

**Developing a Featured Collection: The Experience of the Gao Xingjian
Repository in the University Library of the Chinese University of Hong Kong**

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Mr. Gao Xingjian, the Nobel laureate in literature in the year of 2000, is the first writer of Chinese origin to receive this honor. In addition to his achievement in novel, he is also a renowned playwright, distinguished painter, literary theorist and director. His works, including novels, plays and short stories, have been translated into more than 30 different languages, “thereby ushering Chinese language literature into the international hall of fame”. In the summer of 2004, Mr. Gao donated almost 300 items of his personal collection to the University Library System at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for the establishment of the Gao Xingjian Repository, the first of its kind in the world, in the University Library.

This paper will first review the background of the establishment of the Repository and provide a brief introduction to the materials and holdings of the Repository. Focus will then shift to the Library’s effort in further developing the Repository by cooperating with the University Library at the Université de Provence (UP) in France. The cooperation was initiated by Prof. Noel Dutrait of UP and Prof. Gilbert Fong of CUHK, the French and English translators of Mr. Gao’s works respectively. An agreement as to this effect was formally signed in November 2007 by both Libraries. The Université de Provence then established their L’Espace de Recherche et de Documentation Gao Xingjian after the model of the Repository in April 2008. The agreement covers five areas of cooperation including the joint effort to develop a database and a website on Mr. Gao Xingjian. A review on how the two Libraries implement the provisions of the agreement as well as the development of the database

and website will be discussed. The paper will then conclude by providing a discussion on the advantages and difficulties of the joint effort to developing a featured collection and look into the challenges in the future.