Student Fund Boost From Book Sale

Over 400 book lovers flocked to the first Library Books and Magazines Charity Sale organised by the NP library.

Hon Liang Yi

A TWO-DAY book sale raised more than $4,000 for the NP Student Aid Fund, which provides bursaries and study grants to needy students.

According to the Library Community Service Team that organised this first Library Books and Magazines Charity Sale in late October, the exact amount raised was $4,441.05.

More than 2,000 books and magazines offered had been withdrawn from the library.

"Students have requested for withdrawn books for various fund-raising projects, but they could only manage small quantities. The library decided to undertake this charity sale to benefit the NP community," says Ms Priscilla Ng, of the Library Community Service Team.

About 400 staff and students flipped through the books all eager to find good buys. One Electronic and Computer Engineering (ECE) lecturer bought 162 books at one go on the first day of the sale, while Mechanical Engineering (ME) lecturer Mr Cheah Choo Leh bought 267 books over two days - the highest number sold to one person.

"Our library is one of the best to me. There were a lot of useful references and interesting reads in the sale. The library should've asked the [schools] to inspect certain books to see if they're useful and let the students read them," says Mr Cheah.

The sale was so successful that the library is thinking of holding the event twice a year, to cultivate reading habits in NP staff and students, as well as to free up space in the school's collection. Apart from offering lifestyle books and magazines, the library is planning to include academic titles next time.

One final-year Business Studies student, Ho Chang Jun, thought it was an effective charity book sale. "The books are quite cheap so it's quite a good way of promoting reading in school," he says.

Cube Squared

Hon Liang Yi

THE Lien Ying Chow Library has brought in the Smart Cube, and the Interactive Cube to provide entertainment value and enhance interactivity between students.

The four Smart Cubes and two Interactive Cubes currently reside on the library's second floor. The Smart Cube is a square room equipped with a Smart TV, while the Interactive Cube is a multi-touch table located in a room next to the staircase.

"The word 'cube' is also used to name some facilities in Singapore which have proven to attract the young such as the J Cube Cyber cafe," says Mrs Leo-Lim Bee Ang, manager of reference and information services at the library.

The Smart Cube's Smart TV allows students to surf the web, use applications and play motion-sensor games.

The Interactive Cube, in contrast, is a tool for students [to] collaborate, interact and exchange ideas with friends," according to Mrs Leo.

Students interviewed by npTribune say they are keen to try the online quiz, Whack It game, as well as Surface Globe, an application that allows students to view the map of the world and zoom in on locations.

With its multi-touch function, students can work on a project, surf the web and share information with one another in real time, all on the same platform.