Do you consult your subject librarians (SL) for any matters pertaining to your information needs?

Our newly implemented system—subject librarians system—has raised our SL to greater visibility within NTU. Each SL has taken ownership to develop our library collection in the various subject areas assigned. This is to focus library services on each respective primary user group.

Greater visibility of our SL will be achieved through more library communications and promotions this year. An immediate uptake for us is to move closer to our users and create synergy with them. We are actively looking to build upon common ground and spaces through offering our library resources and services to staff and students; to pursue one shared goal of enhancing NTU education and research.

During the 50th commemorative conference held in April 2005 by the Library Association of Singapore and the Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia (Librarians Association of Malaysia), the theme of the visible librarian in the virtual world was addressed. Notable papers presented issues like developing strategic leadership in libraries, understanding library users, developing librarians’ competencies, initiating information literacy programmes and even a proposal on reinventing librarians. The latter was especially thought-provoking as it looked at the significance of the librarian’s position in the overall organisational value chain.

So, where have our SL positioned themselves in NTU’s value chain?

We have presented a significant number of programmes and activities for our university community, like joint exhibitions with student organisations, schools and departments. We have conducted numerous instructional programmes like the Information Searching Skills Workshops and the Advanced Research Seminars, each targeting students in different years of study and in various schools. Also, there will be an Engineering & Science exhibition to be held in the latter part of 2006. Look out for it!

The popular EndNote Workshops for our students and staff are often fully subscribed. Our SL have plans for more of such programmes and new ones as well, including workshops on citation searching analysis to be conducted in the first half of 2006. Don’t miss these!
New additions with aspirations

Lee Meiyu

http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/subj/meiyu.htm

Meiyu is librarian (trainee) with the NTU Library Acquisitions Division, and is also the subject librarian for Chinese Studies. She is a Chinese Studies graduate from NUS, and will be enrolling with NTU next year for a Masters in Information Studies. As a Chinese Studies student, she was exposed to studies regarding the Southeast Asian Chinese, ancient and modern Chinese history, Chinese and Taiwanese literature, philosophy, and traditional Chinese culture. She is especially interested in the differences between the elite and popular culture in the Chinese society, and pre-Qin Dynasty history. Her interest in ancient China prompted her to write a thesis, which suggested that an inherent weakness in the political structure caused the eventual downfall of the Shang Dynasty.

“Life is like a jigsaw puzzle. Delve into the missing pieces and it will get more interesting.”

Chong Nyuk Moi

http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/subj/nmchong.htm

Nyuk Moi is the subject librarian for Chemistry for the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. She is concurrently a media resource librarian with the Circulation Services Division. Her working experience has always been in the educational domain. She formerly taught Chemistry, Science and Computer Applications and Programmes in a secondary school, and was a teacher-librarian for a co-curriculum activity, which involved sourcing and cataloguing AV and multimedia resources. Nyuk Moi obtained her Masters in Information Studies from NTU. Her specialization is in the following areas: information organisation, collection development and management, archive and records management, digital libraries and information portals, client-centred information services, instructional role of school media specialists, and information sources and services for children and young adults.

Nyuk Moi’s favourite quote from John D. Rockefeller

“The road to happiness lies in two simple principles; find what interests you and that you can do well, and put your whole soul into it – every bit of energy and ambition and natural ability you have.”

With the changing educational landscape, we are continually caught up in the race to be ahead. To meet the needs of NTU – to be the global university of excellence – our SL are working closely with subject and programme coordinators in all schools. Approved subject profiles provide SL with the right framework to further develop and enhance our various subject collections.

Our strategic approach aims to make our SL visible to the NTU community as a whole. We have also visibly positioned ourselves in the university’s value chain by actively supporting academic and research programmes. This is via collaborative and cooperative relationships with schools and departments in NTU.

Our virtually visible SL are always ready to assist you on all matters pertaining to your academic and research information needs. Do consult them.
Lynette Wo
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/subj/lynette.htm

Lynette is an instructional librarian with the Instructional Services Division and is also the subject librarian for Finance and Hospitality Management for the Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management. She obtained her Masters in Information Management and Post-graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Lynette had worked in a public library in Brisbane when she was a student. Having been there for over eight years, she found her own niche in the information literacy of users. One of her accomplishments is the development of an information literacy programme for her library. The programme’s objective was to create a lifelong learning environment.

“I’m here in Singapore to pursue my dreams.”

Chia Yew Boon
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/subj/yewboon.htm

Yew Boon has come a full circle, from an NTU student pursuing a Masters of Science in Information Studies and Knowledge Management, to an associate library member, and now back to NTU in his current appointment as the Head & Senior Assistant Director of the new Humanities and Social Sciences library. His interests extend beyond library work and business research. During his stints at the National Library Board (NLB) and Economic Development Board (EDB), he initiated and participated actively in projects, garnering three EDB innovation awards. These projects include a study tour to benchmark corporate knowledge centres in New York, designing a competitive intelligence database using MSSQL and Cold Fusion, monitoring business trends and disseminating timely alerts to support 10 industry clusters, editing a newsletter to highlight current research news, and setting up the EDB pavilion for the Global Entrepolis @ Singapore event, which attracted more than 10,000 participants. Yew Boon regards librarianship as a job with room for personal growth. Librarians are constantly exposed to new ideas through interaction with the users, and there are ample opportunities to try out innovative technologies that facilitate learning and teaching.

“I have come a full circle.”

Tan Han Yong
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/subj/hanyong.htm

Han Yong graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2005 with an Honours degree in History. He joined the Nanyang Technological University in the same year. He is a cataloguing librarian (trainee) with the Bibliographic Services Division and is also the subject librarian for Sociology. Han Yong is especially interested in contemporary regional societies and in the pivotal events which moulded them, as well as the role of religion and economics in shaping regional societies. He is also interested in the changing gender relations in modernising societies, as well as the shifting societal role of religion due to the introduction of individualism and consumerism.

“One can always rely on the man in the mirror.”

Joy Wheeler
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/subj/joywheeler.htm

Joy is a digital resources librarian and subject librarian for the School of Art, Design and Media. Her working experience includes employment at several American universities. She has been a web designer cum developer for over 12 years and has a Bachelor in Fine Arts from New Mexico State University. After working as a web designer for many years at Purdue University and the University of Illinois, she became a website administrator for a small university in New Mexico. After managing the website for four years, she decided to go back to school to pursue a Masters in Library and Information Science (MLS). She is currently working towards her Masters at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana through their Distance Education programme. While investigating various degree programmes, she found that the work of a website administrator has many parallels with coordinating digital resource repositories. This fact encouraged her to pursue an MLS.

“Moving halfway around the world has opened the door to possibilities I never imagined.”

Enriching OPAC

In a bid to provide a better service to our patrons, the Library has taken steps to improve its online catalogue. We now offer patrons a whole new way to explore the OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue).

Want to know the bestselling titles in the New York Times fiction and non-fiction list? Keen to find out whether the Library has any fiction titles that won the Pulitzer Prize?

Find out more about each title in the enhanced OPAC, which has the following features:

- Quick and easy links to bibliographic information for bestsellers and award winning titles
- Full colour book cover images
- First chapters
- Table of contents
- Book reviews

With an OPAC interface that is more visually captivating and informative, patrons now have a more efficient tool to zero in on the most appropriate resources for their information needs.

Experience the enhanced OPAC now! Visit our website at http://opac.ntu.edu.sg.
Seeing Black & White

A black & white photography exhibition was organised by the NTU Photo-Videographic Society (PVS) in collaboration with the Library. It was held from 10 to 20 Oct 2005. These photographs were taken by the members of PVS at various locations around NTU. Here are what some of the students said:

“I enjoyed your picture’s dramatic contrast... The pictures are telling stories!” Song Jin, MSE year 4

“Very nice exhibition indeed! I am very much interested in the books on photography display!”

Riki Lidian Lie, MAE year 3

Touching base with NTUSU

A lunchtime dialogue session between the Library management and NTUSU Executive Committee (EXCO) was held at the Student Activities Centre on 11 Oct 2005. It was a fruitful meeting, where ideas and feedback were exchanged. The NTUSU EXCO expressed its support for the Library to further enhance its services.

Successful collaboration with our Engineering cluster

Jean Koh :: kohph@ntu.edu.sg
Head, Instructional Services Division

NTU students have given high accolades to the series of Information Searching Skills Workshops conducted by subject librarians last semester. These workshops were the result of the Library’s strategic partnership with the chief coordinator of the Technical Communication programme – Dr Francesco Paolo Cavallaro.

A total of 1,529 second year engineering students went through the interactive information searching workshops conducted by eight subject librarians from the Engineering Cluster. Topics such as information search process, evaluation of information sources, and citation and copyright issues were covered in the workshops. Students also had a go at searching engineering resources with tips given by the instructors.

Over 97 percent of the students said that they have learned valuable skills that would help them with their research.
Many said that they would recommend the workshops to their friends.

One participant said, “It was a very useful workshop. I learned how to use all the information that is available in the library.”

Another commented, “Informative – I’ve learnt about search engines that I’ve never known of. The workshop is very helpful when we do our research. Thanks for organising.”

In line with the Library’s goal of a campus-wide information literacy programme for the university community, the Library plans to offer more of such workshops to third and final year engineering students. It will also tailor resource-specific programmes to suit users with specific needs.

The European Library portal offers access to the combined resources (books, magazines, journals – both digital and non-digital) of 43 national libraries in Europe. It provides free searching and delivers digital objects – some free, some priced. Over 11,000,000 digital records and objects from nine of Europe’s national libraries are free to all.

These libraries have all conformed to metadata standards and have allowed access to their collections via the portal. The European Library opens up a universe of knowledge, information and culture of all Europe’s national libraries. It began with nine of the 43 members of the Conference of European National Libraries and will include more of the member libraries in the coming year.

Folksonomies
Goh Su Nee :: sunee@ntu.edu.sg
Senior Librarian, Bibliographic Services Division

If you are an avid user of photoblogs or bookmarklets (or social bookmarks or live bookmarks), you might be familiar with having to assign “descriptors”, “tags”, “buzzwords”, etc to your online content for retrieval purposes. This practice is increasingly popular and the term “folksonomies” has even been coined to describe this. According to Wikipedia a free online collaborative encyclopedia, “folksonomy” (a term first used by Thomas Vander Wal, an information architect) is “people’s classification management”.

This word is actually a combination of the words “folk” or “folks” and “taxonomy”. “Taxonomy” is from the Greek words “taxis” and “nomos”. “Taxis” means “classification”, and “nomos” or “nomia” means “management”. “Folk” refers to people, particularly users or visitors to the content. This is in contrast to traditional taxonomies and classification where information organisation is centralised.

According to Quintarelli (2005), "folksonomies are not simply visitors tagging something for personal use: they also are an aggregation of the information that visitors provide”.

Check out the following folksonomy-evident community applications:

Photoblogs
Users of photoblogs such as Flickr (http://www.flickr.com/) and Buzznet (http://www.buzznet.com/) are encouraged to assign “buzzwords” to pictures, so that they will turn up in searches of the site.

Academic paper organiser
CiteULike (http://www.citeulike.org/) is a free service to help academics share, store, and organise the academic papers they are reading. In CiteULike, one would be able to see both the author’s tags as well as other readers’ tags.

Social bookmarks manager
Del.icio.us (http://del.icio.us/) is a social bookmarks manager. It allows its users to easily add web pages to personal collections, tag them, and share their collections with others. This is quite similar to Wists (http://www.wists.com/) which allows users to bookmark pages visually via a small image and summary, which can then be shared with other users.

Automated folksonomy tools
TagCloud (http://www.tagcloud.com) searches RSS feeds you specify, extracts keywords from the content, and lists them according to prevalence within the RSS feeds.

Do you know?
If you need a portion of a journal or a book not available in the Library, you can use the document procurement service. This fee-based service is open to faculty, staff, final year and graduate students, as well as associate members.

Staff may submit their request via Stafflink (Resource Request – Library Services). Payment may be made by cash, or through the research account or teaching vote (approval from Divisional Head needed). For an article less than 50 pages long, fees vary from $10 to $30. Turnaround time ranges from one to four weeks, depending on the individual suppliers.

For full details, please refer to http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Library/Services/docrequest.htm or call (65) 6790 4691.
**ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

**Visitors to the Library**

16 Aug 2005
Dr Stuart Ferguson, Director of Centre for Information Studies and Senior Lecturer (Information Management & Librarianship), Charles Sturt University, Australia.

18 Aug 2005
Ms Annabelle Acedera, Director of University Libraries, Xavier University, and Ms Lanie Sales, Director of Libraries, Ateneo de Davao University, The Philippines.

22 Aug 2005
A 3-member delegation led by Air Marshal Quazi Javed Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Air University, Pakistan.

6 Sep 2005
A 17-member delegation from Northern Academic Library Association, Vietnam.

8 Sep 2005
A 35-member delegation from University Technology Malaysia Library and Librarians Association of Malaysia (Southern Group).

26 Sep 2005
Mr Hong Chang Soo and Ms Shin Myung Kum, librarians of Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST Digital Library), Republic of Korea.

5 Oct 2005
Mr John Hickok, Librarian/Instructor, California State University Fullerton, USA.

11 Oct 2005
Ms Jiraporn Tikkaew, Ms Pacharin Chantong and Ms Amornrat Nakaro, lecturers of Phuket Rajabhat University, Thailand.

17 Oct 2005
Mr Stephen Barnett, Liaison and Information Literacy Coordinator, Charles Darwin University, Australia.

10 Nov 2005
Mr Andrew Wells, University Librarian, and Ms Denise Quay, UNSW Asia Project Librarian, University of New South Wales, Australia.

11 Nov 2005
Prof Ahmet Çelik, Library Director, Hacettepe University, Turkey, and Ms Ambika Raghavan, Senior Reference Librarian, NLB.

16 Nov 2005
A 20-member delegation from the “Celebrating Knowledge: The Power and Potential” conference organised by NLB.

2 Dec 2005
A 19-member delegation led by Ms Uraiwan Viputtikul, Acting Director, Library and Information Center, Mahidol University, Thailand.

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**Celebrating Libraries**

**Share your story and win great prizes!**

Wendy Ong :: wendy@ntu.edu.sg
Head, Library Promotion Division

“Celebrating Libraries” is a nation-wide campaign organised by the National Library Board (NLB) to solicit story contributions from people on how they have benefited in concrete, tangible ways from using libraries (of all kinds) or from consulting librarians.

Send in an inspiring and meaningful story between now and end April 2006. You may see it published in a book which highlights and captures the significant roles libraries and librarians play in the lives of Singaporeans.

Every submission will be presented with a gift (a beautiful metallic bookmark) and will stand a chance to win attractive prizes sponsored by Singtel and Carlton Hotel.

NTU Library is one of the participating libraries supporting this event, along with other university and polytechnic libraries in Singapore. You can pick up an entry form from the various libraries on campus or submit your entry online via NLB’s website http://www.nlb.gov.sg/celebratinglibraries.

In the next three months, library ambassadors, including Mr Adrian Tan (Lawyer, Director of Drew & Napier and Author), Mr Anuar Othman (Poet and Writer), Mr Kenny Yap (Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Qian Hu Corporation), Mr Wong Kim Hoh (Features Editor of The Straits Times) and Ms A Pavalakantham (Presenter & Senior Broadcast Journalist at MediaCorp News), will be giving a series of talks at NLB libraries to bring their stories to life for the public.


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**Do you know?**

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**Library instructional programmes**

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**InfoBuzz**

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**Activities & Events**

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5 Dec 2005
Ms Chommanaad Boonaree, Head of Division of Information Science, and Ms Angkana Promruksa, Head of Division of Mass Communication, Mahasarakham University, Thailand.

7–8 Dec 2005
Mrs Pennapa Thammakhan and Ms Benjarat Supa-udomlerk, Information Specialists, Maejo University Central Library, Thailand.

12 Dec 2005
Prof Te Jen Su, Director of Library and Professor (Dept of Electronic Engineering), National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences, Taiwan, with Dr Hans Wu, Associate Professor, Southern Taiwan University of Technology, and two research students.

22 Dec 2005
A 4-member delegation led by Ms Jefrina Jamaluddin, Senior Librarian, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Searching is a breeze
Ng Chay Tuan :: ctng@ntu.edu.sg
Head, Project & Development Division

Are you clueless about how to research your paper? A new search engine is coming your way by the first quarter of 2006!

Enter a keyword and the federated search engine will search over 20,000 journal titles for articles containing that keyword. The search taps into resources subscribed by the Library and draws relevant contents across multiple databases. Hence, users can breeze through favourite e-resources like Web of Science, Elsevier ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, EBSCOHost, ProQuest, ABI/Inform, etc from a single point, a common platform, and with a single stroke.

Resources related to the same subject have been grouped together to facilitate subject searching. To retrieve articles on a particular business topic, users only need to search business databases and exclude non-business related databases from the search. Simply click against relevant subject groupings.

Search results retrieved from various databases are consolidated and presented on a page with consistent display. Users experience the same look and feel even though the retrieved hits are from different databases. Also, the number of hits on the results list returns no more than 25 from each database – keeping results manageable.

Users will know precisely on real-time basis, what is being retrieved from which database and can choose to terminate the search on a particular database if it is taking longer than desired.

With a list of hits, users may proceed with either reading the full-text articles or requesting for documents to be purchased. Links to these articles will be provided. When the full-text is not available, it will inform users if a print copy is available at NTU library or other local library. Users may then request for document delivery service for articles that are unavailable at NTU.

Advanced users can search a title, author or keyword of an article across popular databases. Instead of repeating the search on each database, select the databases to search on and the federated search engine will execute it simultaneously. Save the search. When users next execute it, it will retrieve any new articles that have since been added.

With this new search engine, finding resources for your projects and research will be quick and easy.

Hunting law
Baharudin Bin Nordin :: baharudin@ntu.edu.sg
Subject Librarian for Business Law, IT and Operations Management

Westlaw International (WI) is Thomson Legal and Regulatory’s (TLR) premiere online research tool for the international legal community. It provides quick and easy access to West’s vast collection of statutes, case law materials, public records, and other legal resources, along with current news articles and business information.

WI merges essential, authoritative information resources with technical innovation by combining materials from renowned content providers such as Sweet & Maxwell, ELLIS Publications, Lawbook Co, Carswell and West Group. WI offers users a unique collection of trustworthy legal and regulatory information.

Users are able to search worldwide legal information in an efficient manner – retrieving relevant and current results specific to professional needs. This database enables legal professionals to retrieve cases, statutes, and other documents from TLR’s vast global library of legal and business materials.

An art lover’s dream...
Kasthuri Anandasivam :: anandasivam@ntu.edu.sg
Head, Art Design & Media Library

Grove Art Online brings you closer than ever to everything related to art, from the most obscure artist to the most known paintings and abstracts. It is now available online at our Library. Since 1998, the entire print edition of all 34 volumes of The Dictionary of Art, and The Oxford Companion to Western Art, stocked with graphics and text, have been available online – with the added benefits of a fully searchable text, thousands of image links and constant updates.
A Word from the University Librarian

The library – a powerful tool at your disposal

In a letter to Robert Hooke, Issac Newton wrote, “If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants”.

Apart from paying tribute to his predecessors, Newton was also expressing the essential nature of science and scholarship – that it is highly dependent on cumulated knowledge. Progress in any field, whether in the sciences or humanities, would be excruciatingly slow or impossible if one has to start from first principles all the time.

The body of knowledge cumulated in each field and profession is the foundation and dynamic treasure store that we dip in and exploit to further our learning and research pursuits. Apart from using this cumulated store to teach ourselves, we constantly make reference to it to support our arguments and theories, use it as short cuts for explanations, to stake claims on being first in an intellectual territory and establish reputation in a field.

Libraries have been providing access to this cumulated knowledge ever since they came into existence at the dawn of recorded knowledge. Libraries are therefore the memory store of civilisation. In addition, libraries have developed tools such as catalogues, indexes and databases and provided services to help people find and use the cumulated knowledge store effectively. Today, modern technology, particularly information and communication technology, has given libraries powerful tools and means to help people access this knowledge base.

For example, NTU Library provides our users with access to a deep and wide range of cumulated knowledge through print, electronic and networked resources that we purchase or subscribe to. We also have tools, such as our OPAC and a variety of databases to help users search and gather information from all these resources. In addition, we give every user a powerful tool (EndNote) to organise the information materials that they find and build their own store of information. To help users navigate the complexity of the information world and maximise the use of cumulated knowledge, our librarians provide instruction, advisory and reference services. Lastly, we provide a conducive environment and effective infrastructure for users to use these resources effectively.

The Library is therefore a powerful tool that everyone can use to increase their learning capability. It is not just a place, or a collection of books, or a network of information resources. It is an integrated system of resources, tools and services that enables one to benefit from the human knowledge base cumulated over time.

Since time immemorial, libraries have been organised for the independent learner. They do not prescribe what we should learn (as in a school curriculum) but instead allow us to construct our own learning paths and interest. Good libraries also never stay the same and are constantly changing to reflect the state of art of human knowledge. It is therefore the natural place to keep up-to-date and well-informed.

As learning methods move more towards independent learning and problem-based approaches, it would be important for all of us to look at the library as a powerful tool to help us explore, discover and understand the world better. To do this, we must learn to use the library effectively. As a first step, we need to be aware of the myriad of resources that is now at our disposal, particularly at NTU Library. A browse through our Library website will show the vast extent of information resources available to cater to all needs.

You can also attend our workshops and training sessions to gain more insights into how to use the Library as a tool. Or you can simply speak to any of our librarians to discover more about how the Library can help in your study and research. Our subject librarians and their contact numbers and email addresses are listed on our website.

Make full use of the Library today. Do not wait until you are about to graduate or leave the University before you discover the Library. There are very few institutions in Singapore that provide the vast amount of information for your use as we do.

Choy Fatt Cheong

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Grove Art Online offers:

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• Related articles list at the end of every entry
• Embedded images within the text – accessed via links after the article
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To access Grove Art Online, go to the Alphabetical listing (A–Z) of databases at:
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/lib/collections/db/alpha1.htm

For more information, kindly contact the subject librarians for ADM at:
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