Professor Eden S H YU, Head and Chair Professor of Economics, assumed the post of Acting Librarian on 1 August 2003.

Message from Acting Librarian

I took up the concurrent duty of Acting Librarian on 1 August 2003. As this is the first newsletter of the academic year 2003-04, I would like to recap on our work and introduce some of the initiatives we are planning.

The main Library entrance has been in use for a year with the new counters operational for over 9 months, and the central lobby opened up for display, reference and leisure reading activities. Many of the ambience projects started some 18 months ago were completed to fruition. With the renovation of the Library coming to a natural break, my colleagues and I intend to reinforce the notion that the Library is the focus of academic exchange in the University. We would like to strengthen our ties with academic departments, and in the process, attract more staff and students to come to the Library to maximize the use of our facilities.

The Famous Scholars/Writers Lecture Series was launched last month (see article on page 2). We feel that it is important to publicise the achievements of our students and staff within the University, as relevance in these news not only creates interests, but also raises the morale of the entire University community. To showcase these achievements, four display boards have been set up in the main lobby of the Library (more about this on page 3).

We strongly believe that it is the Library’s mission to offer premium quality services to the users to facilitate their locating, access and use of information for their research and studies. And we understand that advancement in information technology can provide the Library with the opportunities to attain this goal.

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Library Newsletter

Full House at Famous Scholars/Writers Lecture

Renowned Scholar Presents Lecture
CityU faculty and students gathered at the Library Seminar Room on October 14 for the Lecture "Chessboards, Hats and Chinese Poetry: Some Rigorous and Not-So-Rigorous Mathematical Results" << 詩裡有數 >> delivered by Prof C. L. Liu, the former President and Professor of Computer Science at the National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan and currently a Visiting Professor in CityU's Department of Computer Engineering and Information Technology.

Mathematics has always been viewed as a boring subject and people would not associate the subject with poetry or literature. At the lecture, Prof Liu, with his expertise in information technology and computer engineering, used simple examples to illustrate some basic concepts in Discrete Mathematics and to cite incidental examples from Chinese poetry in an interesting appeal.

Lectures Enhance the Relationship with Academic Departments
Co-organised by the Library and the Department of Computer Engineering and Information Technology, the lecture is the first of the Famous Scholars/Writers Lecture Series. The Lecture Series is a new initiative to create an "ambience" for the intellectual and personal development of the students and maximize the usage of Library facilities. Famous scholars and writers would be invited to give lectures on various topics. The related publications of the guest speakers would also be displayed in the Library for users’ easy reference. Each of these lectures is intended to be co-organised with an appropriate academic department. It is envisaged that such cooperation and collaboration can help enhance the relationship between academic departments and the Library.

Events Archive Page Launched

Even though CityU Library has only a short history, there are a good number of events and activities that are worth documenting. The Events Archive web page has been created with an aim to collect all the related documents, presentation slides, photographs and videos taken at the lectures or ceremonies so that users may revisit the events.
Windows Showcasing Achievements

To further cultivate a sense of belonging to CityU in our students, the President has suggested on many occasions that we should communicate CityU’s achievements to our internal community more effectively and efficiently. While the new CityU HomePage has taken up this task in cyberspace and good news is publicized right on the front page, the Library has assumed this task physically by showcasing these achievements in the Library. Four notice boards to highlight CityU News and Attractions, CityU Media Clippings, Achievements by CityU Students and Achievements by CityU Staff have been set up around the main lobby area of the Library.

New Resource-Linking Service Launched

In June 2003, the Library has decided to subscribe to the resource-linking service “SFX” after extensive assessment of similar products available in the market. With SFX, users will be able to link from an article citation in a database to the online full text of the article when available in any of the Library-subscribed e-resources, and to other helpful and related services. Apart from the above-mentioned benefits to users, it can also help streamline library operations in administering our growing collection of e-resources.

Implementation and publicity
After about 2 months’ implementation work, the service was launched in early September 2003. To introduce this new service to users, three demonstration sessions were conducted. The launch and the demonstration sessions went very well and the usage of SFX is growing steadily, accompanied by a consequent increase in the usage of Library e-resources that are targets of SFX links. Hence, the SFX service has helped optimize the cost benefit of our subscribed e-resources.

Positive Feedback
To solicit feedback from our users for the improvement of the service, the Library has invited users to complete a questionnaire on SFX via the SFX menus as well as broadcasting emails. As of mid October 2003, of the 254 users who have completed the questionnaire, 71% indicated that SFX could help them locate the articles they want and 65% found SFX easy to use. Some users commented that SFX is a useful service and expressed their wish that the Library can keep it. The Library is encouraged by such positive feedback and will continue to strive for the improvement of the service.
Compact Shelving Project Underway

To make the paperless “virtual library” or “electronic library” a total reality will take many years, if at all possible. Considering that the vast majority of the academic knowledge and information are still presented in paper format, at least at the present stage, the Library is indeed short of shelving space for its collection. One of the measures is to install compact shelves. It is therefore planned that by early 2004, compact shelves with a shelving capacity of 100,000 volumes of books will be installed in the law collection area. These newly installed compact shelves will house not just law books, but multi-volume Chinese encyclopedia works as well as non-frequently used circulation books.

From mid-November 2003 to end-February 2004, installation work on additional electronic compact shelving in the Law Section is going to be carried out. All law reports, part of bound law journals and UN Treaties Series will not be available for use. Users are advised to use the electronic resources such as Lexis.com, LexisNexis Academic, Westlaw International and HeinOnline.

During the said period, part of the Law Section will be closed and noise will probably be created. We apologize for any inconvenience caused. For enquiries, call 2788 8395.

New E-Resources


CIAO [columbia international affairs online]

Columbia International Affairs Online is a comprehensive source for theory and research in international affairs. It publishes a wide range of scholarship from 1991 onwards that includes working papers from university research institutes, occasional papers series from NGOs, foundation-funded research projects, and proceedings from conferences, books, journals and policy briefs.

Bankscope contains detailed information on 11,000 World Banks for research and marketing.

HeinOnline is a comprehensive, ever-growing, image-based collection of legal periodicals. Currently, the database contains the full text of 336 legal periodicals.
Library Recall Service Policy Revised
- 15 days Minimum Use Period Guaranteed

To expedite circulation of books on high demand, the Library offers the recall service whereby checked out items can be recalled and returned earlier for use by some other patrons. To further improve the service, the Library has recently revised its Recall Service Policy, taking into consideration similar policies of the other local university libraries and also feedbacks received from users from time to time.

As you may have already learnt about it through our campus news announcement and broadcasting email, since 1 September 2003, the following new Library Recall Service Policy has been in place:

i. All books in the Circulation Collection are subject to recall with the exception of those items with a loan period of 15 days or less.

ii. A minimum use period of 15 days is guaranteed.

iii. Once being recalled, the due date for the item concerned will be changed. The user will need to return the recalled item in 15 days or by the original due date, whichever comes earlier.

iv. Recalled books will be reserved for pick-up by the requesting patrons for 7 days after formal notification. Should a recalled book be unclaimed after 7 days, the Library will make it available to the next requesting patron or another user as appropriate.

We hope that through the new Library Recall Service Policy, users of different categories can enjoy the same opportunities to use books of high demand.

Any enquiries on the new policy can be directed to 2788 8326.

圖書館奪得最佳服務質素獎

圖書館在學生會舉辦的最佳服務單位選舉中奪得最佳服務質素獎，是項選舉屬一年一度的校政節活動之一。

頒獎典禮於10月31日城大夜宴舉行，學生會將獎牌頒贈予圖書館數碼及學術資源署理主管王周綺華博士。

圖書館現於入口展出獎牌，以提高館員的士氣及對工作的熱誠。
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Thus apart from being a major partner in the development of the CityU e-Portal and participating substantially in the revamp of the CityU Homepage released in August, we implemented SFX, a e-resources linking software to facilitate searches amongst the many electronic database and journal sites (story on page 3). On space and storage, we are thinking ahead, and will install compact shelving with a storage capacity of 100,000 volumes of books in the Law section. Work is scheduled to start later this month (see page 4).

With funding cut to the entire tertiary sector looming, we have taken stock of the Library’s situation and enacted measures in an attempt to lessen the effect on our collection and services due to the reduction in funding. These measures include a planned second round of serials cancellation in consultation with academic departments, purchase of more paperbacks rather than books with hard covers to sustain additions to our collection, partnership with other university libraries to enlarge our collection virtually via a union catalogue.

In line with “doing more with less”, our staff will be trained to become multi-tasking to take on extra duties. Apart from reducing expenditures, we are also mindful of generating extra revenue. Thus we intend to ratify the “Friends of the Library” scheme conceived last year. The scheme aims to further foster links and relationships with external friends and Library supporters in the hope of attracting subscriptions and donations to the Library.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this message, the Library should be the centre for academic activities providing the ambience and facilities for intellectual exchange within the University. Despite the anticipated “hard time” ahead, the Library will work to enhance its support for education and research, providing full access to the wealth of the Internet, a rich collection of monographs and current periodicals, computer facilities with productivity software, and research consulting that facilitates intellectual endeavours of all kinds. Your comments and suggestions to improve the service of the Library are always welcome.

Upcoming Events

Dec 03  Famous Scholars/Writers Lecture Series No. 2  
Speaker: Mr Shum Yat Fei (岑逸飛)

Jan 04  Exhibition of Books Donated by Professor Donald Stone

Feb 04  Famous Scholars/Writers Lecture Series No. 3  
Speakers: Dr Lung Ying Tai (龍應台) and Dr Hsiung Bing Yuan (熊秉元)

User Survey 2003

There have been some major physical changes to the Library over the past 18 months. Now that we have reached a break in the renovation work, the Library would like to gather valuable comments from users on the work done thus far so that we can continue to improve and better serve them. A Library User Survey, starting from November 4 - 16, had been carried out. Users can fill out a printed questionnaire or they can do it online via the Library web site.