

Proceedings of the
**ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY &
INFORMATION EDUCATION & PRACTICE 2006
(A-LIEP 2006)**

***Preparing Information Professionals for
Leadership in the New Age***

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Organized by

Division of Information Studies, School of Communication & Information,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

In collaboration with

Department of Information Science, Faculty of Computer Science and
Information Technology, University of Malaya,
and Nanyang Technological University Library

Edited by

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Preface

The *Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education & Practice* being held in Singapore in April 2006 is an exciting development in the history of library and information science (LIS) in the region. The conference reflects a growing awareness of the need for more networking, dialogue and collaboration among LIS educators and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region. There was an enthusiastic response to the Call-for-Papers, and 125 proposals were received. After a peer review process, 45 full papers, 45 short papers and 10 poster papers were accepted, and are published in these proceedings.

The papers cover a wide variety of topics and perspectives, including global and regional trends in LIS education and practice, quality and innovation in information services, professional development strategies, digital libraries and repositories, digital information services, information literacy, and many others. Together, they represent a wide range of issues that LIS researchers and professionals in the region are grappling with. The authors too exhibit great variety, coming from 20 countries, and ranging from senior professors and chief librarians to mid-career researchers/professionals to graduate students who are probably presenting their first international paper, all sharing their ideas and experiences from across the region. Though the focus is on Asia-Pacific, papers from the US, UK and Germany provide a global and intercultural perspective.

The LIS profession in Asia-Pacific has often looked to the West for ideas and leadership. LIS educators and professionals in the region are often unaware of valuable developments, innovations and expertise in neighboring countries. Each country in Asia-Pacific has its own history of LIS education and research, shaped by socio-economic, political and cultural factors. As a result, LIS education and research in Asia-Pacific exhibit a wide variety of characters, flavors and areas of strength. There is much we can learn from one another. This conference will allow each country to tell its story of LIS, and facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing. The essence of their accounts is captured in these proceedings.

We hope that the conference will prove to be a landmark event that will stimulate even greater collaboration and cooperation among LIS educators and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region as well as globally. To promote resource sharing among LIS educators and researchers after the conference, a Web portal for LIS education called LISEA (Library & Information Science Education in Asia), accessible at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sci/lisea>, is being developed jointly by the Division of Information Studies, Nanyang Technological University, and the Department of Information Science, University of Malaya.

An international conference such as this needs the support of many people across the world. We take this opportunity to thank the program committee members who worked hard to publicize the conference and review the papers, and to the authors who put in their best effort to write interesting and good-quality papers. We would also like to thank the many sponsors. To the following exhibitors, thank you for your support: *National Library Board*, *Cyberian Ventures* and their partners; *CCH Asia Pte Ltd*; *Civica/Spydus*; *Elsevier*; *Emerald Group Publishing*; *IGroup*; *LexisNexis*; *ProQuest*; *SirsiDynix*; *Swets Information Services*; and *Thomson Learning*. We are also appreciative to *Kinokuniya* and *World Scientific* for their contributions of gifts to the participants, and to the *Goethe-Institut Singapur* for sponsoring two speakers.

*Christopher Khoo
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