



## Biggest Biennial Bilateral Conference Ever . . .



Dr Aline Wong giving the opening address.



Mr James Thompson delivering the keynote address.



Ms Ajita Thuraisingham Chairman, Organizing Committee.

**S**ingapore-Malaysia Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists on The New Information Professionals, 4 – 6 September, 1986, was held at Hilton Hotel, Singapore.

### Background

The Library Association of Singapore (LAS) and Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia (PPM) have had a long tradition of holding joint conferences, going as far back as 1967 – nearly some 20 years. Thirteen joint conferences were held in 19 years – quite a record and an achievement! Originally intended to be held annually and alternately in Malaysia and Singapore, this has become less frequent for a number of reasons. For example, the comparatively long interval between 1981 and 1984 was interspersed with the holding of two regional conferences viz CONSAL V (Fifth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians) in Kuala Lumpur in 1981 and CONSAL VI in Singapore in 1983. A listing of the joint conferences held is shown on page 3.

A cursory glance of the joint conference themes seems to indicate that those held in Malaysia appeared, as at that time, to grapple with more immediate pressing realities such as public library development, handling media resources and meeting library infor-

mation objectives, whilst those co-hosted in Singapore tended to incline generally towards more futuristic or esoteric issues such as UBC (Universal Bibliographical Control), AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition), planning for the 70s & 80s and just recently – the new information professionals!

### Overwhelming participation

An all-time record number of 240 participants registered for this Congress. Besides participants from Malaysia and Singapore, participants also came from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Hong Kong, Kenya, New Zealand, Thailand, the UK and USA.

### Congress theme

The congress theme was "The new information professionals", and the Congress was opened by Member of Parliament, Dr. Aline Wong.

The keynote address was delivered by James Thompson, Librarian, Reading University, England.

For two and a half days, librarians and members of information-related industries and book trade such as broadcasting, journalism, telecommunication, information consultancy, publishing and bookselling, discussed and deliberated on this new role of the "new information professionals" – to forge a new nexus, consensus and

strategy for information development. As according to the President of LAS, R Ramachandran in his opening speech, "The challenge for the Library Association and library professionals is how to bring together the traditionalists and futurists both of whom are pulling librarianship in different directions and causing strains in the profession."

IT (for Information Technology). Information professionals. Information overload. Information blockade (economic blockade, yes but now . . .) These were some of the more frequently quoted terminologies at the Congress – a barrage of them. "[T]he exploitation of IT would be a crucial link in the economic restructuring of Singapore . . ." (Dr Aline Wong in her Guest-of-Honour's opening speech).

### Food for thought?

Arising from one discussion session, one interesting morsel piece of information that was given and whetted a great appetite of interest at the Congress was the introduction of new printing technology in Bhutan, and that this step had resultantly leapfrogged forward its technology by about 75 years. The lingering question in a number of minds was had the new technology any extraneous effects on the "peace and tranquillity" of Bhutan?

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Opening Ceremony.

## PAPERS

### SEPTEMBER 4

The presenters for the seven sessions were:

#### Session 1 *The Librarian & the Information Scientist*

1. The Librarian's Changing Role in the Information Profession: a Singapore Profile  
Speaker: P. Lim Pui Huen, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
2. The Role of the Library Association in Preparing Members for New Trends  
Speaker: Zaiton Osman, Law Library, University of Malaya
3. Promoting the New Image  
Speaker: Bob Usherwood (with Anne Ryder), Dept. of Information Studies, University of Sheffield, England

#### Session 2 *Technology & the Book Trade*

4. Information Technology and the Book Trade  
Speaker: David J. Kingham, John Wright and Son Ltd, Bristol, England.
5. The Impact of Information Technology on the Book Trade  
Speaker: Lena U. Wen Lim, Select Books Pte Ltd
6. The Librarian, Bookseller and Publisher Relationship in the Context of the Changing Environment — the Singapore Experience  
Speaker: R. Ramachandran, Library Association of Singapore

### SEPTEMBER 5

#### Session 3 *The Information Media Professionals*

7. The Impact of new Technology on Information Dissemination: Broadcasting  
Speaker: V. G. Krishnan, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation
8. Technology and its Impact on Journalism  
Speaker: Khoo Teng Guan, Straits Times Press

9. The Mass Media as a Source of Information for Libraries  
Speaker: Khoo Gaik Sim, British Council Library, Kuala Lumpur

#### Session 4 *Informational and Library Consultancy*

10. The Interaction and Potential Conflicts in Information Provision  
Speakers: Celine Goh Lay Yuen, Singapore Airlines Ltd & Selvarani Sabaratnam, Wardley Ltd
11. Setting up an Information Science Consultancy  
Speaker: John Myers, Solon Consultants/Strathclyde University
12. From Librarian to Systems Analyst  
Speaker: Lynn Allen, AWA Computer Services, Perth, Australia

#### Session 5 *Computerised Information — Planning and Networking*

13. Planning to Join an Information Network  
Speaker: Bruce Royan, SILAS, Singapore
14. New Developments in Computer & Library Networking  
Speaker: Vinod Chachra, VTLS Inc, USA
15. Computerized Library & Information Networking: A Malaysian Perspective  
Speaker: Shahar Banun Jaafar, National Library of Malaysia

#### Session 6 *Information Technology*

16. Data Communications Services in Singapore  
Speaker: Lim Shyong, Telecommunication Authority of Singapore
17. Natural Language Interfaces  
Speaker: David Chan Fatt Chow, Centre for Computer Studies, Singapore
18. Information Technology and Access to Information: Some issues & problems  
Speaker: Edward Lim Huck Tee, Universiti Sains Malaysia

### SEPTEMBER 6

#### Session 7 *Human Resources Planning and Development for Information Services*

19. Planning the Development of the Information Workforce  
Speaker: Nick Moore, Acumen, England
20. Curriculum Development for the Emerging Market of Information Professionals and the Challenge of IT  
Speaker: Michael Brittain, Department of Library and Information Studies, Loughborough University, England
21. A Methodological Approach in Curriculum Design with special reference to Library & Information Education in Malaysia  
Speaker: Katni Kamson Kibat, School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology, Malaysia

The Resolutions session was chaired by Ajita Thuraisingham, Chairperson, Organizing Committee. Closing Ceremony Address was given by Rugayah Rashid, President, PPM.

With the exception of one, all the papers were made available to participants during the Congress.

#### Paper presentation techniques

There was a wide and refreshing variety of paper presentation techniques. These ranged from the formal "traditional" reading of paper from the rostrum to a large gathering to informal stance and lecturing as if the speaker was having a dialogue with a small exclusive audience — supported with a range of audio visual software such as slides and video, with a couple of "commercials" subtly thrown in. The imaginative use of overhead projector transparencies, some with humorous asides, deserve special mention. It would appear that as each session was succeeded by another, expectations became higher and more resourceful presentations were being anticipated.

## Country Papers

These papers were tabled at the Congress but not read.

1. The Extent of Library Automation Development in Singapore: a background paper  
Contributed by: Lim Hong Too, Nanyang Technological Institute, Singapore
2. Current Information & Technical Development in Malaysia: a country report  
Contributed by: Rugayah Abdul Rashid, MARA Institute of Technology
3. Country Report — Australia  
Contributed by: National Library/Library Association of Australia
4. Networking: the New Zealand Experience  
Contributed by: Rishpal Singh, National Library of New Zealand
5. Library Automation in the United Kingdom: country report  
Contributed by: Christopher Turner, Brighton Polytechnic, England

## Resolutions

The resolutions were as follows:

'The Congress hereby resolves that the Library Associations of Singapore and Malaysia:

1. direct efforts at influencing policy makers, the media and other individuals or organizations on the value and the importance of providing information services;
2. promote closer interaction and co-operation among all information-related professions;
3. encourage information professionals, publishers and booksellers to consider

ways in which they may cooperate to promote and extend information technology for the community;

4. recommend that agencies with electronic databases provide services at preferential rates in order to encourage wider use of their services;
- The Congress further recommends:
5. that in the development of new information services in an organization, online services (whether in-house or external) should be developed as far as possible with any necessary library services as an integrated system rather than as separate entities;
  6. that information professionals undertake research to develop new ways and means of information provision by creating and exploiting information technology applications;
  7. that in view of national networking developments, individual libraries planning to computerize and benefit

from network developments, be urged to ensure systems design and content compatibility;

8. that education and training programmes for information professionals should be established to meet the needs of the existing and emerging information market;
9. that in Singapore full time education and training programmes for information professionals be established;
10. that libraries and information centres make every effort to cooperate in computerization activities so as to avoid costly duplication and uneconomic use of resources;
11. that there should be greater resource sharing in library and information centres both in the public and private sectors.'

The Conference Organizing Committee is planning to have the proceedings published and make them widely available.

— Chan Thye Seng

## List of Joint Conferences

Year	Conference theme	Venue
1967	The role of public libraries in national development.	Kuala Lumpur
1969	Planning for the 70s.	Singapore
1970	Conference of Southeast Asian Librarians.	Singapore
1971	Scientific and Technical Information needs of Malaysia and Singapore.	Petaling Jaya
1972	Seminar on Cataloguing.	Singapore
1974	National and Academic Libraries in Malaysia and Singapore.	Penang
1975	Universal Bibliographical Control in Southeast Asia.	Singapore
1977	The Need to Know — developing public library services for the community.	Petaling Jaya
1978	Information Infrastructures for the 80s.	Singapore
1980	Media Resources and the Librarian.	Kuala Lumpur
1980	Cataloguing Seminar on AACR2.	Singapore
1984	New Perspectives in meeting Library Information Objectives.	Kuala Lumpur
1986	The New Information Professionals.	Singapore

## Information Science and Information Technology

The resolutions of Singapore/Malaysia Congress will be welcomed by many. Let us hope they may help to change the attitude that although LIS may have some vague connection with IT, it is not control to it.

This attitude goes way back, however. It was even present more than 40 years ago in Dr Vannevar Bush's prophetic look at the coming New Information Technology (or, as he put it "instruments . . . which, if properly developed, will give man access to and command over the inherited knowledge of the ages").

This can be seen in the following passage in which Dr Bush visualized an information storage and retrieval system based on a communicating personal computer.

'Consider a future device for individual use, which is a sort of mechanized private file and library. It needs a name, and, to coin one at random, "memex" will do. A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory. . . . On the top are slanting translucent screens, on which material can be projected for convenient reading. There is a keyboard, and sets of buttons and levers. . . . To be able to key one sheet of a million before an operator in a second or two, with the possibility of then adding notes thereto, is suggestive in many ways. It might even be of use in libraries, but that is another story.'

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Miss Raghavan

James Thompson's keynote address at the Congress on "The New Information Professionals" was all that a keynote address should be; lively, comprehensive and thought provoking. I was particularly taken with his contention that conventional libraries are "too big for anyone to use". This observation was given an added piquancy when I read three days later in the 'Library Association Record', of the opening of a new five-storey extension to Mr Thompson's own Library at Reading University, providing space for an additional 250,000 volumes and a bindery. As St Augustine might have said; "give me micrographics and full text electronic databases — but not yet".

Yours faithfully

Bruce Royan  
Director, SILAS

# LAS Annual Dinner

The LAS Annual Dinner on the 6th September 1986 was held in conjunction with the Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists (4-6 September 1986). The Dinner at the Westin Stamford and Westin Plaza was a fitting end to three highly stimulating and successful days of the Congress.

The plush setting of the Westin Hotel were most inviting and set the mood for the evening's activities.

The LAS Dinner Organizing Committee members welcomed the Congress participants and LAS members to the

Dinner. The evening's proceedings began with the arrival of the Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Lim Swee Say, Deputy General Manager, National Computer Board and Director, Information Technology Institute. Mr. R. Ramachandran, the LAS President welcomed the Guest-of-Honour, the Congress participants and LAS members present. In his address, Mr. Ramachandran spoke of the Congress and reiterated the changing but important role of the librarians and information scientists and urged librarians to meet the challenges ahead.



The VIP Dining Table



The Australians doing their thing



The Malaysian Contribution



Trio from Brunei Darussalam

The Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Lim Swee Say spoke of the role of librarians and information scientists in the New Information Age. He emphasized the need to work together with other professionals in information technology and stressed the vital role that librarians and information scientists had to play as intermediaries between the developers of information systems and the consumer.

# Congress Delegates Treated to an On-site "Live" Demo of the URICA Library System



Singapore Heritage



Ngee Ann Polytechnic Library played host to some 60 participants from the LAS/PPM Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists who came specifically to see our fully integrated computerized system, on 6 September 1986. It was an important day for the Library as it not only marked the fruition of six months of hard work by all staff, but more importantly we were ready to show how we have put the system to work for us.

The participants from Sabah, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Australia besides our local librarians were treated to an afternoon of packed programme which covered the demonstration of all modules of the URICA Library System. They were also shown a publicity slide-tape presentation on all aspects of our Library operations which were of particular interest to librarians keen on promoting and marketing their library's image.

In her opening address, the Librarian, Mrs Lock Thi Xuan, attributed the success of the entire computerization project to team effort and to the commitment and dedication of all Heads of Sections. This was followed by a short briefing on the configuration of our system and our implementation schedule.

The audience was informed of the tight schedule within which we worked and the speed with which we completed the implementation of all five modules covering acquisitions, cataloguing, serials control, circulation and OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalogue).

Prior to software implementation, which began in May 1986, we were concerned with installation of hardware, training, downloading of Library of Congress (LC) MARC Records and data input of bibliographic records not

available from LC. This was, in addition to barcoding the entire library collections and relabelling of all spine labels, as we had reclassified the collection from Dewey to Library of Congress Classification System. At the same time we also managed to cope with an annual stock check.

All Heads of Sections were involved in the demonstration which highlighted features selected for their usefulness and interest to librarians. As it was not possible within the two-hour period to show the depth and extent of the URICA library package, features chosen demonstrated how the system has helped us in our work. For example, Cataloguers have online authority checks to validate their subject, author and title headings. Acquisitions staff need only a one-step process to check for duplicates in the integrated database, while Circulation was able to cope with high student enrolment from 3,000 in 1981 to 9,600 in 1986, and a seven-fold increase in reservations. Reference staff can now provide more sophisticated searches with ease by using English (a high level language) and boolean operators to generate subject listings and bibliographies for our users.

The afternoon's programme ended with a guided tour of the library which also brought visitors behind the scenes to the various departments, where the Heads were on hand to answer questions.

Summing up the visit, Dr Oli Mohamad, Chief Librarian, Universiti Utara Malaysia, remarked that he was impressed with the Library's pace of development. For library staff, this development has equipped us to meet the high demands for our services well into the next decade.

The entertainment for the evening was underway with the speeches over. Pre-dinner entertainment was provided by the more energetic of the Congress participants. Delegates from the various participating countries displayed their talents in songs and dances.

The highlight entertainment for the evening was impromptu (short notice) national concert items contributed by participants from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore.

With that, the evening came to an end. With the departure of the Guest-of-Honour, the dinner guests took their leave. However, this was not so without a word of 'Thanks' and 'See you soon' from the Committee. Thus, ended the LAS-cum-Singapore/Malaysia Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists Dinner 1986.

## Institute of Education Library

### Visitors

22 visitors from Maktab Perguruan Ilmu Khas visited the library on 30 July 1986. The Chief Librarian gave a welcome address and a brief explanation of the library's organization and functions. This was followed by a general tour of the library and briefings by the respective section heads.

### Services

Recently, a new book display trolley was created, in addition to the display cases. All the new books discharged from Cataloguing Section were displayed first before shelving. Each trolleyload was sent for shelving as soon as a new one arrived, thus ensuring a constant supply of new books. The idea was well received by the readers.

## Library Directory Update

You may have read it in the press that the subscription to *Time* magazine has been controlled and priority is now given to libraries who are already subscribers or wishing to subscribe.

In view of this, it is important that all libraries in Singapore are listed in a source, so that the distributors of *Time* magazine can contact them about their subscription.

The Directory of libraries in Singapore, 1983 edition is the only current source available for the distributors to consult libraries. The Publication Committee of the LAS, in an attempt to update the directory, would urge all libraries who are not already listed in it, to contact the following person immediately. You are advised to leave your name, institutional address and telephone number.

Ms Haslinda Harahap  
c/o Bukit Merah Branch Library  
Bukit Merah Central  
Singapore 0315  
Tel. no. 2732730

## ISEAS Library

### ISEAS at the Congress

Mrs Ajita Thuraisingham was Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists which was held in Singapore recently. She and members of the committee have been involved in the planning of the congress since May, 1985. Besides the two and a half day congress, two post-congress workshops were also organized.

Mrs P. Lim's paper to the Congress focused on her questionnaire on the Singapore Information Professional. The survey was undertaken for a double purpose. Firstly, it aimed at obtaining management information about the profession that would complement the TALIA consultant's survey of the emerging labour market on the lines of the National Computer Board's *Singapore Computer Industry Survey* and the Singapore Institute of Management's *The Managerial Manpower Survey, Singapore 1981*. Secondly, it sought to gain some idea of the profession's perception of itself.

The main findings were discussed on Mrs Lim's paper. However, the response rate of 52.5% should be improved upon for a more accurate profile of the profession. Those who have not yet sent in their returns are urged to do so, so that the data can be input into the computer for a final analysis.

### Laos Bibliography

No. 16 was added to ISEAS' Library Bulletin series comprising a bibliography on Laos, compiled by William W. Sage and Judith A. N. Henchy.

The bibliography contains over 2,400 entries in Lao, English, French and other languages. It is particularly valuable for the number of post-1975 entries and for the proportion of "gray literature". Although it is based on ISEAS' collection, it also cites material from other sources. It therefore serves to provide some measure of bibliographical access and control over information to a country of which very little information is available.

### Malay Culture Bibliography

The compilation of a bibliography on the Malay World of Southeast Asia was first mooted at the inaugural meeting of the UNESCO Advisory Committee for the Study of Malay Culture held in Bali in 1974. For a number of reasons, the proposal did not get off the ground until 1979 when UNESCO provided a small grant for the project. The completed manuscript was submitted to UNESCO in 1984 and has now been revised for publication.

It lists the literature on the six countries of the Malay World of Southeast Asia: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand (mainly Southern Thailand).

The bibliography as originally envisaged, was an ambitious proposal to compile a series of comprehensive bibliographies, one for each participating country. A preliminary meeting was held in 1976 and country bibliographers nominated. However, the funding required for such a proposal was too high and eventually UNESCO decided on a one-volume select bibliography instead.

The organization of the bibliography followed the research framework proposed at the 1972 meeting mentioned earlier. Part I comprises reference and



Conference Organizing Committee

general works to provide a guide to information on Southeast Asia. Fairly extensive listings of journals and bibliographies are included to lead interested persons to further study and reading. Part II provides the setting of space and time. Part III features the people and Part IV the many facets of culture and society — language; ideas, beliefs, values; institutions; creative expression; and social and cultural change. Within each chapter, the arrangement is geographical beginning with Southeast Asia as a whole followed by the various countries in alphabetical order. An author index followed by a culture index completes the publication.

The bibliography is intended to be a handy reference for the student and for the interested but non-specialist reader. It is hoped that its publication will go towards fulfilling the aim of the Advisory Committee to promote a better knowledge of Southeast Asia outside the region.

Lim, Patricia Pui Huen. *The Malay World of Southeast Asia: a Select Cultural Bibliography*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1986. xiii, 465p. S\$56 US\$29.

## National Library

### IFLA Conference

Mrs Hedwig Anuar, Director National Library, attended the IFLA Conference in Tokyo from 25–29 August 1986. She delivered a keynote address on 25 August entitled *The library and information dimensions of the North-South dialogue: some thoughts on the threshold of the twenty-first century*.

### Publication

A book in Chinese entitled *Collected essays on the Chinese in Nineteenth Century Singapore*, written by David Chng of the Reference Services Division, National Library, has recently been published by the South Seas Society, Singapore. The book was based on patient research over a period of five years — viewing black and white microfilm for hours during lunch time and after office hours.

The Reference Services Division compiled a booklist entitled *A decade of Singapore Creative writing 1976–1985* in English, Malay and Tamil for the Book Fair 1986. This booklist together with the Chinese booklist on *Creative Writing in Singapore: a selective list* compiled by Mrs Olive Lee and the Chinese Literature Committee, were made available at the Book Fair.

## Singapore Polytechnic Library

### LAS/PPM Congress/Workshops

The LAS/PPM Congress of Librarians and Information Scientists on the New Information Professionals, held on 4th — 6th September was attended by the following Library staff:

Mrs R. Yeap, Librarian  
Mrs Teo Koon Neo, Deputy Librarian  
Mrs Ng Say In  
Mr. Poh Guan Huat  
Miss Fong Lai Mei  
Miss Ambika Raghavan

The Post-Congress Workshop I on "Quantitative methods for librarians and information service managers" was attended by Miss Mary Goh. It was conducted by Dr. Michael Brittain, Department of Library and Information Studies, Loughborough University.

Mrs. W. Tham and Miss Tan Sin Guek attended the Workshop II on "Library promotion and marketing" conducted by Mr. Bob Usherwood, Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield.

### Your SP Library — a video programme

The Library, with the assistance of the Educational Technology Department, produced a 15 minute inhouse video programme. Entitled "Your SP Library: a place to discover and learn", it aims to introduce library services and facilities to new students at the Polytechnic.

### New Enhancements from VTLS

SP Library has recently received 2 new enhancements from VTLS. The first is the Reserve Book 'RBR' Subsystem which controls loan and return of books in the "red-spot" collection. Under this new subsystem check out of books in short-time and over-night loans have been enabled. The subsystem will show on command the number of books due back at a given time. In addition to providing a quicker and more efficient counter service, RBR Subsystem also establishes 'indexes' for searching under course names as well as under names of lecturers who recommended the books for the Reserve Book Room. This subsystem was implemented on 15th September 1986 and has been running very smoothly.

Serials Coded Holdings is the second enhancement added to the VTLS package. This module enables the coding of serials holdings according to the international USLC Marc format for communication of serials holdings and loca-

tions. Coded Holdings will eventually pave the way for complete serials control, including receipt, claims, binding and renewals. Serials staff are currently busy converting their manual records into this format in readiness for implementation of the Periodicals Subsystem.

### Success in Examinations

Mr. Lee Hok Fai, Library Assistant from the Cataloguing Section, passed the two year part-time Postgraduate diploma in Library and Information Science examinations. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

### Civil Service Productivity Campaign Exhibition

The Library represented the Singapore Polytechnic at this year's Civil Service Productivity Campaign Exhibition held at the World Trade Centre from 5th — 9th November, 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

The SP Library's exhibit, put up under the Training and Education Module showed productivity gains reaped from our computerization programme. On display were 10 panels depicting how automation of library services had increased efficiency, saved manpower and made it faster and easier for users to locate information and borrow books. Library staff were on hand during the five days to show how the online loan system operate. Searching on our online catalogue was also included in the demonstration. Interactive terminals were made available to visitors for "hands-on" experience in accessing our online catalogue. The Exhibition was opened by Guest of honour Dr. Richard Hu, Minister for Finance and Health.

The Exhibition highlighted management and statistical reports generated by the computer which were useful tools for collection development, forecasting future needs and improving services.

### Library catalogue at your doorstep

When SP's office automation went "live" in September 1986, our Library's online catalogue was made accessible to all departments within the SP campus. This means that staff need no longer walk into the Library to source for materials. Instead, from the comfort of their own departments, they can dial into our Library system through the digital PABX telephone system and conveniently access our online catalogue for information. All staff particularly those located at far-off sites heartily welcome this new innovation which will no doubt, in the long run lead to greater and better usage of library materials.

## National University of Singapore Library

### The Science Library

THE Science Library opened for service on May 19, 1986, after six years of planning, preparation and removal work. The library, located in Block S6 of the Bioscience Complex, is 4,408 square metres and occupies two and a half floors. Its holdings consist of approximately 110,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals, 1,478 current journals as well as microform and audiovisual materials. All services and facilities provided by the Central and other special libraries of the NUS Library System are also available at the Science Library. Though its primary users come from the Faculty of Science, the Library is opened to all-registered members of the NUS Library System.

The functionally designed and well-appointed library includes a computer terminals room with PCs and terminals linked to the University's Computer Centre; a teaching and research staff area and an unsupervised reading room with its own entrance on the third storey.

### Reorganization of the Central Library

While staff of the Science Library were busy preparing for the removal to the Science Library, Central Library staff directed their energies to the task of reorganizing the Central Library during the long vacation. Major work carried out included the following:

#### (a) Bound Journals Collection

All bound journals from the various subject collections were withdrawn and placed in one area on the fourth floor of the Central Library to form the *Bound Journals Collection*. This rearrangement will speed up the shelving and reshelving of bound journals and facilitate the retrieval of journals and the use of the collection.

#### (b) The Nanyang University Library Collection (in the English Language)

Books from the former Nanyang University Library Collection, classified by the Dewey Decimal Classification System, were also retrieved from the various subject collections and placed in one area — on the third floor of the Central Library, formerly the Science/Technology Wing — to form the *Nanyang Collection*. This rearrangement will also make for easier access and maintenance, especially since the Dewey Decimal System is no longer used and hence, the collection is now 'closed'. All books acquired are now



The Science Library is located in Block S6, next to S5 of the Bio-Science Complex.

classified under the Library of Congress System.

However, users should note that bound journals of the Nanyang Collection are placed in the *Bound Journals Collection*.

Floor directories and guides to the classification have been posted at strategic locations throughout the Library to help users locate the various departments as well as the collections in the Central Library.

(c) *The Humanities/Social Sciences/Management Reference Area* has been extended to accommodate a bigger Singapore/Malaysia Collection area.

With the removal of the Science Collection and its services and facilities to the Science Library, the two reference departments of the Central Library have been merged to form the *Reference and Information Services (RIS)*, under the supervision of Miss Manijeh Namazie, Deputy Librarian, with co-ordinators in RIS for (1) Humanities/Social Sciences/Management Coordinator: Miss Kuah Soh Pheok), (2) Technology//Architecture (Coordinator: Mr Ng Kok Koon as well as the Singapore/Malaysia Collection (Coordinator: Miss Chng Chor Noy).

#### (d) Media Resources Room

Since its establishment in 1983, the Media Resources Room, located on the second floor of the Central Library, is

increasingly well-used by staff and students. The modest collection of 154 programmes (titles) in 2,559 items in 1983 has now increased to 1,583 programmes in 11,178 items in the following formats: video-cassettes, audiocassettes, tape-slides, filmstrips, films and slides.

Even during the long vacation, this section of the library is very well-patronised, especially by the students. Frequently viewed programmes include dramatizations of literary works and biographical documentaries of literary personalities, programmes on the World Wars, report writing, effective communications, interviewing, management, current affairs, programming languages, database management, computer security, manufacturing processes, quality control, industrial safety, relativity physics and behaviour of plants and animals. The fast growing collection and its heavy use prompted the extension of the area in June 1986. There is now a bigger general viewing area, two extra small-group viewing rooms, an enlarged technician room, a separate master-copy storage room and an instructional meeting room. The seating capacity has increased from 87 to 247 seats.

Apart from the Central Library Media Resources Collection, there is also a good Media Resources Collection on medical subjects at the Medical library.

The combined Media Resources Collection of the Central and Medical Libraries amounts to 2,296 programmes in 26,100 items. Media resources facilities are also available at the Science and Law libraries.

(e) **The Serials Department** has been extended to give the much needed additional office and services space.

(f) **The Reprographic Services Department** has been extended to include a separate area housing the Microform Collection.

#### Law Library reorganization

Major reorganization of the Law Library also took place during the long vacation. A new separate reference room now houses one set of the Singapore/Malaysia Collection, current periodicals and reference materials. To ensure that these are readily available, all materials in this room are not to be removed to another area or borrowed.

The US Collection has been moved to the basement and the Bound Journals Law Collection to the ground floor. The Closed Stacks Collection of some 8,000 volumes, formerly housed in the Central Library, has been transferred to the Law Library and integrated with the Open Stacks Collection.

The reorganization has greatly improved service efficiency and rendered the library more pleasing visually.

#### Promotion

Mr Michael Cheng was promoted to Deputy Librarian on 1 July 1986. Mr Cheng oversees the Technical Services while remaining as Head of the Medical Library.

#### Visitors

Mr B Yates, Assistant-Director, General Technical Services, National Library of Australia, visited NUS Central Library on 6 June 1986.

Ms Heather McCarrigan, Librarian, School of Engineering, University of Canterbury Christchurch New Zealand, visited NUS Central Library on 17 July 1986.

Mr James Thompson, University Librarian, Reading University, Mr Bob Usherwood, Senior Lecturer, Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield and Mr Chris Turner, Head, Brighton Polytechnic Library School, visited NUS Central Library on 2 September 1986. They spent the whole morning in library to observe various computerized operations including demonstrations.

#### Notable acquisitions

The world at war [videorecording]/Thames Television. London;

Thames Television International [197-] 26 programmes

Faces of culture [videorecording]/produced by the Coast Community College District in cooperation with Holt, Rinehart and Winston . . . [et al.] Artarmon, Sydney: Holt-Saunders (26 programmes)

Advances in bioprocess technology: industrial/specialty chemicals via biological sources/routes. — Technical Insights, 1985.

A bridge between control science and technology: proceedings of the 9th Triennial World Congress of IFAC, Budapest, Hungary, 2-6 July 1984 / edited by Janos Gertler and Laszlo Keviczky. — Pergamon, 1985. 6 vols.

British documents on foreign affairs: reports and papers from the Foreign Office confidential print. Part II, From the First to the Second World War. Series A, The Soviet Union, 1917-1939. — University Publications of America. 15 vols.

Encyclopedia of materials science and engineering — MIT Press, 1986. 8 vols.

Handbook of Proton-NMR spectra and data / edited by Asahi Research Center. — New York: Academic Press, 1985. 5 vols.

The laws of Brunei Darussalam. — Rev. ed. — Brunei: Government Printing Department, 1984-5. 10 vols.

NTIS retrospective index 1964-1978. — National Technical Information Service. 1332 microfiches

Vietnam and Southeast Asia, 1960-1980, with printed guide / edited by Paul Kesaris. — University Publications of America, Inc., 1982. (35mm microfilm, 13 reels)

#### Notable Gifts

41 volumes on books relating to Japan donated by the Embassy of Japan.

320 volumes on various subjects from the Asia Foundation.

### Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony for the Postgraduate Diploma Course in Library & Information Science 1984/86 session will be held on 17 January 1987 at 4pm at the RELC Auditorium.

The Guest of Honour will be Dr Juzar Motiwalla, Director, Institute of Systems Science who will speak on the topic "Impact of computer technology and the changing role of information professionals"

All LAS personal members will be invited to The ceremony. Do keep the afternoon free!

## The International Association of Law Libraries

The International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) which aims to promote interests and progress in all aspects of law librarianship and services, like any library association, also seeks to co-operate with national library associations. It maintains a regular exchange of information and collaboration between national library associations and the IALL and vice versa so that law librarians in whatever country may keep abreast of progress and development and national problems and projects of extensive significance. In furtherance of this, IALL appoints representatives in various countries. It is also now having a membership drive to include as many members as possible. Its annual membership fee is US\$75.00 for institutional members and US\$50.00 for individual members. Membership is extended to librarians, libraries, and other persons and institutions who are interested in acquisition and use of legal information and resources internationally. The IALL is affiliated with IFLA.

IALL sponsors an annual course on law librarianship. It publishes the *International Journal of Legal Information* which appears three times a year. It was formerly known as *The International Journal of Law Libraries*. It contains substantive articles, book reviews and useful bibliographies as well as notes, announcements, news of events of interests to members and legal information specialists. This journal is issued free to members but costs US\$75.00 for institutional subscribers. It has plans to publish a newsletter to be known as *The Messenger* which will also be circulated free of charge to members. Interested persons may write to:-

International Associations of Law Libraries  
P.O. Box 5709  
Washington, D.C., 20016-1309  
United States of America

— Sng Yok Fong

#### LAS NEWS Editorial Committee

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# IFLA Pre-Session Seminar and IFLA 52nd General Conference

A very successful IFLA Pre-Session Seminar was held from 18 — 23 August 1986 in Kanazawa, Japan. A total of 14 invited participants mainly from Asian Countries (12 from East, Southeast and South Asian countries and one each from Africa and Latin America) attended the Seminar. The theme of the Seminar this year was "Industrial and Scientific Information for Development — The Role of Special Libraries for National Development". This was the first IFLA Pre-Session Seminar on special libraries, and hence the first opportunity for Asian Librarians to exchange views and to interact among each other. The Seminar was organized by IFLA Regional Section for Asia and Oceania.

The Pre-Session Seminar comprised of five sessions:

- Aims and Missions of the Special Library & its Infrastructure.
- Services
- Technological Aspects
- Administration & Management
- Education & Training

A total of 22 papers were contributed by invited and Japanese participants. My paper entitled, "Towards productivity gains: the role of high technology, abstracting and indexing services in national development" was presented during the second session. In addition to officially invited participants, eight other participants from developing countries joined the Seminar as observers.

The beautiful facilities of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology Library Center provided the setting for the Pre-Session. The KITLC is one of the newly established research libraries and is equipped with the most advanced technology.

In addition, there were tours of the KITLC highlighting the automation and the Computer-Aided Instruction (CAI) facilities and also of the Kanazawa City Public Library. The KITLC has a very impressive Audio Visual Centre with the most advanced electronics technology. Anybody wishing to watch a film or listen to tape has only to feed the file number to the Intelligent Robot with a built-in logic mini-computer. The Robot automatically locates and plays requested materials in just 40 seconds!

At the end of the Pre-Session Seminar, formal resolutions were prepared for presentation at the Closing Ceremony of the IFLA 52nd General Conference in Tokyo.

My second week in Japan was spent in Tokyo together with more than 1,900 participants from 55 countries for the IFLA General Conference. The Conference with its theme "New Horizons of Librarianship towards the 21st Century" addressed a number of basic and important problems with which libraries in the world should cope towards the next century. Over 250 meetings were held during the week of Conference and as many as 160 papers were presented. Papers presented cover various aspects of librarianship to cater librarians' professional interests.

Professional tours to different types of libraries and manufacturers of laser discs and computers in Tokyo and nearby prefectures were organized as part of the programmes. I took the opportunity to visit the Pioneer Company, a manufacturer of laser discs and later found that the 24 volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica are now available in a single compact disc. Users will have to use remote control to select requested chapter.

In addition to meetings and tours, IFLA Tokyo Library Fair was organized. In this Library Fair, I experienced the old and new Japan, where traditional arts of making non-pulp Japanese

"Washi" paper was demonstrated and displayed. The latest developments in information technology using CD-ROM's and laser discs were also displayed. More than 200 stands and 100 plus exhibitors from Japan and abroad were there to show the participants the complete and newest range of library and related products and services.

The five days of meetings and tours provided participants with a forum for discussion, gain knowledge in areas unfamiliar to us, discuss the similarities as well as the differences in our work and further those personal relationships which make professional cooperation between countries so much easier.

During the reception hosted by the Governor of Tokyo to welcome the Conference delegates, we had the honour of the attendance of Their Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan.

This exposure to a global international librarians' meeting is the most rewarding experience I have ever had during my career in librarianship for the past nine years. Thank you to the LAS for making my trip possible and of course to the Japanese Organizers for their sponsorship. — *Sundusia Rosdi*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### International Symposium on Newspaper Preservation and Access

12-15 August, 1987, London, U.K.

**Organised by IFLA Working Group on Newspapers**

#### Sponsorship

Sponsors already include the British Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA). Further sponsorship is being sought to keep the prices down.

#### Exhibition

Enquiries from potential exhibitors are welcomed as some space remains. Please tick the box on the form attached for details.

#### Registration

Applications should be made on the

appropriate Booking Form. Please return the attached form to receive the full programme. Full accommodation in the elegant Hotel Russell in Central London is included in the symposium fee which will be around £350. Day and non-resident participants will be welcomed. The daily fee will be around £85.

#### Secretariat

Further details and programmes are available from the Organiser: Valerie J. Nurcombe, Information Consultant, 8 Kingfisher Drive, Over, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1PF, U.K. Tel: 0606 558242/782511 Fax 061 941 6124

# "Reading for Peace and Prosperity" Singapore Book Fair

6-14 September 1986



The theme for this year's 18th Festival of Books and Book Fair has turned out to be more than apt.

Records have been set in spite of the recession: 333 stands were taken, the largest number since the Fair's inception 18 years ago; 100 participants represented 2,000 publishers; 150,000 titles were on display; ten percent were first time exhibitors; for the first time the number of visitors crossed the half million mark, at 663,490 people compared to 478,000 last year; and the total sale was worth S\$2.72 million as compared to S\$2 million in 1985. According to the Book Fair Director, NTS Chopra, the more money and imagination expended by the exhibitors were reflected in the better designed stands. Also, more families visited the Book Fair this year as part of an increasing trend.

A first time exhibitor took the honours for the top two bestselling titles at the Book Fair. It was none other than the Ministry of Communications and Information whose stand sold 1,500 copies of *Singapore Facts and Pictures 1986* and 1,200 copies of the yearbook *Singapore 1986*. No other title came anywhere near the 1,000 mark at the nine-day Fair.

## Opening Ceremony

The Book Fair was officially declared open by Dr Yeo Ning Hong, Minister for Communications and Information, and Second Minister for Defence on

Friday, 5 September at the World Trade Centre. Dr Yeo also kindly gave away the trophies and cash prizes to the recipients of the 1986 NBDCS Book Awards. Altogether 17 awards were presented in all four languages in four categories, namely, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and books for children and young people. This again was a record, it being the highest number of awards given in the ten-year history of the Book Awards.

## Highlights

The most sales were of reference and information books such as encyclopaedias and language courses while fiction and other kinds of books were less in demand. However, the sale of children's books were better, a healthy trend to be encouraged.

The programme of special events which forms the "Festival of Books" facet of the Fair was varied. There were talks by authors and publishers, and activities for children. Crowds of children and grown-ups jostled to get a view of Ah Meng, the Singapore Zoo's celebrated orangutan who was at the Educational Publications Bureau stand to autograph Telma Robin's picture book on Ah Meng.

At a talk cum slide show by Dr Thomas Tan who wrote *Your Chinese Roots — The Overseas Chinese Story*, an interesting discussion arose on the future of Chinese Clan Associations

which are to be found in every overseas Chinese community. Dr Tan agreed that they were in a transitional phase, brought about by the pressures of a modern lifestyle and the assumption of some traditional roles by new institutions, such as the Residents' Committees in Singapore. It was an open question as to the purpose and function which will be adopted by the Clans to ensure their continuation.

The 1986 NBDCS Book Award winners were the guests of honour at a tea party attended by their publishers, Book Development Council members and the press. The judges' citations of the award-winning books were read out.

The Singapore Society of Editors organized a forum on "The Author-Editor Relationship." The panel comprised three pairs of author and editor, among them were Valerie Barth from EPB, Chuah Ai Mee, Goh Eck Keng of Landmark Books and Tan Chee Teik from Wixard Publishers. Spotted in the audience were Jessie Wee, this year's Highly Commended recipient at the Book Awards for children's books and the Director of the Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore or CDIS. Some strong views were exchanged to warm a rather wet and dismal evening when the topic turned to textbook publishing. However, differing perceptions were accommodated.

# Publications

## Institute of Education Library

Following on Dr. Tony Tan's major policy speech, the IE library compiled and issued to Heads of Schools and Departments an 'IE Library Special' entitled 'Creativity in Education'. A great deal of interest has been generated and a second impression with an extended introduction was also released.

The advent of the Educational Research Association on the 23rd of August has enabled the library to respond by issuing a second 'Library Special' dealing with *Discipline in Schools* which was the theme of the workshop sessions.

## National Productivity Board Library

1. *NATIONAL Productivity Board, Singapore*  
National training directory 1986/87. Singapore: The Board, 1986. (S\$5.00)
2. *NATIONAL Productivity Board, Singapore*  
Japanese management practices through Singaporean eyes. — Singapore: The Board, 1986. (S\$3.00)
3. *NATIONAL Productivity Board, Singapore*  
Daily value added analysis — a company manual. Singapore: The Board, 1986. (S\$3.00)
4. *NATIONAL Productivity Board, Singapore*  
Quarterly bulletin of productivity statistics. 4th Quarter 1985- Singapore: The Board, 1986 — (S\$4.00)

### CEO Breakfast List (1986)

1. *Innovation: The Key To Success* —  
Mr Lee Kennedy, CEO of 3M (S) Pte Ltd
2. *Variable Bonuses and Merit System* —  
Mr Donald Cooke, CEO of Lincoln Electric (Australia) Pte Ltd
3. *Training for Quality* —  
Mr David Paulon, EO of Westin Hotels
4. *How To Fight Competition and Remain at the Top* —  
Dr Fenton-May, Vice-President and Technical Director of Coca-Cola Company
5. *White Elephants and Computer Software in Factory Automation* —  
Mr Roger Covey, President of System Software Associates

6. *Regionalisation of a Singapore Company — The Wah Chang Experience* —  
Mr Ho Kwong Ping, Managing Director, Wah Chang Singapore Ltd

### QCC

1. *Solid Gold* — NPB QCC Presentations

### Panel Discussion and Interview (1986)

1. Panel Discussion on Critical Management Issues In The Manufacturing Sector Part I.
2. Panel Discussion on Critical Management Issues In The Service Sector Part II.
3. Panel Discussion on Production Initiatives For Multinationals and Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises.

### Audio-visual Technology (1986)

1. From Conceptualisation to Production, Snappy and Snazzy Audio Visuals for the HRD Professional: Part I — Communications
2. From Conceptualisation to Production, Snappy and Snazzy Audio-Visuals for the HRD Professional: Part II — The Value, Design and Production of aVE Materials.

### OTHERS (1986)

1. Japanese and American Experience In Management Guidance

2. NPB Certificate Presentation Ceremony July '86
3. Singapore Productivity Lecture — 86 The Spirit of Competition — The DHL Experience. Speaker Po Chung, Chairman of DHL
4. Value added Workshop by Mr Y. Kikuchi, GM of Asian Machine Pte Ltd

Sale of these items is at the NPB Resource Library. The officer in charge is Ms Lew Shut Ping (7345534 Ext 606 or 7310606)

## National University of Singapore Library

1. *Index to periodical articles relating to Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, ASEAN: Humanities and Social Sciences, 1985: 3.* Singapore, National University of Singapore Library, 1986.
2. *Media programmes: cumulative list of audio-visual programmes held by the Central Library, Law Library and Medical Library of National University of Singapore.* Compiled by the Media Resources Dept, NUS Library, 1985. (264 p.)
3. *Media programmes: list of audio-visual programmes held by departments of the National University of Singapore. Second supplement.* Compiled by the Media Resources Dept, NUS Library, 1985. (22p.)

## TALIA Report

TALIA'S consultant Acumen, has completed its draft report which has the title: *Adding Value to Information: the Role of Information Specialists in the Development of Singapore*. The draft was presented by Mr Nick Moore, the senior partner of Acumen, to TALIA at a meeting on 2 September.

The Acumen's consultants have been working on the contract research since May this year. They started off by sending more than 100 questionnaires to the employers who advertised in the Straits Times. Upon their second trip back to Singapore in July, they interviewed about 27 high ranking people in both private and non-private sectors. (Two group discussions were held separately with the chief librarians from the large library systems on the one hand, and the chief librarians working in the banking and finance sectors on the other. Besides, the couple also carried out telephone interview with those interested employers. Using the information gathered from the returned question-

naires survey forms, and the interviews, the first draft of the Acumen's report was prepared.

Copies of the draft report were also sent to the National Computer Board. Mr Moore accompanied by TALIA members, Mrs P. Lim, Mrs Hedwig Anuar, Mrs Peggy Hochstadt, and Mr R. Ramachandran, subsequently met with senior members of the NCB for a discussion on 19 September.

Mr Moore will revise his report on the basis of the comments received and present his final report in the near future.

LAS members had the opportunity to listen to a talk by Mr Moore on 18 September held at Bukit Merah Branch Library. He described the aims of his assignment, the methodology used and the findings of his survey. A lively question-and-answer session followed during which members were able to obtain a better idea of the manpower needs for information professionals in Singapore.