Using the IEL in Hong Kong

Nearly 10,000 faculty, staff, undergraduates and postgraduates of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) have access to IEL through our Library. We subscribed to the IPO version in 1992, and converted our subscription to IEL two years ago.

The Library houses IEL with other standalone full-image databases in a room immediately behind the Reference Counter. We require sign up at the Reference Counter before use, and limit use during busy times to 30 minutes. The database's close proximity to the Reference Counter provides users with easy access to help from reference librarians.

To promote IEL, the Library offers classes for the database and distributes copies of a one-page search guide which we prepared. Our catalog of publications in IEL also contributes a lot to the use of the database. The Library's Online Catalog now has over 3,000 records for the journals, conference proceedings, standards and colloquia in IEL. Each record provides full bibliographic and holding information of a publication and directs users to IEL for the full images. Campus-wide abstract databases such as INSPEC are linked to the Online Catalog, thus enabling records of these databases to show our IEL journal holdings.

"To promote IEL, the Library offers classes ... and distributes copies of a one-page search guide ... Cataloging the publications in IEL also contributes to use."

Our users are satisfied with IEL's excellent content, high search capabilities, and the easy-to-use 2.0 Web browser interface. They are a little frustrated by the considerable time lag between printed versions of publications and their availability in IEL.

Many faculty and students have long awaited the network version so that the database can be used anywhere on campus or at home, like many other full-image databases in the Library. Some also request an integrated web-based product of INSPEC and IEL, making searching INSPEC and retrieving full articles from IEL a one step process, and allowing references cited in IEL's full articles to link to abstracts in INSPEC.

We are pleased that the Intranet, Extranet, and Internet version of IEL will be available soon and have confidence that IEL will continue to make enhancements to meet the needs of its users.

— Steve Yip, Electronic Information Librarian
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library, Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong
E-mail: lbsteve@uxmail.ust.hk