We live in an age of escalating information richness. However, the sheer weight of information available from accessible electronic sources, often coupled with poor search facilities and ineffective searching skills on the part of information users, is causing an information overload. It has thus become an imperative to prepare our staff and students to be effective and empowered information users. Empowerment here is defined as providing information users with the necessary skills to explore, find and exploit information that they need for work, study, research and leisure.

Information literacy and information seeking skills need to be placed at the forefront of learning in educational establishments. NTU Library recognises this fact and aims to promote the effective use of information, information sources and information systems through a series of library instructional programmes. These include library orientations for NTU academic staff, library workshop sessions for graduate students, library research sessions for undergraduate students to help them source for information related to their assignments or projects, and resource-specific instructions targeting academic, research and administrative staff.

More could be done of course towards achieving our aim. In this regard, we would like to invite classroom faculty to work with us in offering or incorporating information resources and information seeking skills into their course programmes. We are open to collaborative projects and seminars with faculty to help build a framework for librarian-faculty partnerships with the immediate aim of creating, educating and maintaining an information-literate populace of students well-schooled in advanced principles of information access.

Information fuels knowledge. Information overload stalls knowledge creation. Empowering our information users with information seeking skills will help raise their comfort level in accessing, evaluating and using information rich resources. Information thus used will lead to the creation of new knowledge or their integration into an existing body of knowledge.
I/B/E/S (Institutional Brokers Estimate System) provides investment professionals with a global database of analysts’ forecast earnings per share, cash flow per share, dividends per share, and net profits per share plus additional measures such as sales, EBIT, EBITDA and recommendations for listed companies worldwide. It covers over 18,000 companies in over 60 countries. Its contributors include more than 7,000 financial analysts from over 1,000 institutions.

I/B/E/S data sets & platform availability

On Active Express
Current data items at:
- Company (detailed) Level
- Consensus Level
- Aggregate Level

On Datastream
Current and Historical data items at:
- Consensus Level
- Aggregate Level

Detailed History on CD-ROM
Historical data items at:
- Company (Detailed) Level

Active Express

The I/B/E/S Active Express is a fully integrated equity workstation, joining I/B/E/S quality analyst estimates with real-time notes, company fundamentals, user created data and much more, all on one easy-to-use platform.

Active Express is designed to give you the information and tools you need to make superior investment and allocation decisions.

NTU Library’s subscription to Active Express provides access to 4 modules.

They are:
(a) Single Stock Report
(b) Global Aggregates Report
(c) Portfolio
(d) Reports

(a) Single Stock Report

This report provides a comprehensive collection of forecast data, including P/E ratios, growth forecasts, surprise, and research for thousands of companies worldwide. Figures 1 and 2 respectively provide samples of the Overview and Detail Estimates panels available in the single stock report module.
(b) Global Aggregates Report

This report provides comprehensive earnings estimates, including EPS, P/E ratios and estimate revisions for the most widely accepted and referenced indices around the world. Please see Figure 3 for a sample of this report.

Figure 3: Aggregate table report of Standard & Poors 500 Index

(c) Portfolio

This module allows you to monitor important information such as estimate revisions, earnings surprises, price changes and recent research for a list of companies you create. In Figure 4, the Overview panel of the Portfolio module is shown. The portfolio (US Marketing List) created is compared to a benchmark, in this case, S&P 500 OPER. You may select your own benchmark in the Portfolio module.

Figure 4: Overview panel of Portfolio module

(d) Reports

The Reports module allows you to identify investment opportunities and potential warning signals through a number of company, industry, sector and country comparison reports. The reports in this module are organised into folders (see Figure 5 on page 4). Before selecting a report, you should first select your universe. You may focus on expectational characteristics of stocks in your portfolio or screen the universe for companies with possible growth potential. This module also allows you to create your own custom reports by selecting your own data items.

Availability

Active Express is available at Level 2, Lee Wee Nam Library.
I/B/E/S on Datastream

Datastream provides current and historical I/B/E/S data of individual stocks at consensus level.

I/B/E/S Global Aggregates provide bottom-up earnings forecasts and related data for countries and major international indices. The earnings expectations of all stocks in an index or country are taken to create weighted forecast earnings, growth rates and P/E estimates for each market. In short, stock level forecasts are aggregated into market and proprietary index level global aggregates.

Datastream allows charts to be plotted using programs in DSWINDOW. An example of a chart comparing the revisions ratio (I/B/E/S Singapore revisions: up-down/total) against the Singapore Straits Times Index is shown in Figure 6.

I/B/E/S datatypes in Datastream is available at Level 2, Lee Wee Nam Library. Only NTU staff and students can access Datastream.

I/B/E/S Detailed History

(analyst-by-analyst historical earnings estimates)

The Daily Detail Earnings Estimate History is a database containing historical forecast changes for international & US companies. This database has been built primarily from monthly detail files archived over the years. It encompasses earnings estimates from approximately 600 brokerage houses and 4000 individual analysts.

It is also available at Level 2, Lee Wee Nam Library.

National Construction Codes

(Canada)

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The National Building Code of Canada (NBC) provides minimum requirements for health, life safety and structural sufficiency in new buildings. It covers fire protection, occupant safety and accessibility, structural design, environmental separation, heating, ventilating and air-conditioning, plumbing services, safety measures at construction and demolition sites, housing and small buildings.

The National Fire Code of Canada (NFC) provides minimum fire safety requirements for buildings, structures and areas where hazardous materials are used. The scope of this code includes building and occupant fire safety, indoor and outdoor storage, flammable and combustible liquids hazardous processes and operations, fire protection equipment, and fire emergency systems in high buildings.
Searching

This database:

- Supports keyword or phrase searching:
  To search, enter a phrase e.g. “Fasteners for Sheathing and Subflooring” in the FIND box located at the bottom of the screen or you can copy & paste any text of the book to the search panel.

- Enables users to repeat & modify past searches using the search history dialog

- Provides hot text link (in red) which when clicked upon will provide additional information related to the text you are browsing

- Contains icons that open up equations, graphics or tables in another window

Saving & Closing

To save the content of the book, simply select the text and click COPY on the menu bar, then paste onto another application, e.g. MS Word.

Due to the limited licensing rights, users are reminded to close the database program first before exiting iGEMS and to close all the collections and applications by choosing FILE/CLOSE and then FILE/EXIT. Failure to do so will prevent other users from logging in successfully.

Access

The National Construction Codes database is available via iGEMS at http://www.ntu.edu.sg.

To access, click on MY PORTAL to login and then select LIBRARY RESOURCES/DATABASES.

For more information or assistance, please contact our Information Desk, Lee Wee Nam Library, at 6790 6312 or e-mail us at resource1@ntu.edu.sg.
OSIRIS

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OSIRIS is a fully integrated public company database and analytical information solution produced by Bureau van Dijk. It provides financials, ownership, ratings, earnings and stock data for more than 22,000 publicly listed companies including banks and insurance firms, covering more than 120 countries. The period of coverage of companies varies. Data of some companies goes back to 15 years. The web version of this database is updated 52 times a year.

SEARCHING

There are many points of access for searching of company information in OSIRIS, for example, by geographic location, by ownership, by industry code, by activity description or by ratios. You may search the database using one or more search criteria. On the opening screen of the database (Figure 1) the search criteria is shown in the left-hand column and the tabs across the top of the screen provide options for displaying and analysing search results.

You will get the report (as shown in Figure 2) on Creative Technology if you do a search by company name.

The Analyses module offers four types of analysis. They are segmentation, group report, statistical analysis and peer analysis. OSIRIS also allows users to create their own report formats and report layout.

SAVING

Data may be exported in Excel, ASCII or RTF format.

ACCESSIBILITY

OSIRIS is available campus-wide via http://osiris.bvdep.com/ip or via iGEMS at http://www.ntu.edu.sg.

HELP

An online help manual <http://osiris.bvdep.com/ Osiris/help/helpOsiris_EN.htm> is available in this database.

For more information on OSIRIS, please call our Information Desk at 6790 6312 or email us at resource1@ntu.edu.sg.
Looking for free full text, useful and easily accessible online computer science literature? Here is one that matches your need, the NEC ResearchIndex, a free public service provided by NEC Research Institute. It is a scientific literature digital library that aims to improve the dissemination and feedback of scientific literature.

Using the ACI (autonomous citation indexing) system, it automatically creates a citation index from the papers located on the Web and links the indexed articles with cited works. What’s more, it provides citation statistics and links them to related documents, a useful service that complements commercial citation indices such as the Institute for Scientific Information’s Science Citation Index (SCI).

Topics

Topics covered in the database include agents, applications, architecture, artificial intelligence, audio & video compression, databases such as data warehousing, object-oriented, hardware, interface design, information retrieval, machine learning, networking, operating systems, programming, security, software engineering and the World Wide Web.

Data Format & Coverage

The articles are available in pdf and gif format for download; and data coverage spans across different material types including journals, papers presented at conferences & workshops, monographs, technical reports and even preprints. Currently, it is indexing about 400,000 documents.

Search Features

The NEC ResearchIndex currently uses boolean search syntax. Adjacent words default to one word proximity. A keyword search on “object oriented and ieee” will retrieve documents published by IEEE on the topic of object oriented. An author search using the initial and last name, e.g. D Coleman, will retrieve more relevant hits than using the full name.

Access


For further details, please enquire at the Information Desk, Lee Wee Nam Library or call 6790 6312.
CLJ Legal Network


This database provides up-to-date information of Malaysia’s legal system. It covers a complete collection of Malaysian law and regulations, case laws, procedures, forms, articles, directories, MCLJ publications, the Industrial Law Reports, the Legal Network Series and other legal information.

CLJ Legal Network claims to be the only legal site to offer members a complete legal library that can be used in court. Judgments available in this database date back to 1894. The CLJ Legal Network publishes every case it receives in digital format from the courts. All cases that are published by MCLJ has the same head notes and catchwords as in their printed version.

The Legal Network Series contains selected cases that are not published in MCLJ reports. There is also a section on Commonwealth cases where a fortnightly publication of summaries of cases in the Commonwealth is available. MCLJ publications include Current Law Journal, Current Law Journal (Supplementary Series) and the Industrial Law Reports.

Users may browse through the database, which is organized in a hierarchical manner, or they may search for specific information. Please note that the boolean operators “and” and “or” are + and / respectively. If you search for “murder and fraud”, it is taken as an exact phrase search. If you search for “murder + fraud”, then it will look for documents with the occurrence of both the words murder and fraud. A combination of keyword searching and field searching may also be used. For example, if we are looking for murder cases in 1999 or 2000, we may type in “murder” in the keyword field and “1999/2000” in the judgement date field.

There is a translator facility where terms commonly heard in the courts can be translated from English to Malay and vice versa. The Malaysian legal system is fully explained, covering the various courts of Malaysia, their locations, jurisdictions and hierarchies. There is also a listing of judges, some with their profiles appended; a comprehensive listing of lawyers in Malaysia by the Bar Council of Malaysia; and a listing of email addresses of Malaysian lawyers.
Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services

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Planning to start an e-business? Do you already have an e-business, but are finding ways to develop it further? Are you looking for relevant information - statistics, current events, political, macroeconomic and policy issues surrounding e-commerce development - and understanding their implications for your business strategy? Try out this database: Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services.

Figure 1: Home Page of Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services
**Who are they?**

*Strategic Intelligence* is an Asian-based research and new media company specializing in economic analysis and its application to business strategies. The principal focus of the company is on the impact of the information economy on Asia and its implications for businesses in the region. It is targeted at top policy makers, advisers and CEOs of companies. Apart from in-house research, members of the Club of Asia, which consists of prominent members of the academic community in Asia, offer strategic insights into the future directions of Asia’s economies, politics, business environments and markets.

**What are the types of reports available in Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services?**

There are four main types of reports in Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services:

**Statistics**  
Quarterly statistics and forecasts are available for countries such as Singapore, Taiwan, China PRC, South Korea, Indonesia and Hong Kong. Demographic statistics such as population, number of households, GDP, GDP percentage growth, per capita GDP, computer literacy rate and total internet population are available. Other types of statistics include individual connectivity information, enterprise connectivity information, e-commerce (B2C and B2B) revenues and transactions.

**Monitor**  
Two to three analysis bulletins are posted weekly on e-business events and emerging trends in Asia.

**Radar**  
These are monthly reports on Asia’s e-commerce environment. Reports cover the macroeconomic and political outlook, infrastructure landscape, the internet marketplace (B2C and B2B) and a detailed statistical table with past and forecast data.

**Vision**  
These are quarterly analysis reports which define Asia’s e-commerce markets. Based on extensive proprietary research, the reports provide analysis on how trends and events impact businesses and their implications on business strategies. Each report is between 50 to 100 pages in length.

On-Demand Insight Reports are also available on an ad-hoc basis.

**How do I access Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services?**

Access is possible from any PC within the NTU intranet via the iGEMS portal at [http://www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg). Please click on “My Portal”, then click on the option “Databases” in the drop-down menu for “Library Resources”. Next click on “S”. Look for “Strategic Intelligence Advisory Services”, and click on the “Click here to launch” hyperlink just beneath the name of the database. Follow the instructions on the next screen, and you should be able to access the database. If you are prompted to download the Citrix software, please click on “yes”.

**Who are they?**

Operations and Knowledge Management. Key industries covered include Financial Services, Retail, Utilities, Transport & Logistics, and Hi-Tech Manufacturing, as these industries are most affected by e-commerce.

Sector analysis include the broad areas of Policy & Regulation, Socio/Demographic Environment, Regional Competitive Strategy, and Distribution & Channel Management. An analysis is usually given on the firm structure, partners and competitors, macroeconomic environment, industrial policy implications, enterprise strategy and consumer adoption trends.

**Modes of Access**

Browsing is the most common mode of access, but specific searches of the archives are also possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Information Desk at 6790 6312, or email resource1@ntu.edu.sg.
A well-known international abstracting and indexing tool designed for library professionals and other information specialists, LISA is no stranger to librarians and students of information studies.

It currently abstracts over 440 periodicals from more than 68 countries and in more than 20 different languages with coverage from 1969 onwards. The database size stands at over 228,940 records with fortnightly updates of more than 500 records added in each update.

Subject areas covered include: artificial intelligence, book reviews, CD-ROMs, computer science applications, information centres, information management, information science, information storage, information technology, Internet technology, knowledge management, librarianship, libraries and archives, library management, library technology, library use and users, medical information, online information retrieval, publishing and bookselling, records management, telecommunications, technical services, and the World Wide Web.

ACCESS

The database is available campus-wide via CSA IDS (CSA Internet Database Service) at http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/etext/users/csalisa.htm and via iGEMS. More details can be found at http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/collections/db/ABC-1564.htm.

SEARCH MODES

LISA offers a Quick Search function for a simple initial search and an Advanced Search function for greater control over complicated search criteria.

A Thesaurus Search mode is also available for searching controlled terms. A thesaurus provides a standard language or set of terms with which to describe a subject area. When doing a search it indicates which terms to use to retrieve the maximum number of relevant documents.

ONLINE HELP

Comprehensive search reference aids are available under Help. They cover almost every aspect of the use of the database. Always refer to them when in doubt.

For further assistance in using LISA, please contact Information Desk, Lee Wee Nam Library at 6790 6312 or send an email to resource1@ntu.edu.sg.
Library Book Deposit service is now available at South Spine

Three Library Book Deposit bins have been located at Car Park B, one level below the Main Lecture Theatre.

Guidelines for book deposit returns:
1) Returns are acceptable for all NTU Library materials except:
   a) Reserve (red-spot) books,
   b) AV materials (such as video cassettes, CD-ROMs, VCDs, LDs),
   c) CDs,
   d) Diskettes,
   e) Books accompanied by CDs / diskettes.
2) Returned items are to be placed in bins according to their call numbers. If the assigned bin is full, please return the item in any of the other bins.

Request form for ChannelNTU Publicity

The request form for student bodies to publicise events in ChannelNTU is now available in the public folders. NTU student bodies who wish to publicise their forthcoming events such as seminars, talks, concerts, performances, competitions or fairs, may submit their completed forms via email to library@ntu.edu.sg. A two working day turnaround time for the display of all submitted requests is required. The request form can be obtained from Public Folders/Student Forms and Procedures/Request Form for ChannelNTU Publicity.

ChannelNTU is a new medium for instantaneous transmission and dissemination of information relevant to NTU staff and students. For further enquiries, please call Ms Ng Chay Tuan at 6790 5211 or email library@ntu.edu.sg.

New title alerts from publishers are now available in iGEMS

This service allows staff to personalize new online subject catalogues they are interested to receive from the Library for book selection purposes. In addition, staff are able to select titles from the list and send their recommendations via iGEMS. For more details, please visit this website: http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/acq/NewTitle.htm.