Digital Initiatives for Content Creation, Dissemination and Preservation

Professor Ying Chan
Knowledge Exchange seminar
October 7, 2010
Background:

Digital a way of life at the JMSC

• Digital platform is incorporated in all courses for learning and teaching
• Convergent media skills mandatory for all students; considered basic requirement for communicative and media literacy
• Digit course sites for knowledge sharing maintained by individual faculty
• A nurturing and learning environment to promote digital culture
• A young, talented and passionate team of TAs and tech assistants
The JMSC dynamic tech team
The digital culture

• Multimedia
• Interactive
• Participatory, collaborative and multi-disciplinary
Collaborative Creations

- The Asian Business leader series
- Endowed professorships
- Video for Research Services
- ABC on campus
- Live streaming events and conferences

CSCL2011
Case One: The 1911 Project
The 1911 Project

• Photo Exhibit
  – curated by Pulitzer-award winning photographer Liu Heung Sheng
  – 86 historic photos on the 1911 revolution
  – HKU and 10 mainland China museums joint exhibit

• Book publication
  – 400 photos
  – 5 editions, Chinese and English
  – Eng edition published by HKU Press and JMSC
1911: digitizing cultural assets

- Photos sourced from more than 20 private and public collections worldwide
- Historic photos digitized for preservation and dissemination
- Permission obtained for use of digital files
- Digital photos repaired and restored
- Deliverables: exhibits, books, an archive of digital photos that is accessible worldwide
Exhibit received overwhelming media response
Developing a Chinese history

Iconic photographer Liu Bolin, known for his " Invisible man " series, has now released a new book that tells the story of China's turbulent history. "I wanted to present the history of China in a way that was different from traditional approaches," says Liu. "I thought about the role of photography in capturing important moments and decided to use my art to depict China's past." The book includes over 100 photographs, featuring scenes from different eras of Chinese history. It is a visual journey that provides a unique perspective on China's rich cultural heritage.

In his book, Liu has focused on capturing key moments in Chinese history, from ancient times to modern-day events. He has used his photographic skills to create a detailed and informative narrative of China's history. Liu has also included interviews with experts and historians, who provide insights into the significance of these events.

The book has been well-received, with many critics praising Liu's innovative approach to depicting China's past. "Liu's photography is truly remarkable," says art critic John Smith. "He has managed to capture the essence of China's history in a way that is both visually stunning and meaningful."

Liu's new book is a must-read for anyone interested in Chinese history, as well as for photography enthusiasts. It is a beautiful and informative collection, that provides a unique perspective on the country's rich cultural heritage.

Overall, Liu's new book is a testament to his talent as a photographer, and his ability to capture the essence of China's history through his art. It is a must-read for anyone interested in Chinese history, and for photography enthusiasts who want to see a new perspective on China.
Pictures tell story of modern China

Pulitzer prize-winning photographer hopes new book will change how we value visual records

Oliver Chou
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Liu Heung Shing

A collection of rare photographs taken around the time of the 1911 revolution has provided new insight into Chinese life after the last emperor was overthrown.

"China in Revolution: Nineteen-Eleven and Beyond 1911," which was launched yesterday at the University of Hong Kong, brings together 300 rare images—amassed after a year of ardent searching at major archives and museums both in China and overseas.

Liu Heung Shing, the photographer behind the project, said the book aims to provoke a rethink about China in the modern period from an angle of China being the world's second largest economy, and not the usual humiliation victim of the colonizers.

Liu hoped the book would help

Photographs can describe our lives and look on them as our common collective memory."

Liu said many exhibitions concerning 1911 were about such things as Sun Yat-sen's calligraphy or his letters. "How are these things relevant to someone born in 1990? They want to see the daily life, events and social conditions, and this is the language photography is most suited for. This is where it is at its best and most powerful," he said.

至10月4日免費開放

「大道之行」影像展由即日至10月4日向公眾免費開放，而內地其他11個地方包括北京、河南、湖北、東等也會舉行聯展。另「大道之行」聯展總顧問劉成今日下午6時半亦將舉辦講座，與公眾分享。
“Vision statement”

Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Liu Heung Shing, who built a career capturing pivotal moments in history, has spent his recent years combining the globe for pictures that tell the many stories of China, writes Oliver Chou.

[Image of a man with a camera]

以影像紀錄歷史 重回辛亥革命現場

（序言：）「革命」這些字眼彷彿離我們很遠，但卻是中國近百年來最真實的寫照。十九世紀的中國，動盪不安，一個在風中飄動的國家，受著一戰又一戰沉重的歷史，風雨雷電，沒有人願意負荷這份承載，無力面對巨 economically uncertain future. No one wants to shoulder this burden, unable to confront the overwhelming historico-economic uncertainties.

他們在四面八方的廬山，在各個不同的國家。廬山一改過去的「一照三億的」形象，成為一個新的、面向歷史的精華。這裡，影像不再僅僅是影像，它蘊含著力量，能推動歷史，能引爆歷史。但影像的力量，也需要像こんにちは，主人公的指引，棄人們在這條路上，勇敢地探尋歷史的深處。這就是影像歷史的真實力量。它也像影像帶來的震撼力。

新影像歷史的草稿

新影像歷史的草稿》，風吹雨打，何為一個新影像工作者與歷史的關係？他說，一部作品在尋找定位，用影像拓

來下此篇：此幅照片為《以影像紀錄歷史 重回辛亥革命現場》

來自世界各地的圖片

1997年，劉帆成再達北京，一直關注中國的發展。北京奧運，上海申博，都引起新影像對中國的關注。但大部分中國人對

中國市場過渡的問題不夠了解，對歷史有著不同的態度。這些影像的對象，我們報道照片的作者，他說，作品在尋

找到定位，用影像拓

來下此篇：此幅照片為《以影像紀錄歷史 重回辛亥革命現場》

來下此篇：此幅照片為《以影像紀錄歷史 重回辛亥革命現場》
普立茲新聞攝影獎得主
劉香成 眼中的辛亥革命

踏

劉香成，1947年生于香港。1979年，这位美籍华人摄影师正式登台。1982年，其作品《纽约太阳报》连登多个版面，震惊世界。1984年，他被美国《新闻周刊》评为“世界十大摄影大师”之一。1988年，他获得了普立茲新闻摄影奖。

1992年3月，他带着自己的一系列作品去香港参展。展览结束后，他决定拍摄香港的历史，记录下这座城市的变化。

革命由香港出发

1992年4月，刘香成来到了香港。他把在香港的所见所闻，所思所想，全都记录在了他的摄影作品中。他用镜头记录了这座城市的变化，用心灵感受到了这座城市的历史。

走訪全球華胞

刘香成的摄影作品中，许多是在他最熟悉的环境里拍摄的。他用镜头记录下了世界不同的地方。

从纽约到北京，从香港到巴黎，他用镜头记录下了他眼中的世界。

1997年，刘香成出版了自己的第一本摄影集《香港1997》。这本摄影集中，他记录下了他所见到的香港。
Case two: The D-Kunqu Project
What is Kunqu

• A form of Chinese traditional theatre, an artistic blend of literature, history, music, and dance

• Known as the ‘mother’ of Chinese Opera forms, Kunqu dominated Chinese theatre from the 16th to 18th centuries.

• By the mid 20th century Kunqu had nearly died and was almost lost completely during the Cultural Revolution.
• Kunqu survived and enjoyed a new ‘high art’ status. In 2001, it was proclaimed as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.
Kenneth Pai (Pai Hsien-yung / Bai Xianyong) has been described as a "melancholy pioneer." He was born in Guilin, Guangxi, China at the cusp of both the Second Sino-Japanese War and subsequent Chinese Civil War. Pai's father was the famous Kuomintang (KMT) general Pai Chung-hsi, whom he later described as a "stern, Confucian father" with "some soft spots in his heart." He was diagnosed with tuberculosis at the age of seven, and during which time he lived separately from his siblings (of which he would have a total of nine). He lived with his family in Chongqing, Shanghai, and Nanjing before moving to Hong Kong in 1948 and Taiwan in 1952.

Pai went abroad in 1963 to study literary theory and creative writing at the University of Iowa. That same year, Pai's mother, the parent with whom Pai had the closest relationship, died, and it was this death to which Pai attributes the melancholy that pervades his work. After earning his M.A. from Iowa, he became a professor of Chinese literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has resided in Santa Barbara ever since. Pai retired from UCSB in 1994.

Crystal Boys (1983; English translation, San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1990), tells the story of a group of homosexual youths living in 1960s Taipei largely from the viewpoint of a young, gay runaway. Other famous works include
Preserving Kunqu

• Challenge 1: Kenneth Bai Xianyong and the masters are aging
• Challenge 2: hundreds of hours of videos, recordings, but quality uneven
• IP rights unclear or mixed which limits sharing and distribution
D-Kunqu Objectives

• To preserve the rich cultural legacy of Kunqu, through recording the words of the master teachers and performers

• To promote the appreciation of the art of Kunqu in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China and the world

• To facilitate learning and teaching of Kunqu at teaching institutions
Project deliverables

• Over 50 hours of raw video footage, filmed in Beijing, Suzhou, Shanghai, Taiwan, and HK
• Recorded interviews with 21 experts of Kunqu and Chinese performing arts
• Course syllabus and bibliography
• a two-hour documentary video consisting of 15 10 – 15 minute segments on the history, the art, the training of actors, and the production of Peony Pavilion Young Lovers’ Edition
Experts interviewed

Zhang Jiqing (張繼青)
Kunqu Maestro and National Class One Performer, Suzhou Kun Opera Theatre of Jiangsu Province
Wang Shiyu (汪世瑜)
Kunqu Maestro and National Class One Performer, Zhejiang Kun Opera Theatre

Ji Zhenhua (計鎮華),
Kunqu Maestro and National Class One Performer, Shanghai Kun Opera Theatre

Liang Guyin (梁谷音)
Kunqu Maestro and National Class One Performer, Shanghai Kun Opera Theatre

K Liu Yilong (劉異龍)
Kunqu Maestro and National Class One Performer, Shanghai Kun Opera Theatre
Yu Jiulin (俞玖林), National Class One Performer, Suzhou Kun Opera Theatre, Jiangsu Province

Shen Fengying (沈豐英), National Class One Performer, Suzhou Kun Opera Theatre, Jiangsu Province

Wu Su-chun (吳素君), Choreographer, Peony Pavilion Young Lovers’ Edition

Wang Tong (王童), artistic supervisor, Peony Pavilion Young Lovers’ Edition
Kunqu Masters' Demonstration

by JMSC HKU PLUS

1 day ago

http://vimeo.com/30114983
D-Kunqu Course Package

• Two 3-hour modules on the history, literature, art, music, costume, stage set, performance and acting, and dance forms
• Multi-media materials with Interviews, lectures, and demonstrations by the masters
• Cantonese and Putonghua versions with English and Chinese subtitles
• Moodle online platform - video, forum discussion, and in-class exercises
E-learning Moodle Platform

- Content
- Forum Discussion
- Video

List 
Describe 
Compare 
Apply 
Reflect
Pilot Class at HKU

- 2 3-hr sessions, 14 students
- Instructor: Prof. Zhou Qin
- Student background: university lecturer, undergraduates, PhD candidate, teacher, retired person, cultural manager, researcher and journalist
Student Feedback

• Enhance interaction between students and instructor
• Explore knowledge through forum discussion
• Multimedia approach reshaped traditional class
• Broaden the horizon through Kunqu masters interview by detailed documentary video
• Students would recommend the course to friends
Digital Kunqu next steps

- Wider pilot test of concept and packages
- Creating more modules
- Consultation with experts
- Outreach in HK, mainland China, Taiwan and overseas to seek collaborators/partners
- A feature documentary?
- Licensed under Creative Commons?
Digitizing Humanities
an emerging discipline

• Expands capacity of knowledge organizations (libraries universities, museums) that are owners of enormous cultural assets
• Offers unprecedented opportunities for cross-border and multidisciplinary collaboration
• Enhances access by the global public to cultural heritage sites and assets
• Enables teaching and scholarly research
Promoting the digital culture

• Technology is not just tools or skills
• Ability to tell “stories,” making sense of and giving meaning to huge volume of data and information
• It’s a mindset, a culture of sharing and learning
• Need to pursue technology adoption across the arts and humanities
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