

Library Update Online

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1. Electronic Resources

The Library has added 2 electronic databases and 5 electronic journals to its collection in the last quarter.

The 2 new databases are:

1. *Expanded Academic ASAP*, and
2. *Sage Publications/SRM Database of Social and Research Methodology*.

Expanded Academic ASAP, on InfoTrac SearchBank web site, provides references from more than 1,800 journals and full text coverage of more than 900 titles. Subjects covered include general sciences, social sciences, and humanities. *Sage Publications/SRM Database of Social Research Methodology* contains references to literature on social and behavioural research methodology.

The 5 new electronic journals are:

3. *Educational Innovation and Information*,
4. *Government Gazette*,
5. *International Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology*,
6. *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, and
7. *Journal of Education Policy*.

Currently, the Library subscribes to 23 CD-ROM databases, 14 online databases, 2 regional databases and 70 electronic journals.

2. Relocation of Instructional Materials (Curriculum Planning & Development Div. and Educational Technology Dept.)

In March 99, reference copies of instructional materials from CPDD and ETD were transferred to Reserve Room (Red-Spot) where they could be borrowed for two hours. This provided better control of the collection by disallowing users from hogging the materials. Previously, lending copies of these materials were usually on "long" loan and the reference copies frequently misplaced.

3. News.teach Tapes

News.teach videotapes are produced by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to help teachers keep abreast with local, regional and world events. They are published monthly (except for the months June and October to December) and are kept at the Reference Counter. Students can borrow each tape for two hours and view it in the Library's Media Room.

If you would like to know whether a particular topic is covered in News.teach, it is best to do a Boolean or keyword search on our online catalogue. For example, if you wish to know if Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong is featured in any of the tapes, key in :

fi newsteach and goh

The records for February and September 1998 will be retrieved, as two of PM Goh Chok Tong's speeches are featured.

However, if you just wish to know the contents of each tape, it is not necessary to do a keyword/boolean search. In OPAC, just key in "t=newsteach" and all the records for the News.teach tapes will be displayed. Next, enter the required line number, then press "f" for "Full" to see the full record. For further enquiries, please check with the Reference staff.

4. Searching Tips for OPAC

Some users have reported that they have been unable to locate a particular title when searching the library database. It was a bit of a puzzle to us, too, and we had to do some testing before the penny dropped. It all had to do with American and British spelling. If the author spelled the title of his book as "Organizational behavior", keying in "Organisational behaviour" will unfortunately not retrieve his book. So, the next time you can't locate a title, and there are words that can be spelled differently, try again using the variant spelling.

Please note, however, that if you're doing a subject search ("s= _____" or "fi su _____" in Boolean), you MUST use American spelling. This is because all libraries contributing records to the national database use the American Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). Some records using British spelling in the subject tag may have slipped in, but by and large American spelling should be used.

If you have any further queries, please contact the Circulation or Reference staff.

5. Tea-time Reading with Yvonne Yin

Uneasy lies the head[†] : an autobiography / by H.M. King Hussein of Jordan. London: Heinemann, 1962.

Call no.: DS154.55 Hus

Thanks to a far-sighted librarian at the old TTC (Teachers' Training College), the NIE Library and Information Services Centre now appears to be the only major library in Singapore that holds a copy of the late King Hussein of Jordan's autobiography.

King Hussein, who passed away from cancer in February, was a remarkable man in many ways. He was the longest-reigning head of state in what one commentator at his funeral described as "one of the roughest neighbourhoods in the world". Yet, he survived everything that the neighbourhood had to throw at him (coups, assassination attempts, wars and betrayals) to lead Jordan for nearly fifty years, and when he wrote this autobiography, he was still less than thirty years old, which must have been another record of sorts.

From the murder of his grandfather in Jerusalem in 1951 and his own accession to the throne, the disunity that has plagued the Arab states to this day comes out all too clearly in Hussein's account. His close cousin Feisal was murdered in Iraq in 1958 (having been king of Iraq for just a few months) and his prime minister was killed in a bomb blast in 1960. While flying his own plane, two Syrian MIG fighter planes tried to shoot him down. And when Jordan was desperately short of fuel, Saudi Arabia refused the Americans to fly through its airspace with supplies. In the end, the Americans had to proceed from Lebanon via Israel. King Hussein was totally opposed to the creation of the state of Israel, but recorded: "Where an Arab nation refused, an enemy agreed."

Internal assassination attempts were plentiful; one of the more bizarre ones included putting acid in his nose drops. While high-ranking officers attempted to overthrow him, the bulk of the Jordanian military remained loyal, and Hussein was genuinely popular with the Jordanian people. In spite of all the turmoil and problems he faced, King Hussein still managed to end his memoirs on an upbeat note, with his marriage (his second one) and the birth of his son, Abdullah, now the new King of Jordan.

Viewers who watched the live coverage of King Hussein's funeral may remember the extraordinary turnout, with Israel sending one of the largest delegations and even President Assad of Syria attending personally. It was indeed a remarkable tribute to a very brave man, and one who served his country well.

‡ "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown" is a quotation from Shakespeare's Henry IV, part II.