

Spotlight on NP Library

NP Library scores a First with its First Televue Terminal

A public-access Televue terminal has been installed on the entrance floor of the Polytechnic's Library. Any library user can make use of this terminal to gain access to a plethora of services and information sources, ranging from educational programmes to information on local tourist attraction spots.

This installation makes the NP Library the first in Singapore with a Televue terminal for public use on its premises. Together with the business terminals in the Computer Centre, NP is among the first 1000 Televue users. This is a positive move in the incorporation of Information



The public-access Televue terminal in the library.

Technology in the Library environment and an enhancement of the Library's overall Information Systems Plan. **NP**

NP's library came under the spotlight recently at the tenth FID/CAO General

Assembly and Congress in Beijing, China when Mr Ho Sze Ying, System Analyst in our Library, delivered a paper on "The Evaluation and Implementation of a Library System for the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Library". Mr Ho was also Singapore's official representative to this event which was organised by the International Federation for Documentation / Commission for Asia and Oceania (FID/CAO).

The theme of the Congress was "The Use of New Information Technologies in Developing Countries". Altogether, 39 papers were presented. It was attended by 84 delegates representing 18 countries, including China itself.

Using PC storyboard in his presentation, Mr Ho focused on our Library's six-year involvement with information technology, from its launching of Singapore's first on-line circulation control system in 1983 to its development of a fully-integrated

on-line real-time system in 1985. This is also Singapore's first fully-implemented integrated system, which has successfully automated every functional aspect of our library operations, with records of all materials residing in one database.

The aim of the paper was to share our unique experience in the areas of planning, selection, evaluation, and contract negotiation. The master plan incorporated every detail and included strategies to ensure that the system implementation moved in tandem with the human interface to bring about staff upgrading and

efficiency, as well as value-added information and library services to our users.

Mr Ho summed up his presentation by describing the benefits that have accrued from this massive exercise. A post-mortem analysis showed a savings of \$200,000 annually, realised on cost reduction and avoidance with zero growth in staff strength. In addition, the Library had no difficulty in coping with the four- and five-fold increases in student population and loans, respectively.

The impact on the Polytechnic has been most significant, as automation has transformed the Library and enabled it to take on its key role of information provider with ease, efficiency and sophistication. It has also served as a springboard for new technologies to be implemented, keeping the NP Library in the forefront of technical and professional excellence. More importantly, it generated the impetus for library automation to take-off firmly in Singapore and the region. **NP**



Mr Ho Sze Ying (extreme right) at the congress in Beijing, China.