

# Library Update Online

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1. Electronic Resources
2. New Class Numbers for Books on Singapore
3. Guides for Library Users
4. Access Indicators & Subject Guide for Electronic Database List
5. Tea-time Reading with Yvonne Yin

## 1. Electronic Resources

The Library has 1 new addition to its electronic database collection, LION (Literature Online). This is a fully searchable library of more than 260,000 works of English and American poetry, drama, prose, biographies, bibliographies and key secondary sources. A demonstration by Mr Colin Bethell, Area Sales Manager (Asia Pacific) of Chadwyck-Healey Ltd., was held at the Executive Seminar Room on 18 Aug 1999. Seven lecturers from the Division of Literature and Drama and three BA students attended the demonstration.

To date, the Library subscribes to 19 CD-ROM databases, 19 online databases, 2 regional databases and 90 electronic journals.

## 2. New Class Numbers for Books on Singapore

The Library of Congress (LC), USA, has recently issued a set of new class numbers for books on Singapore. Previously, the Library had been using the set of numbers developed by the former University of Singapore. We are now in the process of converting the old numbers to the the new LC numbers. This means that we will no longer be using the set of numbers DS599.1 - DS599.7. Instead, books and other materials on Singapore history, geography, culture, etc. will be classified in the range DS608 - DS610.9. This range allows for more detailed classification than was available under the old system.

Some of the more commonly used numbers are as follows:

DS	
609	General Works
609.2	Pictorial Works
609.9	Social life and customs. Civilization. Intellectual life
610	Ethnography

610.4	History (general works)
610.55	1942-1945. Japanese occupation
610.7	1965- (history)
610.73.A-Z	Individual biography, A-Z

Should you be unable to locate a title in the DS599.1 - DS599.7 range, and it's not on loan, please check with our counter staff.

### 3. Guides for Library Users

General informative guides for (1.) *Literature Search: Finding Information Effectively*; (2.) *Constructing Search Statements: A Basic Guide*; (3.) *Glossary of Library Terms and Subject Guide to Electronic Databases*, and (4.) search guides for Dow Jones Interactive, InfoTrac SearchBank and NIE theses / academic exercises / PGDipTHE project reports are now available for users to assist them in retrieving information from the Library's various databases and doing researches at the Library.

### 4. Access Indicators & Subject Guide for Electronic Database List

Access indicators to the databases available in the Library have been included in the current list on Electronic Databases. These indicators are used for the following ways of access:

1. password access database -- need password from the Library staff
2. IP-controlled database -- remote access can be made through NIERAS
3. networked database -- only available on campus
4. standalone database -- only available in the Library
5. free access via the Web database

In addition, there is also a subject guide to our Electronic Databases.

### 5. Tea-time Reading with Yvonne Yin

*Birds of South-East Asia : a photographic guide to the birds of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia* / Morten Strange. - London : New Holland, 1998. Call no.: QL691 Str

This is a gorgeously illustrated book, and one of the rare times that I've felt a book to be underpriced - it costs only \$15.88. Strange (who, by the way, hails from Denmark) takes very good colour photographs and his book is an excellent introduction to birds and bird-watching in this region. While this book is not meant to be a field guide, it will do fine for beginners such as yours truly. Real twitchers (bird-watchers) will be lugging around "*A Guide to the Birds of Thailand*", which, despite its title, also serves as the definitive field guide for birds in the Malaysia-Singapore region. NIE Library and Information Services Centre sadly does not have this book, but one can walk round the corner to the Singapore Botanic Gardens bookshop, Nature's Niche, and get a copy for about \$68.90. If it's a lower price, you're probably looking at a similar-sounding title, *The Birds of Thailand*, published by Times Editions.

Some readers may at this point want to know, is bird-watching really fun? It does depend a bit on where you are. While it can be quite fun in Singapore, it is usually more fun in Malaysia, as the country is bigger and has about twice as many bird species as Singapore. But the main thrill for beginners is when you make your first correct bird identification: I just happened to turn round and look up, and, bingo, silhouetted against the mid-morning sky, was a:-

"DRONGO!" (It turned out to be the lesser racket-tailed drongo, too, which I understand is not available in Singapore. However, perhaps I should add that this identification was no big feat on my part, as the British couple who introduced me to bird-watching, had, with great foresight, shown me a picture of a drongo the night before).

It's quite easy to join in the fun here at NIE, as the campus boasts many alarmingly experienced bird- and plant-watchers. However, if you're not too keen on the walking aspect (puff, pant, where's everybody?), it doesn't matter, there are regular articles from our very active Staff Digest's Nature at our Doorstep Team and the NIE Nature Walk Group, plus books in the Library.

Lastly, you may like to keep a look-out for one book which I have recommended for the Library:

*A Field Guide to the Birds of West Malaysia and Singapore* / Allen Jeyarajasingam and Alan Pearson. - New York : Oxford University Press, 1998.

Happy reading and bird-watching!