

Library Xpress

The evolution of our learning commons



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It was not long ago when a library was seen mainly as a large building that houses books and provides seating space for readers to consult and use the print collection. Libraries of old not only provided access to the great literature of every discipline but also quiet sanctuary space for deep thought, reflection and even serendipitous moments of discovery.

Then, gradually, beginning about two decades ago, libraries began to shift the centre of their collection towards non-print and electronic resources which necessitated a rush to equip library spaces with computers and other electronic gadgets. Today, the increasing use of the virtual space (or the cloud) in hosting information resources such as the journal literature and e-books reduced the need for users to come to the library physically to get access to valuable information resources. People can just sit at home, in the classroom and laboratory and in their favourite cafe and get the same digital resources as if they were sitting in the library.

One would, therefore, expect visits to libraries to decline drastically. And yet,

visitorship continues to rise in many academic libraries worldwide even as more e-journals and e-books become available remotely. In NTU libraries alone, more than 7,300 visits are recorded each day. Clearly, getting access to information is not the only reason that people are going to libraries. It would seem that physical library buildings are fulfilling other needs, particularly for students in a large campus like NTU.

Libraries that continue to be popular places for students on campus are also more likely to be those evolving and responding to changes in users' needs in a rapidly changing information landscape. The increasing availability and accessibility to information encourage a different mode of learning that is more collaborative and self-directed. As a result, many libraries gradually started to experiment with different types of spaces for their users to facilitate the new ways of teaching and learning. The main idea is creating a space that integrates essential services on campus, such as computing and library services, enabling students to engage in their learning tasks effectively and efficiently.



Art, Design & Media Library - 2007



Lee Wee Nam Learning Commons - 2010



Business Library Learning Commons - 2011



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



In the 1990s, the space became known generally as information commons, though many libraries branded their facilities using other attractive and unique names.

As information commons grew in popularity, libraries began to apply a more active and transformative approach to designing and configuring their successful library space. Information commons became known more as learning commons to signify a more holistic and integrated role. Besides providing computing equipment and their paraphernalia, a learning commons would include the following

- Special configured space for collaborative work
- Enhance technology support for individual work and use of resources
- High end equipment, software and tools for publication and creative work
- Reference and instructional services on information use
- Access to student learning services, such as writing assistance
- Collaboration with other campus services

Our Library has been developing creative spaces in the last few years to enhance the experience of our students in studying and learning. We started introducing some elements of a learning commons in ADM Library in 2007. For example, we introduced custom-designed moveable seats to allow students to configure their own learning and interaction space. The computer space was also configured to double up as an instruction space when necessary.

Last year in 2010, we opened the Lee Wee Nam Learning Commons which proved to be very popular with students. As described in a previous article in this newsletter, the learning commons has six collaborative pods with smart boards and large screens, several two and three screen

workstations, touch screen computers, a recording room and a viewing area with a video wall and sound domes.

After about one year of operation, we conducted a user survey in February this year involving 516 students over five days. We are gratified to know that more than 96% of users agreed that the Library plays an important role in providing learning commons on campus. The learning commons also attracted more users to the library as 63% of users told us that they come to the Library more often since they became aware of the learning commons. 77% agreed that the learning

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commons has improved the outcome of their assignments and project work and 76% think that the equipment, facilities and ambience in the learning commons has made their group work easier. The survey also found that for group work, 89% of users prefer to meet in the Lee Wee Nam Learning Commons rather than elsewhere.

We also learned from the survey that most users felt that there is a need for various types of assistance when they are working in groups in the Learning Commons. This include advice on writing reports and papers, on finding and using information, help from academic supervisors, assistance on the use of software and technical help on using equipment. There were also many suggestions on improving the learning commons which the Library will look into

actively in our effort to make the learning commons in Lee Wee Nam Library a great experience for our users.

In April 2011, we will open our second learning commons in Business Library. This will occupy a larger space, include more facilities that were found to be popular at Lee Wee Nam Library and incorporate new services. An interesting area will be the language learning pods which will provide software and equipment for users to improve their English language skill at their own time and pace. Another new area will be the Career Information Corner where relevant resources will be available to help students investigate their career options. We will work with the Career & Attachment Office (CAO) to make this space a useful addition to the excellent work that CAO is already doing. Beside these new additions, the Business Library Learning Commons will have larger learning pods with smart boards and a large number of computers, including two and three screen monitors. Students can also look forward to using the Mini-Cinema, Conference Board Room and the Business Lounge.

There is no doubt that libraries will continue to make innovative use of their buildings to continually meet the needs of their users as seen from the evolution of the library as chiefly accommodation space for the vast cumulated print literature to the current focus on helping students engage successfully in new approaches to learning.

Finally, though our learning commons are the most visible change, it is important to remember that they are one of many components of NTU library services. There are also equally exciting changes going on in other aspects of our library services which, when coordinated together, make the experience of using our library service a fruitful and enjoyable one.

Recording room at Lee Wee Nam Library Learning Commons



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Subject Librarian (Civil Engineering & Maritime Studies)

When you see an illuminated “ON AIR” red sign, you think of a recording studio at a TV station. This might come as a surprise to you but the Library has a recording room in Lee Wee Nam Library too.



This room allows users to hone their presentation skills for final year project presentations, public speaking or even rehearsing for a job interview.



You can do a voice or video recording of your presentation. Your video file can be edited with Pinnacle Studio that is already installed at the e-lectern as well as the computers at the Learning Commons.

If you are adventurous, try creating a chroma key production such as featuring yourself at the Great Wall of China or any other special backgrounds.



Sounds fun and exciting? Book the room either at the IT Helpdesk at Lee Wee Nam Library (Level 2) or online at <http://ntufbs.ntu.edu.sg>.

Improved exhibition area at Lee Wee Nam Library



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Librarian (Library Promotion)



Minor renovation works were carried out to upgrade the exhibition area at Lee Wee Nam Library in February 2011.

Our libraries attract many visitors each day and are ideal venues for holding exhibitions. Besides thematic book exhibitions, schools, student clubs and societies, administrative departments and external organizations have collaborated with the Library to bring quality exhibitions to the NTU community.

To hold exhibitions at our libraries, please email us at library@ntu.edu.sg

Check out current and upcoming exhibitions at the Exhibitions blog: <http://blogs.ntu.edu.sg/library/exhibitions>

New learning commons at Business Library



Alan Choy :: alanchoy@ntu.edu.sg
Librarian (Facilities Planning)



Discussion Pods

We hope these new collaborative tools, services and learning spaces in the Business Library will enhance your library experience.

Language Learning

Four unique acoustic rooms have been specially designed to cater to students' language learning needs. A collection of English language learning books and AV materials with specialised equipment and software are available.

Career Research

A variety of authoritative online resources on companies, industries and business news allows students to search for career and internship opportunities.

Cinema Room

A mini cinema equipped with soundproofing, much like the one at ADM Library, lets students watch videos in groups of up to 20 people.

Discussion Pods

Seven discussion pods have been equipped with an interactive whiteboard, a connected PC, a magnetic whiteboard and a glass writing surface to facilitate group discussions and presentations. The pods come with movable tables and chairs. Each pod caters comfortably for six users.

Common PCs

Ten new two-screen PCs are available for users. The tables and benches also have table-top power points for laptop users.

Business Lounge

The Database Room provides a comfortable and relaxing lounge-like place for users of the standalone business databases. New easy seating and a refreshment corner are also available.

Boardroom

The boardroom allows students to simulate a boardroom meeting in a corporate environment. It can also be used as a recording room.



Language Learning



Career Research



Reading newspapers with PressDisplay

Want to browse your favourite newspapers from around the world? NTU Library has subscribed to a new database called PressDisplay which provides access to newspapers and magazines with a simple user interface and easy-to-use navigation tools, displaying them in their original format and layout. You can 'flip' the papers as they are read, and zoom in on a particular paragraph or an image of interest.



It offers instant access to over 1500 publications from 86 countries in 41 languages. You will be able to find renowned newspapers such as International Herald Tribune, Business Times, Wall Street Journal (Asia), Today (Singapore), The Washington Post, The Guardian, The China Daily, South China Morning Post, Bangkok Post, Sydney Morning Herald, etc. Unfortunately, Straits Times and Lianhe Zaobao are unavailable in this database due to publisher requests but you will be able to read these papers in other NTU Library subscribed databases such as Factiva or LexisNexis.



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PressDisplay uses SmartNavigation software to process images and articles intelligently from newspaper files to create an interactive format. Readers can browse full content digital replicas of newspapers, listen to the news, post articles on social networks and translate supported titles in 12 major foreign languages.

Article rank ■ 6 Jan 2011 | National Post | BY ROB CRILLY
The Daily Telegraph, with files from National Post news services

ROSES FOR ACCUSED ASSASSIN; MOURNERS TOLD THEY'RE NEXT

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How to access:

Database page > Alphabetical listing > P > PressDisplay
Direct access: <http://library.pressdisplay.com.ezlibproxy1.ntu.edu.sg/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

Concurrent users:

7 (Please sign out after use so that others can access.)

Looking for local news?

Here are four ways you can find news from Singaporean publications:

1) Factiva

Factiva provides news and business information. Browse a 14-day archive of the latest The Straits Times issues or search for news articles from The Straits Times, Lianhe Zaobao, The Business Times, TODAY, The New Paper, MyPaper, Shing Min Daily or more. Coverage of The Straits Times starts from 1 July 1989 to current day.

2) LexisNexis Academic

LexisNexis Academic offers business and

legal information as well as news. Apart from The Straits Times, it also contains news from The Business Times and The Edge Singapore. You can access The Straits Times articles from 1 May 1992 through to current day.

3) Newslink

Newslink is an online newspaper archival service provided by Singapore Press Holdings (SPH). You can find PDFs, photographs and infographics of 16 papers published by SPH, which includes The Straits Times, The Business Times, The New Paper, Tabla, Berita Harian, Lianhe Zaobao, My Paper, Shin Min Daily News and more. The English archive starts from July 1989 while the Chinese archive

begins from January 1994. Searching and browsing of headlines and first paragraphs in Newslink is free of charge but charges per full-text article is S\$3.00 plus GST.

4) Newspaper.nl.sg

You can read local English newspapers published between 1831-2006 in the online archive offered by the National Library Board. You can also check information on newspaper titles belonging to the microfilm collection of the National Library at this site.

To access, go to our News databases at: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/databases>, then find Subject List > News.



Creativity is contagious. Pass it on.



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Communication Librarian (Advertising, PR, Broadcast & Film)

Many things have been said about creativity, what it is, what it is not, how to get it and how to kill it. I like what Albert Einstein said, "Creativity is contagious. Pass it on."

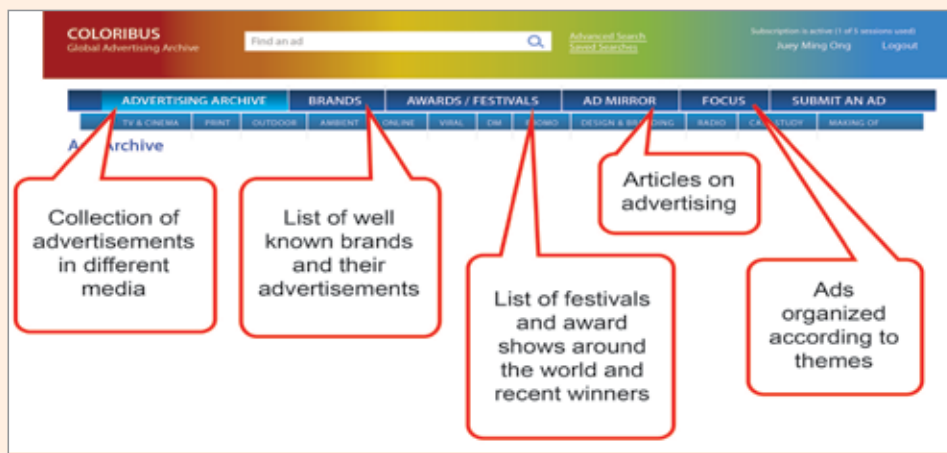
Creativity is crucial for those aspiring to be in the advertising trade. Here are a few library resources that pass creativity on. Aspiring creative directors, take note!

Coloribus

This online advertisement archive contains at least 2 million advertisements in different media and formats and it is growing.

Besides a large advertisement archive, there are also Brands, Awards / Festivals, Ad Mirror and Focus.

You can view the advertisements online or download the creative works for teaching and research use. Five users can access this resource at any one time. Access it at <http://blogs.ntu.edu.sg/library-resources/ppc/resources/databases>



Directory – new ideas in direct marketing

Directory is a print and online journal on direct marketing. It provides thoughtful editorials and showcases noteworthy marketing ideas.

You can get some free stuff directly from their website at <http://www.directnewideas.com>. But to get more, use the Library's subscription at http://www3.ntu.edu.sg/lib/collections/ej/ejournals_via_citrix.htm or borrow the print copy at the Asian Communication Resource Centre (ACRC). It is on the periodical shelves bearing this call number: HF5415.I26.D598N

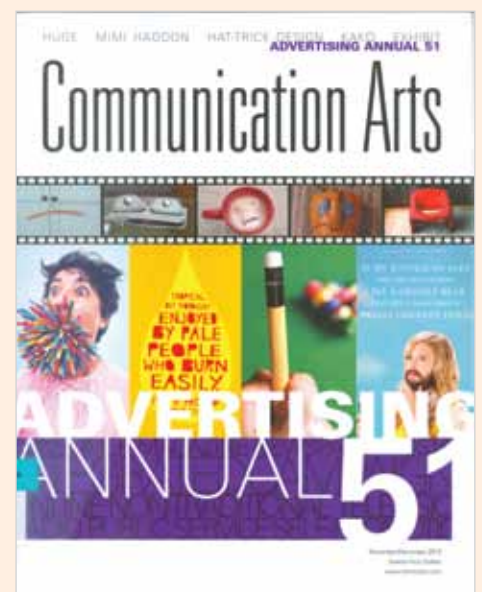
Lürzer's Archive Magazine

This bimonthly magazine showcases 70 new and outstanding print campaigns around the world. It includes interviews and features about 50 new TV spots. Come and get your dose of creativity from witty copywriting. Call number: HF5801.L653 on the ACRC's periodical shelves.



Communication Arts

Communication Arts is an important bimonthly trade journal covering key aspects of visual communications namely, Advertising, Illustration, Design, Photography and Interactive and most recently Typography. Each issue focuses on one key area, for example the Nov/Dec 2010 issue is Advertising Annual 51. It is a great source of inspiration and ideas with juried annuals, profiles, columns and detailed description of creative works.





Further Readings

Other ways to get inspired include ogling the winners of major advertising awards and their winning entries. Here's a list of award annuals in the Library:

My 4As book : 06.07

Call No: HF5816.M995

The baby show : CCA 2005

Call No: HF5816.B115

The Crowbar Awards

Call No: HF5816.C953

One show interactive

Call No: HF6146.I58N58

The AdFest 2005 awards annual :
Asia Pacific Advertising Festival

Call No: HF5816.A233

EFFIE awards

Call No: HF5816.E27

Advertising works 14

Call No: HF5808.G7A244

New York festivals 13

Call No: HF5801.N567 2005

London International Awards :
winners & finalists

Call No: HF5816.L847N 2003

Best of European design &
advertising

Call No: NC997.B561

Check the Library Catalogue
(<http://opac.ntu.edu.sg>) for
location and availability.

E-books now available in IEEE Xplore



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Engineering Librarian (Communication)

You can now access over 400 Wiley-IEEE e-books in **Electrical & Electronics and Engineering** through IEEE Xplore. This is in addition to the Library's current subscription of IEEE journals, conference proceedings and current standards. Up to 25 users can access IEEE Xplore at any one time.



2 ways to access

1. From IEEE Xplore

Go to <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/databases>

Click on I under the alphabetical list

Click on IEEE Xplore

Click on BOOKS

Browse by TITLE
or SUBJECT



2. From the Library Catalogue

From the Library Catalogue's Advanced Search

(<http://opac.ntu.edu.sg>), use "IEEE" and "e-book" in the SUBJECT fields as shown.

Add in keywords to retrieve books on your topic.



NTU Libraries is on YouTube



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Librarian (Instructional Services)

Besides social networking site Facebook, perhaps the other most common social media site used by youths in Singapore today would be video-sharing site YouTube. At some point or other, you must have viewed a video posted to YouTube, or you may have even posted a home-made video of your own.

Recognising the ubiquity of YouTube and its great potential for instruction, the Instructional Services Division of NTU Libraries has created the NTU Libraries YouTube Channel as a platform for delivering bite-sized tutorials, bringing library instruction to the desktop or even iPhone of our users.

For a start, the channel contains short video tutorials on the use of EndNote, a bibliographic management software supported by NTU Libraries, to supplement the ever-popular EndNote



Workshops. Students who may have missed or forgotten certain steps shown during the workshops can now view the tutorials when they are encountering difficulties after the workshops. For students who cannot afford the time to attend workshops but would like to know more about how to use EndNote, these tutorials serve as a starting point for them so that they do not have to miss out using EndNote entirely.



Visit the NTU Libraries YouTube Channel, @ <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNTULibraries> today. Better yet, subscribe to the channel so that you will be notified when new videos are uploaded to the channel. If you are familiar with video editing software, you are welcome to produce and upload video responses to our videos.

Mobile Library Service



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Head, Project & Development &
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Whip out your smartphone (any brand with an internet browser) and try our very own Mobile Library Service! Simply go to NTU “Services on the Go” website (<http://mobile.ntu.edu.sg>) and click on the library icon. This site is best viewed on a mobile phone, not on a PC.

The Library provides easy access to some popular library services using a mashup of blog postings, external links and third party apps such as LibAnywhere. You can search for a book in the Library Catalogue, read abstracts of new titles and contribute your comments, keep up to date with e-resources and library activities, book library computers and explore the FAQ database with a mobile phone. New content will be added weekly.

The Library hopes to reach out to anyone who uses a smartphone, be it iPhone, Android or Blackberry. This project is a work in progress and we are planning to offer native apps in the near future.

Do try it out and give us your feedback.