Once a “Mecca for China Studies”

Sharing insights from the USC Collection’s integration into CUHK Library

CCM Special Session: Crisis vs. Responses
Council on East Asian Libraries – 2024 Annual Meeting
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Milestones in History of USC Collection

- 1963 Establishment of The Universities Service Centre (USC) to serve Western academics and scholars engaged in the study of contemporary China.

- 1988 USC became part of CUHK and renamed as Universities Service Centre for China Studies

- 2021 USC’s collection became part of the Special Collections at CUHK Library, renamed as USC Collection. Academic activities continue under the auspices of the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS).

https://www.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/en/libraries/ul/usc
USC Collection

- Books (Chinese and English)
  - Yearbooks and statistical yearbooks
  - Local gazetteers
  - CCP organizational history material 組織史資料
  - Census material 普查資料
  - Internal material 內部資料
  - Folk history 民間歷史

- Periodicals (Chinese and English)
  - Internal Periodicals 內部期刊

- Documentaries

- Newspapers

E-Resources

- Databank for China Studies (DCS) 中國研究數據庫
  (Under review)

- Folk History Archive 民間歷史檔案庫
  (Currently not available, in progress)

- Political Movement Database Series
  《中國當代政治運動史數據庫》系列
  - 《中國五十年代初中期運動數據庫：從土地改革到公私合營，1949-1956》
  - 《中國反右運動數據庫，1957-》
  - 《中國大躍進-大饑荒數據庫，1958-1964》
  - 《中國文化大革命數據庫，1966-1976》

Challenge 1

How to keep the collections’ characteristics and integrity during its integration into CUHK Library by making it better accessible?
Integration of USC Collection into CUHK Library

- One collection among the CUHK Library’s special collections
- Integration into the Library’s workflows (acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, web-presentation etc.)
- Stock-taking, re-classification and re-cataloguing (USC’s classification to LOC classification) to follow the same cataloguing practices and standards as the Library
  - Positive: material will be better visible, e.g., in HKALL or WorldCat, LOC is well known by students and international scholars
  - Negative: LOC only in part groups material of the same region together on the shelf following province codes.

### Modern China Studies special collections

- **Minguo Collection (1912-1949)**
  - see also digitized collections (more than 700 titles):

- **New China Collection (1950-1965)**

- **Cultural Revolution Collection (1966-1976)**
  - see also digitized collections:
    Cultural Revolution in Images: Caricature-Posters from Guangzhou 1966-1977

- **Universities Service Centre (USC) for China Studies Collection** (mainly post-1949)
Digitization and OA

Newspaper Digitization Project

• 40+ Chinese regional and topical newspapers
• Holdings from the late 1940s to end of 1960s
• About 1,000,000 pages
• Onsite scanning
• Article level indexing
• Server hosted in HK region
• Platform for searching/browsing
• Open Accessible
• Expected to be launched in late 2025
Challenge 2

How to continue with developing the collection following its original characteristics, by keeping it meaningful and valuable for future research?
Copyright related issues

Folk History Archive

- Check copyright of content in Folk History Website
- Migrate Content to a Library hosted platform
- For unpublished memoirs provided by the authors: publish the full text on the website
- For related relevant published texts (book publications, periodicals, blogs etc.): publish the metadata only
- Expected to be published in spring/summer 2024
Backup of material

Political Movement Database Series
《中國當代政治運動史數據庫》系列
• 《中國五十年代初中期運動數據庫：從土地改革到公私合營，1949-1956》
• 《中國反右運動數據庫，1957-》
• 《中國大躍進-大饑荒數據庫，1958-1964》
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Online version
• with continuous updating
• Server hosted in CUHK Library
• Backup: Mirror Server hosted in the US

Offline version
• CD-ROM and USB version

https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk; http://hccpm.usc.cuhk.edu.hk/
Thank you very much!

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