

# *Library Update Online*

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As we move into a new year, the *Library Update Online* hopes that its past issues have achieved the goal of serving as a bridge between the Library and the users.

In this issue – the Library Webpage has been relocated and it has added features like the WEBOPAC and Electronic Reference Enquiry Service. Take a look at "Free trials on NISC databases" and find out the period of free access to some interesting databases. Also in this issue, "Tea-time reading with Yvonne Yin" section pays tribute to a great contemporary musician and conductor – Georg Solti.

So do sit back and hope you have an enjoyable reading session.

From the staff at the Library

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## **1. Library Webpage has moved**

The Library Webpage has found a new server. You can point your browser now to <http://library.nie.edu.sg/> to access our webpages. One of the new feature to the Webpage is our Web version of the NIE OPAC – known as the WEBOPAC (<http://library.nie.edu.sg/webopac2.htm>). Through WEBOPAC, you can check for holdings of materials in the Library using your favourite web browser. You can also check what are the items you have borrowed, their due dates, renew and reserve materials via the web. Another new feature added to the Library Webpage is the electronic reference enquiry form that you can use to submit your reference enquiries to our Reference staff via the Web. Our Reference Staff will attempt to give all enquiries a reply within one working day.

## **2. Renewal of materials via email**

Last November, we announced the service of renewing overdue materials via emails. As overdue notices of materials are received via the email for all academic and administrative staff, renewing of overdue materials can be done by email if another Library user has made no reservation for the items. Just simply forward your email overdue notice to the account name RENEWAL.

## **3. Free trials on NISC databases**

NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICES CORPORATION (NISC) is offering free monthly access to its online databases via BiblioLine, a new Web search service, at <http://www.nisc.com>. The schedule for 1998 is as follows:

Feb: African Studies; Health & Safety/Risk Abstracts  
Mar: Ecology Abstracts  
Apr: Entomology Abstracts  
May: Biotechnology Abstracts: Agricultural & Environmental

## **4. New electronic resources at the Library**

### a. ABES (Annotated Bibliography for English Studies '97)

ABES is a bibliography that provides informed guidance about significant work on all aspects of English Studies around the world. ABES (call number: PE1 ABES) is available at the Reference Counter.

### b. CobuildDirect

CobuildDirect is an online service for accessing a 50-million-word corpus (database) of Modern English. It consists of hundreds of different texts from a wide range of sources: Books, magazines, newspapers, personal letters, leaflets, together with 10 million words of transcribed natural spoken English. The data is part of the 300-million-word Bank of English. CobuildDirect enables retrieval of concordances (screens of text centred on chosen word, set of words, or phrase) and collocation lists statistically-ordered lists showing the other words with which the chosen word or phrase is most commonly associated). For enquiries and assistance, please contact Reference Staff at ext. 5243/5246.

## **5. Tea-time reading with Yvonne Yin: "Sir Georg Solti, 1912-1997"**

Sir Georg Solti, who died in the same fateful week as Princess Diana and Mother Teresa, was one of the greatest conductors of the 20th century. If the name does not sound familiar, those who frequented the Media Unit in NIE Library and Information Services Centre before its recent renovation may remember there used to be a poster of a bald-headed fellow. He looked fierce, and he was. Members of the London Symphony Orchestra nicknamed their conductor Solti "the screaming skull". Be that as it may, he still won more Grammy awards than any other musician, classical or pop, and brought more than one opera house out of the doldrums into roaring success. Time Magazine called him "the fastest baton in the West". He was also probably the fittest, as he was into sports as well, and was still brandishing his baton way past his 80th birthday (some people had obviously never heard of the word "retirement").

Born a Hungarian Jew, Solti's debut with the Budapest Opera in 1938 was thoroughly spoilt by Hitler's invasion of neighbouring Austria the same night. (The audience fled during the intermission). In 1939, Solti was in Switzerland when he received a two-word telegram from his mother: "Don't return". So he stayed on, and thus survived the war, but the rest of his family was killed in the Holocaust. Ironically, after the war, the American military government asked him to conduct a performance in Munich, and from there

on he became music director of the Bavarian State Opera. So his career took off in Germany, although it was British citizenship he opted for in 1972.

The NIE Library and Information Services Centre has some compact discs featuring Solti as a conductor:

XCD 621, XCD 653, XCD 1518

and a biography:

Robinson, Paul (1979). *Solti*. Toronto: Lester and Orpen. [Call no. ML422.S56 Rob]

Sources for biographical info:

Reuters news wire service and the Weekly Telegraph.