

# Is there a role for Middle Eastern Library Collection in University Internationalisation?

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# Questions

- What are the contexts and drivers for change in Middle Eastern Studies Librarianship?
- What is the impact on the Middle Eastern Library collections and the profession?
- How do we position ourselves in a challenging and evolving situation?
- What does “internationalisation” mean and is there a role for us in it?

# Durham University

- Not the oldest (1832)
- Not the biggest (ca. 15 students)
- Located in a small town
- No big football or other sports clubs
- With long Middle Eastern Studies tradition

But, according to local press...

## Cycling legend Bradley Wiggins' team to ride through streets of Durham



# Context

(Jacubs 2013; Neal 2013; Knight 2004; Altbach and Knight 2007)

- Changing Institutional Level Priorities
- Changing Library User profiles and Behavioural Patterns
- Full-fee paying students as “customers” (England)
- Technological Advances
- Globalization and Internationalization
- Challenge to, or reorganization of, Area Studies Departments and Schools
- International students at home and home students abroad

# Changing Institutional Priorities

- Academic excellence (REF, TEF, National and International League Tables)
- Financial Imperatives
- Globalization
- Global Brand and Reputation
- International Collaboration in research

# Changing User Profiles and Behavioural Patterns

- Growing Proportion of International Staff and students
- Introduction of full-fees for home students (England)
- Increasing international research collaborations and researcher mobility
- National Student Satisfaction (NSS) Score
- Need for attracting more students

# Illustration of Change: Professional Autobiography (1)

- 1996: Started life as a project officer for the Central Asian project (cataloguing in Central Asian languages + Russian)
- 1998: Appointed as East Asian Librarian (collection development, cataloguing, liaison with the Department of East Asian Studies)
- 1999: Responsibility extended to Middle Eastern Studies (cataloguing, liaison)



# Illustration of Impact: Professional Autobiography (2)

- 2003: Middle Eastern Studies were mainstreamed
- The Middle Eastern Studies staff and students are now located in discipline based departments
- 126% increase in student numbers from the Middle East (2005-2015) (Durham University 2016)
- More than double the number of academic staff than the original number

# Illustration of Impact: Professional Autobiography (2)

- 2009: Integration of discreet Middle Eastern Studies collections into the main classification
- 2007: Inclusion of Internationalisation in the Library strategy as a key area
- 2010: Expansion of academic liaison responsibility to whole of languages cultures, English Language Centre

# Internationalisation

“the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of post-secondary education (Knight 2003)

“Internationalization includes the policies and practices undertaken by academic systems and institutions – and even individuals – to cope with the global academic environment.” (Altbach and Knight 2007)

# Comprehensive Internationalisation

“Commitment confirmed through action to infuse international and comparative perspectives throughout the teaching, research and service missions of higher education. It shapes institutional ethos and values and touches the entire higher education enterprise... It is an institutional imperative not just a desirable possibility... [It] not only impacts all campus life but the institution’s external frames of reference, partnerships and relations.” (Hudzik 2011: p.6)

# Library Internationalisation

- Libraries, Museums and cultural sectors are often not mentioned in internationalisation research (Witt, Kutner and Cooper 2015)
- Library focused research often concentrate on supporting international students library users (Senior, et al. 2008; Peters 2010; Bordonaro 2013)
- Skewed towards quantitative method (Witt Witt, Kutner and Cooper 2015)

# Internationalisation

“World at home; At home in the world; global digital campus” (Jakubs 2013)

“Aggressively pursue broad digital access to international information resources; internationalize research library services and perspectives; broaden and internationalize library collaborations.” (Hazen 2014)

“leadership, resources, organizational structures, and partnership” (Green and Olsen 2003)

# Library Internationalisation Research

- 2012: Global Dimensions of Scholarship and Research Libraries (Duke University)
- 2013: Collaboration, Advocacy and Recruitment: Area and International Studies Librarianship Workshop (Indiana University, Bloomington)
- Increasing interest and activities in libraries to internationalise (Greider 2014; Witt, Kutner and Cooper 2015)

# Advocacy Case Study: Donation of *Complete Library of Four Treasuries (Chinese)*

- Pre-acceptance: Collection Development and Management Policy
  - Users and potential use of the collection
  - shelf-space for 1500 hard-bound volumes
  - Cataloguing and processing of (ca. 3500 titles)
- Acceptance: Communication
  - Donation Ceremony
  - Collaboration with the Communications Officer
  - Press release and news coverage



1500 hardbound volumes and over 3500  
works



# Donation Ceremony



# Local Media Reports

THE JOURNAL SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015

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NEWS

## Chinese cultural treasure is shared



► Dr Binghan Zheng of Durham University, Mamtimyn Sunuodula, of the university library, benefactor Prof Master Chin-Kung and Qiaosheng Dong, chairman of the Cambridge Oriental Culture Association

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**A** BOOK always makes a nice gift and Durham University has just been given more than 1,500 of them, putting it in select company.

The cloth-bound books are a reproduction of the Complete Library of Four Treasures, a prodigious 18th Century work which has been called the 'Great Wall' of Chinese culture.

Including 3,641 texts covering every field of scholarship and knowledge, the multi-volume work is part of primary school education across China.

Durham University was chosen to receive a copy of the great work, worth more than £50,000, in recognition of its status as a leading centre of excellence in Chinese studies.

It is one of only three UK institutions to receive the books, the others being Jesus College, Cambridge, and the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The original Complete Library of Four Treasures was compiled on the orders of Emperor Qianlong, sixth emperor of the Qing Dynasty, who ruled China from 1735-95.

It was presented to the Emperor in 1782 for use by the Qing Imperial Court.

The Imperial Court then employed 3,826 copyists to make seven copies by hand from the original books.

They were housed in seven different locations but only one has survived completely intact and is held in the Palace Museum Library in Taiwan.

It is a contemporary copy of this that Durham University now has in its Bill Bryson Library, where it can be used by university staff, students, visiting academics and members of the public.

The Complete Library of Four Treasures is considered essential for research into Chinese classics, culture, history, philosophy, literature, religion and language.

According to the university, the gift will strengthen its reputation as the premier research institution in the North for Chinese cultural and historical studies.

Chinese language courses have been taught at Durham University since 1952. It has a dedicated Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies and an extensive Chinese collection at its Oriental Museum.

The books were presented by Prof Master Chin-Kung, of the Hong Kong-based Chin-Kung Multicultural Education Foundation, to Dr Binghan Zheng, of the university's school of modern languages and cultures, and Mamtimyn Sunuodula, of Durham University Library.

Mr Sunuodula said: "The collection will help us to better understand the history of this growing world power and reminds us of China's 5,000 years of cultural and intellectual achievements."

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

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# Advocacy and Legacy

- Academic Conference (funded jointly by two academic departments and the Library)
- Three presenters (Politics, History, Publishing)
- Attended by 35 academic and library staff, students and members of public
- Further Conference: Durham-Huxiang Conference and Research Grant Success
- Ongoing Siku Lecture Series



Centre for  
Contemporary  
Chinese Studies

## **New Explorations into Methods and Sources for Chinese Studies: *the Complete Library of Four Treasuries and Beyond***

中国研究渊源和方法论的新探索：  
《四库全书》及中国传统文化遗产在当今世界的意义

### 1. Context

Durham University Library, the Centre for Intercultural Mediation and the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies are holding a one day conference to mark the donation of a copy of the *Complete Library of Four Treasuries* to Durham University Library by Chin-Kung Multicultural Education Society. Consisting of 1,500 volumes and 3500 works, the *Complete Library of Four Treasuries* is a monumental landmark of Chinese culture often compared to the Great Wall of China in its significance.





# Conference Speakers



# Exhibits at the Conference





# Feedback

*“Thank you deeply for the invitation to me and for organising such an excellent event. After lunch I did go to L1 and marvelled at what we had acquired. It is a treasure trove and I hope that we can make maximum use of it.”*

*(Professor of International Relations and a former Dean of Internationalisation)*

# 1<sup>st</sup> Siku Lecture delivered by Professor Robert Layton (Anthropology)



# Reflections and Tentative Suggestions

- Institutional and Library priorities are changing and that change is accelerating
- Area Studies Departments and Library collections are being mainstreamed
- It has significantly impacted on many of us and our traditional roles are being
- Internationalisation is pushed high on the agenda, but the Area Studies Libraries and Librarians don't feature significantly in it

# Reflections and Tentative Suggestions

- Yet, we have the necessary knowledge, skills, experience to be at the forefront
- It may also offer potential opportunities for the valuable collections and treasures that we collected, catalogued and developed intimate knowledge of, to find wider use and new life
- Students, researchers and librarians see important role for Area Studies Librarians (Bordonaro 2013)

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