

專題演講：

「『活化文學』-- 解構香港公共圖書館的文學工作」

Topical presentation:

“‘Vitalizing Literature’ – An analytical perspective on Hong Kong Public Libraries’ work on literature”

鄭學仁博士

Dr CHANG Hok-yan, Jim

香港公共圖書館圖書館高級館長

Senior Librarian of Hong Kong
Public Libraries



大家好，歡迎今天下午來這裡參加這個圖書館的工作坊，我就很精簡地介紹一下有關香港公共圖書館的文學工作，如何將一些紙本上的東西和一些文學的東西活化起來，跟社區建立起關係。

在這之前，先跟大家分享一下中國作家、中國文學家韓少功先生的一篇作品《文學何為？》，他在《文學何為？》裡提出兩個問題，第一個問題是文學有什麼用，要文學來幹啥？第二個就更重要，就是文學能夠賺錢嗎？他告訴我們一個結論就是不能，文學不是用來賺錢的，那要文學來什

Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to all of you to this workshop. I just wish to give a brief introduction about Hong Kong Public Libraries’ work on literature and how we bring literature to the public and vitalize literature in Hong Kong.

First of all, I would like to share with you some comments by Mr. Han Shaogong, a writer of China. In his article “What’s literature for?”, he raised two questions. What is the use of literature, and what is the purpose of literature? The second question is a more critical one as he enquired whether literature can bring us money or profit? Then

麼用？他提出一些論點，就是因為人是有文化和有精神的，人總是追求一種有情有義的生活，那就是人和動物最基本的不同。他說「人以情義為立身之本，所以人類社會幾千年以來一直有文學的血脈在流淌。」文學是一種心靈的學問，它不是一種職業，它是一種修養。他的結論是只要人類還傳續、只要人類還需要精神的星空和地平線，文學就肯定有廣泛的作為、大有作為。這是他告訴我們的，文學為什麼還存在，為什麼我們要有文學。這和這次大會的主題「文學與文化生命力」有很密切的關係，也是大會一個信念，文學藝術能夠展現一個地方的文化生命力。


那麼我們本地的作家怎麼說？我們看一下，陶傑，香港作家，他曾經說過：「一個社會缺乏文學，如同精神缺氧。」另一位，陶然，香港作家說：「我不大相信一個對於文學冷漠以至於忽視的都市會有豐厚的精神素養。」秀實，香港的作家，說：「文學的生命很強，和歷史一樣，綿綿不斷，就因為每個人的精神領域裡面都渴求一片綠洲，無論面積的大小。」大家看見的是我們本地的作家是怎樣看待文學的，大家都提到一個共同的字，那就是精神，它和韓少功提出來的那個「人」，人的本質——追求精神生活，是一致的，這也是為什麼我們現在還有文學。文學有它自己反映社會的功能，比如你看錢鍾書的《圍城》、張愛玲的《傾城之戀》、莫言的《紅高粱》，加諸不同地域、不同時空、不同社會、不同人物，它的文學本身就能夠反映出當地社會的一切、種種。

再者，不同社會裡都有不同的文化氛圍，它也能影響文學的潮流。這是周而復始的，清代大儒王國維曾經說過，「一代之文學」，他的意思大概也是這樣。

he concluded that literature cannot bring any profits to us. Since literature cannot make money, what is it for? Han said that because human beings are cultivated and are always assuming some kinds of meaningful life that is different from animals. Literature has been woven into human society for several thousands of years as a kind of cultivation. He concluded that as long as human beings subsist, as long as human beings still need the sky and horizon for their minds and spirits, literature will still exist and must have a lot of accomplishments to be achieved. "Literature and Cultural Vibrancy" is the theme for this forum, and it is also the belief of this forum that literature is a reflection of the cultural vibrancy of a place.

Let's see what local authors say. Hong Kong writer, Chip Tsao, said that in a society, a lack of literature is like the lack of oxygen for the spirit. Another comments from local author Tau Ran said that he doesn't realize a city could reach at spiritual attainment if it doesn't concern or even despises literature. Another writer, Xiu Shi, said that literature has a strong vitality. Like history, it is an eternally lasting matter because in the spiritual worlds of human beings, one is always longing for an oasis, no matter how big it is. So you can see that our local authors all mentioned the same word – spirit, which is somehow consistent with the concepts of Han. So that's why we still have literature. Literature is a reflection of its own society. When we read the "Fortress Besieged" by Qian Zhongshu, the "Love in a Fallen City" by Ailing Zhang and the "Red Sorghum" by Mo Yan, different characters in different locations, different times, different communities, and all their literature reflects different social environments.

Conversely, society can also influence literature. This is just the same as what Wang Guowei, the scholar of the Ching Dynasty, said, "Literatures are differing from generation to generation". There are libraries in the



在社會裡，咱們有圖書館。圖書館當然是保存書本、知識，當然也是（保存）文學最好的地方，而文學的書籍在圖書館裡面也能為圖書館增添魅力。

現在是推廣時間。香港公共圖書館，50多年了，大家都知道，本著聯合國教科文組織的公共圖書館宣言的信念來提供服務，在咱們的使命之中，有一種很清楚的界定，就是香港公共圖書館是作為推廣香港文學活動和文學研究的中心，促進市民對文學創作和研究的興趣、鼓勵和推廣文學寫作、發展和保存中國文學，我們來看一下。

這是一個核心，我們看這個結構之內，咱們將它說是一個圖書館。圖書館最基本的一個核心結構有什麼？有它的館舍、館的設施、館的系統，最重要的還有館藏。在這個核心結構以外，我們叫外層結構，那是我們一些服務的範圍，比方說一個社區，裡邊的讀者。怎麼將這個結構內的核心和外層結構聯繫起來呢？我們講的外向的，就是我們說的服務，我們怎麼去服務社區、怎麼去服務我們的讀者們。服務有好多種，資訊服務，每天提供資訊、參考服務、流通、借書服務。推廣活動，這是很重要的一環，怎麼將你的館藏、館裡的一些種種推廣出去，讓讀者知道、去用，還有讀者教育等等。

反過來是怎樣？反過來我們講的就是回饋，什麼回饋？就是一個社區、讀者們對圖書館裡邊的一種反響，比方說他參與了一個活動、一些捐贈，比如說他有一些檔案、文獻、書籍，他覺得他可以捐贈到一個圖書館，化私為公，這是剛才張館長講的，捐贈給圖書館；建議、大家最不喜歡的不滿，也是一些回饋，也是重要的東

society. Of course, these are ideal places to well keep books, knowledge as well as literature. In the contrary, literary works add charms to the libraries.

Now it's promotion time! The Hong Kong Public Libraries has been established for more than fifty years. As you may know, the libraries provide daily services in conformity with the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto. There is a clearly spelt mission that the Hong Kong Public Libraries is also serving as a centre for the promotion of literary arts and literary research in Hong Kong, for the cultivation of public interest in creative writing and literary research, as well as a centre to encourage and promote literary writing and to preserve Chinese literature. So, let's have a look.

This is the core. Let's look at the structure, and let's name it the library. The basic facilities in the core structure of a library may include the library building, library facilities, library system and most of all, the library collections. Outside the core, as we may name it the outer structure, are the scope of our services that include the community and patrons. So how can we have interaction between the core and the outer structure? The interaction outflow means our services. How we serve the community, and how we serve our readers. There are different types of services, the daily information services, circulation services, and extension activities. It is important that you need to market your collections and the services of your libraries to the readers and let them know what there are, and how to use. Besides, there is also user education service.

Conversely, we are talking about the feedback. What is a feedback? That means the activities that the readers from our community do towards the libraries. For instance, when they attend some library activities, or donate some books or some documents to the libraries, raise some suggestions or something we may dislike most, the

西。我們整個活動、整個過程，構成一種活化的行為。什麼叫活化，定義其實不難理解，活化一個社區、香港有活化一些舊的建築物、endow with life, to animate，去賦予生命，令它更加有活力，但是大家要注意一點，整個過程是循環不息的，我們每天提供服務、讀者提供回饋，整個過程就構成了一個活化的過程。

在文學的範疇裡面怎麼說？文學的館藏建構，最後就是和使用者建立和我們之間的互動。我們講的也是兩樣東西：服務與回饋。我們簡單介紹一下。我們核心的部分就是文學館藏的建構。我們今天就講文學這個部分。怎麼建構？我們涵蓋的一些書、報刊、期刊、數碼資料以及其他有關的文學方面的館藏。之後就是特藏，特別的一些館藏。香港文學特藏，大家可能聽過，還有就是文獻徵集的特藏。另外我們自己也建構了香港文學作家的資料庫等等。

香港文學特藏，就是在香港中央圖書館8樓，我想很多同事都知道，我們裡面有個文學資料室，負責收集、整理以及保存本地文學作品跟作家的資料，一個面積不大但是很精緻的房間，一個文學資料室。我們在這個文學資料室裡面，我們建立的館藏叫香港文學特藏，包括最基本的：詩詞作品、散文、小說、戲劇、評論，各種類型的文學，比如說報告文學、傳記文學、鄉土文學、城市文學、旅遊文學、飲食文學，不同類型的文學作品都可納入到我們香港文學特藏的範疇裡面。


另外我想跟大家提一下的是我們這個文獻徵集特藏。從2001年開始，在香港中央圖書館開始的時候，我們也同時推出了兩個文獻徵集特藏的行動。我們向外界勸

complaints. These are all feedbacks. The entire process makes up an act of vitalization. What is vitalization? Actually, the definition can be quite simple. It is to endow with life, to animate, to make more lively or vigorous, to invigorate, just like some community or old buildings vitalization projects in Hong Kong. You may know that the whole vitalization process is ever ongoing and recurring. We provide daily services, and readers give feedbacks, and it constitutes the circle of vitalization.

Vitalization of literature actually means the construction of the literature collection and the building up of interactions with readers. The same, services and feedbacks. The core is the construction of the literature collections, and we are going to talk about the literature part today. How do we construct? For instance, we can build up a stock of books, newspapers and periodicals, digital materials and other items related to literature. Also we have some special collections. You may have heard of the Hong Kong Literature Collection, and then the special documents collection. Besides, we have also constructed a Hong Kong Literary Authors' Database, and so on.

As you may know, the Hong Kong Literature Collection is housed in the Hong Kong Literature Room located on the eighth floor of the Hong Kong Central Library. We collect, process and preserve local literary works and information of local literary authors. In this elegant room we have built up a Hong Kong Literature Collection, collecting poems, prose, novels, drama, critiques, and all sorts of literary works such as reportage, biographies, homegrown literature, urban literature, travel literature, dietary literature, etc.

I would also like to mention our special documents collection here. Since the opening of the Hong Kong Central Library in 2001, we have launched two documents collection campaigns to invite donations of rare materials



捐一些有關香港的歷史文獻資料：歷史、音樂、藝術、文化等等，文學也是其中一個。我們收到好多非常珍貴的、從來沒有出版過但也是非常珍貴的一手資料。有什麼東西呢？大家看到的，這是一些手稿、香港文學作家的手稿，咱們把它們收回來，將它鄭重地藏起來。現在這些手稿越來越少，因為現在好像人都不會寫字了，坐到電腦前面，打打打，什麼都是打出來的，沒有個性，手稿越來越珍貴。大家還認得這些東西嗎？一些舊版的書籍、絕版的書籍。香港的歷史短，香港沒有太長的歷史，香港沒有《永樂大典》，但是在五十年代、六十年代，在當時專門出版的一些文學作品，好多都已經絕版，現在已經找不回來了。我們有可能把它收回來，大家見到，是初版的金庸作品，這都是當代一些很重要的文學作品，但是已經湮沒了，好多都已經湮沒了。可以收回來的，我們都收藏起來，這非常好。

另外就是一些報章、剪報、日記、書信等等一些東西。我為什麼要強調剪報呢？因為大家可能瞭解，從前在五十年代、六十年代，當時出版事業還沒有那麼豐盛的時候，有好多文學作品，其實是出現在當時香港的一些報紙的副刊裡面。所以這個副刊裡邊有好多文學作品，現在是零星散落在舊報紙裡邊，把這些舊報紙裡邊的文學作品專門拿出來，就可以建成一個資料庫。那是一個非常豐盛的文學來源、一種資源。所以我們也收集。

另一個要提一下的是文學作家資料庫。我們要朝著數位化、數碼化去進行。好多舊的資料，我們會慢慢地把它建立起來，建成資料庫。香港文學資料室的同事，每天都在努力，每個作家慢慢地做起來，把他的背景、基本資料、作品、評論等等，還

from the public to the library, covering history, music, art and culture, and one of which is literature. We have received a lot of precious documents, and many unpublished first hand materials. Here you can see some manuscripts of local writers. We collect them and have them well kept in the library. Manuscripts are now quite rare as not many people write on paper nowadays. They tend to type on a computer and of course this type of writing lacks character and that makes manuscripts look even more precious. Do you recognize these materials? These are some old editions or out-of-print literary publications. Hong Kong's history is quite short. We don't have any antique publication such as the "Yongle Da Dian" but all these very important literary books published in the 1950s and 60s are now all out of print and are available nowhere else. So it is very good for us to have collected and kept them again.

Besides, there are some newspaper clippings, diaries or letters. Why do I emphasize on clippings? You may know that in the good old days of the 50s and 60s, when publication industry was not yet so well developed, many literary works were published in the special columns of the old newspapers. So when you do newspaper clippings of the literary works, you can build up a very resourceful local literature database. That is why we also collect the clippings.


We have also built up a Hong Kong Literary Authors' Database by digitizing and putting together some old information of local literary authors. Every day, our colleagues are collecting and editing the background information of local writers, their literary works, some critiques as well as part of the images of their manuscripts and integrating them into the databases. Something very interesting is the audio files of the local authors.

有一部分就是他的手稿和影像，放到我們資料庫裡邊。還有一個很有趣的，就是作家錄音的檔案。我們給一些老作家做錄音，他唸一些文學作品，我們錄下來、放到網上去，除了可以看到一些手稿和資料外，您還能聽得到他的聲音。這些是我們替他留下來的東西。

講完建構部分，我們現在看看怎麼來活化，就是解構的部分，怎麼把它延伸出去。我們提的也就是服務篇，我剛才提過的，資訊服務、流通服務、推廣活動等等。資訊服務，每天大家在館裡都是在提供同樣的服務。圖書館自己有自己一套的排架的方式，有它收藏資料的方式，一個讀者進來，不可能完全知道他怎麼去找文獻，圖書館員的天職就是替他整理資料，然後替他找資料，告訴他怎麼去用。流通服務、讀者教育，這也是很重要的部分。這個大家應該都比較清楚了，就是推廣活動，將大家的一些館藏、一些資料推廣出去。其中一個是專題展覽，在文學資料室裡邊，我們其實是每年，全年都有做一些展覽，有關香港文學方面的展覽。剛才大家看到的其實是一些作家的展覽，包括他的手稿，放在箱子裡邊。另外，我們還有不同類型的推廣活動，大家可能都認識。比方說文學月會，我們請一些作家們、學者們，大家分享一下文學方面的創作經驗。另外一些重要的就是創作坊，兒童文藝創作坊等等。因為一提到文學作品，要活化文學，很難不提到一個因素，就是創作。有創作就有生命，要創作，就需要提供一些鼓勵，去鼓勵創作。我們有一些創作文學的獎項，比方說1979年開始，我們就開始推出了中文文學創作獎。95年開始，我們就推出了學生中文故事創作比賽等等的獎項，鼓勵社會多在文學方面下工夫。在吸收營養之後，再創作出去。全港

We interviewed some old local writers, recorded their voices and put them onto the website. So other than the manuscripts and their backgrounds, we can also listen to their voices. These are what we can do and keep for them.

We have talked about construction and now let's move to the vitalization part, or say, the deconstruction part. How we can extend these out to the outsiders, what I had just mentioned, the daily services, including information services, circulation services and extension activities services, etc. The libraries have their own mechanism in maintaining their collections. A reader may not fully understand how he can search for the information inside a library. As such, it is the duty of the librarian to process the materials, search them for the readers and inform them how they can use the materials. Circulation services and user education are also integral parts of library services. Extension activities may be familiar to all of you, and this is the means we promote our collections and services. One of them is the thematic exhibition. In the Hong Kong Literature Room, we have literature related thematic exhibitions all year round. You can see here some exhibitions on local authors, featuring their manuscripts in the show cases. We have other types of extension activities. For instance, the Monthly Literary Talk that we invite famous authors, scholars to share their experience in creating literary works. We also have creative writing workshops and children's creative workshops. Creation is a critical element in the vitalization of literature as it brings vibrancy. Therefore we have to provide encouragement for the creative activities. We have creative writing competitions. For instance, starting from 1979 we saw the first Awards in Creative Writing in Chinese and in 1995, we organized a Competition on Story Writing in Chinese for Students. The purpose of the competitions is to encourage people here in Hong Kong in creative writing, reading and appreciation of Chinese literature. We also have the



詩詞創作比賽，還有4•23世界閱讀日創作比賽。比較大型的，兩年一次的，我們有香港中文文學雙年獎，從1991年開始舉辦，兩年一趟，到今年，剛剛過去的2013年舉辦了第12屆，表揚香港一些文學作家出版文學創作的獎項。

另一個比較大型的活動是香港文學節，從1997年開始舉辦，宗旨是引發各階級人士對文學藝術方面的興趣，推動本地的閱讀風氣，這也是我們的一個宗旨。去年，2012年，我們舉辦了第九屆，在整個文學節兩個星期裡邊，安排了不同的活動，比如說研討會、講座、導讀會等等。其中有一個非常受歡迎的節目是香港文學行腳，我們請一些學者、作家，親身帶著我們的一些參加者到一些地區，感受體驗一個作家在創作環境裡的氛圍。文學節是我們比較大型的、兩年舉辦一次的、有關文學方面的推廣活動。我想這個大家都瞭解，對活動多少有些瞭解。

另一個鼓勵文學創作、鼓勵更多接觸文學藝術的就是出版的部分。香港公共圖書館會出版一些文學刊物，例如我們從前得獎的作品、作品集，在不同文學節裡得獎的作品，他們都會結集成書。對一些參與者來說，都是一些鼓勵的舉動。

我們談服務與回饋，最後談一下回饋。大家要明白的是，活化的行動是循環不息的，是ongoing、經常在流通的。參與、捐贈、建議、投訴，不論是好的，大拇指向上的，或者是大拇指向下的，大家都看一下。向上的是一種鼓勵，向下的，有的時候未必是差的，可能是鼓勵大家去改善有些不足的地方，不要怕投訴，投訴有的時候是很可愛的。

Chinese Poetry Writing Competition and 4 • 23 World Book Day Creative Competition. We have a larger scale Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature. The first Award was organized in 1991 and it takes place once every two years. Last year in 2013 we had just run the 12th award to appreciate the published literary works of some local authors.

Another major activity is the Hong Kong Literature Festival, which was started from 1997. The purpose of this festival is to arouse the interest of people from different walks of life here in Hong Kong in literary arts and to promote reading. Last year in 2012, we organized the 9th Hong Kong Literature Festival. It was a two-week event and throughout these two weeks we had arranged a series of seminars, talks and reading workshops. Another popular activity in the festival is the Literary Walk and Talk, which is hosted by some scholars or writers who curated the different sites that were mentioned in their literary works. I think you may have already learnt of such literary activities.

Publication is another area of work that we are doing to encourage literary creativity and public access to literary works. We often publish awards winning works from different literary competitions. To the participants, this is in fact a very encouraging means to them.

Finally, I'd like to talk about feedbacks. You may understand that the entire process of vitalization is an ongoing cycle. We encourage participation, we encourage donations, we also encourage suggestions and complaints. No matter thumbs-up or thumbs-down, we should have all of them well-attended. Thumbs-up is an encouragement, but thumbs-down sometimes is not necessarily bad. These will encourage us to discover some shortcomings and have them improved. So don't be afraid of

重要的是，沒有回饋與參與，整個活化的過程，我們未算完成，也不滿足。Vitalization is not completed without feedback and participation 之間的關係就是這麼一回事，我們經常給鼓勵，我們服務是給鼓勵，鼓勵就是鼓勵大家參與，在這個範疇裡面去參與，參與裡邊再創作，創作就有生命力，就有生命，有生命，咱們就可以活化，將一些大家認為是死的東西，活化起來。活化了，就再給我們的受眾、大家、社會另外一些新的鼓勵。就是這麼一種循環不息，怎麼將文學從一個死的紙張、紙本帶到一個社會裡邊去，就活生生成為一種文化、文學藝術，這是一個循環不息的過程，也是圖書館在文學工作的其中一個任務。

在總結我今天的簡單介紹之前，就引用宋朝文學大儒蘇東坡的話來做總結。記得我們蘇東坡先生曾經說過什麼嗎？他說過：「無肉令人瘦，無竹令人俗。」其實他的肉和竹是兩個比喻，寫得很有內涵的兩分法。肉是什麼？肉其實是指一些生活條件、物質生活，在現代社會裡面可以理解為一些經濟、貿易、金融、商業方面的活動，一些物質的生活，大家手上的iPhone、iPad全部是肉。那竹是什麼呢？竹是他的精神生活，也就是大家講的文化。但是在肉跟竹之間，大家兩者不可兼得，或者是一邊拿得多一點、一邊拿得少一點，那蘇東坡怎麼選？你會怎麼選？這個其實是它的上一句，「可使食無肉」，他寧願吃少一點，我不用iPhone或iPad，但是我要唸書，「不可使居無竹」，還是要文學。蘇東坡是宋朝人，到現在，文學還存在，就是因為這種精神，文學藝術在不同的社會，繼續有它的生命力、繼續生生不息。蘇東坡 say thank you，謝謝大家，我今天的發言到此。

complaints, sometimes they are lovely. It is important to note that “Vitalization is not completed without feedback and participation”. We give encouragement for people to participate through services provision, and they create through their participation, and creation give rise to vibrancy, and this brings vitalization, brings something alive, and this in turn gives new encouragement back to the public, the community. This is a recurring circle. How to vitalize literature from a piece of paper to the entire society and vividly becomes a culture, a literary art, is also in such a cycling process, and this is exactly one of the missions of the library in its literature works.

I would like to conclude my speech today with what Mr. Su Dongpo said. Mr. Su was a very famous poet and literary author of the Song Dynasty. Mr. Su once said that, “If we do not eat meat, we become very skinny. If we do not live with bamboos, then we become very vulgar.” Actually, he used meat and bamboo as a dichotomous metaphor. What is meat? Well, meat actually means the materialistic side of our life, the economy, trading, monetary or business activities, or it could be your iPhone or your iPad. What about bamboo? Bamboo symbolizes your spiritual livings, or means the culture. In case you cannot take both meat and bamboo, or when you have to take one more than the other, how will you choose? How will Mr. Su choose? Mr. Su said, “I’d rather eat no meat, but I cannot live without bamboo.” From the time of Mr. Su up till now, the vibrancy of literature still exists, and this is simply because of such a belief in the cultural vibrancy of literature, and it will be still on going. Finally, Mr. Su and I say thank you to all of you. Thank you very much.