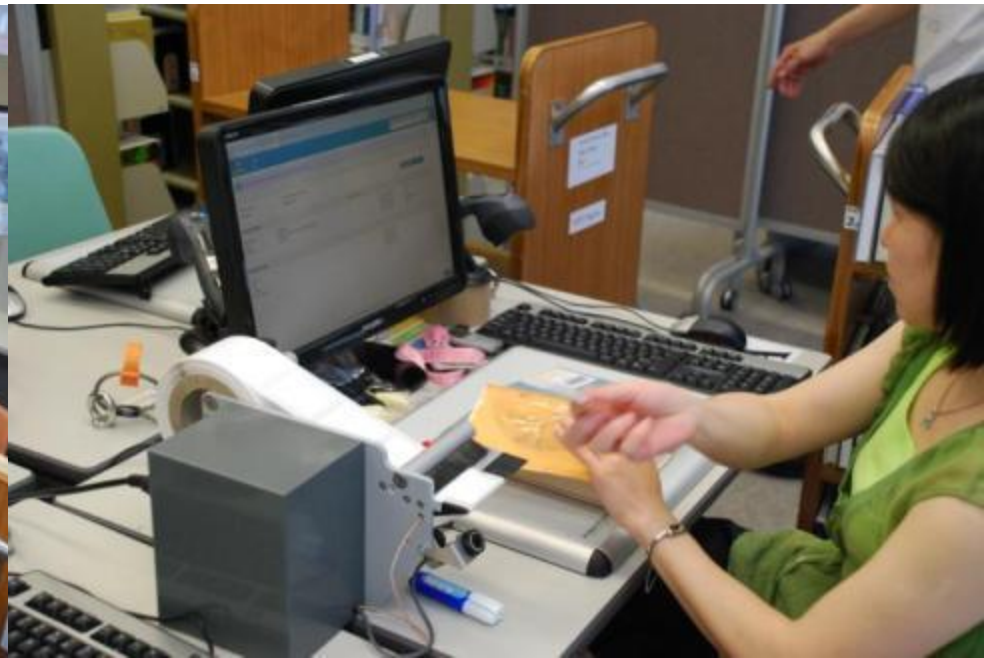


# Why this partnership?

- International reputations
- Customised solution
- Further expansion
- Developmental opportunity for HKUL staff

# Implementation : Tagging conversion

- May, 2008-
- 22 temporary staff (3 supervisors, 19 taggers and shelvers)
- Workstations on each floor



Tagging milestone: 6 October, 2008

**1,000,000th item tagged!!**



# Circulation milestone: 28 August 2008



# 28 August 2008

Millennium Circulation · University of Hong Kong Libraries · Ruth Wong  
File Edit View Go Tools Admin Help

### Circulation Desk

Key or Scan Item or Patron Barcode

Search

PATR N NAME ASD RFID testing record  
SS & Lib BC A8899  
PCODE1 -  
PCODE2 -  
PCODE3 0  
P TYPE 11 Reg Grad - credit card holder  
CUR CHKOUT 1  
MBLOCK -  
CL RTRND 0  
MONEY OWED \$10.00  
TOT CHKOUT 1363  
TOT RENWAL 0  
EMAIL ADDR aked@1221.com

Check Out (1) **Checked-Out Items(1)** Holds(0) **Fines(\$10.00)** Check In (0) Bookings(0) INN-Reach(0)

Change Due Date

| Barcode   | Title                            | Due Date    | Status |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| x47986283 | Qi meng shi dai / Wang Anyi zhu. | 11 Nov 2008 |        |

HKUL Millennium RFID AddOn

|            |                          |            |              |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Check out  | Check in                 | Status     |              |
| Pause      | F11                      | F12        | Close        |
| Read:      | 0                        | Set EAS:   | 0 Invalid: 0 |
| Queried:   | 0                        | Completed: | 1 Total: 1   |
| View Items | EAS On                   | EAS Off    |              |
|            | Call No.                 | Status     | EAS          |
| Read       |                          |            |              |
| Queried    |                          |            |              |
| Set EAS    |                          |            |              |
| Completed  |                          |            |              |
|            | [中] PL2919 A58 Q526 2007 | Others     | Off          |

Start | Read Serial# from Unive... | Welcome to HKU Librari... | runner.exe | Millennium Circulatio... | HKUL Millennium RFID Ad... | rfid capture 1.bmp - Paint | 3:49 PM



28 August 2008



# Security milestone: 28 August 2008



# Self check milestone: 9 October



Welcome to the self-check service of  
the HKU Libraries



Borrow / Renew



Return



Welcome! **Wong Ruth Shuk Ching**

Total borrowed item(s): [9]    Newly borrowed item(s): [5]



**Important: Please remember to logout!**

## Borrow Item(s)

| Call No.           | Title   | Due Date | Status        |
|--------------------|---|----------|---------------|
| 727.600099 M98 O85 | Museum, gallery and cultural architecture in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region : essays | 06-04-09 | ✔ Checked-Out |
| 299.935B S81 S     | Rudolf Steiner : scientist of the invisible / A.P. Shepherd.  | 06-04-09 | ✔ Checked-Out |
| 100 G34            | The science of philosophy / F.H. George.  | 06-04-09 | ✔ Checked-Out |
| 155.646 P9         | The Psychology of grandparenthood : an international perspective / edited by Peter K. Smith.        | 06-04-09 | ✔ Checked-Out |
| 100 F59            | The new Tractatus : summing up everything / Bruce Fleming.  | 06-04-09 | ✔ Checked-Out |

Continue placing items in the opening below until all books are borrowed. When you have finished, please remember to click the "Logout" button.



Logout



Return



Renew

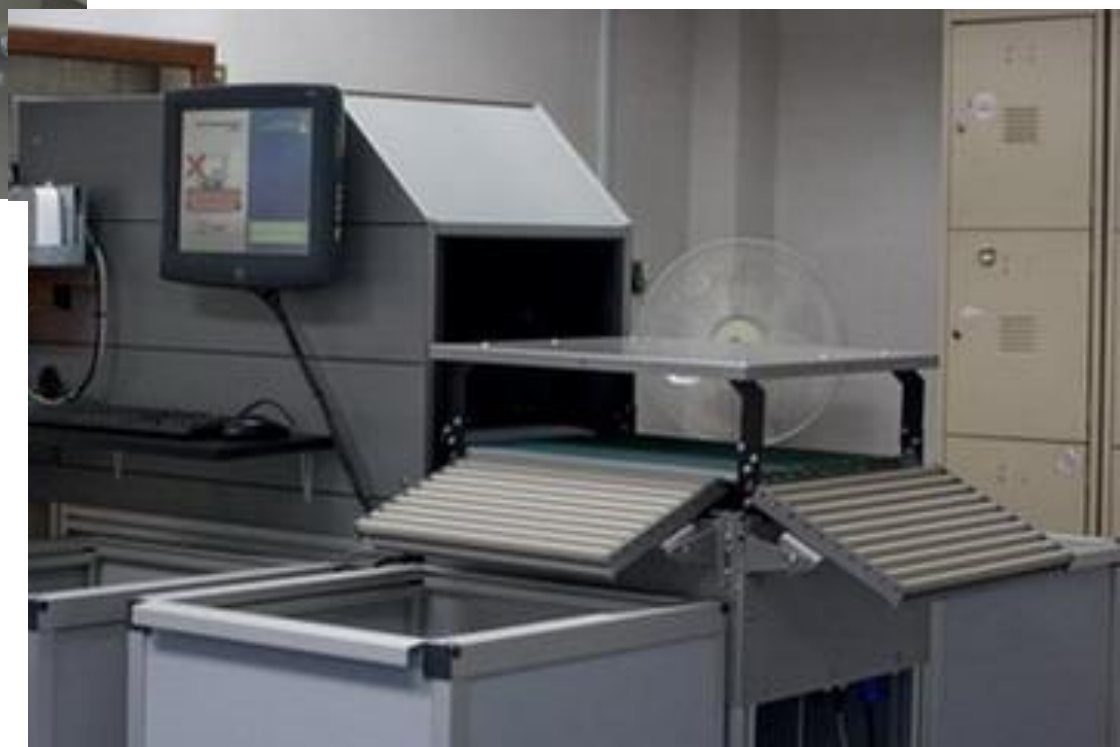


Ready For Pickup Item



Help

# Future milestones: Returns room



# Future milestones: Hand-held inventory

- Portable, powerful hand-held WiFi "wand" antenna with lightweight reader.
- Ergonomic device quickly scans up to 20 standing or stacked items per second.
- Used to search for and identify mis-placed RFID-tagged items and manage inventory.



Future milestones: 24x7 ATM?





# 4 Further phases

1. Evaluation
2. Cost/benefit analysis
3. Deployment in larger branches? All branches?

# Thank you!



**The University of Hong Kong**  
**Libraries**

Caring Collaborative Creative  
Your partner in intellectual excellence