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Perpustakaan Asia

ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਲਾਇਬ੍ਰੇਰੀ

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50th Anniversary

1960-2010

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where research connects communities

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a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

50th Anniversary Celebration of the Asian Library

Friday, March 5, 2010

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Auditorium, Asian Centre
1871 West Mall, Vancouver

Program

Ms. Ingrid Parent, University Librarian

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Eleanor Yuen, Head Librarian, Asian Library

"The Future of the Asian Library"

Launch of Asian Library memory databank

Presentation of Peter Ward Essay prize

Mr. Robban A.J. Toleno, Ph.D. Student, Asian Studies

UBC Student Remarks

Dr. Henry Yu, Associate Professor, Department of History

Community Historical Recognition Program

Dr. Wesley Pue, Vice Provost and AVP Academic Resources

Announcement of New Collections:

Pang Jingtang Collection

Ron Bick Lee Papers

Representative of the Lee Family

Ron Bick Lee Papers



Message from Stephen J. Toope

President and Vice-Chancellor

The University of British Columbia

The University of British Columbia is privileged to house one of North America's great Asian collections at its Point Grey campus. From its earliest days, the Asian Library has been unique among its continental contemporaries for building a multi-national collection that bridges the ancient world and modern knowledge.



Just over fifty years ago, the Asian Library was launched with the purchase of the unparalleled 45,000 volume Puban collection from China, and in the same year the Library became one of three North American repositories of Japanese Government documents. Today, as the home of the largest Asian collection in Canada, UBC's Asian Library continues to embrace cultural, linguistic, and geographic diversity, its collections reflecting the communities it serves.

Much more than depositories, libraries are places of inspiration steeped in centuries of accumulated knowledge. Ideally, they are places of service, mentorship, and gathering. The Asian Library embodies this ideal by drawing communities from the Lower Mainland, researchers from across the province, and inquiries from around the world to this tremendous resource that connects the richness of the past with the dynamic presence of today's societies.

Thank you for being here to pay tribute to the exemplary vision and dedication of those who laid the groundwork during the Asian Library's first 50 years, and to celebrate the expertise, engagement, and spirit of global citizenship that will continue to develop this wonderful collection for many generations to come.



Message from Eleanor Yuen

Head, Asian Library

University of British Columbia

The Future of the Library: Revisit, Re-configure, Repurpose

Omni mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.

All things are changing, and we are changing with them.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of UBC's Asian Library. Welcome to our celebration of the stewardship that built Canada's foremost Asian collection. Our first half-century has spanned both tradition and transformation, as we have truly embarked on a new era of knowledge creation and curation.

Founded on a solid base of Chinese and Japanese classics, the Asian Library's collection now includes more than 580,000 volumes in nine languages including Korean, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi Sanskrit, Tibetan and Indonesian. The Asian Library has become the very place that users at UBC and beyond come to for information on Asia, including language, literature, history, art, social and political sciences, economics, Asian Canadian history, science and technology, and more.

The digital age has meant our collection and activities must anticipate and respond to the changing needs and interests of our users. Increasingly, we deliver information virtually, on platforms including databases, web sites, blogs, videos, and through images, and audio. At the same time, our commitment to the community has never been stronger. Individual and group use of the Library is increasing exponentially, and face-to-face reference consultations present fresh and welcome challenges.

As the Asian Library moves into its second 50 years, we are excited by the opportunities on the horizon. We must stay forward-looking, courageous, agile and adaptable as together with our users, we strive to bridge Asian cultures with those of Canada and North America, and thrive as a living library in the new era of information ecology.

The Asian Library has designated several projects and priorities this year that will provide a sound platform for serving an increasingly global community of researchers. We are recognized as having the foremost Chinese language collection and archival staff in Canada. Our ongoing projects include a database of historical Chinese language materials in B.C., the digitization of the Ming Pao newspaper, our collaboration with the Genealogical Society of Utah, and the mapping of head tax geographical names.



These activities are being supported by Federal Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) funding, and will involve extensive community collaborations across Canada. Several other key priorities are described below.

Space for Research and Community

The changing nature of campus and community users' needs, in tandem with the Asian Library's commitment to preserve its precious historic holdings for future generations makes renovation of the Library a key priority. A recent feasibility study envisages a user-focused layout that maximizes space to house the growing collection and showcase rare and special holdings as well as accommodate increasing community use.



Improving Access to Holdings

The Asian Library is striving to keep pace with the flow of significant collections donated and acquired over the past 50 years. This has inhibited access to much sought-after titles, as well as many other volumes. Cataloguing will enable users to access these materials.

Digitization of library collections

Digitization maximizes accessibility of the Asian Library's rare and unique holdings. The Library has identified selections from its collections in Chinese, Japanese and Korean for UBC Library's Digitization Initiatives in 2010/11.

Expanding the role of the South Asian librarian

The Library's South Asian collection, which includes materials in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and Sanskrit is used extensively in support of research and learning at UBC, as well as North America and a diverse community in Greater Vancouver. Currently, a halftime librarian oversees this increasingly in-demand area. The Asian Library is seeking support to expand the role of the librarian to include research and outreach among B.C.'s South Asian diaspora communities.

We invite you to join us in continuing to build UBC's Asian Library and its collections. For further information about these initiatives, please contact Eleanor Yuen at eleanor.yuen@ubc.ca or Shakeela Begum at asian.development@ubc.ca



Peter Ward Essay Award

In celebration of the Asian Library's 50th birthday, UBC Library held an essay contest inviting students, researchers and the community to explore the theme, "How has the Asian Library helped you achieve your goals?"

The Peter Ward Open Essay Contest challenged participants to review their experiences and contemplate a vision for the Asian Library's future, through topics such as the library's collection, services, facilities, and space. A winner is to be announced today as part of the March 5 Anniversary festivities.

Users' experiences and ideas were sought as the Asian Library repositions itself for its second 50 years - adapting to changing research and study habits, as well as evolving community needs. The library is privileged to call the beautiful Asian Centre home - our goal is to increase the functionality and ambiance of the Library's space to harmonize with its surroundings and purpose.

As Dr. Peter Ward, former University Librarian pro-tem and namesake of the essay contest observes, "if the Asian Library has had an important role to play in the past, it will have an even more important one in the future. Both within the University and also the wider community, it serves as a bridge between the cultures of Asia and the West.

"Universities exist to enlarge human understanding and Libraries are a central part of that vocation," according to Dr. Ward. "In this sense particularly, the Asian Library at UBC has had a long and honourable history, and I'm sure it will have an even longer, equally honourable future as well."



Upcoming Events

Pang Jingtang Exhibition

March 2-30 | Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Gallery

This exhibition showcases titles from the collection of Pang Jingtang (1901-1977), who held several high-profile positions in the government, the military and the Chinese Nationalist Party during the regime of Chiang Kai-shek. Pang's collection consists of 841 volumes of books, most produced prior to 1949, including classics, histories, philosophical works and belles-lettres.

"Kabuki in Print" Exhibition

March 25- May 16 | Asian Library upper floor

In celebration of the Asian Library's 50th anniversary and in anticipation of the performance of TomoeArts' production of "ODORI: The World of Kabuki Dance" featuring guest artists from Japan, this exhibition of Kabuki prints is drawn from private collections as well as art history publications in UBC Library's Collection.

Punjabi Canadian Diaspora Literature Symposium

Monday, March 8 @ 11 am - 2:30 pm | Auditorium, Asian Centre

This unique symposium will explore Punjabi Canadian diaspora literature. Join writers, scholars, students and the community in celebrating award-winning writer Ravinder Ravi's work and enjoy readings and presentations from guest speakers Harchand Singh Bagri, Manjeet Meht and Sukhwant Hundal.

Asia Voilà 2010

Saturday, April 10 @ noon - 4 pm | Asian Centre

Come out to UBC's beautiful northwest quadrant and enjoy some of the Asia-related resources on campus! For more information visit <http://asiavoila.arts.ubc.ca/>.

Workshop on Taishan and Zhongshan Immigrants in North America

May 18 @ 10 am - 3:30 pm | Auditorium, Asian Centre

This workshop focuses on a database mapping project collecting information about Chinese emigrants from Guangdong Province, China who were forced to pay Canada's head tax between the years 1885 and 1947. Join UBC students, scholars, and community participants from Vancouver and San Francisco at this CHRP funded event and explore opportunities for international collaboration and genealogical research.



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