

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/FDS15/H16/14

**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report
(for completed projects only)

<u>Submission Deadlines:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auditor's report with unspent balance, if any: within six months of the approved project completion date. 2. Completion report: within 12 months of the approved project completion date.
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Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1. Project Title

Hong Kong Journalists' Oral History

香港報人口述歷史

2. Investigator(s) And Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Leung Tin Wai, Professor and Head	Journalism and Communication, Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Co-Investigator(s)	Dr. Wong Chung Ming, Associate Professor	Journalism and Communication, Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Others	Nil	Nil

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval <i>(must be quoted)</i>
Project Start Date	January 1, 2015	N/A	N/A
Project Completion Date	December 31, 2016	N/A	N/A
Duration <i>(in month)</i>	24 months	N/A	N/A

Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	December 31, 2017	N/A	N/A
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Part B: The Final Report

5. Project Objectives

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. To develop an invaluable original archive on the history of Hong Kong journalism.
2. To provide an alternative media resource, specifically a newspapermen's documentary on DVD/USB for the archive.
3. To organise the resources such as interview materials and the analysis of old newspapers for the study of the history of Hong Kong Journalism and the socio economic development of Hong Kong under British rule.
4. To enable veteran journalists to create an oral history of their work for future academic research.

5.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: N/A

Reasons for the change: N/A

- 1.
- 2.
3.

5.3 Realisation of the objectives

(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

The objective of the project "Hong Kong Journalists' Oral History" 《香港報人口述歷史》, is to add information and insight to the literature of Hong Kong journalism by providing an unique, primary historical information for future researchers by recording the experiences of Chinese journalists which might otherwise have been lost. The video-recorded interviews capture the historical events leading to the growth of the Chinese press in the mid-20th century, as well as the rise and fall of the Chinese press in Hong Kong. The interviews also reveal the news coverage of the political upheavals of China in the 50s-70s of the last century and the socio economic changes of the Hong Kong Government under the British rule. Viewers/readers can see clearly the performance of newspapermen from both the party paper and the general newspaper – how to inform the public and shape the public opinion of that

time; and the speedy expansion of the popular newspaper and the decline of the party papers.

In total, 28 veteran journalists were interviewed; 6 of them passed away. The interviews were mainly carried out in the studio of the Department of Journalism and Communication, Hong Kong Shue Yan University. A digital recording was made for each interview. The interview was then edited and transcribed; and names, dates, and events were verified. Afterwards, the interviewee reviewed and corrected the transcript and the video production.

A Chinese book, named “Number of People: Hong Kong Journalists’ Oral History” (數風雲人物: 香港報人口述歷史), in 2 volumes is now in the process of publishing by Cosmos Books Ltd and is expected to be on sale in bookstores in December 2017. A 40-hour video production with Chinese sub-titles under the same name will also be uploaded onto the University website for public viewing. Later, when the newly-built Hong Kong News-Expo opens in 2018, both the book and the video USB will be displayed there.

5.4 Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives <i>(as per 5.1/5.2 above)</i>	Addressed <i>(please tick)</i>	Percentage Achieved <i>(please estimate)</i>
1. To develop an invaluable original archive on the history of Hong Kong Journalism.	Be able to provide original archive on the history of Hong Kong Journalism.	80 per cent as some 20 per cent of the interviewees refused to be interviewed due to either poor health or political reasons. .
2. To provide an alternative media resource, specifically a documentary on DVD for the archive.	Be able to provide video recorded interviews of veteran journalists for public viewing in Hong Kong.	100 percent.
3. To organise the resources such as interviews and the analyses of old newspapers for the study of the history of Hong Kong Journalism.	Be able to trace the political and societal development of Hong Kong.	100 percent.
4 To enable senior veteran journalists to create an oral history of their work.	Achieved this mission to enable veteran journalists to keep a record of their work experience in Hong Kong.	100 percent.

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome

(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)

- a. The news operation of the party paper, as well as the general newspaper, of the last century;
- b. The working environment of newsmen during the period of British rule;
- c. The working relationship between the party paper newsmen and that of the general newspaper;
- d. The adaptability of newsmen to the socio economic and technology changes of the community;
- e. Reasons contributing to the rise and fall of the party paper and the general newspaper in the last century;
- f. Interviewees' individual perspectives on above points.

6.2 Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action *(Maximum half a page)*

Broadcasters' oral history in Hong Kong is another area of study which should be done in the near future as many of them have already been retired. Veteran broadcasters telling their stories in their own words and with their perspectives on the transformation of the broadcasting industry from analogue to digital of the last century will definitely give insights for researchers to go deep into the practitioners' adaptability to the technology change of the communication industry. At the same time, these interviews will reveal the socio economic change of the community in the last century.

7. Layman's Summary

(Describe in layman's language the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)

Hong Kong, under the British rule, has been transformed from a fishing harbor to an entry port, a trading center, a light industry manufacturing center, and eventually an international financial center in the last century. It was a miracle! Isn't it?

The narrative memories of veteran journalists might be able to provide you answers to the success story of Hong Kong. From their stories, you can see the socio economic development of Hong Kong with the influx of illegal immigrants from the Mainland in the 60s and 70s of the 20th century; the government policy to cope with the new immigrant; their respective news handling of the "1967 Leftist Riots" in Hong Kong; and their respective coverage of Chaotic China before "The Reform and Opening Policy" of Deng Xia Ping in 1978; the political reform of the colonial government in the 70s; the rise of the popular newspaper and the decline of the party paper.

Hope information provided be useful in designing future studies in journalism education, also the socio political development of Hong Kong during the British rule of the 20th century.

Part C: Research Output**8. Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication(s) Arising Directly From This Research Project**

(Please attach a copy of the publication and/or the letter of acceptance if not yet submitted in the previous progress report(s). All listed publications must acknowledge RGC's funding support by quoting the specific grant reference.)

N/A

The Latest Status of Publications				Author(s) (denote the corresponding author with an asterisk*)	Title and Journal / Book (with the volume, pages and other necessary publishing details specified)	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)
Year of Publication	Year of Acceptance (For paper accepted but not yet published)	Under Review	Under Preparation (optional)						

9. Recognized International Conference(s) In Which Paper(s) Related To This Research Project Was / Were Delivered

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

N/A

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)

10. Whether Research Experience And New Knowledge Has Been Transferred / Has Contributed To Teaching And Learning

(Please elaborate)

The Book and the Video USB will be used as reference for courses related to the news business in Hong Kong..

Interviewees' oral history will be incorporated into the course content of JOUR 180 History of Hong Kong Journalism in next academic year.

11. Student(s) Trained*(Please attach a copy of the title page of the thesis)*

N/A

Name	Degree Registered for	Date of Registration	Date of Thesis Submission / Graduation

12. Other Impact*(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, teaching enhancement, etc.)*

N/A

13. Public Access Of Completion Report*(Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)*

The finished product (including the Book and the Video Production) will be uploaded onto the University website for public viewing and on display in the Hong Kong News-Expo in 2018. The Book will be published by Cosmos Books Ltd and on sale in bookstores in December 2017.

Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access	Reasons