

“Relax, refuel, re-energise” in NP’s new Lifestyle Library

By NIRA GURUNG

Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) staff and students will enjoy a new Lifestyle Library when it opens in February next year.

It will “embrace every aspect of lifestyle that will interest our students to browse, read and borrow,” said Mrs Lim-Tan Bee Lan, NP’s circulation Librarian. The Lifestyle section will be divided into various subject clusters such as Computers & Internet; Creativity & Innovation; Entertainment; Food & Beverages; Health & Medical; Hobbies; Home & Family; Lifeskills; Science & Technology and Sports & Travel.

The Lifestyle Library will occupy level 2, which now houses the main entrance, the Recommended Books Collection and periodicals section. All academic texts on level 2 will

be moved to level 3. Levels 3 to 5 will be known as the Academic Library. There will also be photocopy rooms on every level.

According to Mrs Lim-Tan, the Lifestyle Library was conceptualised after receiving positive feedback from surveys carried out across all departments.

Library users will be able to watch Singapore Cable Vision (SCV) programmes at any of the four monitors at an SCV cluster and one at a Cybercafé. Each monitor will be set to a default channel. The library is still finalising programming details, said Mrs Lim-Tan.

Piped-in music will be played also and users can plug into in-house music channels of different genres.

Students can “relax, refuel, re-energise ...

while still being immersed in mentally-stimulating pursuits to expand their horizons,” said Mrs Lim-Tan. She added that the lifestyle library is expected to help “weaker students” with their “language skills, motivation and achievement”.

This can be done by encouraging students to read from the wide selection of titles which “are likely



This internal staircase will be demolished; an existing one behind the sensor exits will be used instead.

to kindle their interest”. Furthermore, the Lifeskills cluster will have books to help students “develop themselves on all fronts” through topics such as interpersonal relations, grooming and personal success.

Jesma Harun, a third-year Business Studies student said, “Students will be interested, open to spending time in library.” She added that since the lifestyle library would be “self-contained” and “self-sufficient”, there would be no need to visit other libraries.

To maximise space and accommodate the shift of resources from level 2, the internal staircase serving levels 2 to 5 will be demolished. The void space will be covered with concrete slabs, said Mr Phua Kian Peng, Manager (Engineering Services) of the Estates and Development office (ED). He added, “floor space from levels 2 to 5 would be recovered by filling up its void area after the staircase[s] [are] removed”.

To move between the second and fifth floors, staff and students will use the existing staircase near the deli, which is known as the core central staircase. The refurbished core central staircase will be enclosed by frameless glass walls from the ground level to the top floor.

This design will help “confine and contain noise disturbances”, said Mrs Lim-Tan. Also, every stair-landing will have works by famous artists and seats.

The installation of glass walls, which began in September and ends in November, will cost about \$500,000. The renovation cost for the library’s interior has yet to be finalised by ED.

Mr Phua said hoarding and safety netting will be put up to reduce noise and air pollution and also improve security of the site.

The library will be closed from 6 November to 1 January 2001 for renovation. Users can access the Academic Library when the new semester opens, but the Lifestyle Library will only be ready in February.

“Even though [the two months of closure] is bad news for regular library goers, it’s still going to be worth the wait. There’ll be more things to look forward to,” said Jesma.