

Purpose of ERALL and the Conference

by

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Thanks to the deep collaboration funding from the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the tremendous support from all UGC libraries in the past 24 months, the ERALL project will come to an end by June 30th this year.

Through ERALL, the English-language monograph collections of the eight university libraries have been enhanced not just in quantity but in subject coverage, quality and currency as well. To maximize the benefits, duplication is being kept to the minimum with the aim of acquiring the most number of English-language titles to support research, teaching and learning activities. Other benefits that come into play are: significant savings in terms of acquisition costs; storage costs; and, operational costs for physically handling print books. The value-added features and 24/7 convenient access of E-books enable libraries to deliver scholarly content in a seamless, speedy, around-the-clock and customized manner to suit the needs of the internet generation.

The ERALL project is a momentous breakthrough which changes the traditional model of electronic resources acquisition in Hong Kong. In order to provide an opportunity for participating university libraries to share their experiences in executing the project, the conference themed “Emerging Paradigms for Academic Library E-Book Acquisition and Use: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities” is being jointly organized by City University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Apart from ERALL members, representatives from renowned libraries around the world are also being invited to exchange their experiences and best practices in strategic collection development, acquisitions, promotion and use of E-books. In addition, leading experts will also speak on the different aspects of E-books such as E-book research and experiences; consortial negotiations and licensing experiences. Some representatives from the publishing business will also shed light on the future trends and development of electronic publishing.

The conference will serve as an ideal platform for UGC libraries to collect new perspectives on the development of the E-book and the e-publishing industry as a whole. We believe that these valuable ideas will certainly help bringing the ERALL project to new heights and pave ways for any future endeavour and deeper collaboration.