

BUILDING ALLIANCES BETWEEN CHINESE LIBRARIES



The three founding libraries signed an agreement and celebrated the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance on 6 June 2017.

Libraries in China are reaching out to each other and forming alliances that will help them to provide better services, as PAUL W T POON reports.

In early June, the University of Macau, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) in Guangzhou and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) signed an agreement on the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance, officially ushering in the birth of a 'One-hour Library Circle' – so named because it takes about one hour to travel around to these three locations – in the Pearl River Delta in Southern China. The libraries of SYSU, CUHK and the University of Macau are the founding members of the alliance, and they will invite other university libraries in their region to join as members.

Inspired by the win-win situation created by the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Alliance in late 2016, with 26 universities from the three regions as participating members, the University of Macau Library initiated the process of forming a library alliance under its parent alliance. This proposal was agreed with by SYSU and CUHK libraries. The mission of the Library Alliance is to engage the major university libraries in the Pearl River Delta and optimise the use of academic resources through deep collaboration, thus rendering support to teaching, learning, and research – the three important tasks being carried out in these universities.

Member libraries will work together to implement resource-building and sharing, promote scholarly communication, and make the most of existing and emerging technologies to enhance library efficiency and further the cooperation among the major universities in

Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau. The primary focus points of the alliance will be interlibrary loans, document delivery, exchange of publications, exchange and training of library personnel and the holding of professional seminars and conferences.

On 13–14 December 2017, the University of Macau Library, on behalf of the alliance, will host an international symposium on the best practice of library consortiums along with the first library directors' forum. Experts from countries such as Portugal, the United States and Australia will be invited as guest speakers to share their experiences and insights on library regional collaborations and opportunities. This activity will be fully supported by the Tertiary Education Services Office of the Macao SAR Government. The long-term goal of the Library Alliance is to reach out to other similar alliances in the nation – such as the Yangtze River Delta University Library Alliance, the Pearl River Delta Digital Library Alliance and the Alliance of Provincial Public Libraries in Western China – to create a win-win scenario for all parties.

As the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau municipal governments are now developing the Greater Bay Area to foster regional integration in Southern China, it is hoped that the Library Alliance will seize this opportunity to contribute to the success of the Greater Bay Area by providing support to high-level research work and creative innovation. 🌐

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