



## Survey on Information Professionals

LAS members may recall that at our last AGM, TALIA proposed that Nick Moore of Acumen, be commissioned to survey and make projections on the information professional manpower needs in Singapore. Also included among the terms of reference for the consultant, is the study of the education and training requirements of information professionals in Singapore and the study of the range of skills and training required by information workers in the emerging labour market. After some discussion, the proposal was accepted and Acumen was subsequently appointed the consulting firm for the job.

Nick Moore and wife Elaine Kempson arrived in Singapore on May 9th for a two-week stay. As part of their study, they scanned our newspapers for information-related posts advertised during the last 16 months. They will be analyzing the results of the data gathered before returning to Singapore again in July when they hope to interview some of the employers and information workers in the emerging labour market. The draft report of the study should be ready by September. Mr John Chan of Medical Library, NUS, has meanwhile been appointed as the local contact person assisting Nick and Elaine to coordinate the project.

In their meeting with TALIA members, the Acumen team discussed some of their tentative findings. They had identified 110 suitable jobs advertised during the last 16 months. Of these, they describe 85 as from the emerging markets. This, they commented, indicate a lively and healthy development. They then elaborated on the nine groups that they had divided the 110 jobs into. They are the established market, research and intelligence, management information system, database administrators, editorial and publishing, information industry support, applied librarianship and document control. The largest number of jobs identified fall under the category of Research and Intelligence and the most common qualification



Mr. Nick Moore

identified in the advertisements as a prerequisite for the 85 jobs in the emerging market is business administration, with computer science and economics jointly occupying second place.

When considering the proposals submitted by the various consultants to study and survey the information workers in Singapore, TALIA members felt that the experience of Acumen in the library profession and in manpower study of the library profession in particular, would contribute to their understanding of our requirements. Nick Moore, one of the senior partners of the firm has worked as a public librarian, a library management lecturer and done a great deal of research related to the library profession. Most important, as partner of Acumen, he has had previous experience in conducting manpower surveys of library and information workers in Botswana, the Caribbeans and UK.

We look forward to the completion of his study and will continue to keep members informed of further developments.

## LAS AGM 1986/87

The Library Association of Singapore held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 29th March 1986 at 2.30 pm at the Tai-Pan Ramada Hotel.

In his opening speech, the President, Mr. Ramachandran spoke of the activities of the Council over the past year. The annual report bears testimony to a wide range of activities and programmes. He also expressed his hope that LAS would be able to launch the Interact's Library Referral Consultative Service as it would raise the profile of the librarians as information professionals besides benefitting members.

He also looked forward to their support for TALIA'S recommendation to employ a consultant to undertake the manpower survey. Furthermore, the feasibility of conducting an external diploma as well as an external Masters programme for members through WAIT had been explored.

The LAS/PPM joint conference is underway with the intention that the occasion will enable librarians to play an important role in information.

In conclusion, he urged the supervisors to encourage younger librarians to participate actively in LAS programmes so that we could be seen to play an important role in developing Singapore as a centre of information service.

The meeting went on with the discussion of the minutes of the previous AGM and other matters.

There was no voting as all office-bearers and council members were returned unopposed. The activities of the various committees were discussed and the House voted unanimously to accept the amendment to the Constitution with regards to the post of Assistant Secretary, duties of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. ▶

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Mrs Patricia Lim, Chairman of TALIA, felt that despite the economic downturn, this was the best time to conduct a survey into manpower needs and the feasibility of setting up a library school. Acumen, a professional consultant firm was selected to do the manpower survey. A local support person was needed to assist the consultant firm.

Regarding the change of name for the Association, it was suggested that Council study the matter further and table it for discussion at the next AGM.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm with a vote of thanks to the chair.



## Interview with John Eyre

The following is an extract of an interview with John Eyre (Senior Lecturer, Polytechnic of North London) conducted by Miss Vimala Nambiar.

**VN:** *Could you tell us something about your background leading to your present position at the Polytechnic of North London?*

**JE:** Well, originally after leaving the army, I went into public libraries but I have to confess that I didn't find that really to my taste. It was not my kind of librarianship. I admire those who do it, but I don't think it is the kind of thing I would find suitable. Fortunately, after four years, I managed to get into industry where I was for ten years. I was an Information Officer and it was very much more interesting. I served in mining engineering, chemical engineering, nuclear engineering and it was all very "high tech" stuff and I was serving relatively small groups. It was very good grounding for my eventual job as a lecturer in the Polytechnic.

**VN:** *What made you switch to teaching?*

**JE:** I have always been a teacher. In the early days before I went into the army, I was doing supply teaching and then when I was in the army, after my initial training, I went on a special three months Lecturer's Course which the army ran. It was very good too, very concentrated and with an awful lot in it. After that I became a lecturer in the army.

**VN:** *Is three months training sufficient?*

**JE:** The army makes you work — they put in more in three months than many courses put in two years. But that was just on teaching techniques. You were expected to know your subject already, and then I joined the Higher Education Centre in Berlin. I was lecturing throughout my army career. When I came out and went into libraries, I couldn't do any lecturing until I got to the Polytechnic fourteen years later. That was in 1966 and I have been lecturing ever since.

**VN:** *You have been in Singapore for about a month now and have had the occasion to visit some of the major libraries that are now in various stages of computerization. What are your views on the status of computerization in Singapore?*

**JE:** I am very impressed generally with both the development of computing that is going on in libraries so far, and from what I see, the enthusiasm and expertise is quite interesting. There are quite a lot of people who seem to know quite a lot. That is very encouraging and it means that people put themselves out to get very well informed about how you go about automating.

**VN:** *Do you think SILAS will be a success?*

**JE:** I can't see why it shouldn't be. As a nation, you got to have some central system for coping with both the national bibliographic data, which presumably you are going to send out to other countries in Southeast Asia and which will also cope with any bibliographic data coming into the country. You have to have a funnel for that, a filter so that all the other library services within the country can make use of that data. It needs a filtering system like SILAS to coordinate both the exchange of information on bibliographic data between countries, and then to provide it as a service to anybody who wants to

make use of it in a variety of forms. SILAS is enormously sensible, not only because it is in a way coordinating cataloguing effort, but also because it makes the whole country's resources available to everyone. You cannot have anything like the vast coverage you need in any one library. You got to think in terms of co-operation, and one of the easiest ways to cooperate is with an automated system which is central to all. That as I see it is the function of SILAS. I think it comes at the right time too, because automation is beginning to move, people are getting on with it. Now if SILAS is much more delayed, then I think everybody would have established their own systems. Then it is much more difficult to introduce a system like SILAS.

**VN:** *Were you surprised at the response from LAS members for your course?*

**JE:** Oh, I was overwhelmed! I didn't realise that there were going to be so many people. I didn't expect to come here and tell people how to do things. I mean, I didn't think as many people would feel the need or interest.

**VN:** *What do you envisage are the likely problems that libraries moving towards computerization would expect to be confronted with?*

**JE:** The greatest problem is perhaps people. What I think is perhaps not realized by quite a number is that when you get an automated system going, there is quite often the need to redistribute the staff — to put them together in different ways. In other words, their whole way of operating during the day is changed. Maybe their working companions change too. That's something that comes very hard because I think here, the people develop close ties with each other when they are working together. That is what affects people very seriously. The equipment itself is not so worrisome. The other thing

mainly is that, interestingly enough, there is a little bit in the Straits Times today about the view that many workers have about computer systems in America. That is, that it forces the pace of which you work. Now that is something that does not happen with the manual system.

**VN:** *Do you have any comments or suggestion as to how we might reorganize and improve our Post-graduate Diploma Course?*

**JE:** Of course, there are financial constraints, time constraints and all sorts of things but I wonder if it might be possible to bring somebody out perhaps for two months or so, and that person can run more than one course. Then there is more coordination. You see, one of the problems that I have is that mine is the last course out of ten, but the early courses were in 1984. So of course by the time I get to them and I start saying "now you remember when we talk about expressive notation", they look at me blankly. Then I find out that they did their classification in 1984. They have completely forgotten! It is as if I have to start all over again. Of course I try and re-introduce the whole idea of classification and faceting but it seems quite a lot of work. I thought it was a pity that the whole thing is spread over so long a period. Now maybe there is nothing you can do about it, but if it were at all possible, the obvious thing would be to try and put it in a shorter period and teach more but I don't know if it would be practical.

**VN:** *When you say a shorter period, do you expect us to conduct it on a full-time basis?*

**JE:** Yes, a full-time basis in short spurts. In other words, let's say you have two months full-time. Then they are back at their libraries for another six months and then they come back for another two months full-time. Its just that doing it concentrated full-time is much easier for the students than part-time. It is pretty hard work, especially for married people with children. Over a long period of time each of their modules become utterly isolated. They do each one and they don't have any relevance to any of the other modules they do. But as I said, it is easy to make suggestions, but I am well aware of the fact that there are also reasons why you just cannot do it any other way.

# An Amusing Story

Taken from 'The Name of the Rose' by Umberto Eco: "... 'Amen' William said in a devout tone. 'But what does this have to do with the fact the library may not be visited?'

'You see, Brother William,' the abbot said, 'to achieve the immense and holy task that enriches those walls ... devout men have toiled for centuries, observing iron rules. The library was laid out on a plan which has remained obscure to all over the centuries, and which none of the monks is called upon to know. Only the librarian has received the secret, from the librarian who preceded him, and he communicates it, while still alive, to the assistant librarian, so that death will not take him by surprise and rob the community of that knowledge. And the secret seals the lips of both men. Only the librarian has the right to move through the labyrinth of books, he alone knows where to find them and where to replace them, he alone is responsible for their safekeeping. The other monks work in the scriptorium and may know the list of the volumes that the library houses. But a list of titles often tells very little; only the librarian knows, from the collocation of the volumes, from its degree of inaccessibility, what secrets, what truths or falsehoods, the volume contains. Only he decides how, when and whether to give it to the monk who requests it ... Because not all truths are for all ears, not all falsehoods can be recognized as such by a pious soul; and the monks, finally, are in the scriptorium to carry out a precise task, which requires them to read certain volumes and not others, and not to pursue every foolish curiosity that seizes them, whether through weakness of intellect or through pride or through diabolical prompting.'

'So in the library there are also books containing falsehoods ...'

'Monsters exist because they are part of the divine plan, and in the horrible features of those same monsters the power of the creator is revealed. And by divine plan, too, there exist also books by wizards, the cabalas of the Jews, the fables of pagan poets, the lies of the infidels. It was the firm and holy conviction of those who founded the abbey and sustained it over the centuries that even in books of falsehood, to the eyes of the sage reader, a pale reflection of the divine wisdom can shine. And therefore the library is a vessel of this too. But for this very reason, you understand, it cannot be visited by just anyone. And furthermore' the abbot added, as if to apologize for the weakness of this last argument, 'a book is a fragile creature, it suffers the wear of time, it fears rodents, the elements, clumsy hands. If for a hundred and a hundred years everyone had been able freely to handle our codices, the majority of them would no longer exist. So the librarian protects them not only against mankind but also against nature, and devotes his life to this war with the forces of oblivion, the enemy of truth.'

'And so no one, except for two people, enters the top floor of the Aedificium ...'

The abbot smiled. "No one should. No one can. No one, even if he wished, would succeed. The library defends itself, immeasurable as the truth it houses, deceitful as the falsehood it preserves. A spiritual labyrinth, it is also a terrestrial labyrinth. You might enter and you might not emerge. And having said this, I would like you to conform to the rules of the abbey." — Jim Davies

## CHIEF LIBRARIAN

The International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) seeks a librarian to manage its information and documentation centre whose staff includes two professional librarians.

- ★ Minimum five years' experience in documentation and information services, preferably with special libraries.
- ★ Must have an excellent command of English, written and spoken. A working knowledge of Spanish and/or French will be advantageous.
- ★ Knowledge and experience in information retrieval packages for IBM-PCs.
- ★ Background in social science, economics or environmental science will be useful.

*If interested, please write to:-*

**International Organization of Consumers Unions**  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
P O Box 1045  
10830 Penang  
MALAYSIA

# Library Referral Consultancy Service

## The objectives

The *Interact Committee* of the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) was set up in May 1985 in order,

- to promote the LAS and its activities;
- to provide a library/information-related service to community organizations as well as private sectors thus, enhancing the image of our profession.

## Background:

From time to time, requests for consultancy have been received in libraries from both private and non-private sectors. In 1985 alone, there were four requests from the companies which were prepared to pay for the service. Apparently, the private sector has realized the need and importance in information management in the course of time.

The need for our service is already there! It appears that the LAS should not shirk its role in filling the bill.

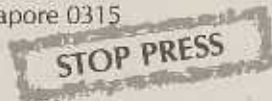
In response to the need, the *Interact Committee* was formed to look into the matter. The Committee recognizes that the greatest assets of the LAS are its members and their expertise in library and information science. This, if made more easily available to organizations which cannot afford or do not require a full-time librarian, can without doubt meet a need that has been becoming more and more real.

It was thus decided, after much thought and discussion, that the Committee will provide referral consultancy services to both private sectors and community organizations on different bases. While we provide community organizations with free consultancy, we would charge profit organizations in accordance with a fee scheme which was accepted in the last LAS Annual General Meeting.

Nevertheless, the free service will essentially remain a community service which, we hope, will in a small way help project LAS as a public-spirited professional organization.

LAS members are urged to take part in the library consultancy service. Please call NBDCS Secretariat at 273-2730 or write to:-

Interact Committee  
c/o NBDCS Secretariat  
Bukit Merah Branch Library  
Bukit Merah Central  
Singapore 0315



The *Interact Committee* has received a request for assistance, from the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, in setting up their library. The Committee has appointed two consultants to look into the matter and the proposals are being finalised.

# Singapore/Malaysia Congress



Dr. Tay Eng Soon

The Singapore/Malaysia Congress of Libraries and Information Scientists will officially be declared open by Dr. Tay Eng Soon, Minister of State (Education, Communication and Information) on 14th September 1986 at the Singapore Hilton.

The Organizing Committee has also planned the LAS annual dinner to coincide with the Congress dinner, to be held at the Westin Plaza on Saturday 6th September 1986. There will also be an exhibition of computer hardware and software and a Festival of books. All librarians are welcome to attend the above programmes.

The Organizing Committee would urge all Singapore librarians to register for the Congress before 15th August 1986, if they have not done so.

## LAS Publications Committee

The LAS Publications Committee 1986/7 held its first meeting on 7/6/86. Various issues were discussed during the meeting. It was felt that the following announcements would be of interest to our members, colleagues and friends:

### 1. Centralization of Printing LAS Publications

All printing of LAS publications will be under the charge of the Publications Committee. Committee members who want this service will have to fill in a publication information form obtainable from Haslinda, NBDCS Secretariat. The text must be edit proofed before it is accepted by the Publications Committee.

### 2. Sale of LAS Publications

All orders for LAS publications and inter-library loan forms should be directed to either

- *The Business Manager* — Mrs. Esther Ong at NTI Library. Tel: 265-1744 ext 211
- *Secretariat* — Haslinda at Bukit Merah Branch Library Tel: 273-2730

### 3. Publications Promotion

The Committee felt that this area of work is lacking and have therefore created a new post, the Publications Promotion Officer (PPO).

*Requirement* : LAS member

*Benefits* : \* LAS will sponsor this person to attend the Congress workshop on 'Library Promotion and Marketing' on 8 — 12 September 1986.

\* Opportunities to learn how to produce promotional informational leaflets.

*Contract* : Minimum of one years' service as PPO to LAS Publications Committee.

Anyone interested to contribute towards LAS as PPO should call Shirley Aw/Lim Yeong Yeong at The British Council Library Tel: 533-7644 ext 426. before 12 August 1986.

### 4. Singapore Libraries 1986

The editor of the Singapore Libraries would like to invite members to contribute articles for the 1986 issue. Please address the article to:-  
The Editor  
Singapore Libraries 1986  
c/o Singapore American School  
201 Ulu Pandan Road  
Singapore 2159



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## ISEAS Library

### Computer Training

Staff members are attending relevant courses as part of the ISEAS Library's planning for future computerization.

Ms Zaleha Tamby, Assistant Librarian attended the LAS Course in Library Automation for Professional Staff, from 18 March to 10 April 1986.

Miss Wan Lye Tim, Senior Assistant Librarian, is attending the National Productivity Board's course leading to a Certificate in Computer Data Processing. The course lasts 18 months and comprises five modules covering computer programming and file processing, systems analysis and design, computer applications in accounting/finance, management information systems and computer management.

### ISEAS Starts CIP

ISEAS publications will in future carry CIP data on the back of the title-page. Its Publications Unit has accepted the Library's suggestion and will insert the information in publications sent to press after February 1986. The cataloguing is done by the Library as part of its contribution towards shared cataloguing and expediting entry into databases.

### TALIA Consultant Arrives

Acumen, the consultant firm appointed to carry out TALIA's brief, has begun work in their assignment. Acumen's partners, Mr Nick Moore and Ms Elaine Kempson, arrived in Singapore on 9 May to hold intensive discussions with TALIA members and prepare the groundwork for the survey. They will be assisted by the local contact person, Mr John Chan, Assistant Librarian, Medical Library, NUS. (Full report in Page 1)

## National University of Singapore Library

### Conferences, Seminars, Workshops:

Staff of the National University of Singapore Library attended the following conferences, seminars and workshops:

Training Course on Audio Processing of Audio-Materials organized by the National Archives, 27 January - 7 February 1986.

Micros '86 Seminars: The 2nd Business & Personal Computer Show, Seminars & Workshop organized by

Micro Asia Exhibition & Marketing Services, 20-23 March 1986.

The Advanced Course in Library Automation organized by the LAS from 18 March to 10 April 1986.

### Visitors

Mr John Eyre visited the NUS Central Library on 4 April 1986. He held an informal discussion session on various aspects of library automation with professional staff on his visit.

Mr Sam Kula, Director, National Film, TV & Sound Archives, Public Archives of Canada, and Mrs Lily Tan, Acting Director, National Archives of Singapore visited the Central Library on 7 February 1986.

### Notable Acquisition

British documents on foreign affairs: reports and papers from the Foreign Office confidential print. Part I, from the mid-nineteenth century to the First World War. Series B, the Near and the Middle East 1856-1914/editor, David Gillard. — University Publications of America, 1984. 20v.

Biotechnology industry in Japan 1986 — Tokyo: Yano Research Institute Ltd., 1985.

Comprehensive biotechnology: the principles, applications and regulations of biotechnology in industry, agriculture and medicine/edited by Murray Moo-Young. — Pergamon, 1985. 4v.

Comprehensive insect physiology, biochemistry and pharmacology/edited by G.A. Kerkut and L.I. Gilbert. — Pergamon Press, 1985. 13v.

The new encyclopaedia Britannica/Philip W Goetz, editor-in-chief. 15th ed. — Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1985. 32v.

Register of electors for electoral divisions. — Singapore: Elections Department, 1984. 79v.

### Gift

170 volumes on medicine, science and technology were presented by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in December 1985.

### Personal

Mrs Dora Yeo was one of the three judges for the tape/slide secondary schools competition organized by the Library Association of Singapore, based on the theme "Getting to know your library". The winner was awarded the First Annual Bernice Weise Award during the National Reading Fortnight in March 1986.

Mrs Thavamani P Kumar has given birth to a baby boy, Navin Kumar on 3rd March 1986.

## British Council Library

### Poems on the Underground

"Poetry goes underground on 1st February when a campaign aimed at providing pleasure and entertainment for Londoners and visitors to the capital gets under way in the London Underground tubes." (Book-seller, December 21 and 28 1985)

Starting on 1st February for every 2 months, 200 sets of posters, each set of 5 featuring 5 selected poets will be posted in 1,000 carriage sites. In the course of the year, the work of 30 poets will be displayed. The theme of Poems on the Underground will be city life.

The British Council is a joint sponsor for the campaign. A set of the posters will be displayed in:

The Library Resources Centre,  
The British Council,  
Singapore Rubber House #04-01,  
14, Collyer Quay,  
Singapore 0104

We welcome anyone who is interested to view the posters during our opening hours:

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri : 10am-7.45pm  
Sat — : 10am-1.45pm  
Wed, Sun, Public Holidays : CLOSED  
Admission is free.

If you have further queries on the campaign please write to Judith Chernaik, 124 Mansfield Road, London NW 3.

## RELC Library and Information Centre

### New bibliographies

Since the beginning of this year, three specialized bibliographies have already been compiled and issued:

### Teaching English at the Primary Level

This bibliography is aimed at bringing to light the materials which are likely to be useful resources for teaching English at the primary level. The books and periodical articles are divided firstly according to general principles and methods and then by language skill i.e. reading, writing, listening and speaking. However, books on communicative activities and actual language learning games are included in a separate section. Some courses are listed next. Kits on a variety of language-related aspects are also listed separately. Finally, periodicals consisting mainly of practical articles and language teaching and learning materials are listed. A large

number of supplementary readers is available and although these have not been included, they may be examined in the RELC Library and Information Centre.

### Computers in Language Education

Specially compiled for the RELC/ADAB Workshop on The Role of Computers in Language Education, 10-12 March 1986, this bibliography lists relevant books, special issues of journals, articles in journals and chapters in books published from 1980 to date. Journals which regularly publish articles on the subject are mentioned in a separate section. Most works appear during the years 1982 to 1985 in response to the mounting interest in computer applications to the teaching and learning of languages. While there are some references published prior to 1980, these are not included because they are probably superseded by newer developments or, if still significant, they are cited in the works mentioned in this bibliography.

### Classroom Interaction

This bibliography attempts to reflect the main concerns of the RELC Regional Seminar on Patterns of Classroom Interaction in Southeast Asia, 21-25 April 1986, for which it was specially compiled. Although it was not possible to make it exhaustive, it does give some indication of the vast amount of material which exists for the reader interested in the topic. As appropriate, the bibliography begins with references relevant to Southeast Asian classrooms. The other sections cover classroom interaction studies, analysing classroom interaction, teacher-pupil interaction, classroom interaction and language acquisition and classroom management.

Copies of these bibliographies are available on request from the RELC Library and Information Centre.

### Attachment Programme

From 17 to 21 March 1986, two trainees undergoing the Postgraduate Diploma Course in Library and Information Science conducted by the Library Association of Singapore and the National Library of Singapore were attached to the RELC Library and Information Centre. They were Mdm Christine Tiong Mee Ting of Toh Tuck Secondary School and Miss Ng Bay Chan of the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research. Library professional staff briefed them thoroughly on technical activities in the

RELC Library and Information Centre and followed up with practical work and in-depth discussion on specific points. The trainees were also able to gain some experience in bibliographical compilation and classification of newspaper clippings. From their reactions, they seem to have benefited from their week's attachment.

### A Research Agenda for Singapore

The follow-up course on Effective Research for Library and Information Professionals, organized by the SCLE and conducted by Dr. Patricia Layzell Ward from 13-15 February this year, attracted 26 participants. During the 3 half-day workshop, participants identified and discussed a variety of topics on librarianship in Singapore, as possible areas for research.

Through SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) analysis these were speedily reviewed, narrowed down and prioritized as:

- (1) User needs
- (2) Evaluation of services
- (3) Collection development
- (4) Promotion of libraries/user education.

The Library and Information Research Group (LIRG) which had been closely monitoring these discussions, has accepted the proposed research agenda and will initiate and encourage research in these areas as soon as it has completed the compilation of the Index to research on reading, librarianship and library and information science in Singapore, 1955-1985. Compilation is progressing according to schedule and is expected to be completed by June 1986.

### Prof. Slamecka's Visit

Prof. Vladimir Slamecka of the School of Information and Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology, addressed LAS members on 24 June 1986 on the topic "Building a National Information System." He spoke about the design and implementation of a national information utility in Egypt, a project currently undertaken by Prof. Slamecka. His talk also covered the problems encountered, the manpower requirements and the information retrieval systems.

The highlight of Prof Slamecka's talk was a video-show on CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) — the latest technology for information storage with a capacity of 600 MB.

### Institute of Education Library

Mr Ng Soo Kwee, Senior Librarian, IIE, left for Australia on 1 April for attachment at the following institutions/libraries: Australian National University (1 April-30 May 1986), State Library of New South Wales (2-13 June 1986), Sydney College of Advanced Education (16-27 June 1986). Mrs Lee Mui Sin, Assistant Librarian, will be attending the BISA (Bibliographic Information on Southeast Asia) Traineeship Program at the University of Sydney from 1 April '86 to 31 October 1986. Both staff members are partially sponsored by the International Development for Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP).

The Library has now started to use dBasell to operate its Alerting Service. The service, which began in May 1984, alerts IE academics to new publications, journal articles and any information which meet the academics' professional interests. Using dBasell, the IE academics' subject profile and the items to which they are alerted are stored and indexed. This indirectly makes it possible to know at a glance what recent items are available in the subject areas indexed.

### National Library

The Marine Parade Branch Library is opened on Sundays from 1-5pm as from 2 March 1986, on a trial period of six months. Response from the public is encouraging as the number of people who come to the library on Sundays continue to increase.

### MP visitors

The National Library had two distinguished visitors on 21 February 1986. They were Mr Zulkifli Mohammad, Political Secretary (Community Development) and Member of Parliament for Eunos and Mr Tang Guan Seng, Parliamentary Secretary (Education) and Member of Parliament for Khe Bong. They were briefed on the functions and services provided by the Library by the Director, Mrs Hedwig Anuar.

### Publications

Two new posters were printed early this year — one to publicize the Library's opening hours and the other to spread the message 'READ'. One of the Singapore's leading pop groups, Tokyo Square was featured in the latter poster.

The Singapore National Bibliography ▶

◀ 1984 annual volume has been published and is currently on sale at \$20.00 per copy. Copies are obtainable from the Administration Section, National Library.

The Reference Services Divisions of the National Library has recently published Volume II of the Government services directory. Priced at \$4.00 per copy, the directory identifies government departments or bodies which provide direct service to the public, give their addresses, telephone numbers, the designations of the relevant persons to contact, times during which services are provided, the types of services and requirements such as documents needed, fees, etc for such services.

Copies of the directory are obtainable either from Administration Section or the Reference Services Division.

### Survey

A survey was carried out by the Reference Services Division of the National Library to identify its users, for twelve days from 20 January to 1 February 1986.

Staff on duty at the Information Counter and Reference Desk marked and categorized each enquiry received in person, by telephone or mail on a tally sheet or enquiry form.

A total of 6,566 users visited the Division during the survey period. Telephone enquiries numbered 296 while enquiries received in person at the counter, through SBC text and through the mail numbered 1,221. The findings are tabulated below:

Users	No of enquiries	Percentage
Government departments	143	9.4%
Statutory boards	29	1.9%
Private firms	35	5.9%
Other organizations	90	2.3%
Researchers	80	5.3%
Students (including undergraduates)	588	38.8%
Other-private individuals	552	36.4%
Total	1,517	100%

While this was a preliminary survey, it was important in identifying proportions of users and the types of enquiries received.

### NTUC Library

NTUC proudly celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Knowledge of the past is necessary in understanding why the present is what it is, and what can be expected of the future. As part of the library's contribution to the labour movement, the following chronologies have been compiled for general reading. Reading lists have also been compiled for those who require to seek further information:

1. Chronology of trade union development in Singapore 1940-1984
  2. A chronological survey on productivity and the trade union movement in Singapore 1959-1984
  3. Chronology of labour legislation in Singapore 1946-1984
  4. The significance of May Day
- More compilations are in the pipeline.

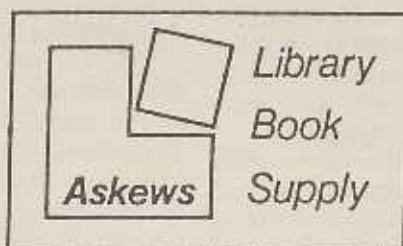
## CONSULTANT WANTED

*To all LAS members:*

Recently we have received a request from a consultant of a corporation in Indonesia who is seeking a literature search contract to provide him with bibliographies, synopses, and articles mainly about engineering, technology, economics and business.

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### LAS NEWS

Editorial Committee

Editor: *Ambika Raghavan*  
 Co-editor: *Chia Wei Fun*  
 Design & Layout: *Rohmat Osman*

# What's Coming

Singapore/Malaysia Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists	4-6 Sep 1986	Hilton Hotel, Singapore	The new information professionals
Post Congress Workshops	8-20 Sep 1986		Library management Information management Promotion and marketing of library services
43rd Congress of the International Federation for Documentation (FID)	14-18 Sep 1986	Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Canada	Information, communications and technology transfer
Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists	20-22 Oct 1986	Universiti Utara Malaysia, Bandar Darulaman, Kedah, Malaysia	Access to information in the Muslim World
8th Annual MINISIS Users Group Meeting	27-31 Oct 1986	National University of Singapore	
NZLA Conference 1987	9-12 Feb 1987	Wellington, New Zealand	Information path to the future

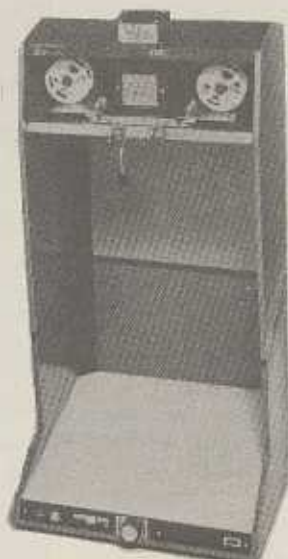
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# CONSAL VII

*Programme*

## Theme: **Libraries for Countryside Development in SEA**

**First Day** — 16 February 1987

8-12 a.m. Registration  
Opening Ceremonies  
Keynote Address

### **Plenary Session I**

Southeast Asian, Culture, Tradition and Values

Speaker: Dr. Perla Makil  
Executive Secretary  
Ramon Magsaysay Award  
Foundation  
Philippines

The Role of the Library in Preserving and Enriching National Culture, Traditions and Values

Speaker: Miss Carolina L. Afan  
Chief, Filipiniana & Asia Division  
The National Library of the  
Philippines

2-5 p.m. **Plenary Session II**  
The Problem of Illiteracy and Reading

Speaker: Dr. Minda Sutaria  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Education, Culture &  
Sports  
Philippines

### **Concurrent Session A**

A1 Women, Illiteracy and Reading:  
Library's Role

Speaker: Mrs. Hedwig Anuar  
Director, National Library of  
Singapore

A2 Children, Illiteracy and Reading:  
Library's Role

Speaker: Atty. Ester de Jesus-Amor  
Executive Director  
Council for the Welfare of Children  
Head, Decade of the Filipino Child  
Secretariat  
Philippines

A3 Publishing for Neo-literates and Illiterates

Speaker: Mr. Virgilio Alamario  
Children's Communication Center  
Philippines

**Second Day** — 17 February 1987

8-12 a.m. **Plenary Session III**  
Rural Libraries in Southeast Asia: Country  
Reports

Brunei:  
Dayang Nellie Bie Haji Sunny  
Chief Librarian  
Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka Brunei

Indonesia:  
Miss Mastini Hardjo Prakoso  
Director, National Library of Indonesia

Malaysia:  
Dr. Donald E.K. Wijasuriya  
Director-General, National Library of  
Malaysia

Philippines:  
Miss Alice F. Cornelio  
Acting Chief, Extension Division  
The National Library of the Philippines

Thailand:  
Mrs. Kullasap Gesmankit  
Director, National Library of Thailand  
Samson Road, Bangkok 10300, Thailand  
2-5 p.m. **Plenary Session IV**

Effective Delivery Systems for Library  
Services in the Rural Areas

Speaker: Miss Kammanee Suckcharoen  
Secretary, Thai Library Association

### **Concurrent Sessions B**

B1 Reaching Out Through Postal Loan  
Services in Malaysia

Speaker: Mrs. Mariam Abdul Kadir  
Asst. Director (Services)  
National Library of Malaysia

B2 The Role of Local and National  
Governments in Developing Rural Library  
Services in Malaysia

Speaker: Miss Zawiyah Baba  
Planning & Development Div.  
National Library of Malaysia

B3 Mobile Library Services in the Philippines

Speaker: Atty. Conrado D. David  
Philippine Library Association of the  
Philippines

B4 Utilizing Audio-Visual Technologies in  
Reaching the Rural Areas

Speaker: Mrs. Corazon M. Nera  
Librarian, Fund for Assistance to  
Private Education  
Concorde Condominium  
Philippines

B5 Services to Ethnic Groups: The Singapore  
Experience

Mrs. Jenny Neo  
Library Association of Singapore  
B6 Public and School Library System: The  
Efficient Approach to Library Services in  
Rural Areas

Speaker: Mr. John P. Rompas  
Provincial Library Division  
Persat Pembinaan Perpustakaan  
Jakarta, Indonesia

**Third Day** — 18 February 1987

8-10 a.m. **Plenary Session V**  
Professional Education and Development

Speaker: Mrs. Radha Rasmussen  
Graduate School of Librarianship  
Monash University,  
Australia

Post Professional and Research Studies: The  
Concept of a Regional School

Speaker: Prof. Rosa M. Vallejo  
Dean, Institute of Library Science  
University of the Philippines

## Postgraduate Diploma Course

The third batch of students started their Postgraduate Diploma Course in Library and Information Science on the 2nd July 1986. The list of names is as follows:-

Ms Veronica Boudville  
Queenstown Branch Library  
Ms Hasanah Md Sohdi  
Queenstown Branch Library  
Ms Lai Hwee Tin  
Straits Times Editorial Library  
Ms Lai Siew Ping  
Nanyang Junior College Library  
Ms Lee Kwee Eng  
Telecoms Library  
Ms Mah Chin Keak  
Singapore Broadcasting Corporation  
(SBC) Research Unit Library  
Ms Ng Chen Wee  
National University of Singapore  
Medical Library  
Mdm Ong Kee Luan  
Catholic Junior College Library  
Mrs Peck nee Chin Siat Mui  
Singapore Bible College Library  
Ms Sarminah Tamsir  
Singapore Broadcasting Corporation  
(SBC) Research Unit Library  
Ms Tay Sok Cheng  
Housing & Development Board Library  
Ms Judy Teo Peck Lin  
Toa Payoh Branch Library  
Ms Ti Meng Yen  
National University of Singapore  
Central Lending Library  
Ms Jeanne Voo Li Yin  
Library Extension Section  
Ms Wong Siok Muoi  
Toa Payoh Branch Library  
Ms Yap Yoke Mei  
National University of Singapore  
Science Library  
Ms Yee Wai Fun  
Marine Parade Branch Library

International Librarianship and Countryside Development in Southeast Asia

Speaker: Mr. Joseph S. Soocai  
Vice-President, IFLA & Chairman,  
Regional Section for Asia

10-12 a.m. **Plenary Session VI**  
Information Needs and Services for Rural Development

Speaker: Dr. Nora C. Quebral  
Department of Development  
Communication  
University of the Philippines

2-5 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions C**  
C1 Information Services for Agricultural Development

Speaker: Mr. Syed Salim Agha  
Chief Librarian  
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia

C2 Information Services for Aquaculture Development

Speaker: Mr. Emilio Gapit  
Chief Librarian, Southeast Asian  
Fisheries Development Center  
Philippines

C3 Information Services for Small-Scale Industries and Integrated Rural Development

Speaker: Mr. Peter Cummins  
Chief, ESCAP Library  
Thailand

C4 Information Services for Social and Educational Development

Speaker: Mr. Navanit Intarama

**Fourth Day** — 19 February 1987 — TOUR  
**Fifth Day** — 20 February 1987

8.12 a.m. **Plenary Session VII**  
1. Cooperating with National and  
International Development Agencies

Speaker: Miss Ch'ng Kim See  
Chief Librarian  
International Library  
Vienna, Austria

2. Tapping the World Bank in Establishing  
Rural Libraries: The Indonesian Experience

Speaker: Mr. John P. Rompas  
Provincial Library Division  
Pusat Pembinaan Perpustakaan  
Departemen P Dan K  
Jalan Merdeka Selatan  
Jakarta, Indonesia

3. The Impact of New Information  
Technologies on Rural Libraries in  
Southeast Asia

Speaker: Mr Edward Lim Huck Tee  
Chief Librarian University of  
Science Malaysia.

5. Developing Resources and Resource-sharing in Rural Libraries

Speaker: Dr. Maria LaoSunthara  
Programme  
Specialist/Documentation  
UNESCO Regional Office for  
Education in Asia and the Pacific  
Thailand

2-5 p.m. **Panel Meetings on Southeast Asian Studies**

1. Japanese Studies/Publication in SEA  
Indonesia:  
Malaysia:  
Philippines:  
Singapore:  
Thailand:
2. Southeast Asian Research Resources in Japan

3. Establishing A Network of Southeast Asian Studies Librarians

4. Japanese Contribution and Southeast Asian Studies Published in English  
Speaker: Mr. Shiro Saito

**Sixth Day** — 21 February 1987

8-10 a.m. **Plenary Session VIII**  
CONSAL: An Assessment  
Speaker: Dr. Donald E.K. Wijasuriya  
SEA Libraries: Year 2000 and Beyond

Speaker: Dr. Serafin D. Quiason  
Director, The National Library of  
the Philippines

10-12 noon Business Meeting

Afternoon — FREE

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### PATENT INFORMATION

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### BOOKS

Who's Who in Technology Today; The Times Index; Cumulative Subject Index to the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications 1900-1971; The Official Index to the Washington Post; Eighteenth Century; Guide to the Microfilm Collection and many more.

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