


# The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library Annual Report for 2022/23



香港中文大學圖書館  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library

# Introduction



This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University with the completion of a ‘*jiazi*’ and the start of a new cycle. The Library realized a number of transitions in 2022-23, as Hong Kong and the world’s collective attention moved from the fight against the pandemic towards fascination with the transformative power of AI. We remain committed to the forward-looking “CUHK Library 2025” strategic plan which aligns closely with the areas of focus set in “CUHK 2025”. This Annual Report highlights how the Library continues to work in partnership to facilitate the flow of knowledge and how the department is preparing for new opportunities over the coming years. This report is structured to reflect the Library’s Strategic Plan objectives:

*Education* – enhancing the student experience

*Research and Innovation* – advancing research support and digital scholarship

*Resources* – strengthening our collections and empowering our staff

*Global and Alumni Engagement* – working in partnership

*Infrastructure* – embracing social responsibility and sustainable development

The University Library celebrated its own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and our role as a service provider blending physical and digital services is firmly established. Overall visits to our University Library and branches increased by 20% to 1,984,429 this year. Online usage of our electronic resources exceeded 17,000,000.



Transformations highlighted in the report span the library's presence in bricks, in paper, and in bytes. Our library estate continues to improve, with the opening of the popular User Education Room in the University Library, as a versatile teaching resource for the academic and student community. Digital Scholarship projects are breathing new life into our historical Hong Kong collections. We are also re-kindling and strengthening partnerships locally and internationally. CUHK Library is playing its part in the University's mission to “bring together China and the West”, through those in-person connections and via a major exhibition of Special Collections material drawn around this topic.



All of our achievements are underpinned by the talented CUHK Library staff, who once again rose to the challenges of a disrupted year with professionalism and dedication. I would like to sincerely thank them. On 6 April 2023, I assumed the office of University Librarian. Mr. John Bahrij provided excellent leadership as Acting University Librarian in the period since Ms. Louise Jones' retirement in 2022.

As always the Library appreciates the University's support to undertake the wide range of operations and projects that enable academic excellence across all the Faculties. Over the coming year, the Library will engage with stakeholders in preparation for renewing the Library's Strategic Plan beyond 2025.



# Education

## Enhancing the Student Experience



### *Enabling all students to develop the skills and habits to critically use data and information*

The Library introduced support for two new General Education courses: Understanding China (UGCP1001) and Hong Kong in the Wider Constitutional Order (UGCP1002). These courses had significant student enrolment with over 2,000 students in each course. The Library worked with the Office of University General Education to ensure that adequate copies of course readings (over 100 titles in total) were available to students, with print copies in 2-hour reserves and a dedicated *ReadingList* for students to access the books directly from Blackboard.



During E-Resources Week, 6 to 15 Mar 2023, the Library ran eight online workshops drawing over 260 participants. These enabled CUHK staff and students to discover and learn about the vast array of e-resources available for their learning and research.

The Library worked closely with the teaching team for the University core course on Digital Literacy and Computational Thinking (ENGG1003/1004) to provide a laptop loan service to students who needed this service.

### *Supporting student innovation and facilitating peer-to-peer learning*



At the Research Poster Exhibition 2023, 17 May to 30 June, 20 shortlisted participants presented their posters and the best poster presentation awards were given to seven participants. Apart from exhibiting the posters in the University Library, one of the awarded posters (1st runner-up), from the Faculty of Medicine, was exhibited in the Medical Library at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

*Developing our instructional services focusing on emerging learning technologies and innovative pedagogy*

The second Data Hack, 17 to 19 February, was co-organized by the Library and other CUHK departments. Eight pre-hackathon workshops were organized to enhance participants' digital skills covering topics on data scraping, processing, visualisation and deployment. 80 students and staff registered for the Data Hack and 50 attended the competition.



*Ensuring our environments foster a positive library experience and cultivate students' wellbeing*

Our User Education Room and Research Consultation Room Renovation Projects completed in Spring 2023. User Education Room has become a flexible multipurpose learning space for online, face-to-face and hybrid activities, the room versatility and technical capabilities attracted CUHK departments (e.g. Office of Student

Affairs, China Engagement Office, Graduate School, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Social Science, Faculty of Law, etc.) to hold their student/public events at the library. The Research Consultation Room has now installed sound-proofing walls with AV equipment supporting online small group meetings and workshops.



# Research and Innovation

## Advancing Research Support and Digital Scholarship

### *Promoting the visibility and impact of CUHK research outputs*

**Open Access Publishing** The CUHK Open Access (OA) Publishing Plan continues to expand OA publishing opportunities for the CUHK community by arranging more ‘read and publish’ agreements with publishers. The number of participating publishers has increased from seven in 2021-22 to thirteen in 2022-23. The Plan has received much attention from the community — the number of OA articles published through the Plan with the article processing charge fully waived increased fourfold from 41 in 2021-22 to 168 in 2022-23. The Library will maintain its proactive approach to engage additional publishers and to educate researchers on OA-related issues such as predatory journals and licensing.



The Library and Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer Services have been working together to support the OA Plan of the Research Grants Council (RGC). With input from researchers, the two offices supplemented OA information and verified 5500 past journal article records arising from RGC-funded research projects. The records are available on the [RGC Publication Gateway](#) for public access with information such as the publication detail, project title, principal investigator, corresponding author, and hyperlink for accessing the full text.

**Institutional Research Management System** The Library has participated in the University's Research Information System Redevelopment Project to study research information management systems, identify institutional needs, and recommend solutions. After two faculty consultations and a tender exercise, a solution for a research information management system has been proposed and endorsed. The Library will continue to participate in the system implementation project with a leading role in the research output related areas, including data migration, cleaning and enrichment, system configuration, workflow design, user education, and Public Portal design.





*Growing support services for research data management* The Research Data Management (RDM) service continued to flourish in 2022-23. The CUHK Research Data Repository was fully launched in September 2022 after its soft-launch the previous year. CUHK researchers can now self-manage their datasets for publications or for peer review with private URLs. The Data Management Plan (DMP) Service on the DMPTool platform now supports the direct linkage to the research outputs with active Digital Object Identifiers and the inclusion of funding information in DMPs.

With the implementation of new graduation guidelines on RDM for Research Postgraduate Students and Taught Doctoral Students, the self-learning course “Basics of Research Data Management” was launched on Blackboard. 939 students attended the course, with a pass rate of 97.4%.

To raise awareness of research data, the annual international event Love Data Week was promoted with a series of events in February 2023. To promote the reuse of data resources at CUHK, the Library organized the second cohort of Data Analytics Practice Opportunity. Four teams, with ten students, were selected to complete their projects on deep learning on ink-wash paintings, text analysis of *Voice & Verse Poetry Magazine*, NLP of *The Observatory Review*, and novel De Bruijn Graph Assembler for the millipede genomes dataset.

*Fostering emerging forms of scholarship and interdisciplinary research utilizing innovative technologies* Two significant Digital Scholarship projects have been initiated. The first project employs deep learning techniques to analyze headlines from "The Hongkong News," with a focus on data extraction, visualization, storytelling, and connecting newspaper articles to contemporary life. The second project leverages computer vision tools to compile photo albums from historical newspapers, specifically the "Hong Kong Early Tabloid Newspapers" collection, revealing insights into 20th-century Hong Kong's leisure and entertainment activities.



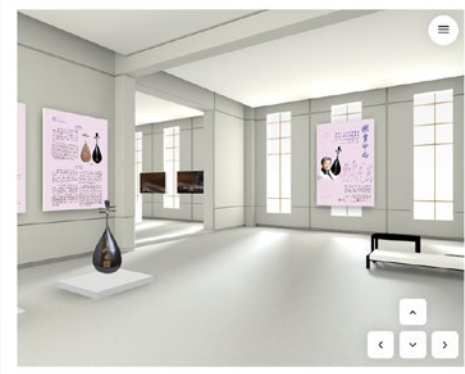
Photo Album Creation for historical newspaper through computer vision by using ABBYY, VGG model, and YOLOv5

An important new collection added in the CUHK Digital Repository in the review period is the Hong Kong Collection, which provides access to early books, textbooks, periodicals, and posters either related to or published in Hong Kong. Another notable collection is the *Audio Archives: Lectures on Chinese Classics from the Hok Hoi Library*.

The Digital Scholarship Team has been actively involved in various events and initiatives to advance digital scholarship and humanities research. In collaboration with the Research Institute for the Humanities, they have organized digital humanities initiatives that feature seminars by distinguished researchers and provide grants and scholarships. In addition, the team has established a partnership with the Academia Sinica Center for Digital Cultures as well as GujiCool team, conducting workshops on Chinese text OCR. Notable events organised by the Library include Data Hack 2023, a hackathon highlighting digital skills, and the hosting of digital scholarship projects by HIST4702 students. Library Digital Initiatives have also partnered with the Asia Art Archive to enrich the Hong Kong Writers and Artists Biographical Database, with a focus on those associated with Hong Kong and the South China region. To further digital scholarship skills, the team has organized workshops and training sessions on Python programming and Chinese text mining.



**East-West Connection in Music: An Exhibition of the Rulan Chao Pian Collection**



Six online exhibitions launched including “Southbound Intellectuals and Their Legacy: Lingnan Literati’s Contribution to a Century of Hong Kong Education”, “NÀNG TỰ DO: The Archive of Art In the Camps (Garden Streams) and the Traces of Vietnamese boatpeople in Hong Kong”, “East-West Connection in Music: An Exhibition of the Rulan Chao Pian Collection”, “A Forgotten Memory of Hong Kong: Yao Ke And Modern Drama”, “Praying Mantis School Master WONG Hon Fan and the Martial Arts Revitalisation Movement”, and “Daoism Outside / Inside: An Exhibition on Daoist Scriptures and Ritual Texts of the Qing Dynasty” at Kunstmatrix platform and embedded them in CUHK Digital Repository. More past exhibitions will be added for free access in the coming years.



# Global and Alumni Engagement

## Working in Partnership

### *Strengthening and forging sustainable partnerships*

**Local partnerships** The Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee (JULAC) collaboration continued this year with activities centered around consortial joint purchasing. JULAC also held a capability development program for over 20 instruction librarians.

Upper Campus Libraries collaborated with the faculty on the academic exhibition: “2021-22 Literary CUHK Essay Competition – Exhibition of Entries” organized by Chinese Language Teaching Development Centre of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature.



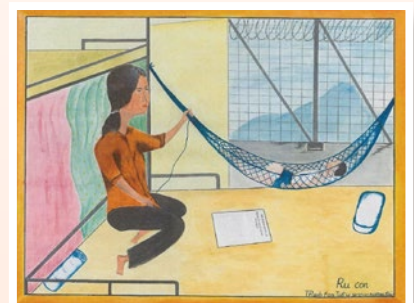
**Regional profile** The University Librarian spoke in Macau in April 2023 as Vice Chair of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Libraries Alliance (GHMULA), a sub-group of the University Alliance. The Head of Technical Services serves as member of the Secretariat of GHMULA. Meetings were held to organise the next GHMULA Youth Forum seminar to be held later in the year.

CUHK Library hosted meeting of Digital Scholarship academics from Zhuhai and CUHK in July 2023, identifying opportunities for future collaboration.

**Global visibility** The University Librarian joined the Steering Committee of the Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance, an affiliate of Association of Pacific Rim Universities. Mr. Meunier was also elected on the Library Buildings & Equipment Section of the International Federation of Library Associations with effect from August 2023.

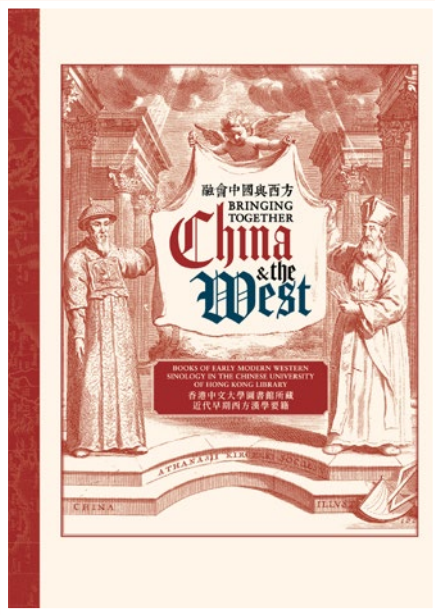
There has been progress to renew an MoU between CUHK and Aix-Marseille Université in relation to the works of Gao Xingjian. Plans were also developed to hold a CUHK-University College London webinar on Open Science at the start of academic year 2023-24.

Sixteen paintings from Art in the Camp collection have been loaned to Wende Museum, California for the exhibition “Vietnam in Transition. 1976-Present” (01.04.2023 - 22.10.2023).



D.Q.H., Untitled, 1988-1991, watercolour on paper

*Provide support on enhancing students' global vision and career development* Library and Strategic Events and External Projects Office initiated conversations with alumni associations to work in partnership in academic year 2023-24 for various education related events at CUHK.



*Providing opportunities as a cultural heritage institution for people to connect with the Library, increasing enjoyment of our unique and distinctive collections*

*New Publication* to celebrate the 60th anniversary of CUHK, the Library published a new book *Bringing Together China and the West: Books of Early Modern Western Sinology in the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library* jointly with the Institute of Chinese Studies and History Department. This book contains detailed descriptions and illustrations of books published from the fifteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries, including manuscripts, books and atlases.

*Exhibitions* the Library presented a rich programme of exhibitions this year.

- i. "Bringing Together China and the West: Books of Early Modern Western Sinology in the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library" (06.02.2023 – 13.09.2023) highlighted key areas of mutual interest in early China-Western relations, which to a large extent mirror the modern faculties and departments of our University. Using the Library's growing collection of Western rare books, this exhibition showed how the geographical and cultural distance between China and Europe was bridged.





ii. “A Writer Like Her: Xi Xi Collection in the Chinese University of Hong Kong Literature” (01.03.2023-31.10.2023) Notable Hong Kong writer Xi Xi (the pen name of Cheung Yin, 1937-2022) won numerous awards throughout her extensive career and received much attention from researchers in Hong Kong. This exhibition was held in *memoriam* to showcase Xi Xi Collection, including letters, manuscripts, photos, books, handicrafts, and more.



iii. “50th Anniversary of the University Library” (15.12.2022-15.02.2023) The University Library was inaugurated on 15 December 1972. As the main library of the University for half a century, it houses the most extensive collections on a wide range of disciplines and offers technology-rich facilities and flexible study spaces. To celebrate this milestone, the exhibition was held to allow the CUHK community and our alumni to reminisce about the University Library’s developments.



iv. “Hong Kong Through the Lens of John Thomson” launched at Google Arts & Culture to showcase the images of Hong Kong taken by a pioneering photographer John Thomson in 1868, and colour images of John Thomson’s photo sites which were taken in 2015. It is hoped that through the visual comparisons of Hong Kong seen 150 years apart, the audience can better understand Hong Kong’s past and present.

**Scholarship** The Library is once again grateful to the anonymous donor who created the annual CUHK Golden Jubilee Celestial Civilian Scholarship on Hong Kong Literature awarded to both graduate and undergraduate students. Recipients were Ms. Mai Ziqing (Postgraduate) for her paper entitled “A study of the Artistic Practice of Leung Ping-kwan’s Poems: Interaction between Poetry and Paintings, Cultural Relics, and Photography” and Ms. Law Yin (Undergraduate) for her paper “Identity Exploration: On Lawrence Pun’s Travel Writing in ‘There’s Always Some Time on the Road’.







## *Developing engaging methods to tell the history of CUHK through University Archives*

**University History Gallery** The Gallery has been closed since late May 2022 for a large-scale makeover to enhance its facilities and space utility. A total budget of HK\$12m was approved by The Resource Allocation Committee for the revamp project. New exhibits and interactive multimedia contents will open up new depths to understand the development and achievements of the University. A sizable model with projection will show the evolution of campus in the past 60 years. Experts including the Provost and members of the Steering Committee have advised on the contents for education, research and China studies. Nine colleges, eight faculties and more than 20 offices and departments have been contacted to solicit contents for display. Valuable historical documents and artifacts have been transferred to the Gallery for display and to the University Archives for permanent retention.



**Oral History Project** The University Archives worked in partnership with Library colleagues and stakeholders to complete the CUHK 60th Anniversary Oral History Project, which preserves the knowledge and experiences of 60 interviewees associated with CUHK, offering a unique perspective into the university's campus culture across generations. The University Archives has provided support to the oral history project which was conducted by the Faculty of Arts as one of the celebrated projects of University's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 52 video recording and 8 audio recording files were uploaded to the Library Digital Repository for public access. In addition to metadata creation, The University Archives staff has searched for numerous valuable historical photos to enhance the contents.



**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary promotion** Several university offices, e.g. Institute of Chinese Studies, Communications and Public Relations Office, Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, Alumni Affairs Office, have approached the University Archives to provide research assistance, archival materials and historical images for various 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary related promotional activities and publications.

# Resources

## Strengthening Our Collections and Empowering Our Staff



### *Continuing to build comprehensive and deep collections*

**Notable donations** Compared with last year, there was a 49.3% increase in gifts received (14,590 received items). The Library is especially grateful for the donations of Prof. Lo Wai Luen; Mr. Liu Yi Chang; Ms. XiXi; Mr. Cheung Hon-ming. The Collection of Mr. Yuan Xiaoliang; Collection of Prof. So Man-jok; and Collection of Mr. Hsiao Hwi Kai are also notable donations to the Library.

**Investment in our collections** The book fund budget was \$161.360 million, up 4.97% from last year. In comparison with 2021-22, the Library has increased adoption of e-preferred policy where electronic was the choice of format for monographs.

**Development of Archival and Special Collections** Eleven archive collections were completed, including Bao Hanlin papers, Chen Bingchang papers, Dai Tian papers, Hong Kong Baodiao Movement collection, Li Junyi papers, Qu Zhiren papers, She Xueman papers, Shu Ming papers, Wen Jianliu papers, Yeung Kam On papers, and Zhou Huaizhang papers.

The Library is managing the ongoing migration of the Index to Chinese Periodicals of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Macau Periodicals Network to the new platform.

### *Ensuring that local historical and cultural records are discoverable and accessible*

CUHK Library has contributed a total of 4,290 original bibliographic records to the OCLC WorldCat database. CUHK Library also contributed 191 new authority records to the Library of Congress Name Authority File which has fulfilled the commitment of annual record contribution as member of Name Authority Cooperative Program.



### *Fostering a positive workplace where staff are supported in their efforts to improve the Library*

The Library Staff Activities Working Group organised or promoted a dozen activities over the course of the year, ranging from resources to support emotional wellbeing to a winter celebration and summer parade to thank staff for their efforts. Longer-term actions will be introduced in the next year to encourage two-way communication, and promote transparent decision-making.

### *Cultivating evidence-based, user-centric approach to decision-making*

**LibQual+ survey** As part of a regular regime of user surveys to assess library service quality, the Library conducted its 5th LibQual+ survey from 20 March to 24 April 2023. The Library received 3,979 responses and 1,123 written comments. The ratings across all service dimensions have improved from the 2019 survey. The Library has reviewed the responses and developed an Action Plan to address the feedback received. Further information is available on our [Library Survey 2023 webpage](#).



**Developing Key Performance Indicators** The Library Assessment Committee (LAC) already collects a wide set of data on our performance and external data to support decision-making by the Library Management Group. In order to ensure our key performance indicators are enabling us to make decisions around resource allocation and to enable us to communicate to stakeholders about how we are making a difference, the LAC has begun work to develop a discrete set of measures that can be reported against in the future.

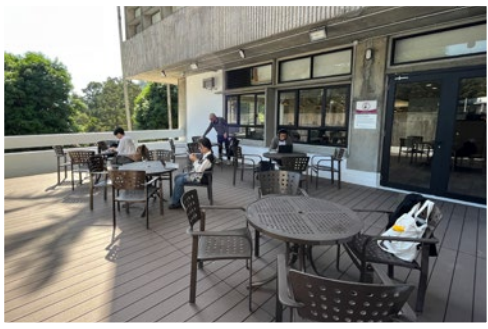


# Infrastructure

## Embracing Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

### *Continuing to design, adapt and maintain a variety of innovative, technology-rich spaces*

In addition to the refurbishment of the User Education Room detailed above, a number of library facilities were improved this year. The refurbishment of Chung Chi Library's Outdoor Reading Area took place from May to August 2023. New Asia Library undertook a range of maintenance improvements in summer 2023, including flooring replacement, replacement of exhibition boards in Exhibition Gallery and roof improvements. At the Medical Library, a new water dispenser was installed at the user area and walls were repainted in the group study rooms. In the University Library, the Digital Scholarship Lab was enhanced with further improvements, such as workstations and a TV wall, making it a conducive environment for research events and activities.



### *Developing our IT infrastructure, working within the University's strengthened cyber security framework*

The Library enabled 2FA for remote access in August 2022 to e-resources to deter abuse of e-resources and improve security of user accounts. The Library IT Services team also led work with other teams to test and prepare for the launch of the new CUHK VPN which no longer supports access to subscribed e-resources. New payment options, including credit cards and various types of e-wallets, were introduced for the convenience of library users.

### *Enabling equitable access to the library*

**Digital accessibility** The Library received a Triple Gold award for the accessibility of the Library's website.



**Physical accessibility** An automatic door suitable for wheelchair users was installed at the University Library as part of the Library’s commitment to provide an inclusive and barrier free environment. This service will be extended to more library locations in the future. A new accessibility lift was completed and opened at Chung Chi College Library in April 2023.



**Inclusive practice** The Library provided vocational training opportunities for a SEN student from the English School Foundation (ESF) as part of the Library’s commitment to embrace social responsibility. The initiative has received very positive and encouraging feedback from the student, ESF and the hosting department at the Library. The Library will continue this collaborative initiative with ESF in 2023-24.



The Library collaborated with the CUHK Sex and Gender Concern Group and helped set up “Period Box” in selected female washroom at five library locations: University Library, Chung Chi College Library, New Asia College Library, United College Library and Learning Commons (WMY). This project aimed at increasing the understanding of menstrual products and motivate more discussions on creating a more gender/sex-friendly space for members of CUHK.

*Playing our part in helping the University achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2038*

Eco-friendly wet umbrella dryers were introduced at University Library and all branch libraries to enhance environmental sustainability. Plastic bags for umbrellas have subsequently been removed. The Library was a Merit winner in the university’s Green Office (GO) awards. Lily Ko, Head, Research & Learning Support, and Leo Ma, Head, New Asia College Library and United College Library, and Faculty Liaison Librarian (Arts), presented on how CUHK Library is supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at the Annual meeting and forum of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance in April 2023 and the University Librarian gave a webinar presentation to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Sustainability community in June 2023 on “Sustainability in Libraries: Buildings, Operations and Partnerships with Users”.



# Looking Ahead



The achievements of CUHK Library in 2022-23 are a reflection of the tremendous collective effort and dedication of staff across our unit. The Library will continue to support the CUHK community to make an impact in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, and will work in partnership with other units including the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and CUHK (Shenzhen). As set out in the report, there is noteworthy progress under each of key themes from the CUHK Library Strategic Plan 2021-25. The acid test for whether we are successful as a service is whether or not we are meeting the needs and expectations of our users. I feel that the LibQual+ survey conducted this year provides assurance that the Library is continuing to deliver on our mission. There are, inescapably for any human enterprise, areas for improvement and those will form the basis for Action Planning and for discussion in the strategy refresh ahead of 2025. The last word may be left to one of our students, musing on how CUHK Library fares against “other top universities’ libraries”.

*“I love CUHK library.  
I have been to other top universities’ libraries and I would still say that  
CUHK is doing really well.  
There are a lot of study spaces though it might be  
a bit packed during exam season,  
which might be annoying sometimes.”*

Library user, April 2023 (LibQual+ survey)

**Benjamin Meunier**  
University Librarian  
November 2023



# CUHK Library in Figures 2022/23



## Collections Statistics

Category	Eastern Languages	Western Languages	Total
Books	1,368,534	1,207,204	2,575,738
Bound Periodicals	75,160	202,766	277,926
Current Printed Serials	2,057	1,223	3,280
Electronic Books	3,959,016	1,864,205	5,823,221
Electronic Journals	43,661	166,527	210,188
Electronic Databases	223	1,195	1,418

## Library Users and Visitors

Visits to the Libraries	1,984,429
Registered Library Users	64,455

## Library Digital Experience

Library Website Views	2,903,535
CUHK Digital Repository Views	2,733,082
CUHK Research Portal Views	399,736
CUHK Archival Collections Portal Views	19,851
Self-learning Materials Views (e.g. LibGuides, FAQ)	463,089
ReadingList Views	110,553
CUHK Research Data Repository Views	28,741

## Library Activities

Library Orientations	73
Participants in Library Orientations	4,712
Library Workshops	271
Participants in Library Workshops	7,076
Enquiries	70,468
Special Collections Visits	516

\* COUNTER compliant usage only. COUNTER is the international standard for counting online usage of electronic resources

## Library Usage

Database Usage*	8,219,793
E-Book Usage*	1,557,064
E-Journal Usage*	8,255,669
E-A/V Usage*	4,076
Print Book and AV Loans	283,919

## Library Facilities

Seats	4,346
24/7 Seats	1,356
Public Computers	433
Public Computer Logins	202,912
Group/Individual Study Room	110
Group/Individual Study Room Bookings	70,722

## JULAC Activities

CUHK Users Registered for a JULAC Card	5,276
JULAC Users Registered for a CUHK Library Card	2,610
Loans to CUHK Users from Other JULAC Libraries	8,071
CUHK Library Loans to Other JULAC Users	9,179