CUHK Launches Digital Library Initiative

On 19th March the University signed an agreement with the South China University of Technology in Guangzhou, Academia Sinica in Taiwan, and Carnegie Mellon University in the United States to set up a high speed experimentation of digital library applications. This initiative to upgrade networking and digital library hosting facilities will help spread Hong Kong as a major Internet hub in this region and an Internet gateway to mainland China.

The four institutions will also join efforts in enhancing Digital Library research and application development. They will develop content and digital library applications for the testbed and place valuable content on the network. They will also assist one another by caching valuable multimedia content locally. An important feature is a cross-lingual platform for mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the US.

Mr. K.C. Kwong, Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting of the HKSAR, officiated at the signing ceremony.

HK Girls in Dangerous Pursuit of Thin Body

The majority of Chinese adolescent girls in Hong Kong are obsessed with having slimmer figures and pathological eating behaviours among them are alarmingly common, according to a study by the Department of Psychology.

The study surveyed 4,641 girls aged 12 to 18 on their figures and eating behaviours. The results showed that 84 per cent were worried about their weight and shape. Thirty-four per cent agreed that a slimmer body was important for a woman, 33 per cent believed that being slimmer would enhance their self-worth, and 31 per cent reported intense fear of gaining weight. To lose weight, they admitted resorting to pathological weight loss behaviours such as excessive exercising (48.7 per cent), dieting or fasting (28.3 per cent), self-induced vomiting (3.3 per cent), and using laxatives (1.7 per cent).

Eating disorders could lead to severe physical and mental health problems.

The findings of the survey were released at a press conference on 15th March, and the researchers in charge of the study called for proper education on body weight, exercise, and a healthy diet.

Workshop on Advancing Family Medicine on Mainland

Leading medical experts from mainland China participated in the Workshop on Advancing Family Medicine in China organized by the University's Department of Community and Family Medicine on 12th and 13th March to examine the future direction of family medicine in China. The workshop was sponsored by the Fifth Anniversary Fund of New Asia College.

In response to the decision by the mainland Chinese government to develop a health care system based on a primary medical care approach, with more responsibility placed on family medicine doctors, the workshop reviewed programmes for doctors; and Prof. James Dickinson and Prof. Cynthia Chan from the University's Faculty of Medicine.

The Workshop on Advancing Family Medicine on Mainland was sponsored by the Fiftieth Anniversary Fund of New Asia College.

Funding Support for Research Activities

The following three projects have obtained RGC central allocations for the acquisition of major equipment or conducting group research:

- For upgrading services at the Universities Service Centre (HK$3,000,000)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Kuan Hsin-chi
- For acquiring an Automated Microbial Identification System (HK$2,000,000)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Samuel S.M. Sun
- Research on Service Robotics (HK$2,700,000)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Xu Yangsheng

New projects conducted by members of the University have received funding from the UK-Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme 1998-99:

- Biochemical Characterization of Mas Oncoprotein and its Interactions with RAMP (£4,760)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Cheung Wai-tai
- Isolation, Identification, and Biotechnological Characterization of Hyperthermophilic Bacteria from Hot-spring Environments in China (£5,469)
  Principal investigator: Prof. J.A. Buswell
- Image Data Mining and Visualization for Cardiac MR (£6,000)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Heng Peng Ann
- Design Framework and Tools for Reconfigurable Computing (£5,994)
  Principal investigator: Prof. K.W. Ng
- Interactive Parametric Minimax Method in Multiobjective Optimization (£6,000)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Li Duan
- Novel Assay in Experimental and Human Cataract (£5,569)
  Principal investigator: Prof. N.M. Hjelm
- Rod-type Nonselective Cation Channel in Vascular Endothelial Cell (£6,000)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Yao Xiaolong
- Production of Recombinant Bone Morphogenetic Protein 4 for the Treatment of Bone Defects and Disorders (£5,977)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Jack C.Y. Cheng
- Electrophysiological and Molecular Studies of Epithelial Potassium Channels (£4,950.57)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Huang Yu

The following project has received support from the Health Services Research Fund:

- The Efficacy of a Community Nurse Specialist in Preventing Hospital Readmission of Older Patients with Chronic Lung Disease and Cardiac Failure (HK$261,596)
  Investigators: Prof. Timothy C.Y. Kwek, Jean Woo, Edith Lau, Diana Lee, and Catherine Tang
Treatment Late for Children with Mental Problems

A study conducted by the Department of Psychiatry on the clinical profiles of children attending a psychiatric clinic revealed that in most of the cases the mental problem was not detected, nor the child referred, early enough. A total of 511 children up to age 17 referred to the Li Ka Shing Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic were studied over a three-year period. The three major sources of referral were: (1) other departments of the Prince of Wales Hospital; (2) the Education Department/schools; and (3) general practitioners. Fifty-six per cent of the second group, 43 per cent of the first group, and 24 per cent of the third group showed emotional and disruptive behaviour disorders. Three-quarters of the second group had the problems for over a year compared to only half of those referred by the other two sources. Ninety-eight per cent of the second group and 80 per cent of the other two groups received a psychiatric diagnosis. A third of the second group required in-patient treatment, while only 8 to 10 per cent of both of the other two groups were hospitalized. The study concluded that child psychiatric problems must be detected and treated at a much earlier stage. Otherwise the problems will escalate and continue into adulthood. Child mental health service should also be expanded and its mode of delivery further developed.

Are Times Propitious for a BBA Programme in Hotel Management?

Prof. Lee Kam-hon Shares His Views

A new School of Hotel Management has been established under the Faculty of Business Administration at the University and will admit the first batch of 50 students in the BBA programme in Hotel Management this September. The new programme aims at giving an integrated business education to its students with real-life application in the industries of hotel, tourism, and real estate. This programme maintains why acting-director of the school Prof. Lee Kam-hon remains optimistic about the school's reception by the public despite the current economic downturn. "The nurturing of expertise is a long-term endeavour. Education should not vacillate between what is "hot" from one moment to the next. Similarly, the nurturing of industries requires the patience and foresight of leaders in society. If one is convinced of a brighter prospect for Asia and for the hotel and tourism industry, it is only logical to plan beyond the current economic downturn," he pointed out.

The faculty's business administration programme gives students an all-round education. He explained that they learn how to lead an enterprise and acquire skills that go beyond the demands of particular industries. As such they should be able to adapt their skills in accordance with the demands of changing conditions. "As a School of Hotel Management, we'd like them to contribute in specific areas such as hotel, tourism, real estate, consultancy etc. of course. But the programme is only a laboratory for them to strengthen their grasp on business and management concepts and for them to delve further into concrete problems in particular industries," he said.

Tourism makes up a very significant part -- approximately 10 to 12 per cent -- of the Gross Domestic Product of developed countries such as the US and the UK. It is also a good help to employment, much more so than the financial market which also brings in much income. As Hong Kong is a developed economy, it depends on tourism to bring in income and employment opportunities. Prof. Lee predicts that the current hull is only short-term. Looking at tourism in terms of two of its major components, the meeting industry and the sightseeing industry, he pointed out that although the balance of conventions and exhibitions depends largely on economic prosperity, and may not be faring so well at present, better times are expected. This is due to Hong Kong's role as both 'gateway' and 'meeting place': it is the 'gateway to mainland China' and occupies the 'heart of Asia'. The performance of the other component, the sightseeing industry, depends on the attractiveness of a place to tourists. In this respect Hong Kong also has enormous potential in both the traditional and the modern. He said, 'Mainlanders want to come here because it is a world class modern city, whereas tourists from the West are attracted by its strong Chinese tradition.' He added that setting up the school now is an advantage in a way because when the economy is not going at full speed, it offers leaders and educationalists of a society an opportunity to reexamine issues such as manpower training and the orientation of its industries and try to reinforce foundations.

"We would the students also share Prof. Lee's faith in the future and would the School of Management be able to attract the top students in the yearly intake at the faculty has done in the past? 'This is a question not only for the school but for the whole business faculty,' Prof. Lee said. 'There should not be any worries. China will play an essential role in China, and business will continue to play an essential role in both China and in the region.' He added that when the first batch of students graduate in 2001, the economy may have revived in which case demand for people with their skills and calibre may far outweigh the supply. 'What I want to tell the students is that if this is the worst case scenario, you are not worse off than students of other business disciplines; and in good times, you will do very well indeed,' he said.

The school is hiring teaching staff from two main sources: teachers of business who have work experience and hotel management experts who 'treasure the value of conducting rigorous research in business as a discipline'. Prof. Lee explained that hotel management education can take two directions: vocational training, which emphasizes the practical aspect of hotel management, such as the programmes currently offered at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Vocational Training Council; and more theory-oriented business education such as the CUHK programme and that of the Cornell Hotel School in the US which, for the past 10 years, has been hiring faculty with a background in business management. The new School of Hotel Management will have approximately 12 to 15 teachers for the next two years, four to eight of whom will teach full-time, while the rest will be staff teaching from other departments of the faculty.

The school is considering setting up graduate programmes such as an M.Sc. programme for working executives and a small-scale Ph.D. programme. It also hopes to enroll students from the mainland. At present, the programme includes four seminars on Teaching for Graduate Capabilities for teaching staff of the University from 9 to 11 March. Seminar topics included the development of generic capabilities, variation and learning, teaching methods and choosing assessment methods to develop graduate capabilities.

Teaching for Graduate Capabilities

Prof. John Bowden, director of the Educational Programmes Improvement Group and professor of educational development of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia, and Prof. Ference Marton, professor at the Department of Curriculum Studies of the University of Hong Kong, were invited by the Teaching Development Unit to conduct four seminars on Teaching for Graduate Capabilities for teaching staff of the University from 9 to 11 March. Seminar topics included the development of generic capabilities, variation and learning, teaching methods and choosing assessment methods to develop graduate capabilities.

More TDU Seminars

Student Ratings as Indicators of Teaching Quality

Prof. Ting Kwok-fai of the Department of Sociology shared his research findings on the reliability and validity of student ratings with stuff from different faculties at a workshop organized by the Teaching Development Unit on 12th March.

The findings suggested that Hong Kong students are reliable raters, that student ratings are largely valid measures of education quality, and that course evaluation can be a very informative source for educators to improve teaching quality.
The following books are sold at a 20 per cent discount to University staff at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre:

- A History of Chinese Calligraphy
  - ISBN 962-201-881-5, 400 pages, hardcover, HK$200

The following book is sold at a 20 per cent discount to University staff at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre:

- Renditions Paperbacks
    - ISBN 962-201-811-5, 400 pages, hardcover, HK$200

The Vision of China in the English Literature of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
Edited by Adrian Hsia, this is not only the first book on the reception of China in English literature, but also the first comprehensive study on the image of China in the English literature of the 17th and 18th Centuries. The book provides a study on the last phase of the Chinese mode in English. Some of the articles collected here had actually inspired Appleton’s study, at least in part. Last but not least, this volume on the construct of China can be considered the companion study to works such as Edward Said’s Orientalism (1979), Gauri Viswanathan’s Masks of Conquest: Literary Study and British Rule in India (1989), and Adrian Hsia’s Chinese Chameleon: An Analysis of European Literature and 18th Centuries

ISBN 962-201-608-1, 416 pages, HK$230

At the end of the 20th Century, the focus of global concern and focus is on the future relationship between the world’s most influential nation and its most populous one. The series of high-level meetings and the exchange of unusually long summit visits that occupied the center of the world stage in the late 1990s reveal that both sides recognize the other’s global importance.

The years 1997 and 1998 will be remembered by many for the critically acclaimed summit visits of Jiang Zemin to the United States and Bill Clinton to China. Edited by Peter H. Koh and Joseph Y.S. Cheng, this book presents the findings of the fifth territory-wide social indicators survey conducted largely from May to August 1997. The survey is part of a long-term project undertaken by researchers at The Chinese University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the University of Hong Kong.

The focus of the survey is on subjective indicators, which include the perceptions, aspirations, values, beliefs, behavioural tendencies, grievances, and the degree of satisfaction with the quality of life of Hong Kong residents from different walks of life aged 18 and above.

The questionnaire used in this survey is divided into two parts. The first part is a core component to be answered by all respondents on quality of life and degree of satisfaction with different life domains. This core section is a permanent feature of the periodic survey. It enables the measurement of social trends. The second part consists of a number of modules on special topics, each of which is answered by a sub-sample of the respondents. In this survey, there are three special modules: economic culture, popular culture and identity; identity, poverty and inequality; and political attitudes.

ISBN 962-441-543-9, 271 + xx pages, paperback, HK$60

The following book is sold at a 20 per cent discount to University staff at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre:

Hong Kong Stories: Old Themes New Voices
In telling the Hong Kong story, young local writers face up to such issues as rapid economic and political changes as well as the continuous impact of Western ideas and mores. They make a conscious effort to explore their own identity from a Hong Kong perspective, and to describe Hong Kong’s special way of life and the trials and tribulations of a populace caught between two cultures.

The six writers represented here have their roots firmly planted in Hong Kong, and they speak in a new voice about the life and thoughts of this place they call home.

ISBN 962-7255-20-3, 160 pages, HK$89
**Investment Returns of Staff Superannuation Schemes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Rate of Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Growth</td>
<td>1.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>2.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**February 1999**

The monthly and cumulative returns for February 1999 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Rate of Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Growth</td>
<td>1.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>2.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**March 1999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Rate of Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Growth</td>
<td>1.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>2.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**April 1999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Rate of Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Growth</td>
<td>1.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>2.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD Bank Deposit</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Measurement of Staff Superannuation**

- **Investment Returns of Staff Superannuation**: The monthly and cumulative returns for February 1999 are provided. The Green Growth Scheme has a return of 1.36%, Balanced 2.24%, Stable 2.28%, Hong Kong Bank Deposit 0.57%, and USD Bank Deposit 0.37%.

**Networth of the College**

- **CUHK Newsletter**: The April issue is available, and contributions are encouraged. The newsletter is published annually, and contributions should be sent to the Editor, CUHK Newsletter, Executive Committee Office, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, North Point, Hong Kong. For more information, please contact the CUHK Newsletter office via email or phone.

**iHome — The CUHK Community Homepage Server**

- **iHome**: A web server provided by the Computer Services Centre/Information Technology Service Unit. Contributions can be submitted online, and guidelines on how to submit contributions are also available. The server supports FTP and RealServer for audio and video streaming.

**CSC Seminars on Technology for Teaching and Learning (April 1999)**

- **The April seminars on technology for teaching and learning are**:
  1. **Statistical Analysis Using SPSS**: A statistical analysis and data management seminar can be used to produce reports and charts. SPSS also performs statistical tests such as T-test, regression, time series analysis, and ANOVA category analysis. This seminar is designed for beginners.

**Days and Deadlines for Contributions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Deadline for contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>19.4.99 30.9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>4.5.99 16.4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>19.5.99 3.5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>4.6.99 19.5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>18.6.99 3.6.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CUHK Newsletter**

- **Published by the Publication Office, The Chinese University of Hong Kong**:
  - Editor: Amy K.Y. Leung
  - Assistant Editors: Piera Chen, Lawrence Choi
  - Graphic Designer: Pony Leung

**CUHK Newsletter**

- **Printed by Don Bosco Printing Co. Ltd.**
  - Printing: Don Bosco Printing Co. Ltd.
2. HTML Workshop Part 2: Using Tables, Colour, and Images
   This follow-up to Part 1 lets you practise the essential techniques of using tables, colour, and images to decorate your webpages.

3. Outputting Your Website to CD-ROM
   Have you ever failed to connect with a website in class because the server was busy or down? Now you can download a copy of your favourite website and set it to a CD-ROM disk — a perfect back-up in case. A free service to backup teaching/departmental websites on a CD-ROM disk will be offered to all attendees.

4. What's New in Web-based Learning at CUHK — Introducing WebCT
   WebCT is a web application which helps you organize course materials delivered via the web and provides a variety of tools and features for you and your students. This seminar demonstrates the features of this integrated courseware product and how it is being used on campus.

   More information is available at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/cse/learning/workshops/. Registration is required due to limited seats. Please register online on the same webpage. For enquiries, please contact the following persons:

   Registration : Ms. Sara Chung 2609-8801 sara-chung@cuhk.edu.hk
   Seminars: Ms. Wendy Chan 2609-8881 wendychan@cuhk.edu.hk
   Ms. Eva Cheung 2609-8913 eva-cheung@cuhk.edu.hk

   Learning technology: Mr. Stanley Yuan 2609-8905 stanley-yuen@cuhk.edu.hk
   Mr. Augustine Lo 2609-8838 augustine@cuhk.edu.hk

   Service to the Community and International Organizations

   - Prof. Richard Ho, registrar, has been re-appointed by the Secretary for Security as adjudicator of the Immigration Tribunal for two years from 1st March 1999.
   - Prof. Tang Lung Wai, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, has been re-appointed by the Secretary for Security as adjudicator of the Immigration Tribunal for two years from 1st March 1999.
   - Prof. Japhet Law, professor in the Department of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics, has been appointed as a member of the Management Committee of the Consumer Legal Action Fund for two years from 6th December 1998. Prof. Law has also been appointed as a council member of Hong Kong Baptist University from 1st January 1999 and member of the Air Transport Licensing Authority for two years from 1st April 1999.
   - Prof. Wong Tsz-wai, professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine, has been re-appointed as a member of the Labour Advisory Board Committee on Occupational Safety and Health from 11th February 1999 to 31st December 2000.
   - Prof. Edith Lau, associate professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine, has been appointed by the Hospital Authority as Honorary Consultant in Clinical Epidemiology for three years from 1st January 1999.
   - Prof. Victor Chan, associate professor in the Department of Music, has been re-appointed as composer-in-residence to the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for one year from 1st January 1999. Prof. Chan was also commissioned by the Provisional Regional Council to compose a new work entitled 'Dreams Afar' as a highlight of the Regional Council Festival. The work was premiered by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France on 19th December 1998.
   - Prof. Jie Huang, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, has been re-appointed as associate editor of the Conference Editorial Board of IEEE Control Systems Society by the Control Systems Society Board of Governors from 1st January 1998. He has also been appointed as the associate editor of the Asian Journal of Control as guest editor of the Special Issue on Output Regulation of Nonlinear Systems of the International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control from 1st March and 1st February 1999 respectively.

   (Information in this section is provided by the Information and Public Relations Office. Contributions should be sent direct to that office for registration and verification before publication.)

   DAAD Invites Papers for International Academic Forum at the World Exhibition 2000 in Hanover, Germany

   From the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD):

   EXPO 2000 is most likely the biggest event of the year and is expected to attract 40 million visitors. Based around the theme 'Humankind — Nature — Technology' it will focus on the key issues of the future.

   The international academic forum 'Shaping the Future' (http://www.shaping-the-future.de) challenges graduates and young researchers to submit their work on innovations, new strategies, and possible solutions for the next century.

   The forum will enable the participants to discuss their work with other young academics from various academic and cultural backgrounds.

   Academics under the age of 35 are invited to submit a description of their research work (e.g. final graduate study, doctoral thesis) before 30th September 1999 on one of the following themes: humankind; environment, information and communication; the future of work, nutrition, health, mobility and energy. Papers should be written in English and should not exceed six pages.

   The authors of the 300 best and most original papers will be invited to present their work in both oral and poster format. Travel costs, 10 days' accommodation in Hanover and a living allowance are all covered in the invitation.

   For further information and application forms please contact the following representatives of the German Academic Exchange Service:

   Dr. Stefanie Ebeschule e-mail: esch@hbu.edu.de Tel: 2539-5566
   Kerstin Kippenhan e-mail: kippenhan@hkbu.edu.hk Tel: 2859-2045

   大學游泳池通告

   Swimming Pool News

   大學游泳池更改開放安排。原定於六月中竣工，游泳池的開放日期，容後公布。

   Construction and alteration works on the changing rooms of University swimming pool are now in progress, and are expected to finish by mid-May this year. The exact date of reopening will be announced later.

   Corrigendum

   Council News

   On page 1 of the last issue (no. 142) of the CUHK Newsletter, in the paragraph about the appointment of University Treasurer, the first sentence should read: "Mr. Roger K.H. Luk has been appointed Treasurer of the University for three years from 3rd March 1999."
你有沒有收過以虛假身分發出的電郵呢？
也許，你根本不知或不曾懷疑過電郵的真偽。但《紐約時報》曾指出：「網上沒人知道你是誰。」所以，我們應有所警惕。

對電郵如是，對網址也如是。研究院院務會去年計劃將一些機密文件由網上發放予所有委員閱覽，但如何確知閱覽文件者的身分呢？委員又如何確定自己沒有給虛假的網頁瞞騙呢？

他們邀請電算機服務中心和資訊科技服務處提供解決方案，由是觸發本校在學界率先大規模發展和應用核證技術。

電子加密技術

參與開發中大核證機關（certification authority）的電算機服務中心助理電算師阮家和先生表示，核證機關主要應用加密（encrypt）和解碼（decrypt）的技術，核實用戶的身分和為文件保密。電子加密技術的發展已有二十年，直至互聯網普及後，才廣泛應用於個人電腦通訊。

初期的加密技術只能製造對稱的密碼匙，只要知道對方的密碼匙，便可收取對方的機密，故與一百個人的通訊要有一百條不同的密碼匙。阮先生說，中大採用不對稱密碼技術，一組兩條的密碼匙是相關的，兩條密碼匙均可用作加密和解碼，放在核證機關任人取用的稱為公開密碼匙（public key），自己留用的稱為私人密碼匙（private key）。

關鍵在於經私人密碼匙加密的文件，只能由相關的公開密碼匙解碼，反之亦然。

由於加密和解碼過程須使用一對有關連的密碼匙，通訊雙方要預先給予對方一條自己的密碼匙（一般為公開密碼匙），倘若通訊雙方並不認識，他們怎能核實密碼匙主人的身分呢？這個疑問衍生了核證機關的概念。

核證機關

核證機關是通訊或交易雙方的中介者，作用是向機構、團體或個人發出數碼證書（digital certificate），以確認信頼者的身份，使偽造者的詐騙或惡作劇伎倆不得逞。

實際的運作是：核證機關會向登記了身分的用戶發出數碼證書，上面列出用戶的姓名和電郵，並附連貫的公開密碼匙。數碼證書是經核證機關的私人密碼匙加密，只要利用該核證機關的公開密碼匙便可檢測證書的真偽，從而知道電郵是否由證書持有人發出。

數碼簽名

為保障文件加密是最機密的做法，但頗耗時間，而且加密後的電子檔案會大了許多，傳送不便。阮先生說，數碼證書除可為電子文件簽署和加密，其應用範圍更可擴大至供網站與瀏覽者核實彼此的身分，或在線上呈報高度保密的個人資料（如教職員更新存放於人事處的資料）和供學生查閱自己的考試成績等。由中大核證的數碼證書可在校內使用，至於能否在校外通用，則要校方與校外機構達成核證聯繫和相互認可。

香港特別行政區政府的資訊科技及廣播局已表明會積極推動公開密碼匙的基礎建設，並透過郵政署於本年內成立公共核證機關，以展開公共服務電子化計劃，便利市民網上使用政府提供的服務如申請證件、報稅等，以及全面展開電子交易。屆時，只要中大的核證機關與政府的公共核證機關聯繫起來，員生的數碼證書用途應會很廣泛。

電子檔案

都只是一些電子檔案，加密匙固然不像房門或抽屜的鑰匙，也不像提款卡般有一組六個的數目字。它其實是一個電子檔案，包含一長串的符號，並且具有加密和解碼的功能。私人密碼匙可存放於電腦或硬碟，要輸入密碼（這個才像提款卡密碼）才可啟動。

數碼證書和數碼簽名都是一些電子檔案。前者像畢業證書般，依據核證機關的不同而有不同的設計，但證書上總有一些可閱讀的資料；後者並非真的簽名，只是一大堆沒有意義的字母和符號。
歡迎測試中大核證機關的保安系統

王鳳超蒞校訪問

校董參觀中大最新發展

推動內地家庭醫學
開發新一代互聯網 提升香港資訊中心地位

本校與海峽兩岸及美國的學術機構上月十九日簽署合作備忘錄，攜手發展高速互聯網基建，以促進多媒體資訊交換及數碼圖書館的應用技術發展。香港特別行政區資訊科技及廣播局局長鄺其志出席簽署儀式並致辭。

訊息工程學系許如藝教授表示，市民目前使用的互聯網是在二十年前完成的實驗網絡。實驗網絡變為商業網絡後，科學家再也不能在該網絡上做實驗，也就無法令互聯網更高速及具有更多功能。因此，美國國家科學基金數年前發起高速網絡實驗計劃STAR TAP，發展新一代互聯網。參與計劃者須使用T3(容量為45 Mbps)連線，香港對外連線仍未提升至T3，故未能參與計劃。台灣及新加坡早已使用T3連線，亦已加入美國的研究計劃，香港在這方面的資訊科技發展明顯落後。

這項由中大發起的四地合作計劃，合作伙伴為華南理工大學、台灣中央研究院及美國卡內基梅隆大學，將可令香港和內地快些加入高速互聯網實驗計劃。根據協議，本校和華南理工大學將與台灣中央研究院連接起來，香港的資訊收發會利用台灣與美國的連線作中繼，待香港與美國的高速連線建立後，這些資訊的傳送就不需以台灣為中繼站。

為促進這個網絡的發展，簽約四方會積極開拓數碼圖書館的科研及技術發展，例如在網絡上放入資訊及數碼圖書館的內容以發展應用技術。它們又會協助推動四地的多媒體及數碼圖書館的應用其中一項重要工作就是發展一個可供兩岸三地和美國使用的多語言平台。

許教授說，數碼圖書館的主要功能是促進四地的文化交流，如把旅遊錄像、藝術電影及音樂上網，透過高素質的視像傳送各地的文化，更可把課程上網，讓大家分享。本校一直積極推動香港發展為互聯網中心。工程學院最近獲工業署資助，設立CyberLibrary，以提供一個公開平台，作高速寬多媒體資訊提取及交換之用。圖書館、博物館、廣播界、出版社等都可利用這個平台，傳播及交換資訊。這將協助香港成為亞洲主要的互聯網中心及內地互聯網的主要通道。