

Information Superhighway

NP Library joins the

CAMPUS
NEWS



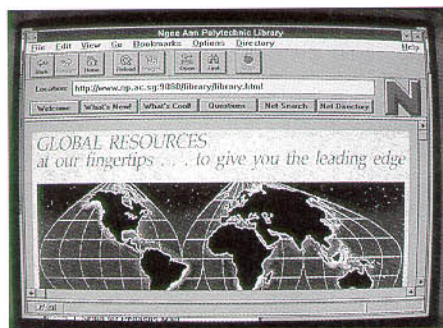
The NP Library is now on the World Wide Web, the fastest-growing part of the Internet. The Home Page is now accessible at

<http://www.np.ac.sg:9080/library/library.html>.

With any workstation linked to NP Net, users can easily obtain information about the NP library services and resources. Also provided are hyperlinks to Web documents which are chosen for their relevance. There are a few links of general interest as well.

With the availability of the Library Home Page, users are now no longer confined to limited opening hours to make enquiries regarding NP library resources. In fact, at any time of the day, users may search the Library's Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), the gateway to all NP library materials comprising books, journals, audiovisuals and software available in all of the Polytechnic's three campus libraries: the Central Library, the Quality Resource Centre (QRC) and the Regional Business Centre Library.


Another service of significant added value which is offered on the Home Page is the Table of Contents Service of selected journals subscribed to by the Library. Here, scanned images of content pages from about 170 journals are mounted on the network to encourage greater use of these printed resources.



The Home Page: exploring the NP Library with a quick click of the keyboard.

Besides locally created and maintained resources, Home Page also provides links to a wide selection of resources available on the Internet. Options are available for users to access electronic books, journals, newspapers, reference sources, indexes, abstracts, an International Calendar of Events and news from professional organisations and Standardisation bodies.

Accessing material on the Internet is not easy in one sense, given the way in which the system has grown - voluminously and exponentially, in a semi-random, and some would say anarchic, manner. Hence those who do not have lots of time to spare in cyberspace, who are trying to obtain real information in a realistic period of time, would welcome some form of organisation tailored to their needs. To help users navigate through the maze of documents on the World Wide Web, our professionals, in fact, have taken on the task of mining on the Internet with the needs of NP students and staff in mind. They then post on the Home Page, only resources of relevance and substantial content. These resources are selected based on their relevance to the Polytechnic curriculum and to areas of research interest of academic staff, and are organised according to subjects. The library is confident that these Subject Guides to Internet resources will be a boon and a source of enrichment to both students and staff in their research and/or teaching work.

For NP Library, joining the information superhighway has indeed expanded the scope of work for their staff, which in turn brings both satisfaction and challenge. The satisfaction lies in being able to provide their users with the highest quality of service possible and the challenge in continually keeping abreast and in the forefront of technology. 

*by Caroline Phua
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