



With 2,500 square feet of space, the Institute's new library is impressive, writes *Peter Sabine*

The Institute's new library at 27/F Wu Chung House is an eye-opener, with more than HK\$1 million worth of books, periodicals and online services available through five computer terminals.

Library Advisory Committee Deputy Chair and the Institute's Director of Operation and Finance Edwin Cheung sees the library as a work-in-progress. He says that he and his colleagues expect to go on developing the collection.

Still to come are a library security system and the addition of books, periodicals and e-databases. "I see this as a very challenging task, but with the backing of the library advisory committee and our librarian team, I am confident that it will be a successful project," he says.

Librarian Christine Chan spells out their goal: "Our vision is a world-class professional library, providing state-of-the-art information services to support members and students."

With a budget of HK\$500,000 this year and roughly the same amount for next year, the library will grow steadily to fulfil its aim of being an indispensable resource for members. To organize and update the collection and help members with any requests they might have, Chan is taking a lead in sourcing appropriate materials.

Chan has a master's degree in library science from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Along with her assistant she will catalogue and classify library materials, make policy, assist users, answer enquiries and manage the operations of the library.

One of Chan's biggest challenges was organizing resources as they arrived in the



new library, a task made more difficult by the sheer volume of the library holdings. The team also sifted through the mass of old materials, some dating from the 1960s and 1970s, and decide which items to discard.

All Institute members and QP students can use the library, so it is essential to satisfy the needs of a diverse body of readers. While QP students comprise about 50 percent of library users, a fair quantity of resources is targeted at accountants in business and in practice.

“A library provides the technical core of an accountant’s work,” says Patricia McBride, the Institute’s director of standard setting, who is the chair of the library advisory committee.

With numerous public and university libraries in Hong Kong, general accounting books are easily available. Cheung and the library team are paying special attention to acquiring niche books and periodicals that are not easily found

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anywhere else in Hong Kong. Chan visited the libraries at all the Big Four to learn more about their resources and services for staff.

The Institute library has a much wider range of functions, suiting the diverse needs of Institute students and members. To complement accounting studies, books also cover subjects such as law, economics, finance and tax.

The library also aims to cater to the reference needs of small and medium-sized practices, which have less resources available.

Its seating capacity is around 50, with opening hours from 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., which the Institute plans to extend to 7:30 p.m. and for one night a week to

9 p.m. before QP examinations.

While readers could previously take books out for up to two weeks, the new facility is for reference only.

As enhancing services for members is at the forefront of future plans, the committee is always looking for members’ suggestions on the library.

“We are seeking to develop the library to meet members’ needs for information beyond what they have on their bookshelves or in their computers,” says McBride. “Hearing what our members expect of their library will help develop the collection.”

Please contact Christine Chan at 2287 7293 if you have any comments or recommendations. **A+**