Pardon our Dust

We have finally opened our doors! As of Thursday, September 26, partial service is available.

Due to the continuing construction in the Library, we were initially not able to offer the full range of services. The Media Resources area was not available for use, the photocopy centre needed a bit more work, and our computer laboratory continues to await delivery of its equipment.

Please bear with us for the time being. Our staff's high spirits will more than make up for the temporary deficiencies of our facilities.

Media Resources

Whether they are called "instructional media" or "audiovisual material," these products have improved greatly since the 16mm films of the 1950s and 1960s.

In the late 1960s, video arrived with 1/2" reel-to-reel black and white programs. The equipment was difficult to operate, and relatively few videos were worthwhile. The next advance, in the mid 1970s, was the 3/4" cassette format, which became the standard. While this format was a distinct improvement to its predecessors, size, high costs and program quality continued to be problems.

With the present 1/2" video, the equipment is inexpensive, compact and easy to use. More importantly the quality of instructional programs has risen as costs have decreased.

Collection Spotlight -- Media Resources

At present, the emphasis of our media resources collection is the VHS video format, along with some slide sets, compact discs, and laser discs.

Unfortunately, our location in Hong Kong presents some complications to making media purchases for the University Library:

1. Previewing materials is seldom possible. It is therefore important for faculty to review their professional literature carefully to ensure that the product is what it claims to be and that it meets their classroom criteria. Respected reviewers can be very helpful. The Library has some reviews that may be helpful, and the Media Resource Librarian can help you find additional information on titles.

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Nowadays students are used to viewing, as well as reading and hearing, information about most subjects. Educational media materials have in many cases become an integral part of the academic environment. Whatever the subject ... history, science or management, these resources can add a valuable dimension to the educational process. Media allows us to bring the world and all its wonders into the classroom.

The Media Resource Department provides well-equipped viewing carrels and small group viewing rooms for the use of the collection. The collection is open for browsing and circulation. Faculty may place media materials on reserve or show them in the classroom.

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2. Since most of our purchases are from the United States, the time lag between ordering and receiving items is significant. Early requests will help us meet your deadlines.

3. While our opening collection is limited in size, it will develop into a fine collection in time. Some titles presently on order are:

1. Against All Odds
   Hosted by Dr. Teresa Amabile of Brandeis University, this series of videos unlocks the mysteries of statistics. Shows how statistical processes can be used to answer significant inquiries.

2. Cell Biology
   Enter the world of the living cell: plant, animal and protozoan. Offers a detailed look at the cytoplasm, nucleus and plasma membrane in action. Produced by Bill Walker Productions, Incorporated.

3. Smithsonian World
   Examines the ideas, values and artifacts that shape our modern world. Profiles the people, places and events that influence the world we live in and identifies the critical issues we will face in the future.

4. Doing Business in Asia
   Host Yue-Sai Kan presents case studies of successful and not-so-successful foreign ventures that offer valuable insights into the arts and risks of doing business in Asia. Serves as a practical guide for understanding diverse Asian cultures, social customs and business customs.

5. The Mechanical Universe and Beyond
   These acclaimed programs explain and illustrate principles of physics in a creative and entertaining manner. Produced by the California Institute of Technology.

6. A World of Ideas with Bill Moyers
   Journalist Bill Moyers interviews world famous scientists, writers, artists, philosophers, and historians to explore the values shaping our future.

7. The Brain
   These Peabody Award-winning programs explain and illustrate the operation of the brain.

8. Two Fires Inside China
   Offers a look at the Cultural Revolution of the People’s Republic of China and its impact on China today. Shows how China has emerged from a period of chaos.
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and asks how China will proceed. Pro-
duced by Peter Gettinger.
9- The World of Chemistry
The foundation and behaviour of
chemical structures are explored. Magni-
ifies the minute chemical building blocks
of all matter. Produced by the University
of Maryland.
10- Climate and Man
Provides a framework for understand-
ing the most potent threats facing the earth
today - the greenhouse effect, ozone layer
depletion, rain forest destruction, acid rain
and global warming. Produced by Vision
Group in association with Cameras Con-
tinental for LWT
These are just a few of many excellent
programs available for your use.

OPAC TIPS
When using the Library Online Catalog:
•DON'T use the "arrow" keys - using them
  throws you out of the program.
•DON'T try to print records if you are using a
  Macintosh - this is not currently supported.
•DO use the 'Escape' or 'Esc' key to back up
  when 'Q' (for quit) is not available.

Circulation Statistics
As of 21 October, 3,083 library ma-
terials were checked out. On average,
each borrower had checked out 4.8 items.
Faculty borrowers averaged 7.0, graduate
students averaged 8.1, undergraduate stu-
dents averaged 3.9, staff averaged 3.7,
and other borrowers averaged 3.9.
48 borrowers had between 11-20
items checked out. Only 10 borrowers
had more than 20 items checked out.

Staffing Changes
Several months ago the Library
stopped recruiting additional staff because
of limitations on the 13th floor of the
World Shipping Centre. Now that we
have moved to our spacious new quarters
in Clear Water Bay, our staff has increased
by about 50%. Staff training is a constant
part of the Library program, aiming to
best serve the needs of HKUST's users.

Library E-Mail Addresses
Please use the following e-mail addresses for
questions relating to specific library operations:
LIBRARY - for general suggestions or comments.
LBACQ - ACQuisitions
LBCIRC - CIRCulation
LBCOLL - COLLection Development
LBILL - Inter-Library Loan
LBREF - REFerence
LBRSRV - ReSeRVe
Library Without Walls: Expanded Access to Library Materials

Some faculty members have asked about the acquisition of journal back files. How does a new library cope with not owning many early years of bound journals? In the past, a library would usually obtain these journals in microform, as funds permitted. But, more usefully, advances in information technology and telecommunications enable us to provide our users with access to more titles than any single library could ever own.

In addition to loading indexing and abstracting databases onto the library system, the Library has installed a CD-ROM LAN, which will greatly expand the number and variety of databases available. The Library is also connected to Dialog online services and OCLC, the largest bibliographic database in the world. Inter-library borrowing and document delivery arrangements with academic libraries in Hong Kong and overseas, and with ISI's Genuine Article, UMI's Article Clearing House, and the British Lending Library provide support. Plans are also underway to establish access to other university online catalogs and databases through the Internet.

While we are not routinely acquiring earlier volumes of journals, as we become aware of important exceptions, we may purchase some back files on microform.

Library Policies / Regulations

Several people have asked about the Library's policies, on everything from how many books can be checked out to what the Library hours will be during examination periods and holidays. This is a new University, and the Library's policies are undergoing constant evaluation and refinement. We want these policies to best meet your needs.

Utilize the Library's resources to accomplish your academic goals. For everyone's benefit, borrow only books that you are going to use, and return them to the Library as soon as you have finished with them. If a book you need is already charged out by someone else, please request that Circulation recall the book for your use. Library materials are there to be used. With courtesy and consideration for other users, everyone can be accommodated.