Participants too gave positive feedback after the session. Saherly Limat, a senior narcotics officer, Central Narcotics Bureau, wrote in the Blackboard Forum, “... Last Saturday’s video conferencing session was good for me... the NIE team made it smooth and hiccup-free... It serves to motivate me to be more involved with the online lesson.”

Peter Doss, a prisons officer, wrote, “Modern day work pressure may restrict our ability to attend classroom lessons, but this technology can overcome this restriction. I would find video conferencing necessary when the subject matter requires the collaboration of experts from diverse units.”

Of course, there were some drawbacks that we could all learn from.

Judy Chan, a tutor from Temasek Polytechnic, noted that the class size was too big for video conferencing. She noted that “It would have been ideal for a group size not exceeding 10...” as participants had to ‘fight’ for air time.

Lim Juat Fong, a project officer at the Institute of Technical Education, felt that accompanying activities to the video conferencing session needed to be meaningful and interesting and participants should be well prepared with questions or topics ready for discussion with the online tutor.

All in all, participants felt that the video conferencing session gave them a boost in self-confidence and spontaneity and helped to make their learning a lot more meaningful and fun.

The objectives of the Academic Computing and Information Services (ACIS) Website Re-branding project are to establish an aesthetically pleasing online presence, develop information architecture for ACIS Website and deploy content management application for easy maintenance of Web pages. As LIBRIS Website has its own unique structure to facilitate access to information resources and services, ACIS management felt that it could remain an independent Website while the other three centres – Computer Services Centre (CSC), Centre for User Support (CUS) and Centre for IT in Education (CITE) were incorporated under the ACIS Website. The project was completed on schedule in mid-2004.

New Look and Functionality

Both ACIS and LIBRIS Websites underwent a facelift with new pages and navigational changes to offer a more user-centric architecture. The re-launched sites not only come with a new look and feel, the incorporation of collapsible navigational panels and quick links offers a more effective site navigation. With the implementation of a Web content management application that provides a convenient mechanism for publishing of Webpages, authorised non-technical staff members are now able to update Web contents without much hassle.

http://www.acis.nie.edu.sg