Library Online Systems - Making it Work

The Library Online Catalog. You have all seen it: a main catalog showing Library holdings, three journal citation databases available from the main catalog, and almost two dozen cd-rom databases loaded onto a local area network. It looks straightforward and effortless. A user can hardly imagine the amount of work involved in pulling these together.

INNOPAC is an Integrated Library System (ILS). System software keeps track of all the items in the collection, from the moment they are ordered. It 'knows' where they are, when they are due back, who else has asked for them, what courses items are reserved for, and what fines need to be levied.

At each stage, information is routed to the Management Information portion of the ILS. Here, statistics are collected and analyzed for patterns, budgets are maintained and fund allocations adjusted in a constant ballet of electronic synergy.

HKUST's Library is not only the first international site of INNOPAC, it is also the first to load additional databases into INNOPAC. Months of discussing, testing, modification, and adjustment were needed before we could bring the first journal citation database online. We continue to work with the ILS vendor to make improvements, such as exploring different ways to index the terms used in the subject searches, in order to make it more effective.

Another first for us has been the cooperative development and implementation of a Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) character entry and display capability for INNOPAC. For the past year, we have been coordinating a team of designers and engineers from four companies in three countries. Hardware versus software concerns, analysis of different entry options, discussion of various network transmission and display protocols (CCCI, Big 5, etc.), and exploration of data entry formats to be used in cataloguing prior to

Collection Spotlight - Online Databases

We continue to spotlight databases available on the Library online system because many people do not yet know what is available. The University Library provides access to materials far beyond what most libraries are able to offer. Combining this with effective document delivery arrangements and inter-library loan services, we believe we will be able to adequately support our faculty members' research needs. We will soon release Periodical Abstracts on INNOPAC. There are now 23 CD-ROM databases on CD-NET and 11 standalone CD-ROM databases available.

Business Periodicals Ondisc (BPO) - This standalone fulltext imaging database supplements the indexing and abstracting of ABI/Inform with a periodical directory to locate complete articles and provide laser-quality output of the original magazine pages. For example, Technology
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Review is available fulltext since November 1987 and The Economist from 20 Feb., 1988 to the present. BPO offers fulltext for more than 300 periodicals indexed in ABI/Inform.

Computer Select is accessible on CD-NET. It includes the fulltext of 65 computer journals as well as abstracts from another 101. If you want to browse, for example, through MacUser, PC Magazine, AI Expert, Communications of the ACM, Datamation, IBM Systems Journal, WordPerfect, or Dr. Dobb's Journal, you may do so online, or download articles to disk.

Chembank is four databases combined: HSDB (Hazardous Substances Data Bank) from the U.S. National Library of Medicine; CHRIS (Chemical Hazard Response Information System) from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation; OHMTADS (Oil & Hazardous Materials Technical Assistance Data System) from the U.S. E.P.A., and RTECS (Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances) from the U.S. Health & Human Services. Tropag and Rural provides Abstracts on Tropical Agriculture and Rural Development in the Tropics.

If you want to locate a specific Shakespearean sonnet, the easiest way to do it is to search it in Shakespeare On Disc. You can also verify book citations using Books in Print Plus, or search a journal title in the Ulrich's Plus. You can even download share-ware MS-DOS programs from PC-SIG!

The three most noticeable databases on CD-NET are Medline, Science Citation Index, and Social Science Citation Index. Because of the number of discs in these databases, and because we want to make the network as efficient as possible, such large databases will have current years only on CD-NET with earlier discs available on a standalone terminal in the Database Search Room in the Reference area. Fulltext Micropatent, which has an added disc every month, is available only on the standalone terminal.

In the next month we plan to produce a series of quick guides to the databases on CD-NET.

Exhibition - Library Lobby
When you enter the Library you will notice the two exhibits in celebration of the opening of the University. One is a photographic exhibition—"Building a University: Through the Lens of Lee Ka-Sing," Lee Ka-Sing was named Photographer of the year for 1989 by the Hong Kong Artists' Guild. These framed and wall-mounted photographs show HKUST from a unique perspective.

The second exhibit is a collection of documents, photographs, and mementos from HKUST's beginnings. There are publications, such as planning reports, as well as videos about the founding of HKUST. Another case displays photographs of the early and later stages of building construction. Other documents and photographs highlight events from 1988 on, such as the laying of the foundation by HRH The Prince of Wales. And finally one case is devoted to the Opening Ceremony. These records provide an overview of HKUST's brief history.

They will become part of the permanent collection of the University Archives. We would like to thank the Office of Public Affairs for bringing these handsome exhibitions to the Library.
Bibliographic Instruction Update

The Library, in cooperation with the Language Centre, has conducted 23 “Library Skill” classes for our undergraduate students. In addition, two focused seminars on “Library Resources and Services” have been given to the graduate students and faculty of the Biochemistry and Chemistry Departments. Similar services are available to other departments upon request.

General “Library Orientation” sessions are now available to the University community, including family members. Each session includes a short tour of the facility, an introduction and explanation of the Library Online System and services.

These classes are currently held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 3:30. You may sign up for a class at the Reference Counter or by calling x6760. Otherwise, send e-mail to LBREF.

Faculty Studies

The Library now has eight faculty studies available. These are located on LG1, and equipped with a desk, chair, and bookshelves. A computer (PC) with network connection will be provided on request.

Faculty in need of research space in the Library may request the use of one of these studies at the Reference Counter. The studies may be reserved from one day to one term. Library materials, including bound periodicals and reference books, may be checked out and left in the studies during the reserved period.

Children Not Allowed [or “Aloud”?]

You may have noticed a sign on the front door of the Library asking children not to enter the Library. We have had a large number of visitors to the Library, especially on the weekends, equipped with picnic supplies and cameras. Students have complained about the noise and distractions while they are trying to study, and staff have had to quiet the children and get them away from computers. The sign was posted in an effort to preserve an appropriate study atmosphere for the library users.

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the actual implementation of the display capability are being explored. A prototype version is now operating on one terminal in the Library. Development continues, with the goal of providing this capability to terminals all across the campus network. A great deal of work remains.

The CD-NET was yet another substantial undertaking for the Library. In just a few short months, we have built the largest cd-rom network in the world. Deciding on a platform took almost a year, as we worked with DEC, CCST, and our ILS vendor in a mostly successful attempt to provide full systems integration. Each database and its search software must undergo thorough testing. Problems in memory allocation, search engine protocol conflicts, and differen-
Suggestions, We get suggestions . . .

"Dear Library, can you arrange for less homework, longer hours, perfect temperature, just the book I want to read . . . ."

We do read your suggestions. While there is no way to respond to most of them since no return address is given, we want to use this space to answer several common suggestions.

More than one person asked what to do when a book shows a status of "available" but cannot be found in the stacks. We suggest that you ask for help at the Circulation or Reference counter. The book may be mis-shelved — that is why we ask that users never reshelve books. Or maybe you misread the call no. or its location. If the book cannot be located immediately, you may request that it be traced using the Search Slip at the Circulation counter. We will inform you of the result.

Several have asked for "more fiction." We agree that we need to acquire more fiction, some hobby material, and more Chinese novels and newspapers, but we do have a growing collection of fiction in the "P" class. Please ask for assistance at Reference if you have trouble finding them.

Many have complained about the temperature and ventilation systems in the Library. The Estates Management Office is working diligently to balance and equalize these systems to maintain a comfortable environment.

Photocopy Services

Photocopier cards may now be purchased, with values up to $95. Self-serve copies are $0.20 each.

The Library's Photocopy Service is located on LG1. Copies are provided at the cost of $0.30 per page — you may pay cash or charge the cost to your departmental account. Call x6792 for details.

Expansion of Services

In response to the needs of the University's MBA program, Saturday hours have been extended until 7pm. To do this with our limited personnel, without cutting hours elsewhere, the Reserve and Circulation areas have been combined. The result has been a significant improvement in services. For the time being, the former Reserve area will be used for special collection, such as Fine Arts and large book sets.