

The wait for NP's Lifestyle Library

BY JUSTINA TAN

It has been under construction since November. It was to be ready last month, but Ngee Ann's Lifestyle Library may only be ready before the vacation.

James Khong, 20, a third-year Mechanical Engineering (ME) student has been waiting since February for the Lifestyle Library to open. He said, "I thought it was supposed to open in February because one of the librarians told me so. Looks like I won't be able to use it before I leave Ngee Ann."

The official opening of the library had been slated for the end of April. But according to Circulation Librarian Mrs Lim-Tan Bee Lan, the "tentative date for the soft launch is early May, while the official opening has been fixed for 9 July. As renovation works will only complete by end-April, we had to defer the official opening till July."

She explained that "changes to designs and extended delivery period required for some items added to the

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need to extend the handover date by the contractor".

Meanwhile, books meant for the Lifestyle Library are kept in boxes now. According to Mrs Lim-Tan, "all items meant for the Lifestyle Library have to be processed separately, therefore they have to be put into boxes for easy processing and identification. Restricting the loan of these items will also help to cut down on the time required to set up the Lifestyle Library."

The delays aside, unsightly wires dangling from the

ceiling and incessant drilling and hammering, irk students.

The uncompleted library is "an eyesore" said first-year Electronic and Computer Engineering student, Edwin Teo, 22. "It has also affected the serenity students need during this exam period, especially for those who stay late in the NP Library to study," said Edwin.

Said Daren Goh, 17, a first-year Mechanical Engineering student, "During my first semester, I found the library a conducive place to study. But I feel it's way too noisy for me to do so now."

Some students, however, are not as affected by the renovations. "I think the Ngee Ann Library's very comfortable, and if you use the study rooms, you can't hear the drilling. Even if you don't [use the rooms], it's still pretty quiet. So I think it's okay," Lee Hui Boon, 21, a second-year Centre for Quality and Innovation student.

Mrs Lim-Tan said, "The works which generate noise have been confined to the library's closed hours. As such, the impact on the Academic Library has been negligible."