

# HEAVE HO ... WHO SAID THE LIBRARY WAS A STATIC PLACE?

BY YVONNE YIN\*

"It's very simple," said the Reference Librarian to the student assistants. "You upload the books on the second floor and download them onto the third floor. My colleague Ms Loi of Serials Unit is in charge. When you've finished, you can come down and sort out the Reference Collection. See you in ten days. Cheerio!"

"Actually, I didn't think the collection was that big until we started moving the books," a student assistant muttered, pushing a loaded trolley.

So what was going on?

As Ms Ho the Reference Librarian

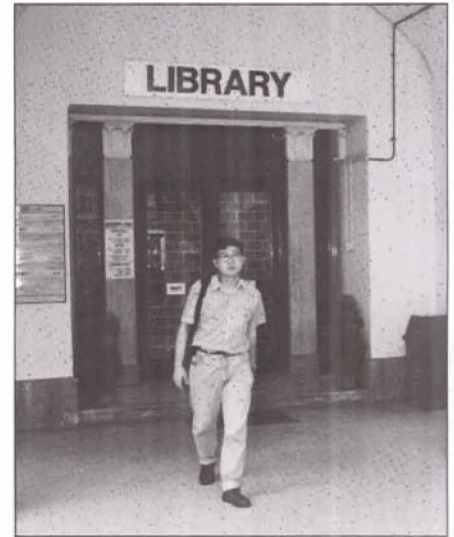


The Chinese books being transferred to the former Closed Stack Room on the third floor

had said, it was really quite simple. The library was getting too small for its books. Space had to be found and shelves had to be bought. The literature books in "PR" and "PS" were squeezing out the science and maths books in "Q" and "QA". From Reference to the third floor, shelves were packed tight.

So, after ordering more shelves and clearing out the Closed Stack Room on the third floor, the big plan was put into operation:

- i) unsuspecting student assistants were recruited;
- ii) the Chinese, Tamil, Malay and CYA (Children and Young Adults) books were moved to the former Closed Stack Room;
- iii) the "Q" and "QA" books were moved up to take their places;
- iv) Reference was totally rearranged:
  - a) the microfilm & microfiche cabinets were moved next to the microform reader-printers,
  - b) the student projects' cabinets were then shifted to against the wall where the microfilm and microfiche cabinets were previously,
  - c) the Chinese newspaper clippings collection was moved next to the Reference Chinese materials,



The NIE Library

- d) the general encyclopedias were stacked neatly in bookcases opposite the Reference counter,
- e) the main Reference section now ends at around "Q125". Walk round the corner and you will see the additional shelves holding the rest of the collection;
- v) a new cabinet to hold the art prints was placed in the Media Room, and finally
- vi) a room on the second floor landing was converted to a new Closed Stack Room for the storage of old publications of NIE, local textbooks, back issues of current journals, etc.

New signs will be put up to show the new locations of the affected collections. These should be ready when the term commences in July.

Besides the regular staff, the student assistants (from NIE, Jurong campus, NUS and the polys) have worked very hard in relocating the various collections. (The signs you see are probably their handiwork, too).

So, a toast to one and all!

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## THE LINKWAY CONNECTION

As part of the plan to further improve the facilities in campus, work is in progress to construct covered linkways connecting various buildings. A covered linkway is being constructed at the lower quadrangle to link the Library Building and Block A to the Oei Tiong Ham Building. There will also be a covered linkway connecting Tower Block to Block

B at level two, as well as another one between Tower Block and Manasseh Meyer Building at the upper quadrangle end. The new covered linkways will make it easier for staff and students to get from one building to another especially during heavy downpour. The completion date of the linkway in the lower quadrangle is expected to be in August 94.