



Hong Kong School Library Automation 1985-2005

Poster Prepared By

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The Early Period

1. Hong Kong school library automation began its history in the 1980s when microcomputer emerged as the common option for office automation and home computing.
2. In mid 1980s, some secondary schools in Hong Kong started to introduce computer-related courses, on Apple II microcomputers.



The Early Period (cont.)

3. A small number of school librarians who were interested in Apple II began to develop programs to automate the circulation functions.
4. Major pioneers in this period included Mr. F.M. Ho (何輝明) and Mr. C.Y. Lo (盧志遠). They began demonstrating their systems in 1985.



The Early Period (cont.)

5. In late 1980s, DOS-based IBM Personal Computer started to replace Apple II in schools.
6. With much better computing capacity, IBM PC was quickly adopted by these computer friends for school library automation.



The Early Period (cont.)

7. The system developed in late 1980s by F.M. Ho, in partnership with a computer vendor was the major local initiative for school library automation. It was implemented at three secondary schools managed by the Hong Kong Taoist Association.

借 還 處 理	
查 詢	檔 案 維 修
1. 讀者檔案 2. 收入查詢 / 調整 3. 統計<類別, 讀者> 4. 統計<書本, 著者>	5. 讀者檔案 6. 職員檔案
	列 印
7. 書本借還 8. 每日程序	9. 收入報表 10. 還書期報表 11. 借書統計<科目> 12. 借書統計<類別>
99. 結束 選擇 (1 - 12) []	

Sample screens and photo of the system developed by F.M. HO



書 本 質 料		
書 本 查 詢		檔 案 維 修
1. 簡草書本 2. 詳細書本		3. 科目檔案 4. 類別檔案 5. 著者檔案 6. 書本檔案 7. 編號修改 8. 類別修改
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9. 類別報表 10. 著者報表 11. 書本報表<類別> 12. 書本報表<著者1> 13. 書本報表<著者2> 14. 書本報表<書名>	15. 科目報表 16. 書本大簿 17. 記錄卡<著者> 18. 記錄卡<書名> 19. 書本標籤<封底> 20. 書本標籤<書脊>	21. 書名目錄<科目> 22. 書名目錄<分類> 23. 著者目錄 24. 購書文出<科目> 25. 購書文出<分類>
99. 結束 選擇 (1 - 23) []		



The Early Period (cont.)

8. Another major initiative was the system developed by C.Y. Poon (潘松有) in 1991. It was distributed via the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union at a very low price (HK\$100), to cover the media and documentation cost. More than 100 secondary schools used this system.

A. 視窗管理 B. 系統資料 C. 列印指令 00:11:57 PM

LIBRARY LIB.CIM

圖書館管理系统主目錄
【修訂版】

流通管理

系統資料錄警
系系資紀日
通約者閱事
流預讀借行

系統管理

理錄告書算
管紀報圖預
片計月購費
名統每探徑

查詢管理

中英期視
文文刊聽
圖圖雜物
書書誌品

會計管理

中英期視
文文刊聽
圖圖雜物
書書誌品

統計管理

假系盤始
期統點東
月參系系
曆數統統

LIBRARY LIB.CIM

列印每月借閱紀錄要用 13 吋國際紙。是否已開機？<Y/N>

【英數】 【半形】 倚天

Sample screens of the system developed by C.Y. Poon

* 一. 書物流通系統 *

編號: <input type="text"/>	英文姓名: <input type="text"/>	借出總數: 8次	逾期: 次	次
姓名: <input type="text"/>	身 份 別: 6S	本年借出: 7次	續借: 次	項
		目前借出: 1項	預約: 次	項

登錄號: E885426 索書號: 918/WAU 現況: 已還

書 名: Geography : an integrated approach

作 者: David Waugh edited by Howard Nechamkin

出版者: Nelson 版次: 1st ed. 類別:

1. 借閱 / 2. 歸還 / 3. 續借 / 4. 放棄 : [☐]

借閱日期: Nov 24, 1992
還書日期: Dec 8, 1992

- [1] ACCESS
- [2] CIRCULATE
- [3] ENQUIRY
- [4] PRINT
- [5] CALCULATE
- [6] EDIT
- [7] DELETE/RECALL
- [8] ACQUISITION
- [9] EXIT

Sample screen of
system developed by
C.Y. Lo

Enter choice (1-9):

LIBRARY COMPUTING SYSTEM ----- LO Chee_yuen @1991

TITLE	[Economics: Principles and applications]
RELATION	[by]
AUTHOR	[G. Lipsey]

CLASS_NO	[330]
AU_MARK	[LIP]	
ACC_NO	[5632]

EDITION	[3]
PUB_PLACE	[London]
PUBLISHER	[Edward Arnold]
PUB_YEAR	[1989]	

PAGE	[345]
ILLUSTRATION	[Y]	
HEIGHT	[24]	
BINDING	[]
ISBN	[]
SUB_CODE	[EC]
SUB_INDEX	[Economics]

INVOICE_NO	[d12345]
ORDERDATE	[28/03/91]	
ORG_PRICE	[145.00]	
DISCOUNT	[0.80]	
NET_PRICE		116
REG_DATE	[28/03/91]	



Why locally developed systems?

1. Commercial integrated library systems from overseas were extraordinarily expensive.
2. None of them support Chinese.
3. Very few school librarians in Hong Kong were exposed to the overseas systems.
4. An misunderstanding that integrated library systems were too complicate to learn and use.



The SLS Story

1. In 1991, the Hong Kong Education Department Library began a project to automate local secondary school libraries.
2. The Chief Librarian, Mr. C.H. Kwong (鄺志雄) invited two librarians from Hong Kong Univ. of Sci. and Tech., K.T. Lam (林紀達) and Agatha Sit (薛春明), to consult on and develop software for this project.



The SLS Story (cont.)

3. Version 1.0 of the software was completed in 1992 and was named as School Library System (SLS).
4. SLS Software was developed based on professional cataloging standards, including USMARC, AACR2 and ISBD. It also supported data interchange in ISO 2709 format.



The SLS Story (cont.)

5. Seven secondary school libraries participated in the pilot testing of the SLS Software, including the schools of C.Y. Poon and P.K. Chan (陳佩群), who became the key members in the future SLS development.

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          $$$$$$      LLLLLLLL      $$$$$$
    $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$
    $$$$$$      $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$
          $$$$$$      $$$$  $$$$
          $$$$$$      $$$$  $$$$
    $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$  $$$$
    SCHOOL$$$  LIBRARYLLLLLLL  SYSTEM$$$

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C A T A L O G I N G M O D U L E
Trial version, March 92

Project Coordinated by the Hong Kong Education Department
Copyright (c) K.T. Lam, 1992

Sample screens of the SLS Software, Cataloging Module.

Update Create Import Manage
Update existing record

CAT\UPDATE AAFs 930408 930408

00 MatType: am PubPlace: hk Language: chi

01 090 PL2878.A76!bC43 1989

02 100 1 梁羽生

03 245 10 七剑下天山 /!c梁羽生著

04 250 修订本初版

05 260 香港 :!b天地图书有限公司,!c1984

06 300 2 v., (670 p.), [30] leaves of plates :!bill. (some col.) ;!c21 cm

07 490 0 梁羽生系列

08 500 Kung fu novel

09 500 Added English title on colophon : Seven swords men from mount Tian

10 740 01 Seven swords men from mount Tian

EdiTag InsTag DelTag Print Remove Quit

Update an existing tag



The SLS Story (cont.)

6. Leadership by the Hong Kong Education Department Library was discontinued in 1993, following Mr. Kwong's retirement.
7. The SLS Software development continued and became operating in voluntary environment, with committed and total support from a group of school librarians.




The SLS Story (cont.)

8. In 1994, SLS Software Version 1.5 was released. Within one year, 62 school libraries acquired the software.
9. As the software was not for profit and the support was totally voluntary, the price could be set at a very low level, to cover on-going development and to sponsor library activities.



The SLS Story (cont.)

10.SLS had played an essential role in the Hong Kong school library automation:



11.Firstly, it was the first locally developed school library automation system that supported USMARC standard. In effect, it introduced MARC cataloging to local school librarians



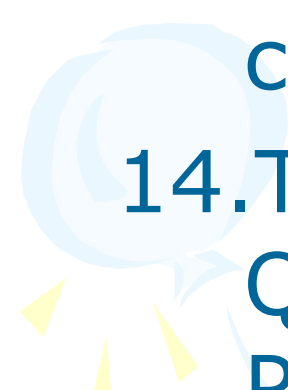
The SLS Story (cont.)

12. Secondly, SLS set the low pricing level for future systems entering into the Hong Kong school market. School libraries were greatly beneficial as they no longer needed to purchase extraordinary expensive systems.



The SLS Story (cont.)

13. In 1996, SLS initiated a Union Catalog project to promote copy cataloging in MARC standard.



14. The project was evolved into the QEF Funded School Union Catalog Project, conducted by the Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians Association (HKTLA) from 1999-2001, with software developed by SLS.



The SLS Story (cont.)

15. To continue this successful resource sharing project, the Hong Kong Education Department decided to provide funding to the School Union Catalog and worked jointly with HKTLA since 2001.



IT in Education Period

1. In 1998, the Hong Kong Government began its five-year initiative on “Information Technology in Education”, providing extra funding to schools for using IT for learning and teaching.
2. With injection of money into the market, more than ten library automation systems began to appear in school libraries.

A decorative background on the left side of the slide featuring a stylized sun with yellow rays and three balloons in light green, light blue, and light purple.

IT in Education Period (cont.)

3. While some of them were high quality systems from overseas with localization to handle Chinese characters, many of them were developed locally, with varying quality and support of library standards and practices.



IT in Education Period (cont.)

4. After four to five years of natural selection, only those systems that met the following criteria survived:
 - Support Chinese characters.
 - Support MARC cataloging and ISO 2709 data interchange format.
 - At least offers OPAC, Cataloging and Circulation functions.
 - Affordable pricing structure and low start up cost.



Looking Forward

1. It is expected that Digital Library will be the next period for Hong Kong school library automation.
2. Focus will be shifted from automating library functions to provision of access to electronic resources, such as E-books, E-journals, E-learning packs, and databases, etc.



Looking Forward (cont.)

3. It is anticipated that added-value bibliographic services would begin to take shape in school libraries. With just a single click from within the library catalog, users would be able to see additional information about the book, including the cover images, table of contents, summaries, reviews, etc.



Looking Forward (cont.)

4. Tighter integration of the library automation systems with teaching, learning and reading, such as the recording and analysis of student reading habits.
5. Resource sharing expands into inter-library borrowing services once an item is identified in the School Union Catalog.



Looking Forward (cont.)

6. Like the adoption of MARC standard, school libraries in Hong Kong would follow the same steps of those Hong Kong universities, which have successfully evolved to become digital libraries, providing not just access to digital information but also electronic-based library services via the Internet.