

# UMS launches Virtual Technology in Library Solutions

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said the technology adopted by the library of the university is to enhance its management and efficiency, to upgrade its delivery system and fulfill the expectations and needs of the users.

Kamaruzaman also said at the launch of the 4th VTLS (Virtual Technology in Library Solutions) 2011 held at the campus yesterday, the funding available for the purpose is proof of the university's support and commitment towards that end.

"The best managed libraries have always been open to innovation and change, and as a result continue to maintain their relevance and usefulness to information seekers in the communities they serve," he said.

He added that libraries have been involved in innovative practices on networked digital reference works

and access to external information sources via the internet.

"Thus, the last decade has witnessed a technological and economic convergence of telecommunication, mass media and ICTs (Information Communication Technologies)," he said.

New technologies are changing the types of services offered by libraries, like online reference, instructions, document delivery, user-friendly library loan, direct borrowing and self-check out.

Digital reference services, free access to large scale data banks and secure retrieval become vital areas of library development with more to come in the domain of innovation.

Meanwhile, chief librarian Rukiah Damit said, UMS is one of 900 libraries in the world which uses VTLS.

She explained that VTLS is a name synonymous with innovative solutions in library management and that it fulfills the needs of a library

towards its role as an information provider or information centre in a globalised world.

She added, UMS began using the system, then known as VTLS classics since 2006.

In 2007, the library system was upgraded to VIRTUA, a network system with its user friendly interface providing access to all their digital resources online as well as to enable users to access library information and materials anytime and anywhere.

"Basic activities such as acquisition, cataloging, circulations as well as report or statistics can be acquired and downloaded faster, easier and systematically.

"This system has increased productivity and optimised the librarian's role and I believe libraries everywhere share this same experience," Rukiah said.

Currently, the library utilises the Virtua Version 49.5 and will be upgraded to version 2010.