COLLECTING, DIGITIZING, PRESERVING AND DEVELOPING HÁN NÔM COLLECTION IN THE GENERAL LIBRARY OF THỪA THIÊN HUẾ

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*A mini-Nôm Conference*
Elements in the foundations of Nôm Studies
May 9-10, 2015
1. Overview of the General Library of Thừa Thiên Huế (GLH)
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection
3. The policies of preservation, using and service
4. Building the policies of preserving original documents
1. Overview of the GLH

- The Library was founded on September 16, 1976 under the name The Library of Bình Trị Thiên.
- It was renamed in September 1989 the General Library of Thừa Thiên Huế.
- It is a public library of Vietnam.
- It operates under the direction of the Department of Libraries (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism) and the National Library of Vietnam.
- It reports directly to the Office of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Thừa Thiên Huế
1. Overview of the GLH

- It is located in the center of the City of Huế, a cultural center of Vietnam.
- The GLH is in a 4-story building with a working area is 5,760 square meters.
- 6 GLH offices: Acquisition & Coding, Readers Service, General Administrative Information, Technology, Movements, Catalogs & Maps.
- The Thừa Thiên Huế General Library holds more than 25,000 rare documents published centuries ago.
1. Overview of the GLH

The General Library of Thừa Thiên Huế, 29A Lê Quy Đôn Street, Phú Hội District, Huế

❖ Website http://thuvien.hue.gov.vn
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- The GLH Hán Nôm digital collection began in 2009 in a cooperation with the General Science Library of Hồ Chí Minh City.
- It has collected about 150,000 images of 248 distinct family archives, 13 royal land grants and 52 villages.
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- **Types:** rare royal appointments sắc phong, state appointments chế phong, and royal announcements chiếu dự...

- **Materials:** royal gold-decoration paper giấy sắc vàng or long đăng, đồ mulberry paper, copper đồng, cloth vải, gold threaded silk lụa điều, 5-color state paper bức chế 5 màu, ...

- **Ages:** from the late Lê Dynasty, Nguyễn Lord, the reign of Tây Sơn to the Nguyễn Dynasty with unique characteristics of Huế, not found elsewhere.

State appointment by Emperor Hàm Nghi bestowed to Võ Khoa – 1885 (on long đăng paper)
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- The experience in the process of digitizing documents
  - Field trips
  - Collecting and selecting of documents
  - Assessment of the current state of documents
  - Scanning documents
  - Restoration and cataloging
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- Summary and evaluation of experience through conferences and seminars
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- Exhibition, presenting original ordained copies of family and village heritage documents
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- To produce Hán Nôm compact disks of images to owners of collections
- To honor to the families and villages with medals for contribution to the Hán Nôm digitization program.
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- A pilot digital project in cooperation with the Temple Libraries and the Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture & Society (Temple University) – 7-2014.

- The results: 127 titles with 9,411 pages were digitized into 5,307 images.

- The pilot project has opened up a new and more advanced way for the General Library of Thừa Thiên Huế to better preserve Hán Nôm documents.
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- The digital image with the very high resolution.
- Each image is captured in RAW format and is converted to uncompressed TIFF format, 400ppi.
- The high resolution images are for preservation.
- The image is captured with a color checker and an standard ruler.
嘉隆十四年十月二十一日
詔書營署中軍印務宋福樑勳勞素
署政體鳳謹準補授中軍都統
府掌府事掌一軍之政今凡關戎
務悉以任之要宜節制嚴明以肅
戎政用副委任責成至意欽哉

明命拾叁年玖月初肆日
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- The image is saved for preservation, unedited, to reflect the exact original condition of the documents.
- Dublin Core cataloging adds another set of library information about the objects...
- The data under a library information system with both JPEG images on the web increasing services to readers, esp. researchers.
- See document links in:
  
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- Digitising Nôm resources in the family, clan, subtitle, and village archives.

Palace Temple of Princess Ngọc Sơn, Mr. Phan Thuận An, 31 Nguyễn Chí Thanh Street, Huế
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- Set up the photograph frame for books...

- Cataloging work racing with the digitization team.
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- Digitising Nôm resources in the family, clan, subtitle, and village archives.
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

Most of the young people cannot read Nôm. In picture, Prof. Thanh reads the Nôm text, while Mai Chi fills out library information…
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

Digitizing a royal scroll...
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

普明祠 “Phổ Minh tức” at 普池 Phổ Trì Hamlet, 富荣 Phú Thuơng Village, 富荣 Phú Vang District, home of 天依阿那 Deity Thiên Y A Na and 松江文忠 Tùng Giang Văn Trung
2. Organizing Hán Nôm digital collection

- The Hán Nôm resources in GLH are rare and copyrighted
- Serving online for a fee or read only but can not download and copy
- With the Hán Nôm resources on the network or have been digitized and free service
- Providing a link to the home page of the resources

Ex: http://www.hannom.nlv.gov.vn
    http://opac.issi.vass.gov.vn
    http://vietcenter.temple.edu/glh/glh_reports.php
    http://vietcenter.temple.edu/issi/issi_lib.php
3. The policies of preservation, using and service

- Building Hán Nôm database in directory database to serve readers in the library
- Export data of the Hán Nôm digitized collections to CDs to serve readers
- Using the digitizing for preservation + Dublin Core + Unicode to upload on the website of the Library
4. Building the policies of preserving the original documents

- Coordinating with holding centers, museums, libraries to build the project for Hán Nôm documents preservation of ancient documents which are currently stored in the families and the villages

- Every year, funding for the families, villages to seek preservation of their archives…

- Providing cabinets with non-acid materials to store the documents
4. Building the policies of preserving original documents

- Guidelines to the families on how to avoid agents of environmental destruction
- Using special chemicals to preserve dó paper and cloth?
THANK YOU!