Making sense of the Chinese Special Collections: a community perspective

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What is the story?:
From China to Oxford:
four hundred years at Bodleian
1602: in the beginning ...
1604: ... was the Word (四書)
Themes

• Geography, navigation, and global connections
• Health and medicines
• Human’s and human connections
• Literature, entertainment and arts
1687: Human to human connection
中國人和牛津大學圖書館館長
Human to human contact

Thomas Hyde:

• My Chinese Michael Shin Fo-cung, (for that was his name) was bred a Scholar in all learning of their country, read all their books readily, and was of great honesty and sincerity, and fit to be relied upon in everything: for indeed he was a very knowing and excellent man, very studious and laborious in all things, and could speak Latin, whereby I conversed with him very freely and easily.
I received your honour’s letter and the adjoined characters, of which the explication of is 車 chariot, 馬 horse. If time will allow it, I shall visit, so that I might profit from the company of such a distinguished man, whose library is the fountain of enduring teaching, and who uniquely has this enormous merit, that he treats his library as the public and common possession of all scholars.
Humans: Diverse China
蠻獠圖說
1659: Mr. Selden’s Map of China
1674: Mr White’s terrestrial and celestial maps
1634:順風相送（手抄本）
Acupuncture charts (front and back)
Another example of acupuncture charts
雷公炮製 (upside down)
西游記（16世紀末-17世紀初刊本）
Art
Engaging and making sense: Dragon Boat Festival 端午節
你叫什么名字？
Revealing the secrets: ‘Show and Tell’
Monkey Kings magic tour of Bodleian
孫悟空大鬧天宮 (Radcliffe Camera)
What is the Monkey King like?
How do I draw that?
Hard work
Nearly as good as the teacher
Community feedback

• “My child enjoyed the drawing workshop the most - Dr He was fantastic with children. The badge making was fun too. I was thrilled to view the old Chinese publications. The Curator's detailed explanation made the session more enjoyable and memorable.”

• “It was so amazing to hear a type of song from an ancient Chinese period. It was so thrilled that I saw all the ancient collections about acupuncture, herbs, educational books. They are treasure and so important.”
Future plans

• Online exhibition of object (Exhibit software)
• Regular engagement with the community
• Schools visits and learning programme