

2017 LAS PASSION AWARD

FENG YIKANG

Just four years into his career as a librarian, Feng Yikang has proven to be an invaluable asset to the library profession, making numerous novel, pioneering and impactful contributions to the ever-evolving field of digital scholarship.

In 2015, Yikang was appointed as the leader of the Digital Scholarship (DS) Team to create and build DS services in NUS Libraries. He and his team have experienced significant success. Soon after launching the service, they were invited to work on three projects, including a Geospatial Data Guide (Asia), Singapore Places of Worship, and Map of Origins: Chinese Clans in Singapore. Subsequently, they were asked by faculty and researchers to partner on projects ranging from meteorology to early European writings in Southeast Asia, and, then, to collaborate on five grant proposals.

Yikang's partnerships with faculty extended beyond projects into organizing events to connect digital humanities researchers from leading Singapore universities and NLB to discuss their research projects and experience.

Yikang has also taken an active role in building the infrastructure necessary to turn the Collaboration Space in NUS Central Library into a hub for digital scholarship in Singapore and beyond. In addition, Yikang worked with faculty, colleagues and collaborators from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity to bring the "Datarama", a 360-degree immersive data visualisation facility, to NUS.

Yikang has enthusiastically communicated his knowledge with fellow librarians and researchers in Singapore and internationally through papers, blogs, sharing sessions and presentations, including LAS' Libraries for Tomorrow: Disrupt and Innovate Conference and a blog essay in LAS' *Singapore Libraries Bulletin*. In 2017, he received the Karl Lo Award to attend the Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance (PRRLA) meeting to introduce a newly developed digital scholarship software tool, and has also shared the developments and his experience in digital scholarship with the international and regional library community.

In recognition of Yikang's research skills, entrepreneurial zeal, determination, and ability to bring together librarians, faculty, stakeholders and collaborators not only in Singapore, but across Asia, and his willingness to generously share his knowledge, while opening up exciting new opportunities for librarians to actively collaborate with researchers and faculty in a burgeoning field, it is a privilege to honor Feng Yikang with the 2017 LAS Passion Award.



Samantha Ang, President
Library Association of Singapore
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