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Cover Page Footnote

We thank Dr. Patrick Lo for his advice on this study and suggestions for our future research directions.

In Search of Hong Kong Literature in a Digital Hub: An Evaluation of Hong Kong Literature Database from the Perspective of Researchers

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Introduction

The Hong Kong Literature Database (HKLD) was launched by the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) library in 2000. It is the first digital database on Hong Kong literature, which serves as a research information tool for users to look for Hong Kong literature in the digital age. It is one of the early locally developed digitization projects in the field of Hong Kong studies. In particular, for the HKLD definition of "Hong Kong literature," CUHK library takes the most liberal definition that the literature is published in Hong Kong or written by authors living in Hong Kong. As the librarians are aware of identity politics well and note the evolving definition of "Hong Kong people," HKLD would like to show a holistic picture of Hong Kong literature and position HKLD as a neutral platform.

The CUHK Library has spent enormous resources on the establishment, improvement, and maintenance of HKLD to fulfill different user information needs. The CUHK Library conducted a quantitative user survey in 2007 to examine the profiles, purposes, and browsing habits of HKLD users (Hong Kong Literature News, 2007). The survey showed that users visited HKLD for learning (37%), research (30%), personal interests (27%), and teaching (5%). However, there has been no further follow-up study of HKLD by neither the CUHK library nor other scholars over the past decade. In recent years, more Hong Kong scholars and writers have been promoting Hong Kong literature and striving to set up a permanent Hong Kong Literature Museum (The House of Hong Kong Literature, 2018). Therefore, HKLD should be further enhanced in order to deal with increasing potential users and diversifying needs. Thus, it is worthwhile to re-examine HKLD from the perspective of both users and librarians.

Based on eight interviews with researchers of the CUHK, this article examines if HKLD can continue to meet the needs of researchers of Hong Kong literature studies successfully. The paper finds that first, HKLD serves as a hub of resources of Hong Kong literature to preserve Hong Kong literature to overcome the data collection problem for researchers, facilitating research with its comprehensive collection. Second, HKLD is a one-stop digital platform that indexed and digitized literary items for instant retrieval so that researchers can collect data in a more effective and efficient manner.

The new field of Hong Kong literature

Owing to low awareness of preservation and weak institutional support, information of Hong Kong literature had not been preserved very well. This was due to the ignorance of local culture in the colonial period, late formulation of Hong Kong identity, and the young history of Hong Kong literature as an academic discipline (Lo, 1988). Little attention was paid to Hong Kong literature in civil society and academy before the 1980s; thus artifacts of Hong Kong literature, especially those published in the early 20th century, were scattered in different places or even lost. Libraries have contributed efforts to the building of special collections on Hong Kong literature in recent 20 years only. Hong Kong public library set up Hong Kong literature collection in 1994, Fung Ping Shan library of the University of Hong Kong started to collect items on Hong Kong literature in the 1990s, while the CUHK library established Hong Kong literature collection in 2000. (Lo, 1988, 2005).

Moreover, there was a debate on Hong Kong literature as a field in the 1970s or before, as some scholars, from Taiwan and Mainland China, doubted if there was any serious literature in Hong Kong (Lu, 1988). It takes time for scholars to establish the legitimacy of Hong Kong literature as an academic discipline. There is a vibrant discussion of the definition of Hong Kong literature in the 1980s and onwards (See Wong, Lo, Tay, 1998; Cheung and Chu, 2002). The boundary of Hong Kong literature is vague due to the intimate interactions and high mobility of writers of Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan. Many writers traveled from mainland China, stayed in Hong Kong for some years, and then returned to mainland China or went to other places (Chen et al., 2018). Hong Kong was a freed port as compared to the political instability in mainland China and Taiwan, and anyone can publish their work in Hong Kong. Therefore, it is difficult to define clearly whether these writers are Hong Kong writers or not. Criteria of Hong Kong literature may depend on the birthplace of writers, place of publications, subject matter of literature works, and “consciousness” of Hong Kong identity. Such ambiguousness of Hong Kong literature has caused difficulties to confine the scope of Hong Kong literature, and made it a difficult task to index or collect Hong Kong literature and eventually institutionalizes as an “official” version. Further, the young discipline of Hong Kong literature is growing rapidly and it takes years to consolidate the field in the academy. It also takes time to develop supporting tools for research on this subject.

As a result, in the early days of Hong Kong literature studies, researchers encountered great difficulties in tracing materials of Hong Kong literature. Researchers realized their information needs of Hong Kong literature, such as works by a writer or works published in a particular period; however, but there was no index or bibliography of Hong Kong literature. There was only scattered collections of literary writers published in Hong Kong due to limited resources and interests. Many literary writings were published in different channels of newspapers, supplements, magazines, and journals. Further obstacles in searching exist as many Hong Kong writers made a living by writing popular fiction for different newspapers under different pen names, and submitted their “more serious” writings to journals with other pen names.

Worse still, researchers may not be able to get access to publications from various libraries, as they only started to build special collections on this subject since the 1990s. Many researchers often need to build their private collections of Hong Kong literature with their own resources, which means these materials could not be accessible to other users.

The Hong Kong Literature Database

Since the 1980s, there has been an emerging interest in Hong Kong literature in local universities (Wong, 1987; Lo, 1988; Cheung et al., 2002). Undergraduate courses on Hong Kong literature have been offered widely in universities in Hong Kong since 1999, and the Hong Kong Literature Research Centre was established at the CUHK in 2001. Hong Kong literature studies were institutionalized in Hong Kong in the 2000s, and this is an emerging academic field comparing to traditional Chinese literature studies and history.

In response to the growing information needs of Hong Kong literature, the CUHK library set up HKLD in 2000 with three main objectives: “(1) to serve the teaching and research needs of the university community and beyond on Hong Kong literature; (2) to provide easy access to materials on Hong Kong literature anytime anywhere in the world; and (3) to promote Hong Kong literature as a subject discipline to a wider audience globally.” (Ma, 2005)

As of November 2018, there are over half a million items indexed in HKLD, including Hong Kong literary journal articles (318,516 items), book jackets and table of contents of monographs of Hong Kong literature (19,082 items), Hong Kong newspaper literary supplement articles (178,368 items), other newspaper articles (6,741), as well as theses and dissertations on Hong Kong literature (377 items). Further, the full text of 197,330 digitized items is available in HKLD. The primary collection of HKLD was donated by Prof. Wei-luen Lo a prominent writer and scholar who had collected artifacts of modern Chinese and Hong Kong literature with personal resources and networks for more than 30 years. Then, the collection of HKLD was developed by CUHK library with further purchase of literature publications, copyright permission granted by publishers, and academic support by the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, CUHK.

Although the CUHK library has been collecting, preserving, and organizing information of Hong Kong literature for a long time, it was a new attempt for the CUHK library to set up a digital database with the subject of Hong Kong literature. In 2016, there were approximately 4,500,000 visits to HKLD on average with users from Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, the United States, Europe, and other places (*Hong Kong Economic Journal*, 2016; *Wen Wei Po*, 2016). HKLD, as a subject database, is popular among users, as there are only “more than 200,000” visits to the website of Asian Art Archive with an online catalog of contemporary art documents in the region. (Asian Art Archive, n.d.). It is well-recognized that HKLD has provided an important information service to users who are interested in and conduct research on Hong Kong literature (*Hong Kong Economic Journal*, 2016; *Wen Wei Po*, 2016).

There is only a limited discussion on HKLD in the field of librarianship and information management studies. For example, Ma, Wong, and Lau (2005), staff of the CUHK Library, introduced the process of setting up HKLD as well as its design and metadata structure. Ma

and Chan (2008, 2010) explained how the Hong Kong Newspaper Literary Supplements Digitization Project contributed to the growth of HKLD. However, current literature on HKLD focuses mainly on preparation for digitization and the process of making the digitized material accessible to users, while the user experience of HKLD is yet to be explored.

Digitization and academic libraries

As a digitization project on Hong Kong literature of the CUHK library, HKLD responds to the growing research interests in Hong Kong literature and the bloom of digital libraries worldwide in this century. In this Internet era, users expect to retrieve information in a timely manner and get access to library materials without geographical and time limitations. Thus, libraries also go digital and provide information services to users via online platforms. A digital library refers to a managed collection of information in digital formats to provide information services accessible over a network (Chowdhury and Chowdhury, 2003; Arms, 2000). Many libraries have recently become hybrid libraries to serve digital and printed information resources in an integrated information service accessible locally as well as remotely (HyLife, 2002). The following discussion focuses on the practice of digitization only and other features of digital libraries will not be covered.

With advanced information technology, libraries, museums, and other information organizations are able to preserve cultural and intellectual resources and provide online access of these resources to users via digitization (Deegan and Tanner, 2004; Lo, Chiu, and Cho, 2017; Lo et al., 2019). Hughes (2004) defines digitization as a process by which analog contents are converted into a binary code of 0s and 1s to be computer-readable. She invited readers to evaluate the costs and benefits of digitization with reference to information organizations' needs and introduced stages of implementation of digitization projects. Though she recognized both time and financial costs of digitization, she also emphasized the advantage of digitization projects, including providing broader and enhanced access to a wider community, supporting the preservation, supporting collection development with collaborative digitization initiatives, and benefits for research and education (Hughes, 2004). On the other hand, Calhoun (2014) described digitization as a process of converting a physical item into a digital representation so that digital contents could be easily compressed and possibly manipulated with computer programs. Much other discussions on digitization have been made mainly from the perspective of information managers, especially on planning and implementation (Lee, 2001; Hugh, 2004; Rikowski, 2010).

On the other hand, it is essential to examine the user experience of digital databases with digitized items. After all, digitization projects are to preserve cultural and historical information for users of the present and future times (Lo, et al., 2017). Users play a prominent role in digitization projects, as they can give valuable feedback for the improvement of digital libraries for information organizations. It is always important to learn the information need of users so that information organizations can review their collection policy properly. Further, information-seeking behaviors of users can provide hints to enhance the design and features of digital databases.

Last but not least, it is equally important to identify the needs of specific groups of users. Carr (2007) pointed out that users do not consist of a conveniently homogeneous group, and there may be contradictory requests from different users, such as undergraduates, taught postgraduates, research students, full-time scholarly researchers, and external users from diverse professions. In particular, Brophy (2005) identified research students and research staff as highly demanding information users. As their research has to be original and presumably cutting edge, they usually request for in-depth coverage of a highly specialist area and timely information. As such, in this article, we focus on the researchers' needs of Hong Kong literature studies for HKLD.

Objective and methodology

In this project, we conducted qualitative research on the user experience of HKLD through eight semi-structured interviews with researchers from two academic departments at the CUHK, who have been searching for information for research from HKLD. Semi-structure interview refers to a number of predefined questions are always asked in the interview, but subsequent questioning will depend on the response given (Bawden and Robinson, 2012; Pickard, 2007). With such flexibility, the research could explore the information needs of Hong Kong literature studies and user experience of HKLD covering depth and breadth.

As shown in Table 1, the background information of interviewees, including age, position at the University, year of usage of HKLD and research area, was presented for a general understanding of researchers. Six research students and two full-time teaching staff from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, and the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, CUHK were interviewed. Besides four researchers on Hong Kong literature, four researchers in other humanity fields are interviewed to cover more diversified needs, including Chinese Modern literature, Hong Kong culture, and Hong Kong cinema.

Table 1. Interviewee demographics.

Interviewee	Status	Year of using HKLD	Research area	Information needs (Specific information needs are not revealed for keeping the anonymity of interviewees.)
A	M. Phil. student	6	Hong Kong Literature	Literary writing by a writer; Review and criticism on a writer
B	Ph.D. student	10	Hong Kong Literature	Literary writing by a writer; Review and criticism on a writer
C	Ph.D. student	1	Hong Kong Culture	Literary writing with descriptions of a social phenomenon in Hong Kong in the 1960s-1970s
D	M. Phil. student	4	Hong Kong Cinema	Review and criticism of Chinese cinema in literary and cultural magazines in Hong Kong
E	Ph.D. student	6	Hong Kong Literature	Literary writing by a writer; Review and criticism on a writer
F	Teaching staff	6	Hong Kong Culture	Records, reviews and criticism of Xiqu performance in literary and cultural magazines in Hong Kong
G	M. Phil. student	4	Hong Kong Literature	Literary writing by a writer; Review and criticism on a writer
H	Teaching staff	16	Chinese Modern Literature	Literary writing by a writer; Review and criticism on a writer

It is admitted that the sampling of qualitative research is limited and thus this research may not be able to cover the usage of HKLD by “general” users. However, this qualitative research could still reveal invaluable details of user information needs and information-seeking of HKLD. Further, the selected interviewees comprised junior researchers and senior researchers, ranging from M. Phil. students to full-time teachers. Thus, they had different years of experience of using HKLD, ranging from 1 to over 10 years. As some interviewees had been using HKLD since undergraduate studies, they could also comment on the evolvement of their own needs as well as HKLD.

Results

HKLD as a resource hub for Hong Kong literature

As discussed in the previous session, information of Hong Kong literature had not been preserved very well due to low awareness of preservation and weak institutional support during the colonial period. Furthermore, the ambiguousness of Hong Kong literature has caused difficulties to confine the scope of Hong Kong literature, and made it difficult to index or collect Hong Kong literature and eventually institutionalizes as an “official” version.

All the interviewees appreciated HKLD as a hub of resources of Hong Kong literature and they could fulfill their information needs with the usage of HKLD. As the interviewees understood that many literary items they needed were indexed or accessible in HKLD, they

would “naturally” look for information of Hong Kong literature when they needed something from the Hong Kong literature.

Interviewees expressed that a lack of information tools and hub of resources of Hong Kong literature had traditionally been an obstacle to academic research in this field. Without HKLD, it would be difficult for researchers to develop research projects if they were not sure whether their required information of Hong Kong literature was available at all. They further commented that data collection and retrieving information of Hong Kong literature was more difficult than their counterparts in the field of Chinese modern literature, which had well-developed information tools for a long time.

As such, interviewees consider HKLD as one of the key information sources for their research project of literature and related studies because of its comprehensive collection. They appreciated that full text of more than 60 journals is available in HKLD, including *The Chinese Student Weekly* (中國學生周報) and *Hong Kong Literature Monthly* (香港文學). The interviewees were grateful that they could enjoy the comprehensive collection of HKLD. They found it satisfactory to search for Hong Kong literature in this digital hub and learning the historical and current development of the field.

As journals of Hong Kong literature were not well-preserved in public libraries and academic libraries in the 1990s and before, researchers might not be able to get access to these journals for research purposes without HKLD. With HKLD established in 2000, journals of Hong Kong literature and other literary items are available to users for a better understanding of the literary and cultural scene of Hong Kong in the 20th century. Thus, HKLD, as a hub of Hong Kong literature, lays a foundation of Hong Kong literature studies for researchers and interested members of the general public.

Mr. Ma, CUHK librarian and a member of the working team of HKLD, expressed that HKLD has taken an inclusive definition of Hong Kong literature, in order to preserve as much material of Hong Kong literature as possible for users of the present and future. The collection policy of HKLD is based on the place of publication of items of Hong Kong literature; in other words, HKLD provides a comprehensive collection of literary items published in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality, birthplace or residency of writers (Ma, 2016). This collection policy is a clear and concise one.

Further, the working team of HKLD comprises CUHK librarians and academics of Hong Kong Literature Research Centre, CUHK. Thus, the selection of information for HKLD is advised by experts in Hong Kong literature, while the information organization is supported by professional CUHK librarians. More importantly, Prof. Wei-luen Lo, a well-respected pioneer of Hong Kong literature studies, has collected items of Hong Kong literature since the 1970s. Prof. Lo donated her own collection and index of Hong Kong literature, which served as a foundation of HKLD. Hence, the collection of HKLD is considered to be comprehensive with academic standards by interviewees. Interviewee A commented on the collection, “We all know Prof. Wei-luen Lo donated her collection and took part in setting up HKLD. With her expertise in (Hong Kong) literature studies, we can count on her to select Hong Kong

literature materials. Of course, HKLD cannot cover everything, but Prof. Lo must have identified key items for HKLD.”

Meeting user information needs in a one-stop digital platform

As the items from different information sources are digitized and made accessible in HKLD, all the interviewees appreciated the convenience to get literary items published in newspaper supplements, journals, and monographs in a single platform, so that they needed not spend time on searching for information in multiple platforms or catalogs. This enhanced their efficiency in data collection. We further classified their information needs as listed in Table 2, which comprised three main types: (1) literary writing and writers, (2) cultural activities, and (3) literary description of a social phenomenon in Hong Kong. Next, we analyze how the functions of HKLD satisfy user information needs.

Table 2. Information needs of interviewees related to HKLD.

Theme	Coding
Information related to writer(s) and his/her work	-when and where a writer publishes his/her literary writing -interview and introduction of the writer -review and criticism on literary writing -source of literary writing and criticism, such as the title of literary magazine and year of publication
Information related to cultural activities	-records of cultural activities in newspaper and magazines, such as Chinese films and Xiqu performance -review of cultural activities
Information related to a social phenomenon	-literary description of a social phenomenon in Hong Kong in the 1960s-1970s

HKLD search functions

Users could retrieve information with the search engine provided by HKLD via “keyword search” and “search by author.” Keyword search is very straightforward. Basically, users could enter a keyword and then a list of items with the supplied keyword is shown. The article titles, author names, publication title, and publication date have been indexed in HKLD. Users could retrieve information at the article level in HKLD. For example, with the keyword of "Xi Xi" (西西), a renowned Hong Kong female writer, HKLD retrieved 327 items, published from 1965 to 2018, listed in the search result (see Figures 1 and 2). This is a very user-friendly function for users who are new to the field of Hong Kong literature.

“Search by author” provides more advanced functions. Users could search by author name, including real name and writer’s name. HKLD has identified authors of Hong Kong literature with their real names and pen names in Chinese and English, and literary items are also classified by type of writings and sources, including literacy text, review, newspaper clipping, monographs, journal article, and academic thesis. In the case of "Xi Xi", users could locate the author's writing published in newspapers (16 items), journals (371 items), and monographs (44 items), and also identify literacy review on Xi Xi's writing (251 items) (see Figure 3).



Figure 7. Keyword search interface.



Figure 8. Keyword search results.



Figure 9. Search by author results.

Advantages of search function in HKLD

Obviously, there are advantages that HKLD allows users to retrieve different types of literary items in a one-stop digital platform. First, it is more efficient to search for information on a single platform. Second, users, with or without literature studies training, are able to locate literary items with the search engine provided by HKLD.

For those researchers who have literature studies training and look for literary information from specific information sources, they get access to the desired literary items in HKLD more quickly. For example, if a researcher would like to find a specific article published in a journal in a particular year, the researcher could browse all the issues of journals published in this particular year for the item without the need to access the physical copies. HKLD further supports browsing journals and newspapers in paper or microfilm format. However, the interviewees expressed that they did not prefer reading items in microfilm format as this would be very time-consuming.

For those who are new to the field of Hong Kong literature, they can retrieve literary items from the search engine of HKLD easily. As metadata of literary items are indexed in HKLD, users can simply type a keyword and then start searching even when they have no idea of the journal title or author who might have written about a phenomenon or a concept.

Interviewees expressed their difficulties in locating literary items before using HKLD, as they did not know how to start identifying information sources of literary writings. Interviewees pointed out that as Hong Kong literature is a young discipline, collections of Hong Kong writers were not complete. Complete collection of a writer would be more useful for researchers to understand the writing journey of a writer by tracing their work. As a result, researchers had to learn tacit knowledge of Hong Kong literature by themselves. It would take a long time for them to learn key sources of literary publication, such as literary

and cultural magazines in different periods and network of literary writers. An obstacle in locating literary information was that the time span of literary magazines was often short, such as two years or so, owing to the limitation of publishing resources. In the past, researchers could only learn such tacit knowledge slowly, either from their teachers and colleagues in classes or seminars, or from cited literary information in academic articles. Only through that could they know the required title of literary magazines or key discussions of the subject for retrieval.

With HKLD, researchers could make use of the search engine to retrieve records of literary items and follow previous discussions of a particular writer more effectively. HKLD provides online access to digitized items, or information to direct users to access them physically at the CUHK Library. Further, users could retrieve the metadata of related items for citation, including article title, author, and source (title, date of publication and page number). As a result, interviewees could fulfill their information needs for their research with usage of HKLD, directly and indirectly.

In general, all interviewees expressed their appreciation of HKLD, which is the first and largest digital database on Hong Kong literature. They are especially grateful that comprehensive and well-selected collection with many “old materials” published in the 1970s or before are available, and full text of more than 60 digitized journals are accessible in this digital hub. They also acknowledge that the search function of this one-stop platform is very helpful to their research projects. HKLD makes the “unwritten knowledge” of Hong Kong literature open to all users by providing a searchable index of literary items.

Recommendations for HKLD

Table 3 summarizes some suggestions from the interviewees for the further improvement of HKLD: (1) enrichment of collection, (2) upgraded features, (3) system stability, and (4) promotion and user education.

Table 3. HKLD recommendations.

Enrichment of collection	Providing up-to-date literary items (2014 or onwards)
	Collaboration with other universities for filling the gap of collection, especially items published before 1949
	Providing more full-text items
Feature	Enhancement of search engine (with Boolean search)
	Strengthening linkage between the online catalogue of the CUHK library and HKLD
System	Ensuring stability of user access to HKLD
User education	More promotion of HKLD in library orientation sessions.

First of all, interviewees recommended the CUHK library to enrich the collection of HKLD. They all noted that Hong Kong literature is an expanding field and thus they hoped that the CUHK library could put more resources on collection updates, both newly published materials and recently re-discovery of old materials. They suggested the CUHK library to provide more updated literary items in HKLD, especially items published on or after 2014.

They also encouraged the CUHK library to collaborate with other universities for filling the collection gaps of HKLD, especially items published before 1949. They also recommended HKLD to provide more literary items with full text online. Then, interviewees also recommended the CUHK library to improve the functions of HKLD. They suggested upgrading the search engine of HKLD with Boolean search and a stronger linkage with the CUHK library catalog.

As mentioned, Prof. Wei-luen Lo was responsible for selecting materials for HKLD at the beginning, and she is no doubt an expert of the field, but now we can see the scope of Hong Kong literature is expanding, thus HKLD has to take care the diversified information needs of more and more potential users. Since digitization and database setup is a time-consuming and costly process, without user participation may result in project failures (Warwick, et al., 2012). Therefore it is suggested that the CUHK library should include more users' participation regarding the scope of the collection and the upgrade of features in different stages of the project. CUHK library may use inquiry records, surveys, and software such as Google Analytics to study the users' information behavior (Bantin and Agne, 2010). Some other suggestions for user need studies include using deep log analysis, case studies, and longitudinal studies such as discussion in workshop, etc. (Warwick, 2012)

Further, interviewees also suggested the CUHK library to improve the system stability of remote access to HKLD, as they expected to get online access to HKLD anytime and anywhere. The stability of the system of HKLD is nowadays of great importance.

Lastly, it is recommended the CUHK library should do more promotion and user education to research postgraduates and new teaching staff. Although CUHK library has created a LibGuide of Hong Kong Literature (<https://libguides.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/HKLit>) to highlight HKLD and other relevant research resources, and has set up "CUHK Golden Jubilee Celestial Civilian Scholarship on Hong Kong Literature" to encourage CUHK students to use the HKLD collection for research, from the interviews it seems quite a lot of teachers and students had no idea about these efforts. It was inadequate for researchers on Hong Kong studies to learn just from classmates and colleagues about HKLD providing access to key literary and cultural magazines in Hong Kong. They suggested that more promotion of HKLD should be done so that more researchers, especially those in the field of humanities, could make better use of HKLD.

Conclusion

This is the first qualitative study to evaluate HKLD from the perspectives researchers in the humanities seeking for information on Hong Kong literature and culture from HKLD. This study found that HKLD could fulfill most of the information needs of the researchers. The interviewees generally appreciated the importance of HKLD as a unique one-stop platform providing multiple information sources, with a comprehensive collection, a user-friendly search engine, and a high academic standard. However, they also expected the CUHK library to make further improvement of HKLD in areas of collection, features of the search engine,

and system. They also recommended the library to do more promotion and user education on HKLD.

HKLD provides online access to Hong Kong literary items to local and overseas users for free. With HKLD, the literary items collected by Prof. Wei-luen Lo and the CUHK library could be circulated among a much larger community. It does provide significant support to researchers in search of Hong Kong literature in this digital hub.

As for continuing research plans, we are interested in further qualitative research on the usage of HKLD by other user groups for a better understanding of the role of HKLD in teaching, learning, and research in related fields. We are also considering plans to utilize the extensive data in the HKLD for digital research. For example, we know literature researchers have long been studying authors' writing styles and social networks. Text mining and analysis, spatial analysis with GIS, and data visualization, etc., might become powerful tools to help them expand their research scope and enhance their research quality of Hong Kong literature.

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