

Library Update Online

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The *Library Update Online* seeks to serve as a link between the Library and our users. In this issue, we'll tell you about some changes to borrowing books or journals with accompanying materials like CD-ROMs. Also the Library Webpage is being moved to another computer. On the availability of resources in the Library, we present to you access to new databases like the *International ERIC*, *INIS Atomindex*, *ABI/Inform* and *Compendex Plus*. From this issue, we are including a "tea-time reading" section that features a book, one for each issue, that will hold up to your favourite cup of Darjeeling tea or Latte.

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1. Borrowing books and journals with accompanying materials

The Library has recently revised its policy and procedure on the loan of books or journals with accompanying materials like CD-ROMs, audiocassettes, etc.

Accompanying materials are shown on OPAC as ACCOMP MAT with each of them assigned a string of 8-digit number. The accompanying materials are kept at the Loan Counter and users can make their loan requests for the accompanying materials by presenting the book/bound journal to our library staff at the counter. These materials are to be borrowed and returned together with the main book or journal (the main component) in person. Each piece of accompanying material borrowed is considered as one item loaned.

For the various types of books and journals, the loan periods for their accompanying materials are shown in the table below:

Accompanying Materials That come with:	Loan Period for Accompanying Materials:	Can the Accompanying Material be borrowed without main component?
Lending book	Same as lending book	NO
Red-spot book	Same as red-spot book	NO
Current journal*	1 day for acad staff 2-hours for all others	YES YES
Bound journal	Same as bound journal	NO

*All members, except academic staff, are to use current journals (including accompanying materials) within the Library.

2. Library Webpage will be re-located soon...

The Library Webpage will be moving to the new library computer system in the next week or so. Staff will be kept posted of its move via email. With the move, the Library's online public access catalogue will also be officially launched on the World Wide Web. Also, the Library will roll out the electronic reference service whereby users can send inquiries via email to our Reference staff with replies send out by the next working day.

3. *ABI/Inform* and *Compendex Plus* available on the NTU Intranet

With these 2 databases made available over NTU Intranet, NTU staff will have web access to a wide coverage of all engineering disciplines and related fields in science and management. What is available on these databases?

ABI/Inform contains citations and full-text articles of more than 1,000 journals published in the area of business and management. The 1995 and 1997 data is loaded onto the Intranet.

Compendex Plus contains citations and abstracts of over 2,600 journals, conference proceedings, technical reports and monographs published worldwide and the database starts from 1990 onwards on the Intranet.

Back issues of *ABI/Inform* beginning from 1975 onwards and *Compendex Plus* beginning from 1987 onwards will be added at a later date.

To access the 2 databases, simply go to NTU homepage and click on NTU Stafflink. To access from home, do not login using your SingNet, Pacific Internet or CyberWay account. Dial up and login to the NIE computer network using NIERAS (NIE Remote Access Service). The main phone no. is 462-3990.

4. New Resources at the Library

a. INTERNATIONAL ERIC (1976-present)

International ERIC contains three databases: Australian Education Index (AEI), British Education Index (BEI) and Canadian Education Index (CEI). Each database covers educational research in and relating to its country. The database provides information in counselling, curriculum, administration, policy, technology, language acquisition, management, multicultural education, special education, teacher education, training, vocational education, etc. Publication types include monographs, periodical articles, research reports, conference papers, theses, etc. Two search

modes are available: Easy Menu Search and Command Search. Instruction for Command Search is available at the Reference Unit.

b. INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR INFORMATION SYSTEM (INIS)

INIS is one of the world's leading information system on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and it has a bibliographic database of over 1.9 million references. Co-ordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, INIS has a centre here in Singapore located at the Environmental Building with the Resource Centre of Ministry of Environment. Access to the INIS database in print (Atomindex) and in CD-ROM format is available there. Users may wish to contact us for accessing the database.

c. BLACKWELL'S ELECTRONIC JOURNAL NAVIGATOR for trial

With this electronic journal navigator available at <http://navigator.blackwell.co.uk/> users have full access to these titles until October 20, 1997:

- Molecular Microbiology,
- Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health,
- Journal of Architecture, and
- Journal of Materials Science Letters.

The navigator also allows for access to tables of contents and abstracts of over 300 journals in Blackwell's system. To access, you need to obtain the userid from our Reference Librarian chewlp@nievax.nie.ac.sg or at ext. 5043.

5. Tea-time Reading with Yvonne Yin

The particle hunters / Yuval Ne'eman, Yoram Kirsh. - 2nd ed. - Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Call no.: QC778 Nee.

For the NIE staff who loves reading nonfiction, one heartily recommends *The particle hunters* by Yuval Ne'eman and Yoram Kirsh. Witty and well-written, it can be profitably perused by anyone with O-level physics plus some knowledge of World War II/world history. One of the main attractions of this book is bound to be the anecdotes about the physicists. With so many European physicists (many of them Jews) fleeing Nazi Germany or trying frantically to extricate their families to safety, it's a wonder they managed to get any work done, let alone make new discoveries. Yet, people plodded on: 3 Italian scientists, hiding in a cellar from the Germans, determinedly continued making quite accurate measurements of the decay of so-called "mesons". After the war, Europe was more or less stable compared to the Middle East, where the new nation of Israel was embroiled in more wars. However, in the late fifties when Israel was at peace, one of the authors, Yuval Ne'eman, then with Israeli army intelligence, asked his boss General Moshe Dayan for permission to take a year off to study nuclear physics. Permission granted, he shot off to England. One can only say some people don't waste time. The authors have very thoughtfully placed all these interesting anecdotes in the margins, so the diehard physicists can read the main text and the non-physicists (e.g., this history grad) can read the margins. There, what more can you ask for?