

## It's more than just a rich collection, it's what to do with the collection

- **Dr. Anita Dewi - Research and Learning Coordinator, Sir Louis Matheson Library, Monash University**

A library panel session entitled “Beyond Asian Studies and its research material” was organised by our ALRA President, Dr Amy Chan, as part of the largest conference in the history of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA), held in the University of Sydney, 3-5 July 2018. Over 300 papers were presented and more than 1000 participants attended. The aim of our panel of four speakers was to bring together the users of Asia-related research material and those who seek to provide them.

In the above opportunity, I shared how changes in the Asian Studies space also affects the Asian Collections of Monash University Library. Through a paper entitled “It's more than just a rich collection, it's what to do with the collection”, the presentation focused on how Monash has been broadening its reach and becoming more proactive in arguing what to do with its Asian Collections, rather than simply glorifying its richness. To provide a background context, the presentation began with a chronological series of changes in how the Asian Collections have been managed by the university library. In its early days, the Asian Collections, and the staff members responsible for them, were part of the Asian Studies Research Library, which was then restructured and became the Asian Studies Research Collection. Currently, the Asian Collections are located in the Sir Louis Matheson Library, and the Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean subject librarians are part of the wider Research and Learning Team. This team, whose members include subject librarians, (early career) librarians and learning skills advisers, is responsible for research and learning skills development activities in collaboration with various parties within and outside Monash. Some specialists, including the Asian Studies subject librarians, also look after Special Collections. This makes them members of the Special Collections Community of Practice, which is a medium for sharing and discussing current and potential practices in the special collections space.

Some examples of how the Asian Collections have been used in teaching and learning activities were given during the presentation. Included in these were:

- collaboration with academics in a Chinese Studies subject on contemporary issues;
- collaboration between the Japanese Subject Librarian and the Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education (MCJLE) where outreach to school teachers is prominent; and
- co-development of assessment tasks where authentic materials from the Indonesian Collection are used in teaching and learning activities.

A series of examples were also given in terms of promoting the collections for research purposes. This includes *Bukan Rumpi Tapi Diskusi* the Indonesian Collection discussion series involving academics, higher degree research students, and communities; the subject librarian's involvement in the Korean Studies project at the Faculty which includes co-hosting seminars and conferences in the library; regular Special Collections blog article posts; and rotating displays of the collections on site.



***Bukan Rumpi Tapi Diskusi – Indonesian Collections discussion series***



***The Asian Collections Display at Sir Louis Matheson Library***

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