

# More than just a library

Now we can listen to music, browse through magazines and even sip bubble tea at the new Lifestyle Library

BY MARCO WONG

The wait is over as Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) most anticipated facility was finally unveiled on 9 July.

Costing \$1.7 million to renovate, the Lifestyle Library is the first in a tertiary institution to integrate lifestyle needs into an academic environment. Mr Peter Chen, Senior Minister of State for Education and Trade and Industry - who officially opened the library - called the renovation an apt move to counter declining reading patterns.

He said, "In the past, it never crossed our minds that we could go to the library of an academic institution to relax, drink a cup of coffee, listen to music and read a book... this will provide a conducive environment which... hope, will inspire and motivate students to explore, discover and enjoy the world of books."

The Lifestyle Library was designed to match students' modern lifestyles. At the Internet Café, students can drink their bubble tea while surfing on the high speed modem computers. Amidst the usual bookshelves, students can sit at comfortable music stations reading and listening to music simultaneously.

Should they seek further relaxation, there is a theatre to watch Singapore Cable Vision (SCV) broadcasts, including the Discovery Channel, ESPN and MTV Asia.

Samuel Eak, 20, a final-year Logistics Engineering and Management student said, "I definitely look forward to coming here to watch movies." He was impressed by the "zen-like" feel of the new library and felt his peers would "chill out" here more often.

At the opening ceremony, NP's Principal Mr Chia Mia Chiang, described the completion of the library as well-timed to facilitate the new School of Interdisciplinary Studies. He said the new collection of books would be geared towards supporting new interdisciplinary modules such as Media and Arts and Information and Communications.

A wider range of popular newspapers and magazines as well as more light reading such as humour, sports and comics are offered alongside audio-visual resources such as 3,200 video titles and 3,000 music CDs.

Mrs Caroline Loh, deputy librarian, explained that the library is named after its aim "to serve the lifestyle needs of students in a hip environment that will attract and appeal to them".



You want it, you got it: Costing \$1.7 million to renovate, students can now enjoy state-of-the-art facilities at the new library. (Top) The wide selection of genres at the library; (Above, from left) an example of the library's sleek minimalist architectural design; cable television; the new music and video borrowing section; new audio facilities for student use. (Right) Bubble tea and laptops: students at the Internet Café.



"Students can now visit the likes of Borders, Kinokuniya, HMV and the Internet Café all under one roof. The focus is on the lighter side of reading, to inspire students to explore, discover, read and enjoy themselves," she said.

"We invite you to come in and enrich your learning experience," said Mrs Loh, "but also, to treat the place as your second home, keeping it neat and tidy."

The opening hours of the Lifestyle Library are 8 am to 9 pm on weekdays, and 8 am to 5 pm on Saturdays.