



## Inauguration of SILAS



The Singapore Integrated Library Automation Service, SILAS for short, had its launch on 10 April 1987. The inauguration was held at the AV Theatre, National Museum.

About 120 guests were invited for the ceremony. The Guest of Honour was Mr Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Community Development. Other distinguished guests included Mr Chng Jit Koon, Minister of State, (Community Development), Mr Zulkifli b Mohamed, Political Secretary (Community Development), Mr Wong Hung Kim, Permanent Secretary, (Community Development) and Mr Lee Wai Kok, Deputy Secretary, Culture, Community Development. Other guests were staff from various Ministries, Computer Services Division, SILAS participant libraries, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation and press representatives.

The programme started with a welcome address by Mrs Hedwig Anuar, Chairman, SILAS Advisory Committee. This was followed by a speech by Mr

Wong Kan Seng. In launching SILAS, Mr Wong said, "Singapore's survival and growth in the Information Age depends on our promoting a culture supportive of the new information technology...I believe that SILAS will make a very significant contribution to the Information Infrastructure for Singapore." He added "SILAS, by sharing the intellectual effort of organising all this knowledge, can help the small group of information professionals in this country to cope with the new pressures being put on them...by giving timely and accurate details of what has been published on any subject and where in Singapore it may be consulted, SILAS will unlock the information resources of the nation".

A video presentation on the SILAS Network was presented next. The programme described how SILAS could exploit information to its fullest. It also featured librarians using SILAS to assist readers to search for materials that were of interest to them.

This was followed by an online demonstration of the SILAS software by Mr Bruce Royan, Director of SILAS and Mdm Jamilah Bahhaj, Librarian, SILAS. The audience were shown how the librarian could make use of the 4 million bibliographic records to do copy cataloguing. Cataloguers would be able to work more efficiently by sharing the cataloguing effort instead of duplicating it. Readers could have faster access to the information resources of Singapore and know which libraries own which materials.

After the programme, the guests were invited to a mini-exhibition on SILAS and the SILAS COMFICHE Product. The afternoon ended with light refreshments.

The inauguration was covered by SBC on television and in radio interviews in English and Chinese. Write-ups by reporters were also published in the English, Chinese and Malay press. — Tan Keat Fong

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# LAS AGM

The LAS AGM 1987 held amidst the familiar surroundings of the Bukit Merah Branch Library on 21 March 1987 was attended by 70 personal members and 3 institutional members. In his keynote address, Mr. Ramachandran, the President was pleased to report a healthy surplus in the LAS accounts due to the success of the Congress. Our thanks to Ms Ajita Thuraisingham and Miss Lim Kek Hwa for leading the Committee of excellent and dedicated workers.

The *Singapore Libraries* could not be published earlier as the former editor resigned in December 1986 and he had difficulties in getting a replacement. Mrs. R. Chandran is to be congratulated for the fine editorial work of the journal. The LAS Council is having second thoughts on the change of name for the Association. Council is now interested in refining the role of libraries and librarians in the information process. It has also decided to honour Mrs. Patricia Lim by conferring upon her Honorary Life Membership. She has been a driving force behind TALIA and had spent most of her library career contributing to the library profession and the Library Association.

Mr. Ramachandran expressed his hope that members would come forward to help with LAS activities. Many seemed to be willing to give ideas only. He proposed the appointment of a proper secretariat with full-time staff — as LAS had grown in numbers, activities, quality of publications and stature as well. The Association needed to react positively and quickly to the pressures and challenges that they had to face which could not be done as long as LAS did not have full time secretarial staff.

He would like LAS to follow the precedent set by the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) which employed an Administrative Assistant for \$450/- a month and an Executive Secretary three months later when it had grown sufficiently large. A library seminar/workshop held once a year in Singapore would be able to pay for at least a full-time clerical assistant for a start.

The proposal for full-time staff was met with favourable response by the House. Other library associations such as the Thailand Library Association and Library Association of Great Britain had

employed full-time staff. A sum between \$25,000 and \$30,000 was needed annually. Council would look into the matter this year.

Other issues highlighted by the President and discussed by the House were:-

- SCLE would design a new curriculum for library technicians and conduct the course jointly with the NBDCS.
- Members had the bad habit of not turning up for programmes/visits after sending affirmative reply slips resulting in the incurrance of unnecessary expenditure such as the hiring of an extra bus which was later not used. They were reminded to inform the Secretariat or organisers of the programmes when they change their minds about attending the programme.
- To ensure a high standard of the library/information consultancy work from the clients, a brief report from them will be requested as feedback on their satisfaction with the work. However, LAS was not responsible for the opinions/advice and work of the consultant. — Siti Hanifah Mustapha

## SILAS

An introduction to SILAS and its background was reported in the previous issue of *LAS NEWS*. In this column, we shall continue to provide you with news of our developments in the past four months.

### Loading of the National Library Database

By late February the vast majority of National Library records had been successfully loaded and merged with the WLN records in the SILAS database.

### National Library went live

National Library went live on SILAS in April and cataloguers are now using the SILAS software for copy cataloguing and creation of new bibliographic records.

### Production of "live" REMARC tapes

For participants with their own local system, SILAS is able to produce bibliographic records in LCMARC for output on magnetic tape. These tapes are what we call REMARC tapes.

So far, 10 REMARC tapes have been produced for the National Library. These are being used by the National Library to build up its database on its own local system.



### MY OWN WORKSTATION



### COM products

The National Library received its first lot of SILAS COM products in March.

### Leased lines

Also in February, lines were laid to all the Phase II libraries, except the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) library.

As the MTI Library will be moving to the Treasury Building arrangements have been made for a special "Fibre optics" link to be made for them after the move.

### SILAS terminals

The order for 44 terminals and 16 printers had been placed with Infonet Engineering Pte Ltd. Installation of the terminals started in May.

### SILAS training courses

Four training courses have been planned for all phase II libraries. These are

the MARC Tagging, Inquiry, Copy Cataloguing and Input/Edit courses. The first MARC Tagging course was scheduled to start on 13 May and the first Inquiry and Copy cataloguing course on 20 May.

### LAS NEWS Editorial Committee

Editor: Ambika Raghavan  
Co-editor: Chia Wei Fun  
Adviser: R. Ramachandran  
Design & Layout: Behnaf Daman

# Pat Lim made Honorary Member of LAS

The LAS recently made Patricia Lim Pui Huen an Honorary member of the Association. Pat Lim, as she is better known, is no stranger to librarians in Singapore, Malaysia or for that matter in Southeast Asia. Currently, Librarian at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, she is a familiar name amongst scholars, researchers and academics involved with Southeast Asia.

Her contribution to LAS dates back to the days of the Malayan Library Group when she played an active role in the beginning days of the Library profession in Malaya and Singapore. Her enthusiasm and involvement in the association in those days is reflected in her own words "activities were held at different places at different times and we travelled here and there with a sense of adventure and high spirits." The earliest record of her official position in the Association was as Vice-Chairman of the Library Association of Malaya and Singapore in 1958. Going through early newsletters and annual reports, one sees her active involvement as Editor, in Council and Sub-Committee positions, and as President of the Association in 1968. She was Chairman of SCOM (Sub-Committee on Microforms) from 1969 — 1985. Pat, in fact initiated SCOM in an attempt to coordinate the microfilming activities of Malaysian and Singapore libraries and thus avoiding duplication of effort.

The contribution she is particularly proud of, however, is CONSAL. She recalls that the concept of CONSAL first emerged at the Conference on Southeast Asian Research Materials at Puntjak, Indonesia in 1969. This conference was also attended by Hedwig Anuar, Marina Dayrit, Winarti Partaningrat and Mastini Hardjoprakoso and they were so impressed with the solidarity of the SARBICA archivists that they felt there should be a similar set up and forum for Southeast Asian librarians. Thus CONSAL was born and LAS organized the first Conference with Pat as Chairman of the Organising Committee.

Pat's involvement with LAS has been a continuous one. She has always held some position, the longest perhaps in SCOM, a sub-committee of BILCO. In 1985, however, she came back into active involvement when she accepted the invitation to be Chairman of TALIA (Task Force for Librarians in the Information Age). One of the main objectives of TALIA was to define the librarian's role in the Singapore context, conduct a manpower survey and develop a strategy for the establishment of



a School of Library and Information Science. Pat set about the task with an energy and conviction, quite unusual for a person who has been in the profession so long and has fought many a battle. She seemed undaunted by the previous aborted attempts and the apathy and indifference of some LAS members to the whole problem; she proceeded with a determination which she claimed was "a last all out attempt." Indeed though TALIA proceeds with the support of all its members it is largely her drive and energy that makes the difference. Her commitment to the task is total as she harnesses all the resources available and devotes her time, skills, and thoughts to the pursuit of the goal at hand.

Patricia Lim Pui Huen entered the library profession at the then University of Malaya in 1952, joining other local pioneers such as Hedwig Anuar and Beda Lim in an environment which at those times was mainly staffed by expatriates of a colonial era. Having made a start here she then moved, as a wife often has to, to become Librarian of the Penang Library, the oldest library in Malaysia and Singapore. She returned to Singapore to take up appointments at the Raffles National Library and the University of Singapore Library where she

remained till she became Librarian at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in 1969.

Pat has over 30 papers, articles and publications to her credit. Her articles started to appear in the earliest newsletters and library journals. She has also been the Editor of the Southeast Asia Microfilm Newsletter from the very first issue to date. Her better known publications are *Newspapers Published in the Malaysian Area: with a Union List of Local Holdings*, of which an update is currently in preparation and *The Malay World of Southeast Asia: a Select Cultural Bibliography*.

Her role in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies would involve a lengthy treatise. Let it just be said that she did not stop at being a librarian. She extended herself to become involved with the various interests and projects of the Institute and to pursue research herself. Her familiarity with Southeast Asian topics, resources, individuals, society and culture has made her a well informed and respected figure in the area. When she leaves as Librarian at the Institute at the end of this year she sees it, not as retirement but as a change in role as she will pursue research interests at the Institute and undertake new challenges. — Ajita Thuraisingham

## What's Coming

	Date	Place	Organizer
International Symposium on New Techniques in Libraries	Sept. 8-11 1988	Xian, People's Republic of China	Xian Tiau Tong University, China Kangzawa Institute of Technology, Japan Ohio University, U.S.A

"We could do with some jokes!" was a tongue-in-cheek rejoinder from a library technician currently enrolled in the fifth intake of the NBDCS Management and Administration of Small Libraries Course 1987.

Seriously though, it is evident that those para-professionals who sign up for this formal training which prepares them to take the examination conducted by the City and Guilds Institute of London for Library Assistants are committed to their chosen career. They have to attend classes after a hard day's work for some 74 hours of lectures.

Started in 1983, this 'C & G Course' as it is commonly referred to by students, teachers and inquirers, was initiated by the National Book Development Council to meet the need for professionalism in library services at the non-graduate level. In fact, due to manpower constraints and the limited number of professionally qualified librarians in Singapore, there are not a few small libraries and information centres which are put in the charge of C & G Certificate holders.

Held over a five to six month period each year, more than 200 persons have been trained. Almost all have gone on to sit for the C & G Examination which is conducted by the local British Council annually in early December. Those

## 'This C & G Course'



C & G Courses are currently held at the Bukit Merah Branch Library

*(The photo courtesy of NBDCS)*

who are unable to pass all the three papers may resit their respective paper(s).

The syllabus is taught by up to six different practising librarians who are both specialists and experienced in their particular subject area(s). The lecturers are drawn from established libraries in the public and private sectors. Cover-

age is comprehensive, giving students a basic foundation in every facet of library functions and responsibilities — from administrative duties, reference work, technical skills such as cataloguing, to promotional strategies.

For more details, please call the Executive Secretary, NBDCS at 2732730.

— **Pauline Keng Lim**

## TRIBUTE TO A NZ NATIONAL LIBRARIAN

### Geoffrey Thomas Alley 1903 - 1986

Those of us who studied in the New Zealand Library School, then a department of the New Zealand National Library, would have well remembered the late G. T. Alley. He was the first National Librarian of New Zealand.

"Giant" is the word which can be applied to G. T. Alley, both in the physical sense and in his contribution to library development in New Zealand. He was a national player of rugby for New Zealand during the 1920s. He can be considered as one of those who rose from the ranks in librarianship. He literally started his library career by driving a mobile library truck for five years in the early part of the 1930s in the South Island. His greatest contribution perhaps lies in the development of public library service in New Zealand and in his integration of a national library service.

He was appointed Director of the National Library Service in 1946 and, in that same year, opened the library school for local training — a school in which a number of Singapore librarians



were trained. Busy as he might have been with his many duties, he always had time to stop and say "Hello" to foreign students from developing countries such as Indonesia and Singapore.

A long active member of the New Zealand Library Association, his many offices included Hon Editor of the Association's journal, Hon Secretary, Convenor and member of various committees, and President in 1959.

G. T. Alley became National Librarian in 1964 and retired in 1967. Upon his retirement, he was appointed professor and associate dean of the School of Library & Information Science at the University of Western Ontario, Canada until he returned to New Zealand in 1971.

Outliving many of his professional contemporaries, he died at the age of 83.

I was one of those fortunate enough "to sit at the feet of this guru" while in library school attentively listening to his meditative yarn of library development in New Zealand.

— **Chan Thye Seng**  
*New Zealand Library School Student, 1962*

# Computer Assisted Instruction Programmes for Library User Education

In keeping pace with the developments in educational and information technology, the Library has developed two computer assisted instruction (CAI) programmes for user education.

Entitled 'OPAC TUTOR' and 'LIBRARY GUIDE', the programmes aimed at developing in students a proficiency in information gathering skills which will not only be of immediate benefit to their courses of study at the Ngee Ann Polytechnic, but which they can also apply in their future career. They were planned as independent self-paced learning resources for students who has missed the formal orientation workshops and others who need to locate the various resources in the Library.

## OPAC Tutor

This was designed to guide users on the various approaches to using the On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). By providing information on file structures and explanation of commonly used terms, the student is guided to search strategies that will produce the most effective results.

## Library Guide

This programme is highly informative as it covers in detail the resources, services, and facilities of the Library. Intended to put the Library's collection to optimum use, it has the effect of helping students to gain access to materials they needed more easily.

## Software Development

The programmes were developed by



Reference staff under the guidance of the Automation Department, using software specifically meant for a tutorial environment. The creative use of graphic patterns, colour variations, interactive response, test tutorial and clarity of explanations all contribute towards kindling the interest of learners and making learning more effective.

Organized in modules, with step by step instructions, each aspect of the subject is self-contained. With the menu driven approach, readers may select any of the options required. This

facilitates learning and provides ease of access to the topic required, thus eliminating the need to have to progress from one module to the next. To help students recapitulate what they have learnt, a summary and a review is given at the end of each lesson.

## What Others Say...

Response to these programmes have been extremely positive and favourable. Mr. Chen Jee Mun, a third year mechanical engineering student said this of the 'Library Guide':

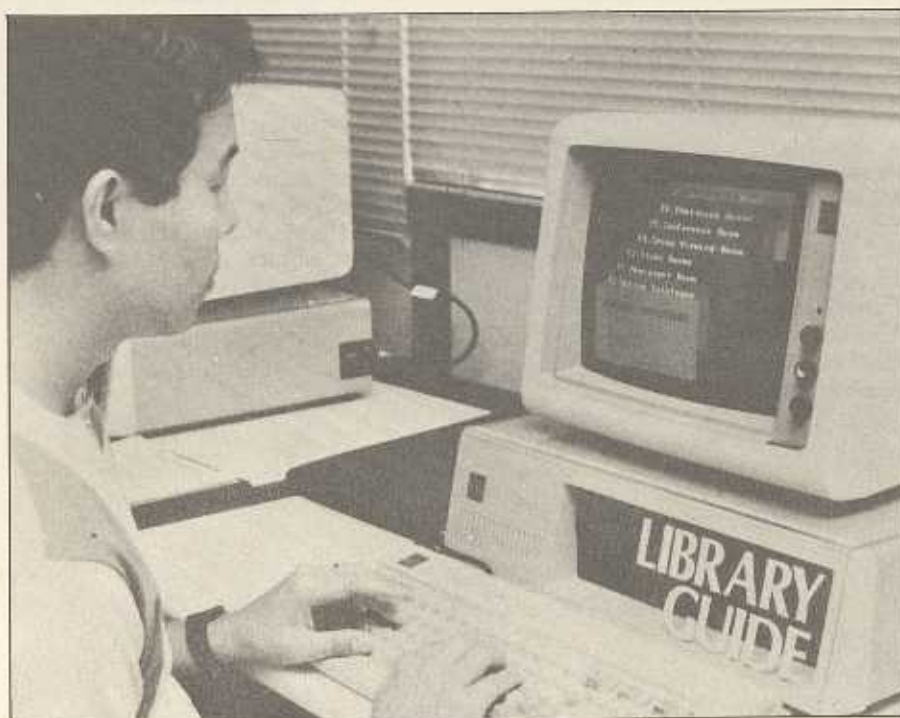
*"I have learned of the most useful information in the nick of time to help me during this examination period. All along, I had the impression that the loans on red spot books were confined to 2-hour periods only. Now, I shall be able to borrow the required book overnight. It will certainly help me to achieve better results."*

While Mr See Hoe Huat, a 3rd year electronics engineering student has this to say:

*"I was trying to decipher the location code in this record on the database, and going through OPAC TUTOR has helped to produce the desired information."*

For the Library, it has always been a challenge to bring the best approach in systems and technology to serve its users. Staff and students can look forward to further programmes, when the Library uses the sophistication in educational technology to develop programmes on literature searches.

**Ho Sze Ying**, Library Systems Analyst





## Vice President

*Name:* Michael Cheng Chong Wang  
*Academic qualifications:* B.Sc., (British Columbia)  
*Professional qualifications:* B. L. S. (Brit. Columbia)  
*Name of Library:* National University of Singapore Library  
*No. of years working in library:* 24 years  
*Previous involvement in LAS:*  
 1967-69 Hon. Sec., Joint Standing Committee on Library Education  
 1968 LAS Council Member  
 1970 Member, Organising Committee CONSALI  
 1976-78 Editor, Singapore Libraries  
 1978, 1980 Chairman, LAS Publications Committee  
 1982-83 Member, LAS Special Libraries Committee  
 1985-86 Member, Organising Committee Singapore, Malaysia Congress of Libraries & Information Scientists  
 1987 VP, LAS Council  
*Special interest:* Computerization  
*Hobbies:* Music & Photography



## Secretary

*Name:* Shirley See-Toh  
*Academic qualifications:* BA (S'pore)  
*Professional qualifications:* Postgraduate Diploma in Library & Information Science  
*Name of Library:* Straits Times Editorial Library  
*No. of years working in library:* 5½ years  
*Previous involvement in LAS:*  
 1984-85 Secretary, LAS News Committee  
 Secretary, LAS Programmes Committee  
*Special interest:* Computers  
*Hobbies:* Tai-Chi, Reading, Painting



## Asst. Secretary

*Name:* Chng Chor Noy  
*Academic qualifications:* B. A. (S'pore)  
*Professional qualifications:* A. L. A.  
*Name of Library:* National University of Singapore Central Library  
*No. of years working in library:* More than 10 years  
*Previous involvement in LAS:*  
 1980/81 Business Manager, Publications Committee  
*Hobbies:* Reading



## Treasurer

*Name:* Chin Song Lee, William  
*Academic qualifications:* B. Com (Econ.)  
*Professional qualifications:* Dip. Lib. (Liverpool Polytechnic)  
*Name of Library:* National University of Singapore Library  
*No. of years working in library:* 20 years  
*Hobbies:* Reading

# Council Members

## Council Members



*Name:* Bruce Royan  
*Academic qualification:* B.A. (London)  
MBA (Glasgow)  
*Professional qualification:* A.L.A.  
*Name of Library:* National Library, SILAS Unit  
*No. of years working in library:* 2 years plus  
*Previous involvement in LAS:* 1986/87 Committee on Library Automation  
*Hobbies:* Choral singing, Member of the Singapore St. Andrews Society Scottish Country Dance Team.



*Name:* Ng Kok Koon  
*Academic qualifications:* M. A.  
*Professional qualifications:* MA. (Chicago)  
*Name of Library:* National University of Singapore Library  
*No. of years working in library:* 3 years  
*Special interest:* Online Reference Service  
*Hobbies:* Music



*Name:* John Chan  
*Academic qualifications:* B.A. (Hons)  
*Professional qualifications:* M. L. S.  
*Name of Library:* Medical Library, NUS  
*No. of years working in library:* 12 yrs plus  
*Previous involvement in LAS:* 1986/87 Council Member & Chairman of Interact Committee  
*Special interest:* Library Computerization  
*Hobbies:* Tai Chi & Qi Gong



*Name:* Sundusia Rosdi  
*Academic qualifications:* B.A. (Hons)  
*Professional qualifications:* Post-Graduate Diploma in Librarianship (College of Librarianship-Wales, U.K.) 1981  
*Name of Library:* Toa Payoh Branch Library  
*No. of years working in library:* 10 years  
*Hobbies:* Travelling



*Name:* Lim Bee Eng  
*Professional qualifications:* A L A  
*Name of Library:* NTUC Research Unit Library  
*No. of years working in library:* 8 years  
*Special interest:* Child Care and Consumerism  
*Hobbies:* Reading

## British Council Library

**IFLA Conference at Brighton,  
August 1987**

A listing of the Pre and Post-Conference seminars following the IFLA conference in Brighton, August 1987 is available from our enquiries counter (telephone 533-7644 ext. 426).

Enquiry hours:

Monday — Friday 10 am —  
7.30 pm

Saturday 10 am —  
1.30 pm

Wednesday & Sunday Closed

### New Service: Compact discs for loan

Good news for all owners of CD players. We have started a collection of classical music on compact disc for members to borrow. The loan period is 3 weeks. To use this service, you have to sign up as a personal member of the Library.

Personal membership fee:

Adult — \$20.00

Student — \$15.00

English Language student — Complimentary of British Council

With the recent implementation of the Copyright Act, we require all borrowers of our audio-materials to sign a declaration not to infringe the Act.

### Publications

*How to live in Britain 1987* is now available for sale at the Library during its opening hours. It costs \$5.00 each and we have limited copies only.

### British book news April 1987

We have limited copies of the above to give away on a complimentary basis. Please call us immediately if anyone is interested in obtaining them.

## Ministry of Trade and Industry Resource Centre

With effect from 13 April 1987, Department of Statistics library was officially merged with Ministry of Trade & Industry Library and redesignated as Ministry of Trade & Industry Resource Centre at Treasury Building.

Our new address and telephone numbers are as follows:

8 Shenton Way #08-01

Treasury Building

Singapore 0106

Tel: 3209238 or 9



The team that produced the Catalogue. L-R Mr Foo Kok Pheow, Mrs Koh-Pun Siew Kee and Miss Karen Tan

## Nanyang Technological Institute Library

### AV Materials Catalogue Now Online

The Online AV Materials Catalogue is created in-house by using dBase III Plus and is run on a PC. It is easy to use as it is a menu-driven system. It is conveniently located at the entrance foyer and you are welcome to use it.

There are 2 ways to search the catalogue:

#### 1. Search by Title

A title search is effected when the entire title or just the first few characters of the titles is keyed in.

The system displays the titles one at a time on the screen and browsing forward and backward is possible.

#### 2. Search by Subject

A subject search is effected when a user enters the subject heading in full. The number of titles found will be shown on the screen and individual title can be viewed one at a time. A printed list of subject headings used in the catalogue is available for reference.

The catalogue consists of more than 1,500 entries and each entry includes title, type of material, physical description, summary or contents and accession number. Users are required to quote the accession number for borrowing.

## Institute of Education Library

### Attendance at Copyright talk

An entertaining and enlightening talk on the new Copyright Act was provided by Mr George Wei and Miss Ng Siew Kuan (Law Faculty, National University of Singapore) at the IE theatre on April 4, 1987. All senior staff at IE Library attended the talk. Also out in force were IE lecturers and administrative staff, library staff from IML (Instructional Materials Library) and staff from Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

The talk was followed by a lively, 1-hour question-and-answer session.

### New Microform Printer

A new microform printer was installed in the IE Library. It cost \$18,000 plus. Its outstanding feature is that it can use plain paper to print (this brings down the printing cost dramatically).

The printer can print from both mic-

rofilm and microfiche, and the quality or print is high. It is also always able to produce positive print regardless of whether the original is negative or positive.

A coin-box is due to be installed, and the self-service charge will be 10 cents a copy, comparing very favourably with the old machine charge, which was 30 cents per copy.

## UOB Library

With effect from 2 January 1987, the UOB Library became part of a new unit within the Bank, known as UOB Research Centre. The Research Centre comprises the Economic Research Department and the Library which has been expanded to serve the information requirements of the whole bank. The UOB Library is located on the 15th Floor of the UOB Building at 1 Bonham Street.

## ISEAS Library

### 2nd Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists, 20-22 October, 1986, Jitra, Kedah

Zaleha Tamby attended the Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists which was held at Universiti Utara Malaysia in Kedah. The Congress theme was Access to Information in the Muslim World. Zaleha also presented a paper at the Congress entitled "Research Resources for the Study of Islam and the Muslim Community in Southeast Asia: the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Experience." The Congress was attended by over 100 participants from about 15 countries.

### Workshop on the State of East and Southeast Asian Studies in China, Hongkong and Singapore, 3-5 March 1987, Hongkong

Wan Lye Tim attended the Workshop in Hong Kong which was organized by the Centre for Asian Pacific Studies, Lingnam College. The focus of the conference was mainly on China and it also touched on its growing interest in East and Southeast Asian Studies. Lye Tim presented a paper also on "East and Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore."

The Workshop Organisers expect to publish the Conference Proceedings, as well as a Directory of Research Institutions in China and a Bibliography of Materials on Southeast Asia Published in China in the near future.

### CONSAL VII, 15-21 February, 1987, Manila

Pat Lim Pui Huen attended the Seventh Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians in Manila, where she presented a paper entitled "On Tape and Film: Documentation and Culture." The paper highlights the non-textual materials in the SEACUP (Southeast Asia Cultural Programme) collection at ISEAS and offers suggestions to those interested in developing similar collections.

### Visit of Thai Librarians

ISEAS recently organized and

arranged a tour of libraries in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore for 4 staff members of the Academic Resource Center, Chulalongkorn University at the request of Prof Knid Tantavirat, the Director of the Centre.

The members, Mrs. Sanguansri Chunchumpunut, Miss. Suntaree Supawong, Mrs. Benjamard Wiwatchankit and Mr. Pan Sookcharoen were particularly interested in looking at computer applications and audio-visual collections.

During their visit to the ISEAS library they demonstrated to library staff the CDS/ISIS software package that they were currently using at the Academic Resource Centre.

## National University of Singapore Library

### Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

10 professional staff members attended the "Chinese Computing Seminar '87" organized by the IEEE Computer Society (Singapore), Chinese Computing Special Interest Group, the Chinese Language Computer Society, Department of Information Systems and Computer Science & Institute of Systems Science at the National University of Singapore on 12 February 1987.

5 professional staff members attended the Hewlett Packard Users Group Seminar — "Direction of 4th Generation Languages" organized by Hewlett Packard Computer Users Group (Singapore) at the Marina Mandarin, Singapore on 2 March 1987.

Mrs Sng Yok Fong, Head, Law Library attended the National Conference on Networking in Labour Relation/Labour Laws jointly hosted by the Ministry of Labour, the Singapore National Employers' Federation (SNEF) and the National Trade Union Congress at Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore on 19 February 1987 and on 23 March 1987 at Ministry of Labour.

Mrs Peggy Wai Chee Hochstadt, Chief Librarian and 5 other members of the professional staff attended the Forum on Copyright Act organized by the Consumers Association of Singapore at the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC), Trade Union House, Singapore on 3 April 1987.

She and 2 other members of staff also attended a briefing session on the same topic given by Mr. Goh Phai Cheng, Deputy State Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers on 10th April 1987 at the Ngee Ann Polytechnic while Mrs Dora Yeo, Head, Media Resources attended the Singapore Manufacturer's Association Forum on the Copyright act on 28th April 1987. A number of staff members also attended the LAS talk on the Copyright Act by Mrs Owi Beng Ki, State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers on 13th May 1987, chaired by Mrs Hochstadt.

Miss Jill Quah, Head, Cataloguing Department, attended the First Pacific Conference on New Information Technology, Bangkok, 16-18 June 1987 where she presented 2 papers as follows

- (1) MINISIS/LC Marc Conversion
- (2) LC Marc records in CD-ROM for MINISIS

### Reorganization of the Reference and Information Services, Central Library

Many changes were made in the Central Library during the long vacation. The management-related books were transferred to the new Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library, the two reference sections (Technology and Architecture Reference, and Humanities/Social Sciences Reference) were merged and are now located in the area previously occupied by the Singapore/Malaysia Collection (SMC). The SMC was transferred to where the Humanities/Social Sciences/Management Reference section used to be. It is now a "closed" collection, i.e. the books in the collection may be consulted for reference and may not be borrowed out of the library.

To ensure security of the SMC as well as the Reference Collection, an electronic book theft detection system has been installed.

## National Library

### Staff exchange scheme

Mrs Olive Lee, Head of Bukit Merah Branch Library, left Singapore on 12 March 1987 for an attachment to the East Sussex County Library under an exchange programme between the National Library and the East Sussex County Library. She will be there for six months.

Mrs Lee's counterpart from the East Sussex County Library is Mr Dennis Northey, a Team Librarian

of the East Sussex County Library, Eastbourne Area. Mr Northey was assigned to the Bukit Merah Branch Library from 20 March 1987, after an initial period of orientation during which he visited the National Library and its branches, National University of Singapore and the Polytechnic Libraries

### **National Reading Fortnight 87**

The NRF was held from 6-20 March 1987. The theme for the Fortnight was *Tell me a story* and the focus was on pre-schoolers, their parents and teachers/care-givers. The National Library organized a variety of programmes such as Asian storytelling competition, My favourite toy competition, Origami workshops, story-writing workshops for children, reading workshops for parents and talks by the visiting speaker, Miss Kyoko Matsuoka.

Response to all the programmes organized throughout the Fortnight was overwhelming.

### **User Education Programme for Primary School Teachers**

Following the success of the user Education programme for secondary school teachers, the School Library Section of the Ministry of Education had requested the National Library to conduct a similar programme for primary school teachers. The aim of the programme was to familiarize teachers with the Library facilities and resources so that they could help their students make more effective use of the Library.

There were altogether 299 schools participating in the programme which was held concurrently in the National Library and its branches every Tuesday and Thursday from 14 March to 3 April 1987. More than 900 teachers attended the programme.

### **Transfers**

Mr R Ramachandran, Head of Bedok Branch Library was transferred to the Technical Services Division on 6 April 1987. He is now the Head of the Technical Services Division.

### **Resignation**

Mr Timothy Woo, Assistant Head, Toa Payoh Branch Library

has resigned from the National Library with effect from 13 April 1987. He has returned to Hong Kong to take up a post there.

### **What's coming**

The National Library will be participating in the coming year-long "Stop violence against women" campaign, jointly organized by the National Crime Prevention Council and the Singapore Council of Women's Organisation. The campaign was launched on 23 May 1987. The National Library will be providing booklists and book displays at the Exhibition, to be held in conjunction with the launching of the Campaign.

## **First Pacific Conference on New Information Technology**

**June 16 to 18, 1987 at Hyatt Central Park, Bangkok**

Planned to be held in Bangkok for participants mainly from Southeast Asia, this Conference promise to be the major event for the library profession in this region for 1987.

The Conference offered a full programme of invited and contributed papers discussing the introduction, implementation, operation and use of new technology in libraries, including micro-computers and online public access catalogues, software evaluation, databases, information systems, optical applications and above all experience in handling information technology. In addition, there was Product Reviews, a comprehensive Exhibition, and small group discussions.

The Chief Organizer of the Conference was Dr Ching-chih Chen, Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, USA. Professor Chen is well-known for her publications and expertise in library and information science. Serving as regional co-ordinator for the Conference was Dr the Ohio University Libraries, who is known to many of us in this region. The national co-ordinator for Singapore was Mr Lim Hong Too, Librarian of NTL.

More than 50 papers from all over the world had been accepted for presentation, about two-thirds of which were from this region. Keynote speakers include Roland Brown, President of OCLC, Roger Summit, President of DIALOG, Vinod Chachra, President

of VTLS, And Leon Chico, Executive Director of TECHNUNET Asia. From Singapore, we had Jim Davies speaking on artificial intelligence, expert systems, knowledge engineering and the librarian, Jill Quah on MINISIS/MARC conversation and LC MARC Records in CD-ROM for MINISIS, and Foo Kok Pheow on Serials Control Systems using micro-computers. Other papers were from Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Japan, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA.

## **The LAS Merit Award**

The LAS is looking for someone to give \$4000 to. If you know of any professionally qualified librarian who has rendered outstanding service to the Association please nominate him or her for this award. The candidate must be a **personal member** with at least 5 years experience in full time library work.

### **Purpose**

The award is to enable to librarian to attend overseas meetings and participate in the programmes of other library associations while there or even to undertake short courses which would contribute towards the improvement of the Association's activities.

### **Other details**

The Award shall be tenable for the year in which it is awarded (1987).

One Award shall be made this year and the LAS Council Members form the Selection Committee. No award shall be made unless there is a candidate of sufficient merit.

The successful candidate is required to write a report on his/her programme after returning to Singapore.

### **Nominations**

Nominations may be proposed **and seconded** by all personal members of the Association.

Nomination forms are available from:

Miss Haslinda Harahap  
c/o LAS Secretariat  
Bukit Merah Branch Library  
Bukit Merah Central  
Singapore 0315  
Telephone: **2732730**

Please send in your nominations without further delay and ensure that a deserving librarian be given the chance to benefit from meeting with professional librarians overseas and returning to further enhance the activities of our own Library Association.

## Institute of Education Library

A 'Computer education glossary' by Jim Davies (Chief Librarian), Tan Ping Kong and Dennis Harper has been produced.

The latest issue of *Lop-lop*, the 'library newspaper' (no. 36) is also out. The article in it, Home Again, focuses on the library renovation.

## National Library

*Singapore Periodicals Index 1985*, (Price: S\$8.50)

*Singapore National Bibliography 1985*. Annual volume. (Price: S\$20.00)

The latest (volume 42, supplement 7) of the *Encyclopedia of library and information science* published by Marul Dekker, New York, 1987, includes a contribution on *Asia, Libraries in* by Mrs Hedwig Anuar and Dr Richard Krzys. It covers pp 24 to 128 and lists over 500 references.

*Pasar Malam* (night markets) in Singapore: a select bibliography, compiled by David K Y Chng, Reference Services Division.

Chng, David K Y. *Searching for Singapore imprints*. In Southeast Asia Research Materials Group Newsletter 33: 1-4; Jan 87

*Meet-the-authors: background of four local authors; including list of their works*: Yvonne Quahe, Graham Colin-Jones, Joan Hon, and Goh Sin Tub, compiled by Lo Tien Yin, Marine Parade Branch Library.

*Singapore illustrated: past and present in pictures: a booklist* compiled by Nicholas Martland, Reference Services Division

*History of transport, communications, housing and public utilities in Singapore: a booklist*, compiled by Nicholas Martland, Reference Services Division

*Career planning and development for women: a booklist*, compiled by Ng Geok Lan, for AWARE forum held on 5 February 1987 at the Queenstown Branch Library

*Women in science and technology: a booklist*, compiled by Fadzilah A. Salam, for AWARE forum held on 5 March 1987 at Queenstown Branch Library.

*Women workers in factories: a booklist*, compiled by Josephine Yeo, for AWARE forum held on 2 April 1987 at Queenstown Branch Library.



Mrs Peggy Wai Chee Hochstadt, Chief Librarian, National University of Singapore receiving the books from H E Mr P.J. Handmer, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore.

## National University of Singapore

*Index to periodical articles relating to Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei: Humanities & Social Sciences 1986*, no. 1, Singapore: National University of Singapore 1987.

*Central Library Information Bulletin*. April 1986. Singapore: National University of Singapore, Central Library.

### Notable Acquisitions

*Electronic industry's guide to Singapore: a special report for chief executive officers, purchasing managers and marketers*. — California: Nahabit & Associates, 1986.

*High-tech fibers: Key to stronger, high-quality products*. — Technical Insights, 1985. (Emerging technologies; no. 16).

*Indonesia archaeological photographs: photo collections of the National Research Centre of Archaeology of the Republic of Indonesia 1901-1956 at the Kern Institute, University of Leiden*. — Inter Documentation Company AG., 1983. (2v. on 267 microfiche).

*Chinese History Series (motion picture)* a China Institute in America presentation — New York: The Institute, 1976 (13 programmes).

*Straits Settlements Blue Books 1870-1938*. 36 microfilm NTIS retrospective index 1964-1978. 1,332 microfiches.

*Nihon shoseki somokuroku* (Japanese books in print) 1986 ed. 3 vols.

*Dai Kan-Wa jiten* (Great encyclopaedia of Chinese-Japanese terms) Rev. ed. 13 vols.

*Shuyo kigyō no keifuzū* (Genealogical tree chart of major enterprises)

*Sogo shōsha nenkan* (Annual directory of business firms) 1985 ed.

*Chugokugaku ronshū* (Essays on Sinology)

*Heibonsha dai hyakka jiten = Encyclopaedia Heibonsha* 16 vols. Set.

### Notable Gifts

The Australian High Commission presented 68 books on Australian Literature to the NUS Library on 13 February 1987.

In presenting the books, the Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, H E Mr P.J. Handmer, said that he hoped the donation would mark the beginning of a more substantial Australian involvement with the University in a number of areas of study such as Commonwealth literature and social work.

The Honorary Consul & Trade Commissioner for Mauritius, H E Mr M H Toorawa, also presented 35 books on Mauritius to the National University of Singapore Library, the first in a programme of annual book gifts from Mauritius, on 10 March 1987.

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