

第二届海外华人研究与  
文献收藏机构  
国际合作会议论文

(英文部分)

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# Overseas Chinese Clippings Database at Hong Kong Baptist University Library

by Irene S. M. Wong

## I. Objective

The objective of this report is to introduce the Overseas Chinese Clippings Database project at the Hong Kong Baptist University Library (HKBUL). This is an initial effort to digitize some of its periodical clippings on Overseas Chinese and to make them widely accessible to the public on the World-Wide-Web free of charge.

## II. A Brief Introduction of the Overseas Chinese Clippings at HKBUL

The Overseas Chinese clippings collection at HKBUL is a subset of over 11,900 files of clippings on China from the 1950s to the mid-1970s as collected by the Union Research Institute. This collection, which is estimated at around 200,000 pieces, were taken from approximately 230 Chinese language newspapers and 40 periodicals that were published in 17 countries or regions.<sup>1</sup>

The clippings were classified in three categories: (1) Chinese government policies on Overseas Chinese 中國僑務; (2) Taiwanese government policies on Overseas Chinese 臺灣僑務; and (3) Overseas Chinese in different foreign countries such as Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Burma, Vietnam, Indonesia, the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa and Australia 海外華僑動態. Main topics include:

- Government policies on Overseas Chinese in investment, residence, education, etc.
- Government policies on returned expatriates (歸國華僑)
- Contributions of Overseas Chinese to the economy of China and Taiwan
- Chinese education of Overseas Chinese in the countries they resided
- Economic status of the Overseas Chinese and their contributions to the economy of the countries they resided
- Government policies of host countries on the Overseas Chinese who had resided in their countries and the relationship between the native citizens and citizens of Chinese ethnic origin
- Organizations and associations of Overseas Chinese and their activities in the countries they resided
- Social conditions of the Overseas Chinese in the countries they resided

## III. Goals of the Creation of Overseas Chinese Clippings Database:

From a broad perspective, we hope this Database will complement existing Overseas Chinese resources and databases that were created and maintained by other libraries and research institutions. Resource sharing is our first goal of the digitization project.

We found from a small-scale survey that some of these libraries and institutes have created bibliographies of joint holdings, and databases of journal articles related to Overseas Chinese

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<sup>1</sup> See Leung, Shirley W., Wong, Irene S. M., Lee, Kit Wah, "Collection of Clippings on Overseas Chinese at Hong Kong Baptist University Library", *International Conference of Institutes and Libraries for Overseas Chinese Studies: Papers and Abstracts*. Athens: Dr. You-Bao Shao Overseas Chinese Documentation and Research Center, 2000. pp. 191-200.

studies, but there are very few databases of newspaper articles. So far, we have found 港澳台暨海外華文報紙數據庫. Developed and maintained by Jinan University Library (暨南大學圖書館華僑華人文獻信息中心), it is the only searchable database that provides fulltext newspaper articles on Overseas Chinese. However, this database only includes articles from fewer than 20 Chinese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong newspapers published since 2000. We think HKBUL's Overseas Chinese clippings collected from 230 newspapers and 40 periodicals published in 17 countries and regions from the 1950s to the mid-1970s would provide additional information of research materials on Overseas Chinese studies.

The second goal of this project is to promote the use of HKBUL's Contemporary China Research Collection of which the Overseas Chinese clippings is a subset. If this project is successful, we may study the possibility of undertaking digitization projects on other topics in the Collection.

#### IV. A Focused Approach

We decided to take a realistic and focused approach to this project by digitizing and indexing only the first two categories of the Overseas Chinese clippings collection: (1) Chinese government policies on Overseas Chinese 中國僑務; and (2) Taiwanese government policies on Overseas Chinese 臺灣僑務. This portion accounts for about 25% of the whole collection. Though small in size, it allows us to gain experience in digitization project, and we think it can complement the Database on Laws and Regulations on Overseas Chinese (華僑華人政策法規數據庫) that was jointly developed by Jinan University Library and University of Hong Kong Library.<sup>2</sup>

Another reason for our focusing on government policies is that they have a significant impact on China and Taiwan in many respects. In the 1950s and the 1960s, consolidation of sovereignty and administration power as well as reconstruction of economy were the two biggest challenges to both governments in China and Taiwan. Winning political support and seeking economic benefits from Overseas Chinese in the forms of foreign remittance, government bonds and investments became very important tasks. The two governments formulated various policies related to Overseas Chinese in response to their relationships with other countries, and their internal political and socio-economic conditions. For instance, from 1949 to 1959, Overseas Chinese were encouraged to settle permanently and adopt new nationalities wherever possible in the countries they resided. At the same time, the Chinese and Taiwanese governments encouraged the flow of foreign remittance and investments, and gave special privileges to returned expatriates.

Later, from 1959 to 1965, as the Chinese government adopted the 「三好政策」<sup>3</sup> and some South East Asian countries implemented discriminatory legislation towards Chinese in their countries, there was an influx of returned expatriates to China. This led to the establishment of more Overseas Chinese villages, Overseas Chinese farms and Overseas Chinese universities. When political and economic policies changed in the 1960s, returned expatriates

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<sup>2</sup> See He, Renjin, Ma, Tai Loi. "Active Participation to Promote Research on Overseas Chinese". *International Conference of Institutes and Libraries for Overseas Chinese Studies: Papers and Abstracts*. Athens: Dr. You-Bao Shao Overseas Chinese Documentation and Research Center, 2000. pp. 184-187.

<sup>3</sup> See 莊國土: 《華僑華人與中國的關係》。(廣州市: 廣東高等教育出版社, 2001)。頁261-265.

lost more of their “special” privileges and were “sent down” to the farms for the periods of “rustication”. All in all, government policies towards Overseas Chinese from the 1950s to the 1970s were closely tied with the internal political and socio-economic conditions and foreign policies of both China and Taiwan, which in turn had a tremendous impact on the social conditions of the returned expatriates and the Overseas Chinese in the countries they resided. Thus, we believe our clippings on government policies are important and valuable research materials for Overseas Chinese studies.

## **V. Scope of the Overseas Chinese Clippings Database**

The clippings of government policies towards Overseas Chinese cover six main topics:

- Government agencies dealing with Overseas Chinese 僑務機構
- Foreign remittance and investments 僑匯及投資
- Overseas Chinese villages 僑鄉
- Reception and settlement of returned expatriates 歸僑接待和安置
- Overseas Chinese education 國內華僑教育
- Overseas Chinese tours and visits 華僑回國觀光團

## **VI. Challenges and Concerns**

In carrying out this project, we encountered some challenges and identified some concerns.

### **1. Copyright Clearance from Publishers**

As librarians, we respect intellectual property rights. However, it is difficult and impractical to obtain copyright clearance from the publishers of 230 newspapers and 40 periodicals that are located all over China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South East Asia and elsewhere especially when some of them are no longer in business. Nevertheless, we managed to obtain clearance from some of the Hong Kong and Taiwanese newspaper publishers.

### **2. Copyright Ordinance in Hong Kong**

The Hong Kong SAR Government amended and passed the Copyright Ordinance in June 2000. As soon as the Ordinance came into effect in April 2001, there was an outcry of confusion and frustration towards the severe punishment on all unauthorized photocopying of books and newspapers. As a result, the Government suspended sections of the law pending further review and consultation.

By November 2002, the Government had consulted all parties concerned, such as publishers and educational institutions and organizations. The revised Copyright Ordinance is expected to come into effect in July 2003. In the meantime, the existing law on the use of electronic version or digitization of copyright materials including newspapers and periodicals remains unclear. There is no consensus on the definition of “fair dealing” and “reasonable amount of reproduction” of newspapers articles by educational establishments, such as schools, archives and libraries. However, we plan to make the indexes and images of those clippings that we have successfully obtained copyright clearance available for public access on the Web.

### **3. Indexing**



The print quality of our clippings is not good enough for optical character recognition (OCR) (Appendix A). Another alternative solution to provide fulltext search function, would be to input all the Overseas Chinese clippings word by word and the cost is estimated at HK \$8 million. Therefore, we decided to digitize and index the clippings and provide search functions on indexing fields and images of the clippings in the PDF format.

Good indexing is the key to accurate and effective searching and retrieval. To achieve this goal, we have two concerns. Firstly, the clippings mainly come from periodicals and newspapers published in 17 countries and regions, but writers in different regions sometimes used different terminology. We consulted and compared the two subject heading lists, 中文圖書標題表 published by National Central Library of Taiwan and 中國分類主題詞表 used in China. We found significant differences in some subject headings. We eventually decided to use Chinese keywords derived from the Chinese subject headings that the HKBUL uses to catalog Chinese materials.

The HKBUL subject headings are controlled vocabularies and well-structured. We supplement these with a set of controlled keywords adapted from the two subject heading lists mentioned above as well as other Chinese electronic databases such as PerioPath: Index to Chinese Periodical Literature (中華民國期刊論文索引影象系統) and China Journal Database (中國期刊網全文數據庫). As this database will be accessible on the Web, we have decided to assign Library of Congress Subject Headings to each clipping. Thus, each clipping has eight searchable indexing fields and access points, namely headline (標題), author (作者), source (刊名), place of publication (出版地), publication date (日期), category (分類), keywords (關鍵詞), and Library of Congress Subject Headings (LC 主題詞).

## VII. Search Functions

To better manage various local databases at HKBUL, the Library purchased a database management system from TRS Information Technology Limited after a careful review of six systems. The TRS system, used by some member libraries of CALIS in China, is competitive in price and requires the least amount of customization. It also supports both traditional Chinese (繁體字) and English. Its search functions are flexible and powerful with the aid of different kinds of built-in dictionaries and thesauri (Appendix B).

In this Overseas Chinese Clippings Database, users can browse the clippings in chronological order. In simple search mode, users can make boolean search with keyword(s), and the system will check the keyword(s) against all the eight indexing fields, retrieve appropriate records and generate a search result list. In the advanced search mode, users can do any search on a combination of the eight indexing fields. In both browse and search modes, users can retrieve the records and view the PDF images of the clippings.

## VIII. Conclusion

The Overseas Chinese Clippings Database is Hong Kong Baptist University Library's initial attempt to digitize and index the clippings in the Contemporary China Research Collection. Resource sharing and information dissemination among research institutes and libraries are our primary goals. We will release the Database by stages as it is developed and users can access it at <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/lib/overseas-chinese/index.html>. We welcome all comments and suggestions for improving this HKBUL Overseas Chinese Clippings

Database, and we look forward to the possibility of collaboration with institutes and libraries of Overseas Chinese Studies.

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我國僑務委員會 四月廿八日

# 促進各地華僑經濟合作

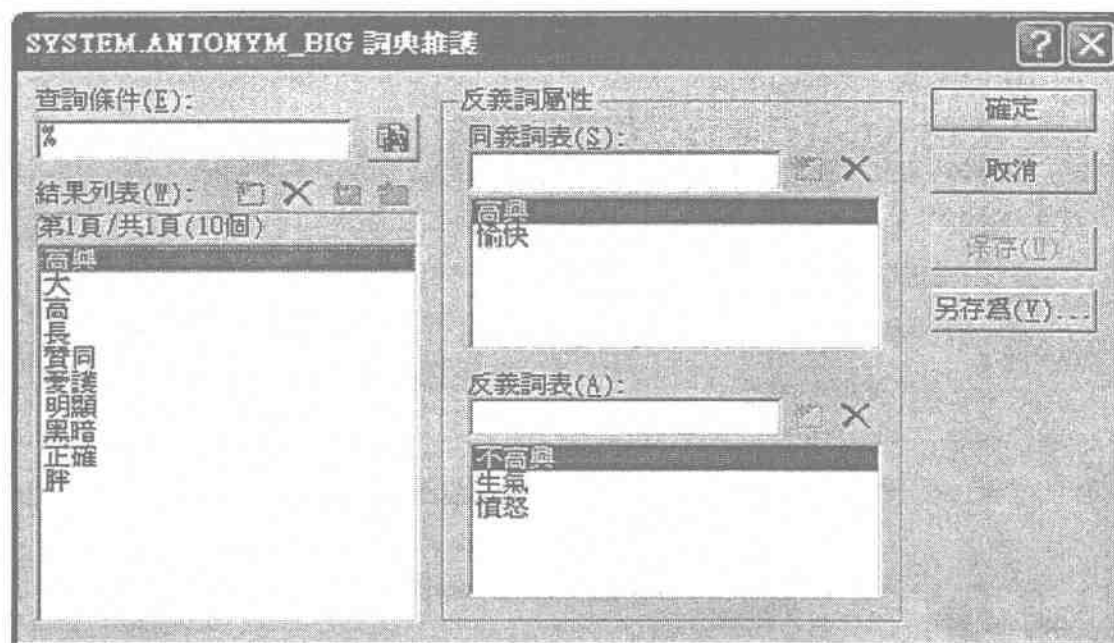
## 加強與台灣間貿易聯繫

電請商會代為搜集資料

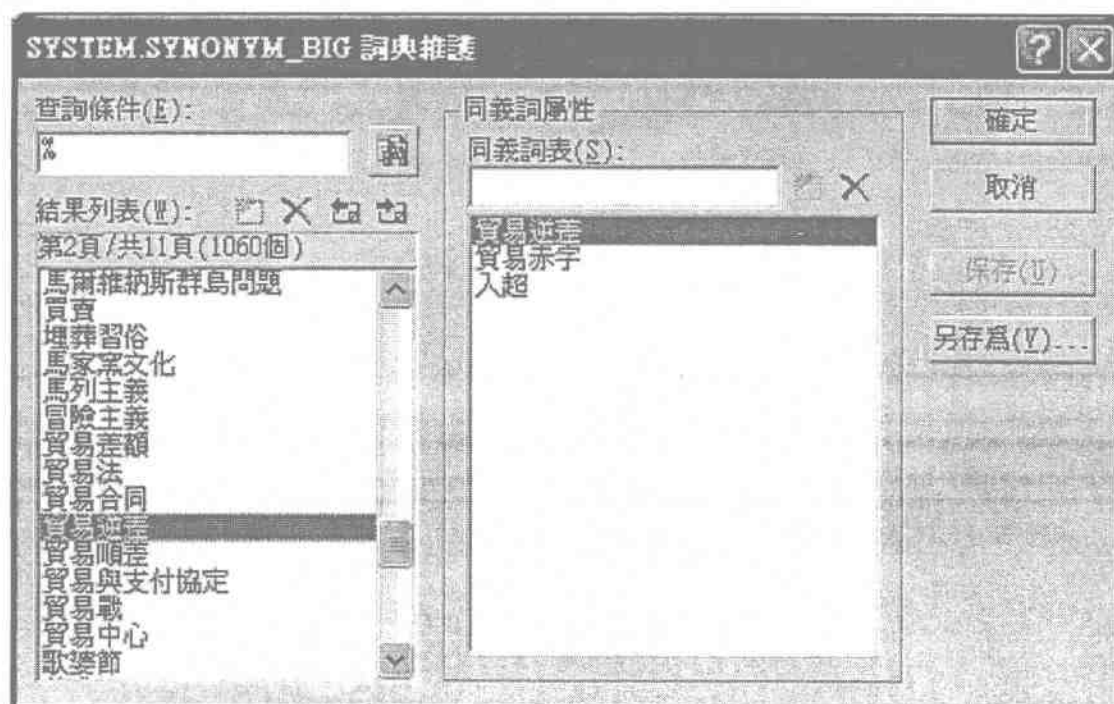
自由組中華總商會，昨（廿七）日接  
 四號代電云：（一）本會為協助東南亞  
 地區華僑經濟之發展，前經組織「東南亞  
 各地區華僑經濟合作小組」，並經電請  
 各有關人士，將當地有關經濟貿易資料  
 寄會。以備辦理。茲接（二）貴會加強  
 上列各區域華僑經濟合作之聯絡，並  
 及促進各地華僑經濟合作之聯絡，並  
 工作。茲將各地主要輸出人物資種類，及  
 即請將當地主要輸出人物資種類，及  
 外匯資料，以便統籌，委會長處彙報。

## Appendix B

### 1. Antonym Dictionary 反義詞典



### 2. Synonym Dictionary 同義詞典





### 3. Thesaurus 詞典

**SYSTEM THESAURUS\_BIG 詞典維護**

查詢條件(E): %

查詢目標(G):

排序字段(M):

結果列表(V):

第2頁 / 共98頁 (9799個)

釀酒工業
年產值
年費
年會
年鑒
尼姑
尼克松主義 (美國)
寧瑪派
泥塑
紐倫堡審判 (1945-1946)
農場
農場管理
農場主
農產品比價
農產品產量
農產品商品率
農村

主題詞屬性

主題詞(T):	農場
族首詞(L):	企業
上位詞(B):	農業企業
下位詞(N):	國營農場; 華僑農場; 家庭農場
等同詞(P):	Nongchang
替代詞(D):	
相關詞(R):	
縮略詞(A):	
被縮略詞(E):	
組合概念(C):	
歷史注釋(H):	
範圍注釋(S):	05LC
外文等同詞(I):	Farm
后組配概念(Q):	

## **The Historical Chinese Language Materials in British Columbia Database ([www.hclmbc.org](http://www.hclmbc.org)): Challenges in Documentation and Transnational Networking**

*Eleanor Yuen*

*Asian Library, University of British Columbia*

Chinese settlement in British Columbia, Canada dates back to 1858 after the gold rush in San Francisco sent the first Chinese north to the Cariboo area. Over the last 145 years, the population of ethnic Chinese residing in Greater Vancouver alone has grown to 342,665 (2001 Census). The steady and rapid growth of Chinese population in British Columbia and indeed in Canada as a whole since 1967, when a point system based on the merit of skills of applicants became part of Canadian immigration policy, has brought about a renaissance in Chinese-Canadian studies. However, Chinese language materials deposited in public archives, museums, university archives, and in private hands are generally not well documented or even made known for easy public access. The uniqueness of the archival materials, the data quality and volume of primary materials preserved, the continuity of the content and the potential to link the data to other information call for detailed inventory and evaluation of the collections.<sup>1</sup> Yet documents cited in published bibliographies make few references to these collections.<sup>2</sup> As a result, the history of the province as reflected in these materials has not been well established.

The urgency and timeliness of the initiation in 2000 of the project described in this paper was underlined by some recurrent phenomena in the previous decade. With the gradual transition of the generation born before the 1920s to senior homes (and their eventual passing away), personal effects, business records and even documents related to clan associations and other public bodies were under threat, as never before, of being damaged beyond rescue or destroyed altogether. In a number of known cases, these materials were disposed of in the process of house cleaning.

### **Objective of the Project**

This project is built on a vision of access and preservation. To support educational needs at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and in response to the growing interest of researchers and the community in general, the Asian Library and the Centre for Chinese Research at UBC as well as the David See-Chai Lam Centre for International Communication at Simon Fraser University collaborated in 2000 to develop a database of historical Chinese language materials in BC. A call for province-wide preservation of historical materials was made again in 2001, and concerns about the disappearance of these archival materials and artifacts were articulated.

The Asian Library itself does not intend to collect documents, only to make their existence known. Its aim is to develop a comprehensive inventory, searchable on the Web by author, title, holding location, original location, keyword, file source, notes and record ID in traditional Chinese characters, English and Pinyin. Archival materials are accepted if the owner prefers the Asian Library to be the permanent location of their collection.

Recommendations on options for preservation are offered so that information is not lost with the memory of those involved or consequent to the physical decay of materials.

As one of the objectives of the project is to teach students and researchers how to find and use primary sources, the launch of this finding list on the Internet successfully provided access to these otherwise "out-of-reach" materials. Different primary source Web sites for Asian history were investigated.<sup>3</sup>

### **Methodology of research and definition of project**

On the basis of the history of major waves of Chinese settlements across the province, the project identified a total of 29 resource centres along the Gold Rush Trail, the Canadian Pacific Railway, cities and towns on the east coast of Vancouver Island, as well as the Fraser Valley which were listed in the British Columbia Archival Information Network. Preliminary verification of the nature of the archival holdings described in the British Columbia Archival Union List was also made. Apparently, some resource centres collect materials that span more than one wave of settlement, while others have unique coverage of a particular era.

Initial interviews by telephone, e-mail and fax were followed by site visits. In turn, trained students of the History Department and Master of Arts, Asia Pacific Policy Studies Program (MAPPS) of Institute of Asian Research, UBC would evaluate and record on site the Chinese language historical materials of the resource centre, using a worksheet installed on a laptop computer. Given the local context and content of the materials, established subject authorities such as LCSH or Fung Ping Shan Subject Headings were not appropriate for this purpose. Instead, keywords taken from the "scope/content" field were added to improve ease of approval. Presently, the technical support team of David Lam Centre for International Communications, Simon Fraser University is still working to upgrade the scope/content field to be searchable so that all fields in the database are indexed for searching. To date, over 11,000 records from 11 archives, museums and libraries have been either exported or created from scratch and incorporated in the database. Over 80% of these records are now available for free search online for the first time.

The British Columbia Archives and the Royal British Columbia Museum on Vancouver Island agreed to be the next stops for the project team. Materials added to the database on <http://www.hclmbc.org/> includes Chinese language manuscripts, newspapers, correspondence, genealogical and family records, business transaction records, association records, certificates, receipts, textbooks, photographs with captions in Chinese, catalogues, books and journals on Chinese-Canadian history and other documents. Every effort has been made to ensure coverage of the major collections, at the cost of mixing both archival and library materials. The definition of scope of coverage, in particular, would complicate the design of the worksheet and the management of the database. Simply put, the benefits of following traditional MARC format and AACR II rules had to be sacrificed altogether.

### **Building and maintaining the Web site**

While the project has been widely and readily supported by organizations and individuals across the province, import of files of different format has still posed technical problems at different stages. A case in point, the comparatively simple task of integrating over 9,000 entries of news clippings, mostly with full text on *Microsoft Access 2000*, turned out to be a daunting job. Similarly, even with all the ready and timely support from David Lam Centre, SFU, the database maintenance and updates sometimes are very labour-intensive and time-consuming. At any rate, luck is certainly required in a successful and cordial collaborative initiative such as this one.

Table 1 - Historical Chinese Materials Collections presents all 29 resource centres, identified by period of coverage, description of major collections, format of their records, and whether included in *hclmbc.org* or not.

The database runs on *MySQL* which is Unicode-based, robust and therefore more appropriate than *Microsoft Access* for Chinese databases with more than 50,000 records. The success in launching this Web page on *MySQL* pre-empts problems that might arise in exporting Chinese in Big-5 or GB Code on *ColdFusion* which is used in the UBC Library environment. Initial evaluation suggests that this software might also provide a suitable platform for databases in Japanese, Korean or even some of the South Asian vernaculars.

Other language-related challenges are brought about by the dialects: special characters that are only known and used in Say Sap and Sahn Sap continue to bewilder young student assistants who are not able to decipher the dialects in written form. For example, under the custody of Harold Steves was a document with the names of major cities and township of the province transliterated in one of the county dialects in Guangdong and issued by the Chinese Nationalist League for internal use. The transliterations were totally different from Pinyin and Cantonese romanizations which most contemporary Chinese understand.

Comprehensive cross references for popular names (such as Chee Gong Tong, which at different stages was also known as Hung Shun Tong, Hong Men and Chee Gong Dong) can only be properly done with in-depth research. However, the funds raised to hire the student project librarian are not sufficient to support such detailed cataloguing work.

From 1875 to 1923, the Government of British Columbia passed sets of laws which discouraged the migration of Chinese to Canada.<sup>4</sup> The Chinese who came between the 1850s and 1945 were mostly single males who conducted their lives closely with members of their own clan or social and religious affiliations. Therefore, archival materials kept at the clan associations such as the Chee Gong Tong at Barkerville Historic Town, major businesses such Hong Wo Store at Steveston, and the Parish Church of the Good Shepherd were of paramount significance in providing a different perspective of the history of the province during those difficult times. For immigrants fortunate enough to have had families in Canada, family collections are bodies of unique materials, which document not only the history of the family but also that of the

neighbourhood—sometimes that of the province as a whole. Guided by this unique pattern of the social life of Chinese settlers at different eras, pioneer families were identified and interviewed with a focus on the unique contributions of their ancestors and contemporary members. It should be noted that archival resource materials on low-profile pioneer families were prioritised equally.

At this stage, collections featured in the Image Gallery include that of the family of Paul Lin, whose father George Lim Yuen came to British Columbia in 1897 and became the first Chinese Priest-in-Charge of the Parish Church of the Good Shepherd in 1920; the family of Alex Chan, whose grandfather was one of the founding members of the Chinese Empire Reform Association in Canada, incorporated in 1900; of Glen Wong, who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II and whose father established successful businesses both in Nanjing and Vancouver's Chinatown; of Genda Whalen, who taught Chinese in Vancouver from the 1940s until she retired; of Harold Steves, after whose grandfather the village of Steveston is named. (Steves holds a substantial file on Tung Ling Lam, owner of Hong Wo, the largest department store in Richmond, 1890–1971, Lum Poy and his family since he came to Canada in 1914, and Eng Sang who was commissioned by the Chinese Nationalist League to oversee communication of the Party's overseas branches across the province from 1919 to the 1930s. Henry and Victoria Yip donated to the Asian Library family documents and artefacts which supplement the Yip Sang collection in the Vancouver Museum. During site visits to the five pioneer families, it was established that, except for Yip Sang's collection, the other four collections were never made accessible to anyone outside their own family members.

The exhibition of "Three Early Chinese Pioneer Families" mounted by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver features the families of the Rev. Yu Tan Chan (1863-1948), Hok Yat Louie (1875-1934) and Ron Bick Lee (1892-1994), and it will in time be added to the Image Gallery on the [hclmbc.org](http://hclmbc.org) Web site..

While there is no cut-off date for materials deposited in public archives, post-1970 materials in private hands are not sought after at this stage. It was evident that with the change of Canadian immigration policy to accept applicants according to a point system in 1967, there was a mushrooming of Chinese print and electronic media, community, business, cultural and religious associations, records of which are paramount and effective in documenting activities of the Canadian Chinese. Tian argues that in the post-1967 period, more and more Chinese went into professional and business occupations and were involved in political, social, cultural, religious and economic activities outside Chinatown. A rich variety of organizations were formed to help them achieve their goals.<sup>5</sup> Some of the milestones are the inauguration of *Sing Tao Daily* in 1983 and *Ming Pao* ten years later in 1983. As of the year 2000, there were three Chinese radio channels and two television stations targeting audience from the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In light of the significant demographic growth, coupled with the complexity of their personal lives and social activities as a whole, the Web site lists 75 associations, 117 religious organisations, 3 virtual exhibitions staged in the Image Gallery, as well as links



to old and new Chinatowns such as Richmond (which started to bloom after 1987). A special photo exhibition on "A Century of Economic Activities of Ethnic Chinese in Richmond and Irregular Chinese Migrants in BC" which represents an important facet of Chinese-Canadian history in BC has been added to the "Related Materials" section.

The establishment of youth organisations such as the Chinese Overseas Students' Association of BC in 1970 was a good indicator of changes in the education level of young Chinese in Greater Vancouver after 1967, when Chinese arrived from Hong Kong, China, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, South America and Africa in very large numbers. In 1971, when the Canadian government introduced its multiculturalism policy which discredited racism in general, the Chinese-Canadian population stood at around 150,000.<sup>6</sup> The following year, the inauguration of three flagship community organizations, namely the United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society (SUCCESS), the Strathcona Employment Outreach Program and the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver, marked a significant development in the community. The following 30 years witnessed a flourishing of organisations with members from the same location or country of origin. Others simply share interests in cultural, social, educational, economical, religion, or political matters.

### **Challenges ahead**

The current inventory is the first iteration of an ongoing effort. Further partnerships will be forged with pioneer families, clan and community associations, international archives and resource centres with pertinent collections. The Asian Library also plans to work with its collaborators to improve the variant forms of key words for searching the database and will enrich the Web site with relevant materials. With the completion of these milestones, the Library would then focus on fundraising for digitisation, in stages, of some of the collections.

Full text digitisation of Chinese newspapers stays high on the priority list. A case in point, the Asian Library holds one of the two sets of *Chinese Times*, the oldest Chinese newspaper in the province on microfilm as well as the only remaining hard copy of issues from 1914 to 1992; issues from 1907 to 1913 were unfortunately destroyed. The three major contemporary counterparts of *Chinese Times*, namely *Ming Pao*, *Sing Tao* and *World Journal*, are not viewable or archived online. In 2003, the Library started to acquire 2000–2001 issues of *World Journal* on CD-ROM, as a tool of preservation.

Competition for funding to digitise unique and popular materials such as collections of the pioneer families will surface from time to time. Tough decision will need to be made in the context of promoting and preserving the materials which are at the greatest risk. Over time, application for grants and fundraising will become one of the responsibilities of the author who oversees the content development of the Web site. These concerns could be overwhelming to Japanese, Korean and South Asian language librarians, should any one of them become interested in heading a similar project on their respective language. On the positive note, this project, by and large, is a model for developing and managing archival materials in the other Asian languages covered by our collection development policy.

As the project enjoys wider support, more primary materials are being added to the collection. Their display and storage demand energy and time from existing staff. As home to a number of special collections including the well-known Puban Collection, the 1140 volume-strong collection of Chinese rare books, the Jing Yi Zhai Collection, the Swann Collection, the Japanese government publications, among others, the Asian Library has been facing acute space problem. This new special collection, though not as taxing on storage space as other collections in print, still takes up many shelves in the humidity and temperature control vault in the Asian Library.

With respect to transnational networking, plans are in place to join the list of RLG Cultural Materials Initiative and be indexed by portals on Asian themes such as the Asian Studies WWW Monitor. The exposure gained in these promotion exercises will translate into networking opportunities. On a local level, networking with clan associations such as Ing Suey Sun Tong Association, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver, the Canada United Hakka Association and the Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada might very well open up dialogue and cooperation with their counterparts in PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The key to success is probably the identification and winning over, in each case, of an agent who is closely associated with the group. The experience in obtaining the annual reports of Lin Si He Tong since its inception in the early 1900s through Paul Lin, whose father was one of the founding members of the clan association, confirmed that personal relationship has a weighty bearing on the success of networking with these local groups.

Challenges that librarians, curators and archivists face in transnational networking, in some way are reminiscent of the problems encountered in this project even within British Columbia. Incompatibility of platforms on which different databases reside, coupled with the variant nomenclature used can be overwhelming initially. However, insofar as Chinese overseas studies are regarded as a global issue and the need to link the data to other information is established, plans for transnational networks should be put into place. Conferences such as this one would help to stimulate those interests as well as to provide the venue for potential collaborators to work together with common goals.

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## Table 1. Historical Chinese Materials Collections

Archives/Library/Museum	Period Covered	Major Collection	File Format	In <i>hclmbc.org</i>
Anglican Church of Canada				×
Anglican Provincial Synod of British Columbia and Yukon Archives	1890–			✓
Asian Library, University of British Columbia	1900–			✓
Barkerville Historic Town	1860–late 1940		ACCESS	✓
British Columbia Archives				To be included May 2003
Canadian Pacific Railway Archives		Menus, brochures or promotional material in Chinese for distribution on the Pacific ships		×
Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society	1918–1940			✓
Chinese Community Library Services Association		Full-text news clippings of major Chinese newspapers 1999– History room: 1930s – today		✓
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver Museum and Archives	1930–			✓
City of Richmond Archives		Photos of Chinese		×
City of Vancouver Archives		Private documents and records regarding pioneer families (Yip Sang family documents and Chinatown artifacts with Chinese characters)		×
City of Victoria Archives	1880–1970	Photos of Chinese and private documents regarding pioneer families and records		×
Cumberland County Museum Archives				×
Delta Museum & Archives		Photos of Chinese working in cannery and households		×
Diocese of British Columbia Archives				×
Fort St. James Museum	1880–1889			×
Fort Steele Heritage Town Archives and Library				×
Kamloops Museum and Archives	1800s–1950s			×
Langley Centennial Museum				×
Lytton Museum and Archives	1999	John F. Fee fonds	1 cm of textual records; 7 photographs;	×

			1 sound recording	
Multicultural History Society of Ontario		A few books and journals		×
Nanaimo Community Archives		Chu Yat Quai Fonds		×
Nanaimo District Museum	1908–1960	Chinatown Revisited		×
Quesnel and District Museum Archives	1890–1940		ACCESS	√
Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia (Guide to Chinese Canadian History Sources)				√
Richmond Public Library		A few books		√
Royal British Columbia Museum			ACCESS	To be included May 2003
The United Church of Canada B.C. Conference Archives				√
Vancouver Museum	1890s–1985		Customized ACCESS	×
Vancouver Public Library		Chinese-Canadian History Guide		√
Vanderhoof Heritage Village Museum Complex	1920			×
Wells Historical Society Archives	1948–1952	Lee Chong Company Fonds	1 cm of textual record	×
Yale District Historical Society				×
Yale District Historical Society Museum	1900–1950	1880 – 1930 Cheng Foo Yale's Chinatown		×