

## **Bringing Legacy Digital Collections into a New Digitization Portal: Challenges & Strategies**

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The University Library System (ULS) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was one of the pioneers in digital initiatives in Hong Kong. Starting from a small project on newspaper clippings in as early as 1995, ULS has now delivered over 20 digitization projects with more than a million images. While we are proud to have developed this critical mass, we are also concerned that these efforts have now fallen behind the expectation of today's library users. It was found that the current practice of building an individual web site with a unique interface, functionalities and features for each project failed to provide to users a single interface to cross search different digital collections, an one-stop search experience and a consistent look and feel. It was only in recent years that these projects were brought under a single site, "DAO", which unfortunately is far from the standard of a digital repository that is equipped with powerful search tools and interface. The lack of central University funding support in these long years of work has limited our capability to maintain all these web sites with updated search tools and interface. The difficulty of clearing copyright, the need to respect the donors' wishes and the concern for security prevented us from opening these digital collections to public access that is the norm of today.

We realize the need to revitalize the repository portal and to review the digitization strategy. But how to bring these precious legacy collections into this new digitization portal poses a great challenge to us. This paper will describe the thinking process the digitization team has gone through to re-define the objective and prioritization of digitization; the factors taken into consideration in the feasibility study in order to map out the local requirements of a new digital repository; and the strategies adopted for the long-term development of our digitization initiatives.