

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AT A GLANCE (Part Two)

reported by: Agus Santoso



These are the fulltime students having the second 2006 Cohort Meeting, posing with their supervisors: Rod [holding his PDA] and Susan [in the foreground]



Building A



Building B



Building S – ‘My Office’

[.....Kelvin Grove Campus.....]

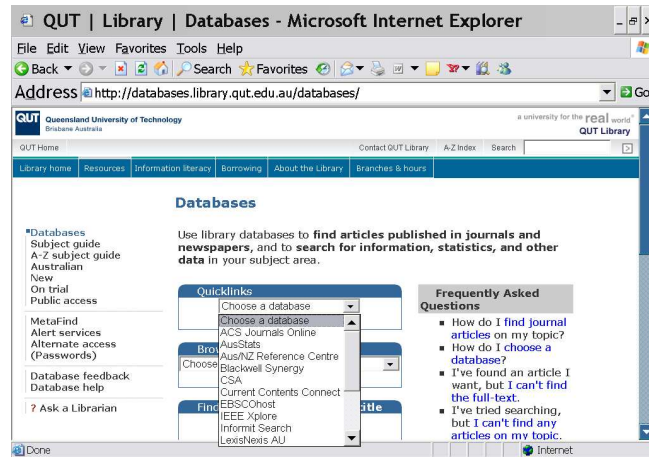
I got up very early the next morning. I took a quick shower, got dressed, had my breakfast and hurried to the Kelvin Grove campus at round 7.00. I decided to walk because someone told me that it would only take 20 minutes to go there on foot. I arrived there at around 7.20. It was right. It only took me 20 minutes to get there but I was sweating to death. Completely drenched! It was just really hot at that time.

I went to the room one more time but was a bit amazed because everybody used his/her card to enter the room by swiping it at the small box near the entrance. I couldn't get in since I hadn't got my card then. Later that day, I tried to get my card and I did. I also managed to sneak out of the room to send email to Pak Mul, Ibu Ferly and Pak Nggandi just to let them know that everything was fine with me.

I really enjoyed the session that day. We had a chance to share ideas related to our research. It was something new to me because as far as I knew it would not be like this in

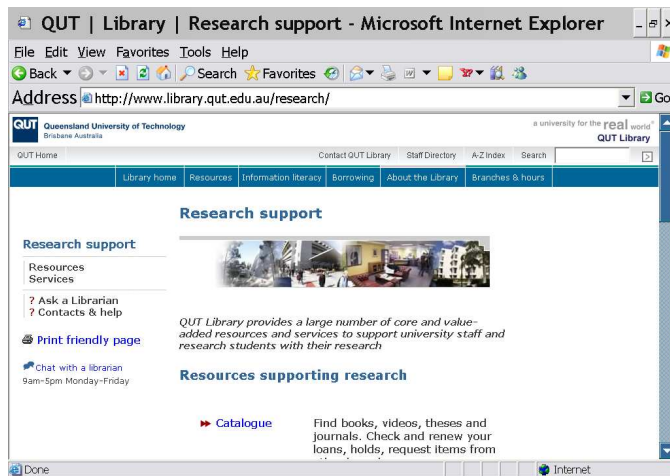
Indonesia. We tend to work independently (=secretly) so that our ideas wouldn't be 'stolen' by someone else, don't we?

What amazed me the most was the massive databases that QUT has. That has enabled HRD (Higher Research Degree) students to access their data easily. By having such databases, students are also able to finish their projects earlier because everything is provided as long as they are diligent and committed to themselves.



There are also a lot of support facilities to help students out with their problems. Free-of-charge sessions are conducted on a regular basis. There are different kinds of sessions offered for one semester, ranging from English classes for International students who have difficulties with their English to data-interpretation sessions, to name a few. All of the support facilities are dedicated to helping QUT students finish their studies on time.

Research is also one of the key issues at QUT. A lot of research covering different disciplines has been conducted and some are still underway. A lot amount of money has definitely been spent to conduct such research.



One day, I was invited to attend a session on an OLT (Online Learning & Teaching) review. Apparently, I was the first person to arrive. It was so 'early' that the room was still dark. I decided to leave the room but, on second thoughts, I decided to enter the room partly because it was hot outside. I was completely surprised when I opened it because the lights suddenly were turned on automatically. It was a very modern room, indeed, because it was fully equipped with modern technologies needed to conduct conducive

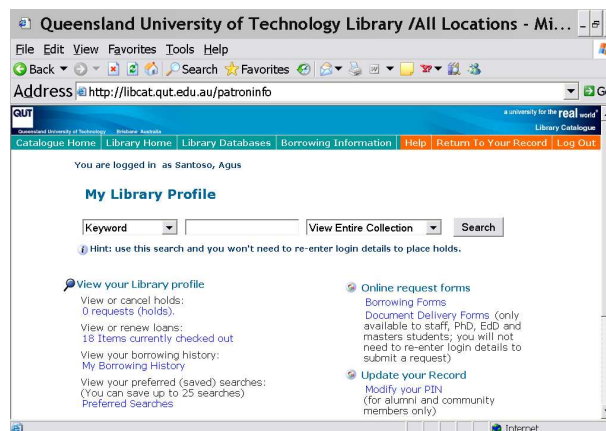
teaching and learning activities. The following picture is one of those modern lecture rooms.



Some of the areas at QUT, such as: meeting rooms, and particularly areas near the library, also provide wireless access. So, I can use my tablet PC to explore the Internet on campus. I have to find the following sign first, though.



When I went to the library for the first time, I didn't have any clue at all. So, I asked a librarian, "Where is the section for education located?" She replied, "Well, it is on the fourth floor. But, you know, the library is very extensive. You need to find your books in the catalogue first." Deep in my heart, I said, "Yes, I know that for sure. What I need to know is where the section for education is located." Soon, I went to the fourth floor and found that the collection of books was really a wow. I couldn't believe my eyes. I even got difficulties in locating the books I wanted to borrow. Then, after I got some books, I went down to the counter and before I had the books checked out, I asked a question, "How many books can I borrow?" She replied, "Well, for undergraduates, they can borrow up to 40 books." I got surprised. She thought I was an undergraduate student. I produced the student ID card and gave that to her. That time she got surprised, saying, "So, you are a postgraduate student?????" "Ya.. iya lah...[See.. ?]", I thought to myself *gemes* [irritated somehow] "Oh, one more thing," she said, "You can extend the books online if you want to." So, one day I did decide to extend some of the books online. It worked. I was so happy and thought, "Why go to campus/the library quite often if I can access everything online from 'home'?"



The EndNote application software, which is incorporated in the Microsoft Word, has helped me a lot in writing my 5000-word annotated bibliography. I can access the library files from 'home'. The EndNote is apparently connected to the databases in the library which has made it easier for me to manage my entries.

Then, I had a chance to visit the Gardens Point campus. This campus is really a nice place to study. There are a lot of trees around the areas because it is located next to a public garden. How nice! Students can have a stroll around the compound for a change whenever they are tired of studying.



The Gardens Point campus is a very nice place to study, isn't it?

As for me, I have to take a bus if I want to go from Kelvin Grove to Gardens Point or vice versa. However, the bus services are free of charge. What students do is just waiting for the bus to come and when they get on the bus, they show the ID card to have a 'free ride'!!!! The buses connect the three QUT campuses.

So, I am really lucky to be able to pursue my further studies at QUT. For more information about QUT, you can visit the following website: www.qut.edu.au. With all of the facilities offered, I am planning to get the 'confirmation' by August 2006 and then return to Indonesia in late September. I am looking forward to seeing everybody at UPH, then.

Have a good day, mate!

