



UNITEM NEWSLETTER

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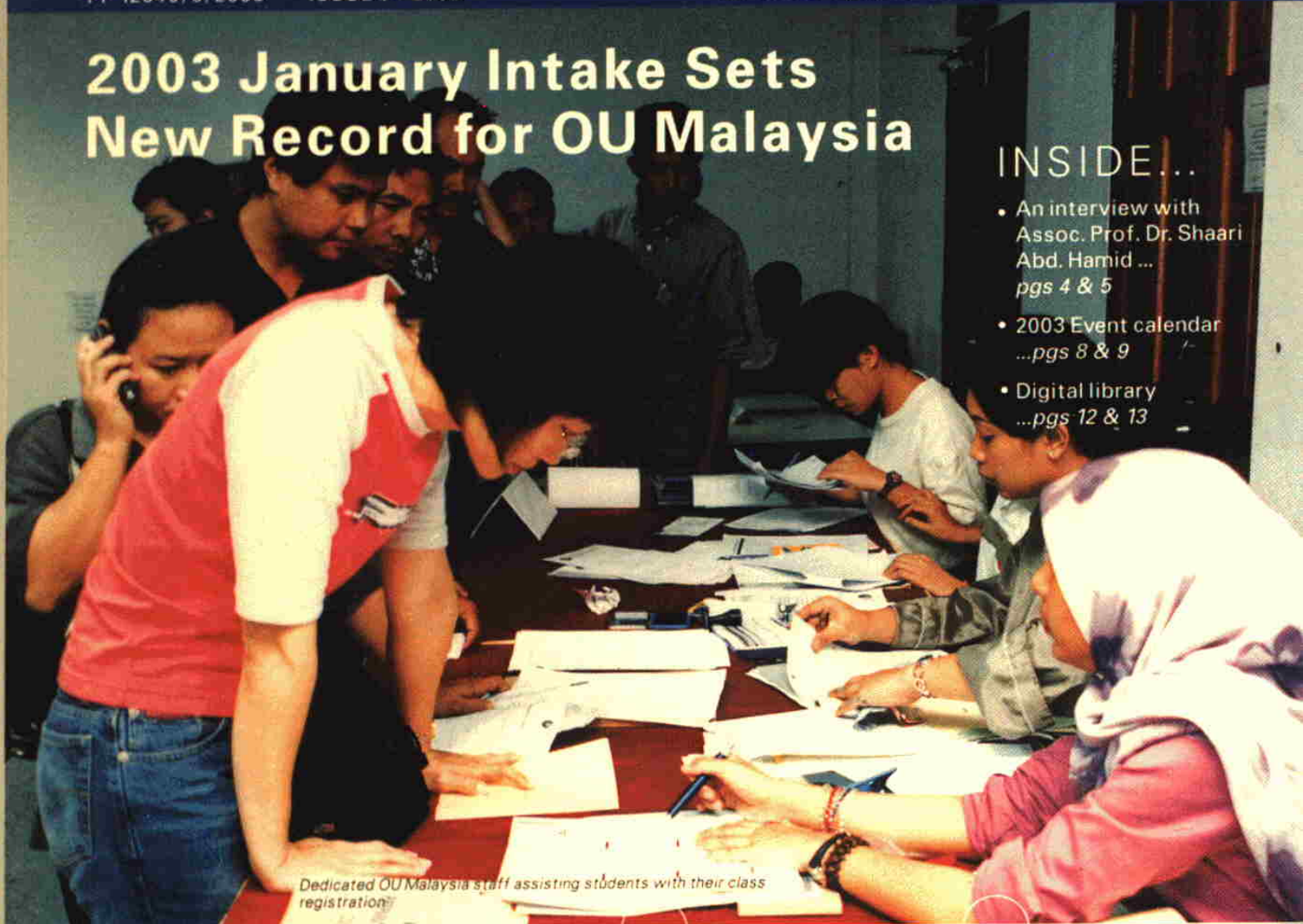
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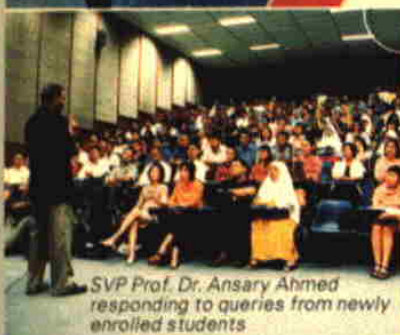
2003 January Intake Sets New Record for OU Malaysia

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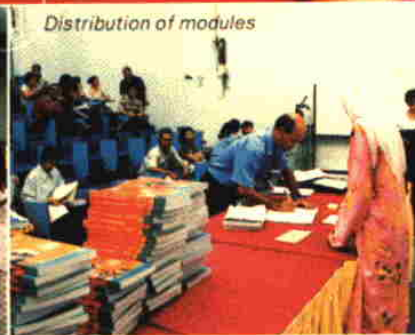
Dedicated OU Malaysia staff assisting students with their class registration.



SVP Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed responding to queries from newly enrolled students



An oath-taking ceremony



Distribution of modules



President YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad revealing the University's future plans at the press conference.

Drawing more than 5000 students from across the country, OU Malaysia opens the 2003 academic year with its largest ever student enrollment, exceeding last semester's record by 119 percent - a turnout that went far beyond our expectations that we had the University's entire workforce breaking into sweats at the registration sessions.

According to the statistics issued by the Admission and Record Unit, the University's main campus in Kuala Lumpur holds the reign for the highest number of registered students, followed by Sarawak. Speaking at the press conference, President YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad revealed a number of new programmes which would soon be offered to the public.

Already the current population of students has soared to a mind-boggling figure (over 10,000), the additional academic programmes will boost the University's student populace even further. OU Malaysia is one of the many to record high enrollments in just a short period of operation. The President also said that with the provision of numerous programmes at various levels and the unique teaching-learning methodology the University adopts to, OU Malaysia can finally measure up to other renowned Open Universities in the world.

An interview with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shaari Abd. Hamid Head of School of Business and Management

Q: I would like to start with a little information on your background, education and how you entered the education line.

A: Well, when I was pursuing my post-secondary education, career guidance wasn't available then. I ended up enrolling for a Diploma in Agriculture. My first job as an Agricultural Assistant exposed me to agriculture, which I realized that being an agriculturalist wasn't exactly what I wanted to be. You see, ever since I was young, I had a flair for numbers, so I thought perhaps I ought to venture into accounting. I took up a job at Bank Pertanian and gradually worked my way out of agriculture. I enrolled for a course in Bachelor of Science Agribusiness at the then Universiti Pertanian Malaysia and subsequently managed to obtain a scholarship to do an MBA in the USA. Upon completion of the degree, my determination of switching to accounting grew even stronger. My employer then wasn't keen on releasing me again, so the only way out for me was to join the academia if I wanted to pursue my doctorate. However, the bank was sympathetic towards my cause and facilitated me to join UPM which showed its willingness to send me immediately for my doctorate programme. This enabled me to return to the USA to pursue my Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA).



Q: With a huge number of students opting for Business majors, are you intending to offer more programmes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels?

A: Yes. We are in the midst of preparing the relevant documents for submission to the Ministry of Education to enable us to launch, in March 2003, our graduate programmes, specifically Master in Business Administration (MBA) and Master in Management. We are also intending to offer an undergraduate degree programme in Accounting towards the end of 2003. The School will also be offering a post-graduate Diploma programme in Management in various sub-disciplines such as Human Resource Management, Finance and Entrepreneurship.



Q: Without question, it is a consistent concern throughout the nation about quality assurance with today's higher educational markets and services. What are the steps the School has taken to ensure the quality of its programmes?

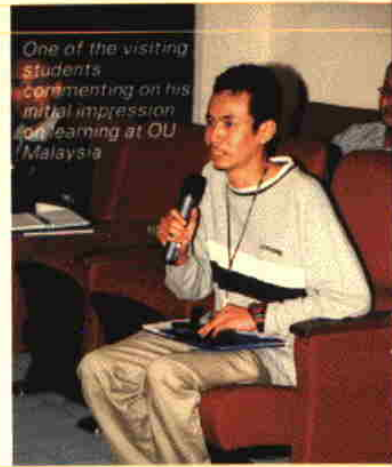
A: Quality is certainly of prime importance. For each programme that we contemplate to offer, we seek the assistance of an anchor faculty of OU Malaysia's stakeholder. The proposed programme is scrutinized by a Board of Studies comprising of academicians from a number of universities as well as practitioners in the relevant field. At the corporate level, the proposed programme is vetted by the Academic Board and the Board of Directors. The proposed programme is then submitted to the National Accreditation Board for approval.

Our modules are subjected to a similarly elaborate process. The syllabus is then moderated by a third party - specialists from a different university. The modules then go to the Centre for Instructional Design and Technology for instructional design inputs. The draft then goes through another round of moderation. Finally, it goes through an editing process before printing.

Q: What are the common challenges faced by students of the School of Business and Management and what advice do you have for them?

A: I would say it's the severe time constraint that most of our working students are facing. It can be difficult to fix a schedule to read the modules. However, with the idea of introducing self-managed learning, students have the flexibility of managing their own time. The important thing is to complete the module within the 2-week period at their own pace. Another issue we noticed is that some of our students seem to have a fear of mathematics-based subjects. That kind of fear needs to be rid of. My advice is one should treat mathematics as a logical relationship using numbers. All that is required of you is to understand the concept and visualize that concept being related and you'll soon have a better grasp of the subject.

A visit to OU Malaysia forms deep impression on students



One of the visiting students commenting on his initial impression on learning at OU Malaysia

"It took me quite some time to adjust myself in an environment such as this. I must confess I felt a little insecure when I first enrolled in this university where hours of lectures are no longer in existence, meeting up with tutors can only last up to several hours a week, study guidance comes only from friends and tutors," said one of the students of OU Malaysia when asked about his initial impression on distance education at the University.

As odd as it may seem, it wasn't until recently when the University officially organized a campus visit for a group of OU Malaysia School of Information Technology and Multimedia Communication freshmen and sophomores. Having travelled all the way from the northern part of Malaysia, these students arrived in Kuala Lumpur just in the nick of time to have a quick tour around the campus and became acquainted with the University's President. "I'm glad you could take some time off from work to visit the campus and see for yourself what kind of facilities we've got to offer our students," said President YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad during his welcoming remarks.

It was also then when YBhg Tan Sri revealed some major plans that have been drafted for the year ahead - the long anticipated provision of postgraduate programmes in various disciplines, the newly acquired premises at various states of Malaysia to function as the University's Regional Learning Centres, the introduction of more Learning Centres to accommodate the needs of all students, the expansion of teaching-learning facilities at the University's main campus, and others.



The first batch of students ever to conduct a visit to the campus



The University's management staff all ears to the questions posed by these inquisitive students



Participants absorbed in a debate between management staff of OU Malaysia and the students



Representing the group of students was En. Fazrul, presenting a token of appreciation to President YBhg Tan Sri

OU Malaysia all geared up for the New Year



Let's do the Twist

As people with their hands laden with plates of deliciously tempting Malaysian food slowly made their way away from the buffet line, the band onstage began working on an evergreen bouncy *Hari Raya* tune which set several youngsters up on their feet grooving along with the music in no time.

That was how the staff of OU Malaysia had decided to close the year 2002 - an infusion of a *Hari Raya* feast among all staff members and a year end party with groovy music from the 1960s. Joining us to bid farewell to yet another year and celebrate the dawn of a new age were YBhg Prof Datuk Dr Anuwar Ali, Tuan Haji Abdul Jabbar Abdul Majid, Executive Chairman of Malaysia Derivatives Exchange Bhd., Dr. Mohamed bin Awang Lah, Senior Vice President of MIMOS Bhd, and others.

It is only true to say the party was the next best thing to happen after the yearly bonus. The only missing piece to this giant puzzle was *Auld Lang Syne* blasting through huge stacks of amplifiers while thoughts of New Year's resolutions began racing through their heads.



Tuan Hj. Abdul Jabbar Abdul Majid, Executive Chairman of Malaysia Derivatives Exchange Bhd greeted by Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed and President YBhg Tan Sri



Right, we totally understand how difficult it can be to decide how many satay sticks to grab without looking embarrassed



What better time to shake loose those stiff bones and let our hair down than this



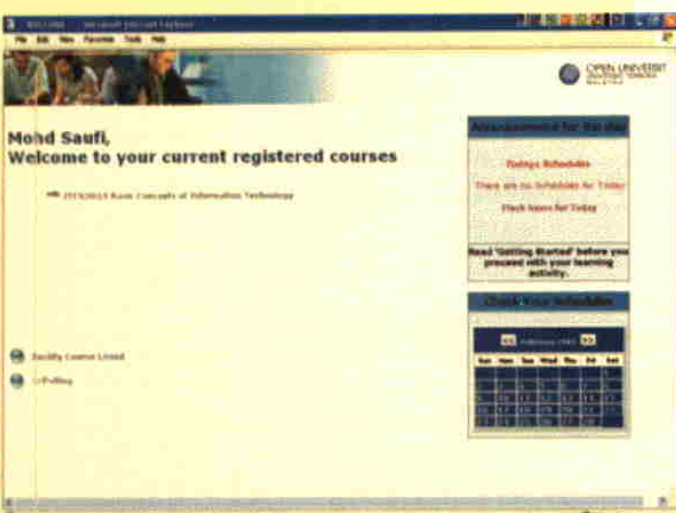
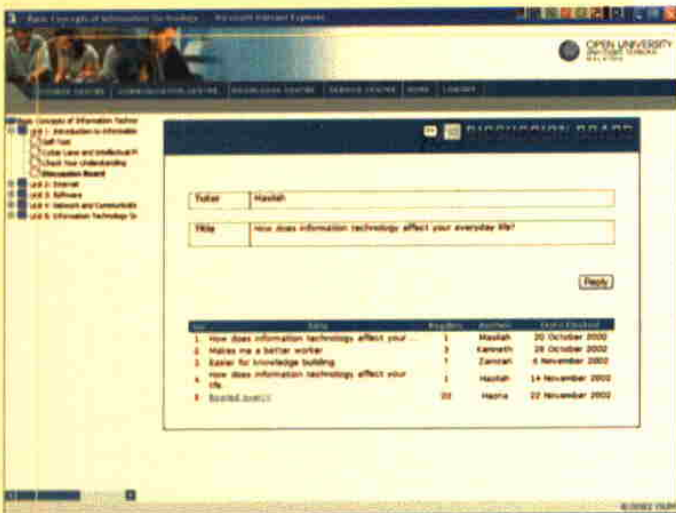
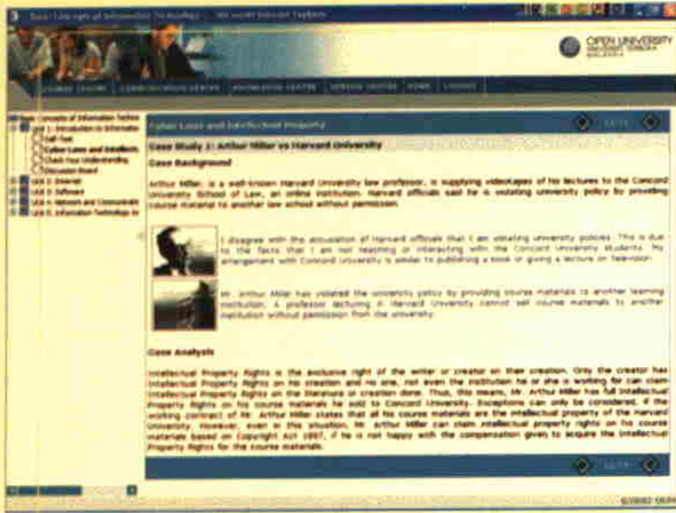
Journalists and photographers of local newspapers: their taste buds were tingled, tantalized by the tempting aroma of hot Malaysian food

OU MALAYSIA EVENT CALENDAR 2003

		Date	Event
Jan	Education Fairs	11-12 22-23	Star Education Fair - PWTC Sarawak Education Fair
	January Intake	10-12 Jan 18 Jan 2-4 May	Student Orientation First Tutorial Session Final Examinations
	Training Programmes	6 13	Customer Service Induction
	Human Resource Programmes	8	Unity in Diversity Assembly
Feb	Education Fairs	14-16 19 22 22-23	Facon Education Fair - Mid Valley Facon Education Fair - Penang Facon Education Fair - JB May Intake Preview
	Training Programmes	7 17 20 21-23	Academic Counselling Induction Time Management Management & Executive Retreat
	Human Resource Programmes	13 20	HRPDC Meeting Tea Talk
Mac	Education Fairs	1-2	May Intake Preview
	Training Programmes	11-12 17 21-22 24-25	Coaching & Counselling for Managers Induction Team Building & Motivation Fundamentals of Business Writing
	Human Resource Programmes	8 11 20	Unity in Diversity Assembly Academic Staff Meeting Tea Talk
April	Training Programmes	14 18-20 22-23 24	Induction Management & Executive Retreat Problem Solving & Creative Thinking Skills Customer Service
	Human Resource Programmes	10	HRPDC Meeting
May	May Intake	16-18 May 23-25 May 7 June 18-20 July	Student Registration Student Orientation First Tutorial Session Final Examinations
	Training Programmes	8-9 12 13 29	Leadership Induction Performance Management Workshop Time Management
	Human Resource Programmes	22 29	Tea Talk Unity in Diversity Assembly

		Date	Event
June	Education Fairs	7-8 14-15	August Intake Preview August Intake Preview
	Training Programmes	6 16 17-18 20-22 23-24	Planning & Design of Curriculum Induction The Art & Skill of Managing People Management & Executive Retreat Effective Communication & Interpersonal Skills
	Human Resource Programmes	10 24	Academic Staff Meeting HRPDC Meeting
July	Training Programmes	14 21-22 24 25-27	Induction Fundamentals of Business Writing Customer Service Team Building & Motivation
	Human Resource Programmes	12 24	Unity in Diversity Assembly Tea Talk
Aug	August Intake	1-3 Aug 8-10 Aug 16 Aug 28-30 Nov	Student Registration Student Orientation First Tutorial Session Final Examinations
	Training Programmes	14-15 18 28	Problem Solving & Creative Thinking Skills Induction Time Management
	Human Resource Programmes	7	HRPDC Meeting
Sept	Training Programmes	8-9 15 19 29-30	Effective Office Administration & Management Skills Induction Instructional Design Approaches for E-Learning Effective Communication & Interpersonal Skills
	Human Resource Programmes	9 13 18	Academic Staff Meeting Unity in Diversity Assembly Tea Talk
Oct	Training Programmes	13 14 23	Induction Performance Management Workshop Customer Service
	Human Resource Programmes	9 Week 1 Week 1-4 31	HRPDC Meeting Bonus Survey HR Planning & Budgeting Workshop Ramadhan Talk
Nov	Training Programmes	3-4 17	Fundamentals of Business Writing Induction
	Human Resource Programmes	7 & 14 8	Ramadhan Talk Unity in Diversity Assembly
Dec	Training Programmes	15 19	Induction Effective Teaching (Pedagogy)
	Human Resource Programmes	9 11 Week 2	Academic Staff Meeting HRPDC Meeting Increment Survey

Learning Management System (LMS)



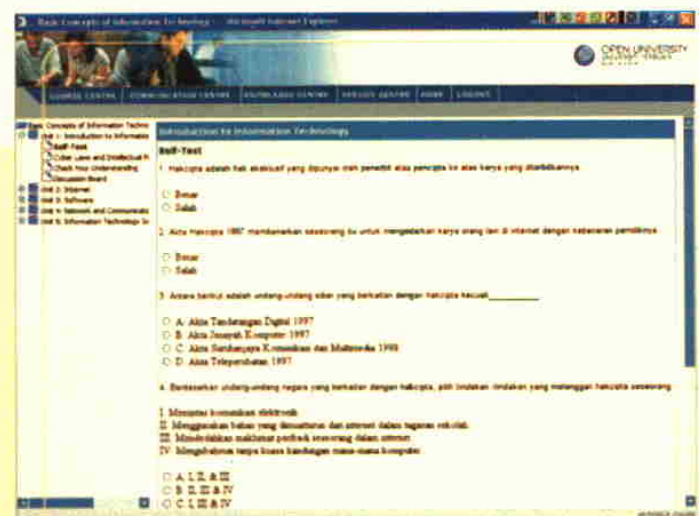
Learning Management System (LMS), also popularly known as an e-learning system, is an application that allows students, instructors and administrators to input information for the purpose of learning, support and keeping track of the learning process. Open University Malaysia's LMS has been designed with its learning philosophy in mind, that is: allowing both institutional and learner curriculum to surface to the fore.

As such, the LMS has been appropriately designed for this. It consists of two major sections, namely:

- (a) Interactive Learning Section and
- (b) Student /Instructor Support Section

The Interactive Learning Section immerses the learner in the active learning process. The activities are well-thought out to maximize the limited time the learner has. As such, the Interactive Learning Section consists of four main components: Self-test, Learning object(s), Check Your Understanding and Discussion Board.

On the other hand, the Student Support Section provides access and support to all materials and activities related to their learning. The learner visits this centre as and when needed. It consists of the following centres: Course Centre, Communication Centre, Knowledge Centre and Service Centre.



HIGHLIGHTS

Living up to our philosophy of teaching/ learning, it is of utmost concern to all at this University that we provide our students with the best of educational services and facilities. At OU Malaysia, we are aware of the diversity of student backgrounds and have experienced a tremendous surge in student enrolment over the past two years. For that, we are pleased to announce the addition of five (5) Learning Centers in the Peninsular Malaysia to cater to the diverse learning styles and needs of individuals.

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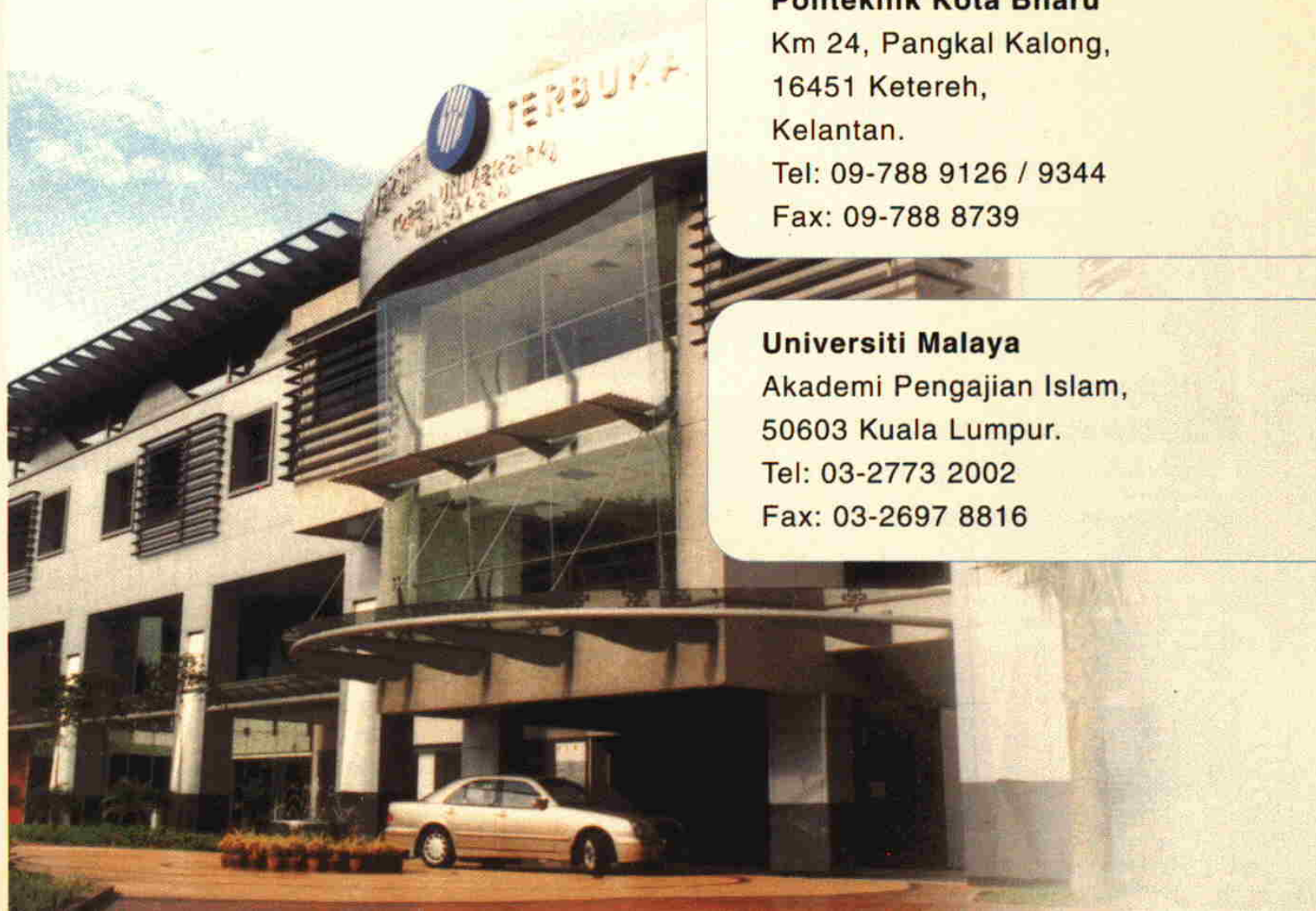
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OU Malaysia Digital Library

Definition of Digital Library:

Digital libraries are defined as organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities (Waters, 1998).



The reception area strategically positioned upon the entrance of the Library

OUM Digital Library, located at the main campus, Jalan Tun Ismail, Kuala Lumpur, was officially opened to users on 1st September 2002. The Library was designed with an "open" concept in support of the University's vision and mission, and to ensure the availability of digital collections and book/print collections anytime and anywhere in support of the open learning environment.

Library System

Currently, the Library is using an integrated library management system, namely Virtua ILS, Chameleon iPortal that manages the 'in-house collections' and all databases subscribed by the Library. Through this system, books are acquired, cataloged, circulated and distributed. In order to obtain information on collections, users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the WebOPAC module.

Facilities

Users are able to access and retrieve information through the facilities provided by the Library. Facilities include 25 PC cum workstations and 5 WebOPAC stations. Also available is a self-check out station for checking out books, a tag-verification station at the counter, and a book-drop station for returning books. The reading area can accommodate up to 60 simultaneous users, and a discussion room is also provided to encourage study groups and use of library materials during the discussion.

Services

Library hours:

Semester

8.00 am - 8.00 pm (Mon - Fri)

8.00 am - 5.00 pm (Sat - Sun)

Closed on public holidays

Semester Break

8.00 am - 4.45 pm (Mon - Fri)

9.00 am - 2.00 pm (Sat - Sun)

Closed on 1st and 3rd Saturdays and public holidays

The Library provides services to all registered members including loans, interlibrary loans, document delivery, reference, user education, and current awareness.

Collections

The Library collections are comprised of 'Digital Collection' and 'Print Collection' of approximately 3000 titles and 4000 volumes of books. The digital collection includes 2 e-book databases - **Ebrary.com** and **Books24x7.com**. These two databases have more than 15,000 titles in all disciplines such as sciences, social sciences, management, business, humanities, technology, computer science, engineering, law, medicine, and others.



This reading area can accommodate up to 60 simultaneous users



to OU Malaysia at a Glance

January 27, 2003

The efficiency and convenience of e-Learning system at the University catches the attention of a number of big corporate bodies including Tabung Haji Properties Sdn Bhd. The senior management of Tabung Haji Properties Sdn Bhd, led by Dato' Jaafar Saad (Chairman) and En. Mohd Radzif Yunus (CEO), recently paid OU Malaysia a visit.



Delegation of Tabung Haji Properties Sdn Bhd



At a meeting chaired by Senior Vice President Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed

February 7, 2003

OU Malaysia played host to yet another visit by one of the several foreign partners the University formed an alliance with. Approximately 20 government teachers of the Islamic Republic of Maldives were sent to IPD-OU Malaysia to complete the Professional Diploma in Teacher Education programme within a 9-month period. The visit made by Dr. Shoughee, Deputy Minister of Education, Islamic Republic of Maldives, has resulted in further enhancing the cooperation between OU Malaysia and the Maldivian Education Ministry. "Another batch of teachers would go through the diploma programme," said the Deputy Minister.



A meeting to further enhance bilateral relations between OU Malaysia and the Maldivian Education Ministry



Paying a courtesy visit to Deputy Education Minister Dato' Aziz Shamsuddin at the Ministry of Education

March 24, 2003

Officials from the Teachers Division, Ministry of Education paid a courtesy visit to OU Malaysia for further discussion on the Memorandum of Agreement signed by both parties, in which 3,700 government school teachers will be sent to the University each year to go through the Bachelor Degree Programmes for Non-Graduate Teachers. Teachers are given the option to major in Engineering (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical), Science, Mathematics or TESL.



Examining the modules developed by the Centre for Instructional Design and Technology



left - right

Datin Dr. Siti Zaleha Abdullah Sani, Tuan Haji Razali bin Ismail, En. Mohd Nadzari bin Hj. Abd. Aziz, Datin Asariah bt. Mior Shahrudin, Senior Vice President Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed



Questions and opinions were exchanged concerning the Bachelor Degree Programmes for Non-Graduate Teachers



Editor's Note

The past year has certainly been a memorable one - a year where we've witnessed enough tragedies around the world, inflicting emotional traumas upon many of us, leaving behind deep scars in memories to last us for a lifetime. It was also a year of triumph when we saw diplomats and officials attempting in reaching compromises; young naive children whose eyes sparkled with hope and spirit, so eager to venture into a world that seems both alluring and bewildering.

For OU Malaysia, it was a year marked by significant milestones, major achievements that finally captured the attention of both foreign and local dwellers and redirected the entire nation's gaze towards this newly established university. We've had our fair share of fame and glory as images of the University graced the pages of major newspapers when it was officially launched by YAB Prime Minister last August. We broke down the cliché-ridden perception of retailing as a 'lower class' job market sector when we partnered with Jaya Jusco Stores Bhd to offer the public Career Certificate in Retail Operations and Diploma in Management (Retailing). We paved a pathway leading to a much higher level of success for in-service teachers when we introduced the Bachelor Degree Programmes for Non-Graduate Teachers last March.

But it's time to close out the past 12 months and start the New Year afresh.

Already our sleeves are rolled up, plans for the year 2003 and beyond are all worked out in detail - it won't be long before we rise again and start making headlines on newspapers. For this issue, we've packed in some exciting events that have happened the year before just to keep you up-to-date on the happenings at OU Malaysia, and we hope you'll enjoy reading them as much as we have enjoyed working on this issue.

The Editor
 editor@unitem.edu.my

We welcome letters, commentaries, features or short creative works.

Points to Ponder

Excerpted from: EDUCATION QUARTERLY - Campus Humour

November/December 2002, Issue 25

Metaphors and similes taken from actual British GCSE essays ...

1. The little boat gently drifted across the pond, exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
2. Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left York at 6:36pm travelling at 55mph, the other from Peterborough at 4:19pm at a speed of 35mph.
3. The politician was gone but unnoticed, like the fullstop after the Dr. on a Dr Pepper can.
4. John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.
5. The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.

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Announcement

OU Malaysia was recently awarded as an MSC-(Multimedia Super Corridor) status company

The Ministry of Human Resources has officially recognized IPD-OU Malaysia as an educational services provider under the HRDF(Human Resources Development Fund).