



## NUS Libraries Celebrates Centennial

A quintet of exhibitions were presented by the NUS Libraries in celebration of the NUS Centennial.

**Central Library** had a display on “NUS Libraries: A Hundred Years of Transformation” at the Level 4 lobby from 1 August to 31 October 2005. We traced the development of the library from a small collection of books at the Straits & Federated Malay States Government Medical School which was established in 1905 and up to the renovation of Central Library in 2004.



How the library used technology to improve access for our users and to improve its efficiency was showcased. With the card catalogue converted to machine-readable formats, we were able to offer an online catalogue accessible to anyone on campus and around the world. Many library processes, from registration of users to borrowing books were automated.

You have put up a very meaningful and beautiful display on the history of the library. The staff who have done the research and the project should be commended.



Lau Jen Sin

The NUS Libraries grew in terms of size of collection, variety of formats and number of loan transactions. In the last decade, the focus was on developing the electronic collection and providing convenient access to it. Starting with just some databases on CD-ROM format which users had to come to the library to access, we currently subscribe to over 25,000 titles which are accessible to our users anytime anywhere via the Library portal.

Even with the end of the exhibition, the contents can still be viewed at: <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/linus/NUSLibexh.htm>.

Lim-Yeo Pin Pin ~ Central Library

**C J Koh Law Library** showcased its heritage in a display entitled “The Law Library: 1957 to Present” held from 24 June to 24 October 2005. With a combination of nostalgic 1960s black-and-white and 1980s coloured photographs, we traced the history of the law library from its early days on Bukit Timah campus to the Kent Ridge campus.



The centrepiece of the display was the official opening of the C J Koh Law Library on 27 February 2002. Also featured were the library’s heads through the years: Miss Elizabeth Srinivasagam (1963-1972), Mrs Sng Yok Fong (1972-1997), Mrs Thavamani Prem Kumar (1997-2005) and Mrs Kwok-Foo Yan Chuin (2005-). On display were articles and books which have either been written or edited by them. This included the *Sesquicentennial Chronological Tables of the Written Laws of the Republic of Singapore 1834-1984* of which Miss Srinivasagam was a co-author, and which is still in use by legal researchers today. Our “wall of fame” included long-serving staff and several of the library’s esteemed overseas visitors.

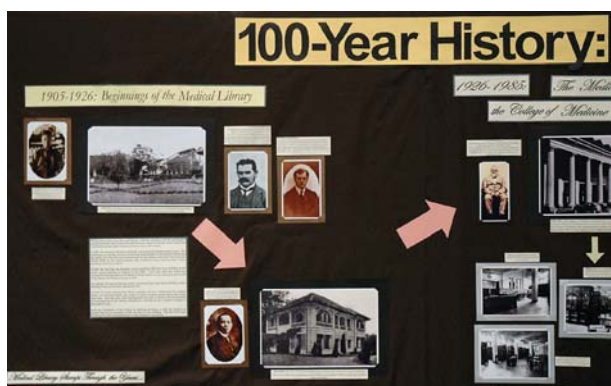
Lee Su-Lin ~ C J Koh Law Library

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In celebration of the NUS' centenary, **Medical Library**, the oldest of the NUS Libraries, put up a display entitled, "100-Year History: NUS Medical Library" from 4 August to 5 November 2005.

From the photographs and snippets of information put up, users would understand how the medical library has evolved. From its humble beginning as a small collection kept together with pathological specimens in a corner of a lecture room of the medical school at the Female Lunatic Asylum at Sepoy Lines, it expanded to a proper library at Sepoy Lines (1911-1985) and at its current location in Kent Ridge since 1985. The personalities who had contributed to the library's formation and growth were highlighted.



The display also included artefacts like an old Underwood calculator used by library staff in the 1960s, loan cards, card catalogues, earliest volumes of the library's collections, floor plans and stamps used through the years. These brought a smile to the faces of young users admiring the display and who had never seen them before, and a sense of nostalgia to those who had!

*Ong Hong Kiat ~ Medical Library*

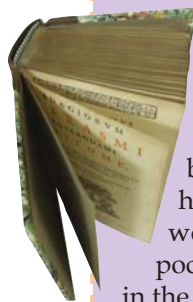
The exhibition is very educational and I find it interesting how the Library has progressed since its early days. The Library today, with its accessibility and conducive learning environment, is most impressive.



*Ku Huan En, Student*

## Elsevier Presents Rare Book

The NUS Libraries was presented with a rare book by Elsevier to celebrate the year 2005 which was the 100th anniversary of NUS, the 125th birthday of Elsevier and the 425th anniversary of the publishing house of Elzevir from which Elsevier takes its name. The gift is a pocket-sized imprint of *Adagiorum* by Erasmus, printed in 1650 by Elzevir. The book is bound with new quarter calf with beautiful handmade paper on the cover. The use of the word "Elzevir" as a noun describing a pocket-sized book became quite commonplace in the educated parlance of the late 19th century. The gift is a very apt one as Erasmus was attributed to have said "Your library is your paradise."



**Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library** joined in the convivial spirit of the Centennial with a photographic slideshow entitled "A Pictorial History of the Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library". The slideshow detailed in English and Chinese a short history of Mr Hon, Singapore's former Finance Minister, including his roles as an astute politician and doting father of four daughters. It also highlighted important points of the Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library's history, such as the laying of the foundation stone in 1984 by Mrs Annie Hon, the late Mr Hon's widow, its construction over 26 months, and its official opening on 15 January 1988. Pictures of the library building shortly after it was constructed are also presented, allowing NUS students and staff a glimpse into the library's two-decade-long past. The slideshow can be viewed at <http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/lion/hlb/HSSMLCent.ppt>.

*Kho Su Yian ~ Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library*



**Chinese Library** mounted an exhibition on the Chinese publications of the National University of Singapore. The publications displayed covered the history of the University, its graduations, student societies and journals published by the Dept. of Chinese Studies and the East Asian Institute as well as catalogues and bibliographies by the Chinese Library. The exhibition was put up in July 2005 and will be on till end of June 2006.

*Lee Ching Seng ~ Chinese Library*