New learning commons at Lee Wee Nam Library

Regular visitors to the Lee Wee Nam Library would have noticed that we have been making incremental changes to improve the ambience and facilities in this popular location on campus in the last few years. This year, we opened up the front entrance to improve traffic, rearranged the layout in Level 2 and created a large quiet sanctuary on the 5th Level.

We will be introducing another significant change, this time at Level 2 in February of 2010. The area preceding the bank of computers will be redesigned as a small experimental Learning Commons. The Commons is an area designed to facilitate and enhance students’ group learning activities. Students will enjoy working together using various configurations of computers and equipment. For example, your group can go to one of the pods and use the smart board to discuss and work on your project or assignment. The interactive smart board can be used like an enlarged touch screen where you can capture your discussion or use it for mock presentations before the real thing in your classes. The seats will be flexible within the pod to suit your purpose. There will be 3 pods with smart boards and another 3 with smaller touch screens.

A small Recording Room at the end of the Commons will provide you with an enclosed space to engage in small scale audio or video recording quickly and conveniently. The Recording Room will be equipped with fairly good AV recording equipment, a green screen and chroma key software for professional looking results. Or you could use the room to make a simple high quality podcast.

The main part of the Commons will feature 2-screen and 3-screen PC stations on custom-designed work benches. The multi monitors will provide you with bigger screen real-estate and enable you to open up more applications all at one go. It is fun and productive at the same time.

We will also be introducing digital newspapers. Users can flip the pages and read the digital edition of The Straits Times and other digital newspapers on large touch screen LCD panels. These can

1-2. A Word From the University Librarian
- New Learning Commons at Lee Wee Nam Library

2-3. Do You Know?
- Checking out library books is now faster!
- bX recommender: citation recommendations based on usage data
- Library’s New Database Pages

4-5. InfoBuzz
- Can you copyright food?
- Help! I need photos!
- Business librarians share 5 ways to increase blog visits

6-7. Resources
- How to look for articles that have cited a book?
- Your springboard into a whole new world of words
- New York Review of Books at the library

7-8. Snapshots
- 52 Projects, 1 Amazing Collection of WKWSCI Class 2009 Final Year Projects
- New Staff

Editorial Committee
Catherine Tan
Phoebe Lim
Wong Chi May Esther
Frank Seah

Online version and archives at www.ntu.edu.sg/library/pages/xpress.aspx

Email library@ntu.edu.sg
also be used for e-books and other new media. All the other libraries on campus will also be equipped with one interactive touch screen panel.

Lastly, a video wall between the 2 banks of pods provides a common area to explore many digital resources and facilities provided by the Library. Sound domes from the ceiling will project the sound from the video wall to the seats in front and minimize noise in the area. You can use the wall to explore and learn about the use of various databases and e-resources provided by the Library. Short presentations will also be scheduled to introduce users to interesting topical issues.

The mini Learning Commons will help the Library understand better the needs and preference of students in group learning. Observation and feedback gathered from its use will help us plan useful and attractive learning space in our future library buildings.

The implementation of this Learning Commons is supported by the Cool Campus Initiative coordinated by CITS. Planning and implementation of the Commons was undertaken by a team of Library staff.

Other projects that will see fruition in the early part of 2010 include the new Library Instructional Hub which will provide more places for library classes. There will also be some reconfiguration of spaces in the Business Library, including the creation of an information lounge. The Humanities & Social Sciences Library will be setting up a small outdoor reading area in the “courtyard”, complete with umbrellas, fans, lights, power points for notebook PC users and support for wireless printing.

We hope that all these new and exciting spaces will enrich your learning experience and make the Library a memorable and conducive place to visit and stay.

Aword From The University Librarian

Checking out library books is now faster!

You no longer need to open a book when using self-check machines.

Follow 4 easy steps to enjoy the convenience that RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology brings:

Step 1: Swipe your staff or student card.

Step 2: Place one book in the V cradle. Do not open the book.

Step 3: Remove book after the item has been checked out.

Step 4: Press for Receipt.
bX recommender: citation recommendations based on usage data

We are familiar with Amazon Book Search’s recommendation services. They tell us what other items have been frequently bought together with the searched item. They also tell us what other customers have bought.

These recommendations come from data mining the purchasing patterns of Amazon’s customers. This form of data mining is now available for scholarly communication.

bX Recommender Service

The bX Recommender taps into the power of the networked scholarly community to generate recommendations based on article usage. Where Amazon recommends books and other items sold on the site, bX Recommender Service recommends other scholarly journal articles.

Articles are recommended based on consolidated usage data gathered from research communities around the world. The system analyzes numerous transactions performed by users from research institutions worldwide as well as link resolver usage logs.

bX Recommender Service is available in ezSearch, the Library’s federated search service that allows you to search across multiple databases.

Access
Login to ezSearch at http://ezsearch.ntu.edu.sg
1. Do a Quick Search by entering your search terms.
2. Click on the SFX icon beside an article that you are interested in the list of search results returned.
3. If there are recommendations for that article, you would be able to view them.

Key Benefits
- Recommended articles in the same subject area are highlighted.
- Recommended articles may be downloaded seamlessly to a bibliographic management software.
- Ease of access to related articles on a familiar user interface.

Library’s new database pages

One of the frequently asked questions the Library receives has to do with the choice of databases to use for a particular search.

The Library subscribes to over 196 electronic databases covering a range of subjects in Business, Chinese Studies, Computer Science, Engineering, Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences. Even librarians sometimes find it difficult to remember what each of these databases has and the features available.

This is where an information page helps. It is a page containing key information about a database. We call them iPages for short. They can be accessed by clicking on the icon next to the database titles on the database webpage (http://www.ntu.edu.sg/databases).

They provide a description of the database resource, the publisher, the subject coverage, frequency of updates and any related information.

We have just added some enhanced features: social bookmarks, embedded instructional videos and RSS feeds.

You are welcome to email your feedback to ltd@ntu.edu.sg.
Some time ago, Malaysian Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Ng Yen Yen claimed that dishes like the Hainanese chicken rice, chilli crab, nasi lemak, laksa and bak kut teh are Malaysian creations that have been ‘hijacked’ by other countries and declared her intentions to “lay claim” on these dishes (The New Paper, 22 Sept 2009). Her action drew the ire of many netizens from both sides of the Causeway. While Datuk Seri Ng has since clarified that “Malaysia does not intend to patent local dishes, but wants Malaysians to know their origins” (Today, 24 Sept 2009), her declaration has brought up an interesting point – Can you copyright food?

For most of us, our knowledge of the Copyright Act is probably limited to the fair use portion which allows photocopying of works amounting to one chapter or not more than 10% of the total number of pages of a published work for research or private study.

**What exactly is copyright and what does it protect?**

Copyright is the term used to describe the bundle of rights that is granted to the author of the copyright work, giving him the exclusive rights to publish, perform, reproduce, communicate and adapt his work (Ng-Loy & Tan, 2009; IPOS, 2007). The Copyright Act (Cap 63), passed in 1987, protects the following: “original literary, dramatic, artistic and musical works, sound recordings, films, broadcasts and cable programmes, and the format of published editions of literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works” (Woon, 1995; p147). While copyright protects the expression or form of ideas, the ideas themselves are not protected (IPOS, 2007).

So, coming back to our original question, can you copyright food? From the definition above, it would be impossible to copyright chicken rice or the recipe for the dish. What about patenting the recipe? It is likely to be rejected by the patent office, according to lawyer Bryan Tan of Keystone Law Corporation, as the name “chicken rice” is too generic and popular (The Straits Times, 19 Sept 2009). Can Malaysia “lay claim” to these hawker centre staple? It will be like Italy trying to lay claim on pizza and Germany on hot dog, both synonymous to and ubiquitous in America.

So, for now, we need not worry about ordering a bowl of spicy coconut soup noodle or that plate of rice cooked with chicken broth; they are still laksa and chicken rice.

To find out more about copyright and intellectual property, visit the Business Library which has a good collection on these topics. Law related titles are located at Level B3 with call numbers starting with K. Most copyright and intellectual property titles have call numbers starting with K1401 and K1420.

You may also access the following databases (http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/databases):

- **Factiva** – for news reports on the topic
- **LawNet** – for legal information, legislation (including the Copyright Act) related to Singapore
- **CLJ Legal Network** – for Malaysian legislation and legal information

**References:**


Help! I need photos!

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Speeches by Martin Luther King, Winton Churchill and John F Kennedy were not accompanied by PowerPoint slides with wonderful visuals. Fast forward a few decades, presenting to a YouTube-Twitter audience with text-only slides will provide an excuse for them to tune out. Having arresting visuals help to maintain the attention of your audience and make your presentation memorable.

A popular site to obtain free photographs for non-commercial use is Free Foto (www.freerophoto.com).

It is a useful site where you are permitted to use any of its photographs for free as long as it is not for commercial use. A credit to © Ian Britton - FreeFoto.com is required. For online use, you have to acknowledge and place a link back to the website.

If you require a visual which has an Asian setting, OnAsia (www.onasia.com/nlb) is a site you should visit. Singaporeans, permanent residents, foreigners with FIN and National Library Board (NLB) members may access these photographs by signing up for an NLB Digital Account. The photographs are available for use in presentations by educators or students. For usage other than presentations, you need to seek OnAsia’s permission.

You may see a lot of sites offering royalty free images. As a word of caution, royalty free is not the same as free. These images need to be purchased. For a one-time flat fee, you are able to use these images for an unlimited number of times. Sites such as Corbis (www.corbis.com) and Gettyimages (www.gettyimages.com) provide royalty free images.

Blog visits
5 ways to increase
Business librarians share
info
12/30/09   9:34:40 AM

Blogs have become commonplace on the Internet as a way for people to share and interact with each other. NTU Library recognises that blogs can be utilized to share subject specific information and interact with our user communities. From 2007-2008, the Library created 7 subject library blogs.

Just because a blog is created does not mean visitors will come. Since October 2008, the business librarians have been experimenting with ways to attract and increase readership to their Business Blog. Here are 5 ways they have employed:

1. Related or Random Posts
Encourage readers to read more posts on the blog by highlighting related posts at the end of each article.

2. Hyperlinks within Posts
Include hyperlinks of previous relevant posts as contextual links within the current article. This encourages readers to pursue the topic by reading wider.

3. Excerpts on Front Pages
Instead of letting a long article dominate the homepage, only excerpts of posts are displayed. This allows a greater number of posts to be seen and keep the homepage uncluttered. Readers also have a wider choice of articles to choose to read from.

4. Search Function
Adding a search feature to the blog enables users looking for specific information to quickly search and locate relevant posts.

5. Social Networking Sites
The Business Library Blog publicises its blog content on a few social networking sites such as Facebook to attract more users to the blog.

Other subject libraries blogs:
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/collections/Pages/blogs.aspx
How to look for articles that have cited a book?

Looking for a list of journal articles that cited a particular journal article is a key search strategy when doing a literature search. It helps trace the development of an argument or a theory or a research trend.

Citation databases allow us to do that easily. Enter the details of the journal article and retrieve a list of Cited By articles.

What if we want to look for a list of journal articles that have cited a particular book?

Most electronic databases index journal articles not books. If we search for a book in a database, we will probably get no results.

However, some databases have made the references of journal articles that they index searchable. If the references contain books, these are retrievable by a Cited Reference Search.

Let us see how the Web of Science citation database perform when we try to find a list of articles that has cited this book:


This will return a list of references that have Putnam as authors and Bowl in the title field.

This result list can be confusing to the uninitiated. Bear in mind that we are searching for a list of references that have been created by many different authors. There are bound to be some errors and variations. Some variations include:

1. Author name is either in full or abbreviated
2. Year of publication – may vary due to different editions
3. Page numbers – may or may not appear

Go through the list and select those items that refers to the book. Then click Finish Search.

Other electronic databases that provide Cited Reference Search include Academic Search Premier and Communication & Mass Media Complete.

Step 1. Click on the Cited Reference Search tab to begin
Step 2. Enter the author’s last name and initials like this
   Cited Author: Putnam RD
   Or
   Cited Author: Putnam® (If you are not familiar with author’s initials)
Step 3. Enter the Cited Work (i.e. the title of the book)
   Cited Work: Bowl®

This next set of results retrieved is more interesting. These are the citing articles we are looking for. At this point we are also able to refine our search by subject area, document types, source titles, publication years and more (see left-hand bar).
Tired of being tied to the campus workstation while hunting down the perfect word to analyse in Collins Wordbanks for your term paper? You’d be glad to know that Wordbanks is now accessible online from the Library’s database page at http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/databases. Wordsmiths can pore through corpora for their corpus linguistics class from the comfort of home or hostel.

Using the Collins corpora, you can view samples of language as it is used in the real world and connections between their usage and the wider sociocultural context. Lexicographers use corpora to create new words in dictionary entries. If you’re a budding lexicographer in the making, this is a good starting off point to do your linguistic analysis.

Collins WordbanksOnline allows you to access real examples of vocabulary, word usage and grammar as they are used in context and carry out in-depth linguistic analyses for your research. You may also check the corpus for idioms, compounds, grammar problems, synonyms, spelling, British and American variants, and frequency statistics. Most of the sources in the corpus date from between 2001 and 2005 and the corpora are constantly being updated.

For further details, please refer to http://wordbanks.harpercollins.co.uk/Docs/Help/guide.html

Further Readings:

- **Contemporary corpus linguistics**
  Edited by Paul Baker.
  London ; New York : Continuum, c2009.
  Call No.: P128.C68C761

- **Language in the context of use: discourse and cognitive approaches to language**
  Andrea Tyler
  Call No.: P302.L287C

- **Cognitive sociolinguistics: language variation, cultural models, social systems**
  Gitte Kristiansen
  Call No.: P40.C676

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**Your springboard into a whole new world of words**

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**New York Review of Books at the Library**

A quick check with students and staff at NTU makes it obvious that the Internet is the main source of information for reviews on books, old and new. These reviews are convenient to find but author authenticity, biased ideas and quality of the content are some of the concerns users face.

The New York Review of Books (NYRB) to the rescue.

This journal emerged 50 years ago as a platform for the most interesting and qualified minds of that time to discuss current books and issues in depth. A brief overview of the journal convinces that the tradition still continues. The New York Times comments on why NYRB has been so successful - “stubborn refusal to treat books, or the theatre and movies, for that matter, as categories of entertainment to be indulged in when the working day is done.”

NYRB covers a wide range of topics in humanities and social sciences like literature, economics, cultural and social studies and politics through NYRB Classics, NYRB Collections, and the New York Review Children’s Collection.

**How to access**
1. Go to Library Homepage
2. Select E-Journals under Finding Information
3. Click on Titles A to Z
5. Click on the blue link
6. Login with your NTU network account and password if prompted

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52 projects, 1 amazing collection of WKWSCI class 2009 final year projects

In The Funeral, a typical Singaporean family finds itself torn by conflicting faiths of its family members at the passing of a loved one. This dramatic short film is the winner of the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information (WKWSCI) FYP Award 2009.

In the photojournalism project, Out of Sight, Out of Mind, the lives of mental patients housed in rehabilitation homes are captured through camera lenses. Take a look at this touching photo journal available in the Library (ACRC – Call No.: RA790.7.S56L732). An exhibition of this photo documentary was also held at Central Public Library, National Library Board from 4 – 16 July 2009. This exhibition will be coming to NTU Library in 2010.

Illustrated features The Indian Surrogate and One were repackaged and published as The Straits Times’ Saturday Special Reports on Wombs for Rent (13 June 2009) and One-Room Flats (21 June 2009).

These are but a few of the 52 interesting final year projects by WKWSCI students who graduated this year. The full collection of these works, complete with reports and creative works, are now available online in DR-NTU, the University’s Digital Repository.

NTU staff and students may access them easily:
1. Go to http://repository.ntu.edu.sg
2. Search by project title.
3. When prompted, enter your student/staff network account username and password.

New staff

Mee Ling graduated from NUS with a Mathematics degree with a strong liking for computer programming. She embarked on a career in information technology with the Port of Singapore Authority. After several years she left to become a full-time homemaker.

Mee Ling loves books and enjoys visiting libraries. She was a parent volunteer at her son’s school library. She liked the work and went on to pursue her Master degree in Information Studies at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

She joined the Library Technology & Systems Division in September 2009 as the Library’s webmaster. She is also the Art Librarian (Design) at the Art, Design & Media Library.

As a child, Mee Ling had wanted to be a teacher or a librarian. After a stint as a relief teacher, she realised that teaching was not her cup of tea. And she had forgotten about being a librarian.

In the photojournalism project, Out of Sight, Out of Mind, the lives of mental patients housed in rehabilitation homes are captured through camera lenses.