



Visva-Bharati

(Where the world makes its home in a single nest)

Library Network *e-Newsletter*



VBLN

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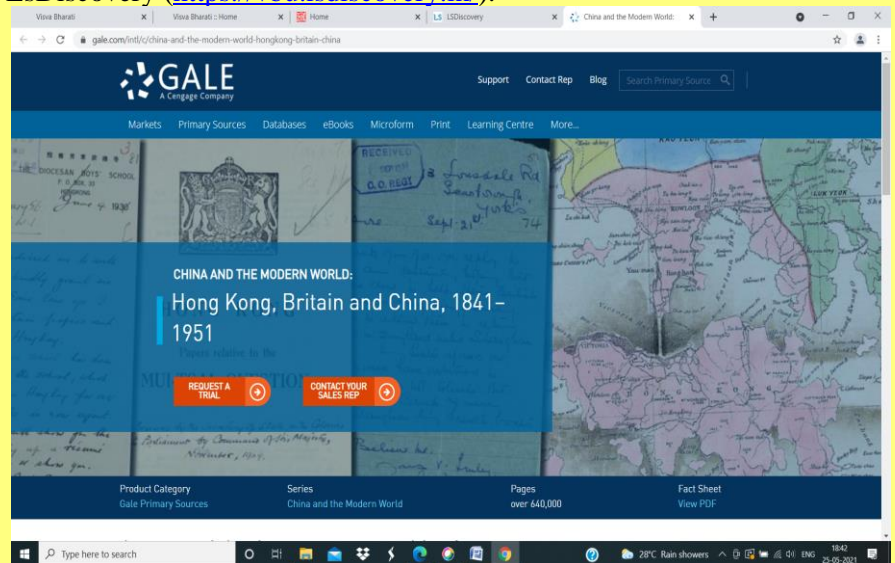
Library website:

<http://vbulnet.lsdiscovey.in>

<https://www.facebook.com/vbllibnet>

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China (1841-1951) (Gale Primary Sources)

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China (1841-1951) by Gale Primary Sources is a perpetual online database purchased during the financial year 2018-19. This is accessible through remote access i.e. LsDiscovery (<https://vbu.lsdiscovey.in/>).



- Key data:

Source Library: UK National Archives

Size: approximately 640,000 pages

Content Types: manuscripts, typescripts, maps and photos

Features Gale's Hand-Written Text Recognition

Date Range: 1841-1951

Announcement

Visva-Bharati Library Network is going to organize **Special Sessions** during June 2021 through online on (a) Remote Access through LSDcovery, b) Zotero (Reference Management Software), c) Resources, Services, and Facilities of VBLN, etc. for VB fraternity only. Date and Time will be announced very soon through University Website, E-mail and WhatsApp.

- **Complementary archives from Gale:** Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Asia and the West, Nineteenth Century Collections Online: British Politics and Society, China and the Modern World: Missionary, Sinology and Literary Periodicals and China and the Modern World: Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China, China and the Modern World: Diplomacy and Political Secrets

- **About the Collection**

Hong Kong, Britain and China is a new module in Gale's publishing program of China and the Modern World. Available on the Gale Primary Sources platform, it will complement other Gale archives such as Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Asia and the West, China and the Modern World: Missionary, Sinology and Literary Periodicals, Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China, Diplomacy and Political Secrets, as well as other collections related to Asia and/or international relations.

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China comprises a collection of Hong Kong-related historical records, selected from the British Colonial Office Records grouped under the CO 129 Series titled "War and Colonial Department and Colonial Office: Hong Kong, Original Correspondence".

These records consist of original correspondence between the governors of Hong Kong and the Colonial Office, as well as letters and telegrams of other government departments and organizations such as the Foreign Office, Home Office, and War Offices.

The primary sources included in China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China can be divided into four periods, according to Gale's advisor John Carroll from Hong Kong University:

- Foundations (1840s-late 1800s)
- Revolution and Reform in China (1890s-early 1900s)
- The Interwar Years (1920s-late 1930s)
- War, Reconstruction and Revolution (1940s-1951)

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China will provide the essential reference material for the research on the history of Hong Kong, in addition to appealing to students & researchers around the world who are engaged in researching the history of modern China, British Imperial history, and Sino-British relations from 1841-1949.

- **Featuring Gale's Hand-Written Text Recognition**

Gale's HTR allows hand-written documents to be full-text searchable, just as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) allows printed books, newspapers, etc. to be searched. This is revolutionary.

The hand-written primary sources included in China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China all have HTR applied to them, enabling full-text searching of the manuscripts. This technology makes the documents in this collection more accessible to those without palaeography skills and enables powerful inclusion in digital humanities/scholarship projects.

- **Background on the Colonial Office of the British Government**

The Colonial Office was a department established by the British government to administer its colonial possessions, including British North America. It established forms of government and the church, appointed governors, approved local laws and made grants for particular purposes. It managed "imperial subjects" such as commerce and shipping, which gradually came under the exclusive control of the self-governing colonies.

Between the 1660s and 1768 British colonies had been governed by a combination of the secretary of state for the southern department and the Board of Trade and Plantations, a committee within the Privy Council. In 1768 the American or Colonial Department was established, but this office was abolished in 1782 after the loss of the American colonies. Jurisdiction over the remainder of British possessions was transferred to the home secretary's office until 1801, when colonial administration was moved to the secretary of state for war and the colonies.

Colonial affairs expanded and became more important, and in 1825 a permanent undersecretary was appointed to deal with the colonies. This marks the beginning of the Colonial Office, although a separate secretary of state for the colonies was not created until 1854, after the Crimean War began. Further reorganization occurred as the range of powers claimed by the colonies expanded and as relations with these colonies became diplomatic rather than administrative.

A Dominion division within the Colonial Office dealt with the self-governing colonies between 1907 and 1 July 1925, when it became a separate ministry, the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs. In 1947 this became the Commonwealth Relations Office, which in 1966 merged with the Colonial Office. Finally, in 1968, Britain combined the responsibility for all its external relations in the single Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

- **Value to Researchers:**

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China is noteworthy in that the Gale Primary Source collection contains many records pertaining to the relations between China, Britain, and Japan during World War While the focus of the collection is on Hong Kong, a high proportion of the content relates well to the history of modern China and her relations with her neighbors (e.g., Japan) and Britain, covering most of the major historical events in the history of modern China, such as the Second Opium War, The Constitutional Reform, the Revolution of 1911, the general strikes of the 1920s, and the Second Sino-Japanese War. Courses related to the history of late imperial and modern China will find this collection extremely appealing.

- **Four Periods in the History of Hong Kong Covered in CO 129:**

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China has been digitized from The UK National Archives' Colonial Office Records 129.

The absolute majority of the documents are in English. The following sections of the CO 129 are included in Gale's collection:

- **Foundations (1840s-late 1800s)**

The files for the early decades reveal that these were exciting yet uncertain times. Disease and piracy were rampant. Despite its fine harbor, Hong Kong was slow to become the great commercial "mart" or "emporium" envisioned by its colonial founders. Despatches from early governors such as John Francis Davis and John Bowring vividly betray this uncertainty and lack of confidence.

Other files show how early-colonial Hong Kong worked economically and politically. We learn about the opium and "coolie" trades (the twin pillars of Hong Kong's economy) and about how land lots were allocated – at public auctions and sometimes as rewards to Chinese who had collaborated with the British during the Opium War and in building the infant colony. Likewise, CO 129 shows how monopolies for opium and other commodities were acquired. Correspondence throughout this period discusses piracy and the joint Anglo-Chinese efforts to suppress it.

Included here are discussions of racial discrimination and segregation, including through clubs such as the exclusive Hong Kong Club and through the various residential ordinances of the late 1800s and early 1900s. These files also help us understand the emergence and perpetuation of a local Chinese elite, with the establishment of voluntary associations such as the Man Mo Temple, Tung Wah Hospital, and Po Leung Kuk, and social organizations such as the Chinese Club and the Chinese Recreation Club. We also learn that within only years after Hong Kong became a Crown Colony, Chinese and European residents learned to join forces occasionally, as they did in February 1848 to petition the colonial government about the payment of ground rents.

The files contain important details about governance and the administration of justice, including John Davis's short-lived "native Chinese Peace Officers" scheme, Governor Richard MacDonnell's draconian "great experiment" to lower the crime rate and reduce the number of prisoners, and his successor John Pope Hennessy's efforts to modernize Hong Kong's penal system and to reduce racial discrimination and segregation.

- **Revolution and Reform in China (1890s-early 1900s)**

CO 129 is immensely useful for understanding China's revolutionary movement that began in the late 1800s. This correspondence shows how Hong Kong helped facilitate the activities of Sun Yat-sen and other revolutionaries. It also reveals the concerns of the Hong Kong and British governments that the colony not become a base for subversion, even while some local authorities supported the revolutionary movement. Here we find Governor William Robinson's famous order of March 1896 banishing Sun from Hong Kong for five years, as well as details about reformer Kang Youwei's stay in the colony after the aborted Hundred Days of Reform in 1898.

- **The Interwar Years (1920s-late 1930s)**

The files for this period are particularly useful to scholars of British "new imperialism" and modern Chinese history. They reveal Britain's new commitment to expanding public works, including not only road works and reservoirs, but hospitals and teacher-training colleges. They also shed light on the mui tsai (female bondservant) controversy of the 1920s and 1930s, which became one of the most intense and protracted disputes in British colonial policy and involved even Winston Churchill.

CO 129 includes invaluable information on the strikes of the 1920s, especially the general strike-boycott of 1925-Inspired by developments in mainland China, especially the rise of nationalism and labor consciousness, these strikes remind us how the history of Hong Kong has always been intertwined with that of China's. They also reveal tensions among the British Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the Hong Kong government about British policy towards China, as the Colonial Office and the Hong Kong government sometimes worried that the Foreign Office was more concerned about relations with China than about tiny Hong Kong.

- **War, Reconstruction, and Revolution (1940s-1951)**

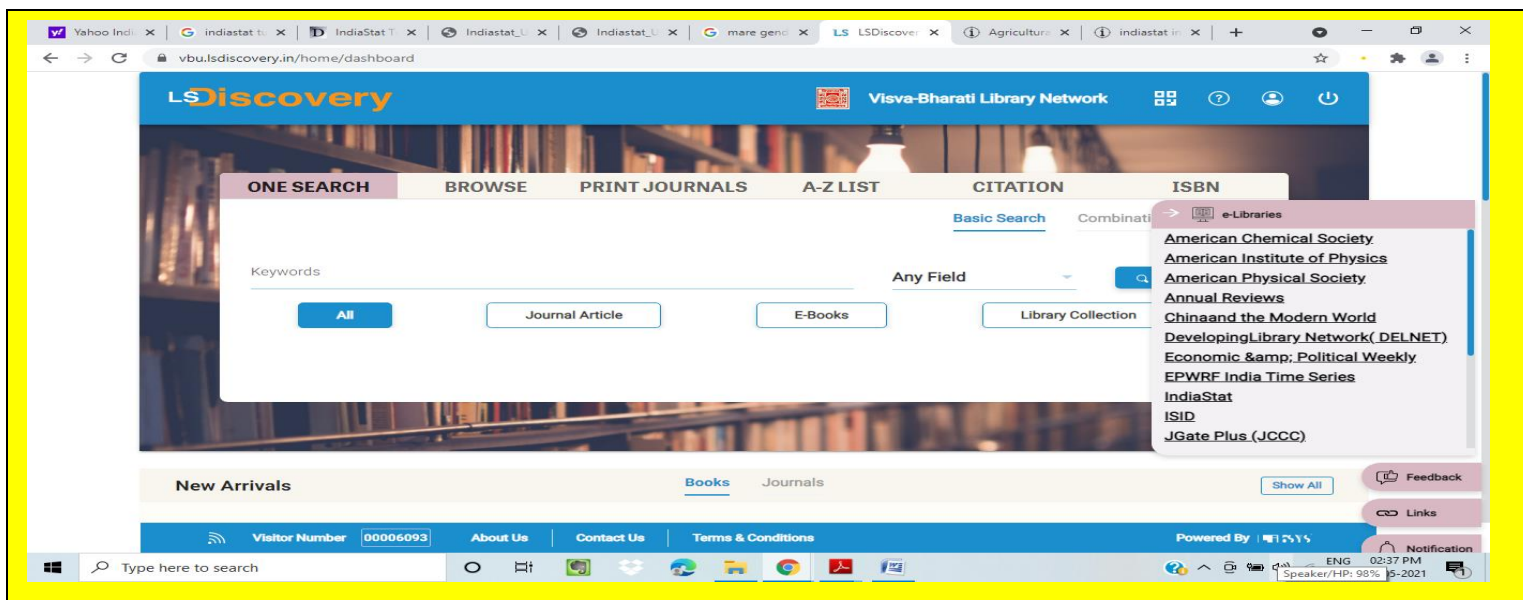
Although regular correspondence between Hong Kong and London ceased during the Japanese occupation from December 1941 to summer 1945, CO 129 includes discussions about defense plans for a possible invasion, including the 1940 evacuation of British women and children to Australia. These files are of great value to scholars of British migration. Correspondence from the immediate post-war years provides insight into the Japanese occupation, including the activities of Chinese and Eurasian business and community leaders during the war. Also included in this correspondence are plans for reconstruction and rebuilding Hong Kong, and concerns about the Chinese civil war and the establishment of the PRC in 1949.

Especially useful here are Governor Mark Young's proposals for localization and municipal form (the so-called Young Plan), the British government's initial endorsement of the proposal, Governor Alexander Grantham's and the local British and Chinese business elites' lack of support, and finally the abandonment of what would have been the most innovative political reforms in Hong Kong's colonial history.

CO 129 ends in 1951 during the Korean War, with the files revealing local worries about how the war, and the larger US-PRC conflict, might affect Hong Kong, the so-called "reluctant cold warrior" eager not to jeopardize relations with its giant neighbor.

Visva-Bharati fraternity may access China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China (1841-1951) by IP login which implies that one has to be on the university network or LsDiscovery (Remote Access) while you log in.

Browse through Remote Access: China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China (1841-1951) also accessible through remote access (**LsDiscovery**), only requirement is to login of remote access by using **Library Card No. as ID & vbu123 as password.**



RECENT ACTIVITIES

- **Training Program cum online meeting:** two training programs have been arranged for the library professionals of VBLN on DSpace on 24 and 29 May 2021 through online mode from 7.00pm onwards to enable them to upload the publications of VB fraternity in the digital library as part of 'Work from Home' due to ongoing lockdown for corona outbreak. Total 12 and 19 staff has attended the first and second program respectively.
- **Uploading files in the VB Institutional Repository:** as follow-up action and also as part of work from home, majority of library professionals have involved themselves to upload files in the VB **Institutional Repository** under **VB Digital Library**. Through the special drive around **480 files** (containing publications of VB fraternity, question papers, syllabus, etc.) have been uploaded in a week. The project report of the faculty members and e-Newsletter of VBLN will also be uploaded very soon. Resources may be browsed through the link: <https://vbudspace.lsdiscovey.in/xmlui/> or one may go through the university website, then library and then digital library.
- **Special WhatsApp Group for staff of VBLN:** As discussed in an online meeting chaired by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, VB to disseminate the Covid related Authentic Information to its fraternity of every department; center is advised to open a special WhatsApp group. Accordingly, VBLN has set-up one new group with the name 'VBLN-ACI' (Authentic COVID Information) and share the information/notice as generated/customized by the Visva-Bharati COVID Campaign Steering Committee under the Chair of Prof. Biplab Lohachoudhury: To address the current COVID crisis many initiatives have been taken by the committee with necessary support and cooperation from The University Administration, PM Hospital, Department of Yogic Science, Physical Education & Sports Science, NCC, NSS, Proctor, Dean of Student Welfare, Computer Center etc.
- **Documents / Article Delivery Services:** During the month 23 no. of soft copies of the articles have been collected and delivered through mail as requested by the academics/scholars.
- **Similarity Checking Through URKUND Software:** On request from the academics 31 articles/ Files have been checked through URKUND software and report has been forwarded through mail.
- **Visva-Bharati Lecture Series:** one lecture has been arranged under VB lecture series where library was closely associated and took active part. In the 35th lecture **Dr. Kunal Sarkar** was the speaker in the Visva-Bharati Lecture Series on 19th May at 4.00 pm. The title of his talk is "**Navigating through the Covid Pandemic: A Sense of Direction**". The session has been chaired by Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, while the same has been coordinated by Dr. Anirban Dasgupta, Sr. Medical Officer, PM Hospital, VB. Total 187 participants have attended the session.

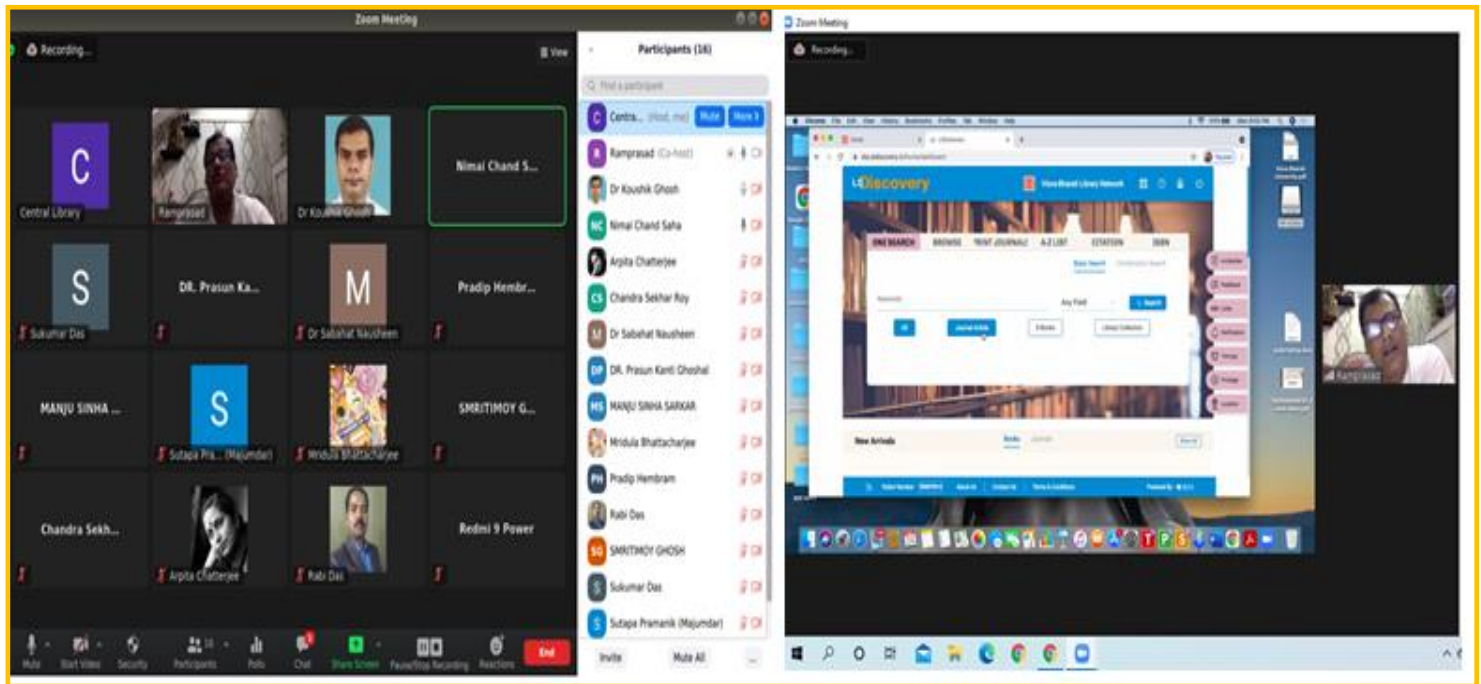
[New Arrivals \(Books and Periodicals\)](#)

[Books](#)(click)

[Journals](#) (click)

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- **Story Place** (<https://www.storyplace.org/>): For years children and their families have enjoyed attending storytimes, checking out materials and participating in a variety of other programs at the various Charlotte Mecklenburg Library locations. StoryPlace came about to provide children with the virtual experience of going to the Library and participating in the same types of activities the Library offers at its physical locations. First launched in 2000, StoryPlace has been newly redesigned to present favorite stories and activities in a format compatible with desktop and mobile devices. The site also now includes early literacy information for parents and caregivers.
- **Children's Library** (<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/index.html>): The Mission of the International Children's Digital Library Foundation (ICDL Foundation) is to support the world's children in becoming effective members of the global community - who exhibit tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas -- by making the best in children's literature available online free of charge. The Foundation pursues its vision by building a digital library of outstanding children's books from around the world and supporting communities of children and adults in exploring and using this literature through innovative technology designed in close partnership with children for children.



Glimpse of staff training program on DSpace