

**Nisar Keshvani**

Editor-in-Chief, Leonardo Electronic Almanac (MIT Press USA)

THE LIBRARY EQUALS TRANQUILLITY AND KNOWLEDGE. I have been visiting libraries across the world, since I was seven years old. Over the years, it's in the library that I gathered most of my knowledge – and every visit leaves me wanting to come back for more. Every time I step out, energised and invigorated into the world, I apply my newfound knowledge.

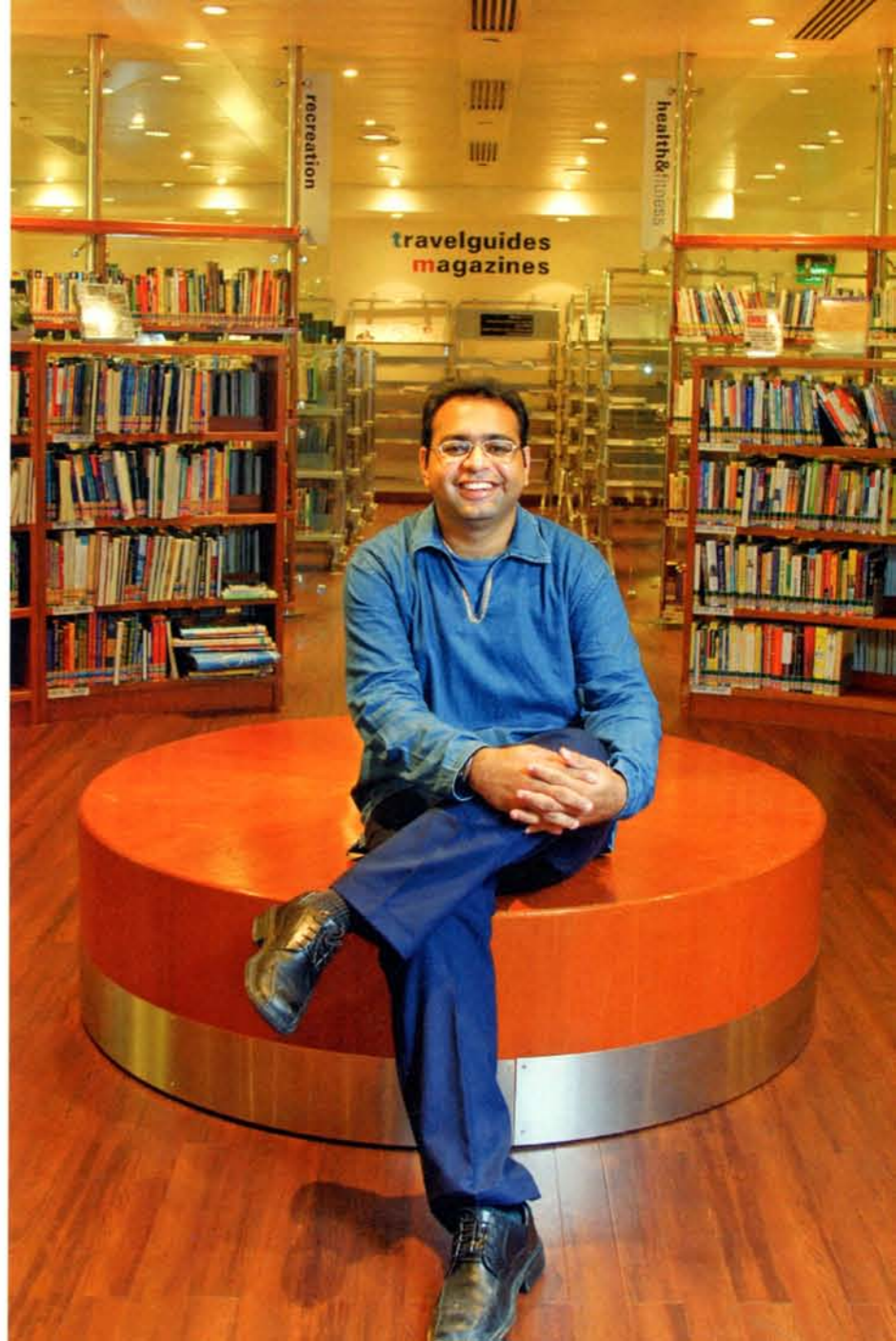
In today's world of high-technology information systems, more often than not, we tend to overlook the two core components of the library – knowledge (in any media or format) and the people. We may have progressed from cue-cards to the web-based OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) cataloguing system, but the feeling one gets from turning the page of a freshly printed book is the same.

For me, Ngee Ann Polytechnic library and its librarian, Lim Bee Ang, have special meaning. During my time lecturing at the School of Film and Media Studies, it was her team who assisted me with building resources for my unit, Web Design Applications. It was through this interaction that many ideas unfolded. We compiled resources for students to use at the library, and began archiving student works and projects for future reference.

It was this same collaboration that has resulted in us contributing to the international community. As part of my work as Editor-in-Chief of the Leonardo Electronic Almanac three years ago, the team brainstormed the idea of setting up an abstracts index for theses and dissertations in the art, science and technology fields. The idea was simple – to have a searchable index of all existing and new theses. All abstracts added to the database would be reviewed by an expert panel. During the ideas stage, it was Bee Ang

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who helped with identifying the key indexing components. Today, the Leonardo Abstracts Service (LABS) index is available in English and Spanish, and hopefully in other languages soon. LABS is a comprehensive database of abstracts of PhD, Masters and Master of Fine Arts theses in the emerging intersection between art, science and technology. ■



“Tranquillity and knowledge – the library is the place to be!”