

**The United Board**, in cooperation with its partner schools, is launching the **Asian University Digital Resource Network** to increase the access of Asian institutions to technical tools and strengthen their ties with other international digital networks. While there has been investment in digital tools, Asian universities have not yet fully explored ways to share digital humanities resources with other institutions, especially across national borders. Yet the potential value of digital technology to the humanities, social sciences and arts is significant, particularly in preserving and sharing Asia's rich repository of indigenous knowledge and cultural assets. The **Asian University Digital Resource Network** brings together the United Board's broad array of partner institutions and this increasingly important technology.

## Expanding digital literacy

The Asian University Digital Resource Network seeks to meet the common educational needs of its participating institutions, through online and in-person workshops, online interest groups and a website.

The United Board has proven strengths in building academic networks in Asia. Through this digital initiative, the United Board can leverage the individual strengths of its partner institutions to build a collaborative, cost-efficient and sustainable approach to digital education and research across the region.

## Preserving indigenous knowledge

Digital technology offers an efficient and effective way to document, preserve and share disappearing cultural assets. As participants gain proficiency in using digital tools, they will expand the resources available to their fellow researchers in Asia and other parts of the world.

## Launching the Network

To lay the foundation for this network, the United Board has:

- conducted a web-based survey of Asian institutions of higher learning;
- sponsored pilot projects in China, India, Indonesia and Thailand in order to examine replicable models of training, data collection and online publication; and
- in cooperation with City University of Hong Kong, convened 50 specialists from over 30 universities across the region for a two-day workshop, *Digital Humanities in Asia: Global Technologies and Local Knowledge*.

In the near future, the Asian University Digital Resource Network will identify network leadership and membership, select a host university and further define network needs and capabilities.

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