

# **Art of Calligraphy and Classic Chinese Literature Rejuvenated: Exhibition, Reflection, and Transformation on Outside Classroom Learning Activities**

Steve CHING

University Librarian, Run Run Shaw Library, City University of Hong Kong

It has been the Library's endeavor to engage in scholarly, cultural, and artistic interactions with broader communities to fulfill its primary responsibility of engaging with students and faculty through various Library resources. For a long time though, it has been believed that literature has little to do with science students. Indeed, classic literature is not difficult to look for at the age of digitization, but considering the convenience of access to those databases, the usage of the databases among researchers are relatively low. Taking Sikuquanshu for instance, the databases could facilitate the research and study of History and Philosophy. However, it is still rare for science and engineering students to browse the classics. The value of ancient knowledge is still underestimated, judging from the low citation rate. There is tremendous potential waiting to be discovered in the classics.

Facing the 3-3-4 new academic curriculum adopted in 2012, CityU Library tried to introduce a unique opportunity for universities to move from a specialized focus to a more holistic student-oriented approach for undergraduate education through the Science and Art: Chinese Calligraphy Exhibitions held in 2012 and 2014. Through resource-based learning environment, the Library collaborated with the university and supported by community to invite academicians from Hong Kong, Mainland, Taiwan, and U.S. as role models to inspire students. The hope is that more students of the modern generation will gather knowledge, not only by expanding beyond the borders of countries, but also beyond their disciplines. More important though, is that they expand beyond the borders of time. There lies great rewards from renewing the old into the new. Arts and classical literature can be digested in a fresh, new way and can also yield unexpected surprises. This paper reflects two exhibitions from different perspectives and assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of the events from demand side and supply side. It is hoped our experiences could be transformed.