

Library Newsletter



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We are happy to open the first issue of the Library Newsletter with a message from Mr John Dockerill, Vice-President for Planning and Information Services and Acting Librarian.

Strategic changes in progress

It is an exciting time for the Library. Major changes in information technology, resources and the teaching and learning environment are transforming the Library we knew. In “re-planning” for the years ahead, we have pledged to address the needs of the whole university community.

Changing Role of the Library

The Library has always had a good reputation for service. But two studies commissioned by the university and visits to university libraries in California showed us we could go far beyond our traditional role and contribute more to many aspects of the life of the university.

Consultants' Reports

Both reports noted the need for the Library to reach out more to its users. The second report highlighted:

- The need for the university to formulate an integrated web strategy with the Library playing an active role
- The need to develop the Library as a key agent for teaching and learning support, and
- The need to restructure access to information resources, most of which are now in digital form.

New Strategic Direction

Both the physical space and the services of the Library are being re-planned. We will continue to provide a quiet environment for borrowing and studying printed materials but we will also provide more space and support for users of electronic resources and people working in groups. As first steps, we are making more space available ([see page 2](#)), restructuring our operations ([page 3](#)) and offering expanded support for web teaching ([page 4](#)). We welcome comments and suggestions. Please send them to lb@plink.cityu.edu.hk.

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Offsite storage to free up space for users, collection development



More than 200,000 volumes of books and bound journals will be moved off campus to free up space for Library users and new acquisitions. From April until June some 5,000 volumes a day will be packed up and sent to an archive in Shatin.

The Library was designed to hold 750,000 volumes in an era when space was mostly used for books. Today, some 800,000 volumes vie for space with computers and other electronic equipment, and the Library seeks to provide a comfortable and stimulating environment for users of both printed and electronic resources. Something had to go.

Materials to be Moved

Some 150,000 monographs and 60,000 bound journals will be moved to a 40,000 square foot site in the Grandtech Centre between mid-April and mid-June. The volumes will appear in the Library catalogue as if they are held in a branch library. If requested, they can be brought back to campus within a day or a copy of an article can be sent by fax back to the Library so that the requester can pick it up from the Serials counter. During the move it may take two days to get a volume back.

De-selection Criteria

Loan statistics suggest that requests for retrieval may not be frequent. Under the “de-selection” guidelines, monographs will not be moved if they have been charged out once since 31 October 1998. To be moved, a monograph should have been published in or before 1995 and been in circulation before 31 October 1998.

Bound journals and indexes will be kept offsite if equivalent electronic versions are available. Back issues of other serials may be moved if they were published more than 10 years ago.

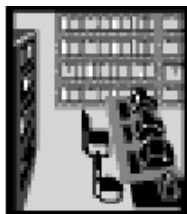
Getting Ready

The move is a huge task for the Library. Some 500 double-faced shelves will be dismantled and moved to the storage site in five phases. To clear the shelves, one or two tiers are being added to other shelves, which are temporarily being filled up to 90%. The books to be moved must be re-labelled, packed, unpacked and re-shelved as quickly as possible.

Every effort will be made to minimize the disturbance to Library users during the move. To report any problems or for further information, please contact Ms Peggy Fung (lbsnfung, 2194 2258) or Ms Kit Li (lblkhia, 2788 7054).



Reorganization reflects expanding role



To better serve the campus community, the Library has been restructured into two units: Access Services and Digital Academic Resources.

New Library Structure

Access Services, under Mr K S Yeung, is responsible for all issues related to the access, use and management of the collection, related facilities and services, and interaction with the users in the physical library. Digital Academic Resources, under Dr Eva Wong, brings together the resources processing activities, IT and systems support.

Apart from traditional library functions such as acquisitions and cataloguing, expertise in web technology for web teaching and web support has also been included in Digital Academic Resources to facilitate the development of an

integrated web strategy.

Subject Librarians

Professional staff in the Library are at the centre of another planned innovation — the introduction of subject librarians who will work directly with academic departments to meet their needs for library support.

Besides responding to requests for resources and user education, subject librarians will be able to advise departments on collection development and help formulate development policy for the Library. This should facilitate the achievement of an increasingly balanced collection.

Subject areas will be divided among some 20 professional librarians in both units of the Library. The plan will be discussed with faculties, departments and Library Liaison Officers at meetings starting in early April.

SciFinder Scholar adds powerful tools

<http://lib.cityu.edu.hk/wm/eres/pw/scfindpw.htm>



The SciFinder Scholar database offers comprehensive chemical and related scientific information. The latest release includes several powerful new features:

- The Preference Editor permits you to customize your options each time you open a new session
- Reaction Information back to 1974 has been added to the databases of CAS (a division of the American Chemical Society)
- Calculated Properties includes some 5 million new properties that have been added to substances in the CAS databases.
- Get Related Information offers new tools to: find references that cite or are cited in selected documents; link cited compounds and sequences to additional abstracts; and extend your explorations to the World Wide Web using search engines such as Google, ChemIndustry and ChemGuide.

Fair showcases support to teaching

Library support for web-based teaching is one of many innovations showcased at EduDynamics, CityU's second WebCourse Fair. The fair, organized by the web support experts of the Digital Academic Resources Unit, is a chance for staff and students to see how some of the university's most innovative teaching departments are using the web to enhance student learning.

Mr John Dockerill, Vice-President for Planning and Information Services and Acting Librarian, will kick off the fair at 2pm on Tuesday, 26 March, in the Purple Zone Atrium. Fourteen booths will be set up for demonstrations and displays.

Short talks from 2:30-5:10pm will feature topics such as web strategy at

CityU, the joys and pains of web-based teaching of translation, using the web to teach law students to interview clients, and the French Section portal.

The Library has mobilized to support these efforts through linking WebCT and Blackboard courses to Library resources. At the Library booth, colleagues will also see how easy it is to establish direct links to useful online articles. To find out more about the Library's support for web-based teaching, go to <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/instruct/webteach/index.htm>, email lbwbt@cityu.edu.hk or call 2788 7215.

Thanks to the miracle of the web, anyone who has to miss the event can catch the action at: <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/WebCourseFair/>.

New e-resources available on trial basis

<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/eres/trial/list.htm>

ProQuest Reference Asia provides geo-political, economic and business information about China, Taiwan and South East Asia. It includes:

- Full-text coverage of political, financial and business news stories
- Country and regional statistics
- Political, economic, social and business profiles, guides and directories
- Full-text archive of working and policy papers, reports and statements
- Analyses of business and economic topics
- Links to the web sites of major organizations, with descriptive text.

MAS Ultra—School Edition

includes full text articles from more than 460 periodicals in areas such as general reference, health and science. Indexing and abstracts for more than 520 magazines are included, along with 3,000 charts, tables and graphs converted to ASCII format, and the full text of 5,000 Magill Book Reviews, 140 Macmillan books and more than 540 health and science-related pamphlets.