UWC2101Z: Vice, The State & Society

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What will we be looking at?

1. Timeline of Singapore History
2. Important guides for SG Primary Sources
3. LINC Subject Search
4. Newspapers
5. Legal Case Files
6. Colonial Documents before 1867
7. Municipal Commission & City Council (1887-1951)
8. Colonial Office Records (1867-1963)
9. How do I search and use the CO Records
10. Government Documents post-1965
11. Useful Links & Resources
Timeline of Singapore History
Timeline Important because...

- Different administrations file things differently, which affects the final location of the files.
- Years and dates are important clues.
- Name of administrators and their official roles can be further leads.
7 Key Dates in Singapore History

1819 – Establishment of a factory (EIC) in Singapore
1867 – Straits Settlement becomes a Crown Colony
1942 – Singapore becomes Syonan
1945 – Start of the British Military Administration (BMA)
1946 – Colony of Singapore
1963 – Merger with Malaysia (Federation)
1965 – Separation from Malaysia
Important Guides for SG Primary Sources
Library Guides

http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/sgprimarysources

http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/history
A Sense of History

- A Sense of History
- Compiled by the Library in 1998
- Contains bibliographic information for both Primary and Secondary sources for Singapore
- New version coming out soon
Kratoska Index

- Index to Colonial Office files pertaining to British Malaya. 12 vols.
- Covers CO 273, CO 717, CO953, CO 1022, CO 1030...
- Compiler, Paul H. Kratoska.

- Call no. Z3261 Kra
- Kratoska’s Index
- Located near the Central Library RBR
Where is the Index Located?
LINC Subject Search
Linc Subject Search

- LINC Subject search useful for finding other hard copy primary sources that we may have

- There are also very useful secondary sources on vices in Singapore that you should read and use for your research
Linc Subject Search

Use Books & Media to do LINC Subject Search
Newspapers
NewspaperSG -
http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/
NewspaperSG

- Digitized by NLB
- Can access most of them at home but you will need to head to NLB if you want articles after 1990
- Some minor newspapers still in microfilm
Using NewspaperSG

One of the best way to use NewspaperSG is to use it to corroborate dates for events, when Bills were passed in Parliament, get DD/MM/YY of official initiatives & ‘campaigns’

Example 1: If I was trying to find the actual parliament session where a certain Bill was discussed and when it eventually passed as legislation

Example 2: When was the height of the anti ‘long hair’ (for men) campaign? What were the factors that contributed to the ‘moral outrage’ at the hippie subculture then?
Chinese Newspapers in NUSL

NUS Libraries’ digitised Chinese newspapers:
• Lat Pau 叻报 (Aug 19 1887 to Mar 31 1932)
• Union Times 总汇新报 (1908-1946)
• Sin Kok Min Jit Pao 新国民日报 (1919-1933)
• Penang Sin Poe 槟城新报 (1895-1941)

For more information, refer to “Chinese E-Resources” libguide >
E-Newspapers:
http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/ch-e-newspapers
Fun Activity #1

Try searching for this newspaper article and answer this question via:

“Long hair: Varsity urged to be more tolerant”

https://pollev.com/hmg
Legal Case Files
Legal Case Files

- Legal Case Files also a useful historical source
- The library has both hard copies and soft copies of legal case files
- Not every case is recorded, only key judgements are recorded
Legal Case Files

Here are some that might be useful:

- Straits Settlement Law Reports (1868-1931)
- Straits Settlement Law Reports (1927-1950)
- Federated Malay States Law Report (1922-1941)
- Malayan Cases (1908-1936)

For more: [http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/SGlawhistory/cases](http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/SGlawhistory/cases)

Note that almost all of items listed can be accessed via [LawNet](http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/SGlawhistory/cases)
Colonial Sources before 1867
Colonial Documents before 1867

For records before 1867, you will be looking at the:

1. Straits Settlement Records (1800-1867)
2. Records of the Government of India
3. East India Company and India Office Records (1819-1867)
Colonial Documents before 1867

- Handwritten – cursive script and many variations
- These documents are only in microfilm (miniaturized)
- You will need a microfilm reader to read the contents
Municipal Commission & City Council (1887 to 1951)
Municipal Commission & City Council (1887 to 1951)

- Municipal Commission created in 1887, later renamed Singapore City Council in 1951

- Focus was on governing the town area of Singapore

- Made improvements to sanitation, plumbing, road works, street lighting etc

- Most of the documents are either in Microfilm or in Hard Copy

Colonial Office Records (1867-1963)
Colonial Documents before 1867

- Starts from 1867 when the Straits Settlement became a British Crown Colony
- Prior to that it was governed from India
- 6 main series, but other CO series available
- Documents from Straits Settlement were sent from here to Whitehall (London) and archived there.
- Ends in 1965 (when SG became an independent sovereign state)
- Some documents are in microfilm, some in electronic format
| Series Type | 1. Original Correspondence (CO 273 & CO 1022) | 2. Sessional Papers & Departmental Reports (CO275/CO940)  
3. Government Gazettes (CO276/CO932)  
4. Acts/Ordinances (CO274/CO975)  
5. Miscellanea (Statistics) (CO277/CO939)  
6. Annual Colonial Report |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Catalogues, Finding Aids, & Indexes | Kratoska's Index to Colonial Office Files for British Malaya  
Comprehensive index for selected CO Original Correspondence series covering British Malaya | None online  
Use year, contents/index page, or browse to navigate full-text |
|          | UK National Archives Discovery Catalogue  
(Post 1926. File title search mainly.) | |
| Full-Text in NUS Libraries | • Check FindMore/LINC using Series no. (e.g. CO273)  
• NUSL holdings of Original Correspondence series (British Malaya)  
• Selected DO & FO files covering South Asia, China, & Japan | • Check FindMore/LINC using Series no.  
• NUSL holdings of Govt Gazettes, Sessional Papers, Dept Reports, Acts, Statistics, Annual Reports series for Malaya |
| Full-Text in National Archives of Singapore | Check also Archives Online for series not in NUS Libraries | Some duplicates available at NAS Archives Online |
CO273/1022: Original Correspondence

- CO 273 – 1838 to 1946
- CO 1022 – 1950 to 1960
- Original Correspondence from Straits Settlement/Singapore/Southeast Asia back to Whitehall
- Contains letters/memos/telegrams
- Often haphazardly archived!
CO275/940: Sessional Papers & Dept Reports

- CO 275 – 1850ish to 1946
- CO 940 – 1946 to 1965
- Contains Legislative Assembly Sessional papers
- Contains annual reports by the various government departments including the Police Dept & the Health Dept
- Organized by year – not as haphazard
Other CO Records

- CO 276/CO 932: Government Gazettes aka ‘newsletter’
- CO 274/CO 975: Acts and Ordinances
- CO 277/CO 939: Blue Book of Statistics
- CO 953: Original Singapore Correspondence but only from 1936 to 1951 (moved to CO 1022)
- Others: Please see the Singapore Primary Sources Library Guides
How do I search & Use the CO Records?
How do I search for them?

- Use the SG Primary Sources **Library Guide**

- Use the **LINC** or **Library Portal** to search for the CO records by the Series Name
  
  ○ EG: If you want CO275, just search for CO 275 in the Library Portal

- However for the Original Correspondences series (CO 273/CO 1022) things are not that simple…
How do I read the CO citation?

EG:

CO 273/547/2 - Children Ordinance 1927

CO - stands for the Colonial Office and represents where the file came from

The series number

The volume number

The actual document number

The actual document title
How are the archival materials labeled in the UK?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. REPOSITORY</strong></td>
<td>National Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. FONDS or RECORD GROUP</strong></td>
<td>Colonial Office (CO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admiralty (ADM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2a. SUB-FONDS</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fonds may be divided into sub-fonds if necessary.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. SERIES</strong></td>
<td>CO 273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fonds are in turn further subdivided into series (can be directly below fonds without any sub-fonds).</td>
<td>ADM 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADM 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3a. SUB-SERIES</strong></td>
<td>CO273 not divided into sub-series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series may be divided into sub-series if necessary.</td>
<td>ADM 1/5495-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADM 1/8365-8779 ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. FILING LEVEL</strong></td>
<td>CO 273/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or volumes.</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CO 273/532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. ITEM LEVEL</strong></td>
<td>CO 273/534/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The smallest archival unit, and is usually indivisible.</td>
<td>CO 273/534/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Intro to Kratoska Index

- Used to navigate the messy CO 273/717/1022 Files that are haphazardly arranged
- Consists of 2 sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>File List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Basically it is like a <strong>book index</strong></td>
<td>- It list <strong>sequentially</strong> the different items in a volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Uses keywords to search</td>
<td>- Useful for finding out where the item is at in volume as not everything is sequentially archived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Useful to see what is inside the these Colonial Office Documents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 1

- First come up with the topic and the date range you have in mind
- Think of the keywords associated with the topic
- Make sure the keywords you use are not anachronistic, they need to fit the time
- Example: My Topic: Opium farms before 1920
- Keywords: Opium, Farms, Narcotics, Drugs...
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 2

- Head to the Central Library RBR area with a notepad or a camera to take down notes

- Pull out any volume of the Kratoska Index

- Flip to the content page
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 3

- Using the content page, identify which volume do you need

- Take note of the keywords you are using and the dates you are looking for
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 4

- The entries are arranged via keywords

- Take note of the series number, volume number and document number of the document you want

- You will need it to find the document
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 5

Head to the library portal at https://lib.nus.edu.sg

Type in the series name, remember to leave a space. In this case, it is CO 273.
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 6

- Once you logged in with your NUSNET ID, look for the volume number

- For this example it is volume 332
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 7

- Search for the document you need by looking out for the document number

- The start of each document is a file and you will see the document number on the top
Using the Kratoska Index - Step 8
(Optional)

- You can also use the file list to guesstimate where the document is

- The file list will tell you the location of the document in the volume

- This step may help you save time
Let's Try!

Ok

I'll give it a try
Try finding these Documents

- Volume 2 – Alleged Abuse of Madras Coolies
- Volume 3 – Opening of New Library and Museum
- Volume 4 – Rubber Cultivation
- Volume 6 - Amended Chandu Farm Rules 1906
- Volume 7 – Opium and Liquor Monopoly
- Volume 8 – Repatriation of Chinese Prisoners at Singapore
Fun Activity #2

- Key in the **Volume and Document number** of the documents you are assigned!

- [https://pollev.com/hmg](https://pollev.com/hmg)
Using the CO Records

- The CO Records were written by Colonial Civil Servants for the Colonial Office – What are the implications?

- Context, culture & nature of work in the bureaucracy of Empire

- Social values, norms, customs and rituals of the era – ‘same same but different’?
Using the CO Records

- The file cover of each file often has a list of Colonial Officers who received & read the file. Some even wrote memos – would they be useful?

- Use the file list & index to search
Fun Activity #3

- Search for:
- CO 273/291/32629: Crime Statistics 1902 (page 451 in the PDF)
- Read the document and answer the following questions here:
- [https://pollev.com/hmg](https://pollev.com/hmg)
Reflection

1. What constitutes a crime/vice?
2. How does a society ‘institutionalize’ crime/vice?
3. Who has power?
National Archives of Singapore

http://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/

- Free entry, but you need to register for a reader’s permit
- Some stuff may show in the catalogue but you may not be allowed to really use it
Useful Links
Useful Links

- Singapore Primary Sources Guide – http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/sgprimarysources
- Borrowing Microfilms - http://libfaq.nus.edu.sg/faq/71544
- Scanning Microfilms - http://libfaq.nus.edu.sg/faq/71573
- Printing Microfilms - http://libfaq.nus.edu.sg/faq/71545
- UK National Archives - http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
Please give us your Feedback

Workshop Title: UWC2101Z

Date & Time: