HKUST Library's WWW Server (http://library.ust.hk/)

Information technology has moved rapidly in the past few years. The World-Wide Web (WWW) integrates the power of hypertext links with global Internet communications. The Library, already utilizing a variety of tools for research within the library and on campus, is moving further into the vast information domain of the Internet by providing a WWW server of its own (http://library.ust.hk).

The Library’s WWW server was constructed to provide a two-way channel of communications between the Library and the UST community, and to provide easy access to the vast array of Internet services, servers, and information resources.

We have inaugurated our server with information about the Library, access to Web Server – continued on page 2

Colloquium on Information Science: A HKUST Library Series

The HKUST Library introduced a new lecture series which was held on March 20, 22, and 23, 1995. The Vice-Chancellor/President Chia-Wei Woo opened the first session. The speakers were Ann Okerson, Director, Office of Scientific & Academic Publishing, Association of Research Libraries and James O’Donnell, Professor, History/Classics, University of Pennsylvania.

The topics included in their timely and interesting presentations were scholarly communication, perception of the library throughout history, full-text electronic information, electronic journal editing, Internet as a teaching tool and intellectual property issues. There will be additional lectures in this series in the future.

Collection Spotlight: Internet Resources

Engineering: the Civil Engineering portion of the WWW Virtual Library contains information on upcoming conferences, along with many links to academic and industrial resources, calls for papers, etc. This is functional one-stop shopping. Its web server is http://www.ce.gatech.edu/WWW-CE/home.html

Science: a central collection of links to physics and physics-related Internet resources is available at http://www.physics.mcgill.ca/physics-services/ From there you can find every-thing from fellow-ships to article pre-prints.

Spotlight – continued on page 2
**Spotlight – continued from page 1**

Humanities and Social Science: The China Home Page at http://www.cernet.edu.cn/, organized by Tsinghua University, contains information on Chinese history, culture, philosophy, and many other topics.

More on China: Other good sources of information relating to China are the China News Digest (http://www.cnd.org/) and the Chinese Community Information Server (http://www.ifcss.org:8001/).

For assistance in navigating the Internet, you can refer to *The Internet Yellow Pages* (Ref TK 5105.875157 H34 1994) and *New Rider’s Official Internet Yellow Pages* (Ref TK 5105.875157 M368); as well as the Library’s own web server (http://library.ust.hk/), which includes a growing collection of Internet links of value to researchers at the University.

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**INTERNET**

**Why is Access to Lexis/Nexis So Slow?**

Recently, several users have commented that access to the Lexis/Nexis system seems rather slow. We are aware that the connection speed to Lexis/Nexis (and other service providers) via the University’s Internet connection is much slower than we would like. We continue to work towards a resolution of this problem.

Library Systems staff have made a number of tests with different software front-ends, including traceroute network analyses. It was found that the PCs in the Database Search Room are connecting just as fast as other PCs on campus.

We have also explored the possibility of returning to dial-up access for Lexis/Nexis, but the access costs would be prohibitive. Significant cost problems were encountered, prior to our reconfiguring the software to function across an Internet connection on UST’s Pathworks network—and that was before its usage began to skyrocket.

Library staff have held several meetings with CCST and HK SuperNet staff about the need for a larger Internet network connection for the University. All agree with the need, and progress is being made toward securing funding for much wider bandwidth. This is necessary not just for Lexis/Nexis, but for an increasing number of information resources, ranging from access to library catalogs to exploration of the World-Wide Web.

As an interim solution, we are now arranging for these PCs to be dedicated to accounts on Hong Kong SuperNet. This will greatly improve the response time for Lexis/Nexis users, until such time as the University is able to upgrade its main Internet connection.

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**Web Server – continued from page 1**

the catalog, a staff directory and the library database directory. We are gathering links to information about Hong Kong and to Internet resources in Hong Kong. We have also brought together resources to help you to navigate the Internet. This area will expand with bibliographies and other information.

This server will also contain pointers to local and overseas resources and tools which would be of interest to our academic community. The Library Staff will continually explore the Internet seeking out the best of these for inclusion. Suggestions are welcome—send them to library@ust.hk

Please explore the HKUST Library Web space and send us your ideas and comments.
PowerPages: CD-ROM Jukebox Technology

In January 1995 the Library installed the first networked CD-ROM jukebox system in Asia. The HKUST Library has used these CD-ROM image databases, the largest such system outside of the United States, since October 1991. PowerPages, from University Microfilms International, contains over 1,300 CD-ROM discs with the full images of articles from over 1,000 journals, covering business, management, social sciences, and othersubjects. Updated monthly, this system allows UST faculty, staff, and students to locate articles of interest from their desktop workstations, and send them to a printer in the Library.

Prior to this time, if you needed a full image/text print of the UMI products, you had to sign up to use the Database Search Room for a scheduled time. Sometimes the machine was busy when you wanted to use it. Now, however, if you are on campus and have a DOS machine, you can request the prints through the online library system. Just choose “PowerPages” from the menu of subject databases. Choose the database you want, and follow the screen commands.

Faculty, staff, and students have been pleased at the flexibility and the ease with which the system works. You can send a print request through the PowerPages program, and pick up the print a few minutes later at the Circulation Counter. Payment can be made with cash, or HKUST Library Flexicard (photocopy card). In the coming year HKUST Library expects to add the imaged engineering journals, conference proceedings, and standards now available on a standalone workstation to this system; to enable printing to any printer on the campus network; and to provide the option to fax documents to departmental fax machines.

What’s New?
The rapid growth of our collections has resulted in a number of changes in the Media and Microforms areas. The first “facelift” has been completed with the music CDs. Our shelves have been modified to provide better display, easy access, and more storage space.

The general collection of videocassettes has also expanded steadily (current holding more than 12,200 items), and shelving has also been rearranged to accommodate for the growth.

But, the largest expansion has been in the microforms area, where new storage cabinets have been filled, and the collection is now due for a relocation.

The entire media and microforms area will be renovated in the coming months.

Reference Collection Review
Recently if you looked for a reference work in the same place as before, you may have been surprised. Between semesters the Reference librarians evaluated the Reference Collection. Some titles were moved from the Book Collection into the Reference Collection, others were moved from Reference into other parts of the Library, and still others were withdrawn from the collection as outdated and superseded.

Some titles were brought up to date with orders for new editions, and the entire collection was shifted for easier use. If you cannot find a book you use frequently, please check the Library System for its location as well as noting the current shelf arrangement, or ask the Librarian at the Reference Counter for assistance.

Most materials kept in Reference are current, frequently used materials. These items are primarily used for quick checking or they are sets requiring the use of more than one volume. Older materials are placed in the book collection, where they may be checked out.
Suggestions and Answers

In this column we respond to some of the suggestions and comments placed into the library catalog’s suggestion box. Brief responses to common suggestions may also be found in one of the library catalog’s Library INFORMATION screens. Suggestions typed into the library catalog are anonymous. If you want a direct response, be sure to include your e-mail address.

Cancel Own Holds: Many users have asked for the ability to cancel their own holds on Library materials. This feature is now available, and can be used under the “VIEW your circulation record” option.

Seminar Rooms: The Seminar Room on LG1 can now be reserved for group discussion by postgraduate students, as well as faculty and staff. Reservations for up to three hours can be made as much as one month in advance. Please make reservations at the Reference Counter.

When not reserved, the Seminar Room is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Remember that, like the study rooms, if there are books or backpacks in it, but no people, you may place the belongings on the floor and use the room.

Materials in Demand: The Library software alerts the staff when there is high demand for an item. Library staff then examine the demand, and determine the most appropriate action. In some cases purchasing additional copies is justified, but that takes several weeks. In some cases, the item is moved to the Reserve Collection, in others the Open Reserve area is enough to relieve the pressure.

Open Reserve Collection

Starting this semester, the Library has set up an OPEN RESERVE area on the first floor of the Library. This is part of the Reserve Collection, but allows open access because of the unique nature of the materials, which can also be checked out on short term loans.

Three major categories of materials are kept in this area: 1. Computer manuals transferred from CCST: more than 700 items, available for 3-day loan; 2. Company reports: more than 500 annual/interim reports, available for 2-hour loan; 3. On demand books: more than 350 books that have had more than 3 hold requests, available for 3-day loan.

Who to Contact

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>358-6711</td>
<td>LBDONW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>LBCAROL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>LBLTEE</td>
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