

# NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ANNUAL REPORT

For the 22<sup>ND</sup> Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania

27 February 2014

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## 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Since there are no National Library in Negara Brunei Darussalam, The Language and Literature Bureau Library which is the largest Public Library in the state, has act as a national focal point in the field of librarianship at the national, regional and international level. The library's role is providing complete and comprehensive fields of knowledge and has become the main sources of information for the whole general public.

Libraries in Negara Brunei Darussalam in general are very fast developing institutions, even though the National Library is still non-existence to offer leadership, training and so on, public libraries are very well developed, while special libraries like the departmental libraries and also government libraries are also growing rapidly. One of the functions of the special library is to be a knowledge hub in their respective Departments of Ministries. Most of the special libraries are only open to their staff and members.

With the newly established higher institutions in the country like the University, Polytechnic and so on, the library service is seen more important and considered to be of the institutions that can provide information to users especially University student and academician within the institutions. There are 3 universities, 1 polytechnic and 1 institute in Brunei Darussalam. 2 Universities are under the Ministry of Education and the other one is under the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Other than public, school and governmental libraries, most mosques in the Brunei Darussalam are also equipped with library facilities. It is a must nowadays that every new mosque build should be provided with a library with it. School libraries or educational resource centre in the primary and secondary schools are under the administration of Ministry of Education Brunei. There is a library in every school and there are about 154 school libraries in Brunei and usually administer by a librarian or teacher's librarian.

## 2. LIBRARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT

**a) Library Act**

At present the Language and Literature Bureau has no Library Act, but The Language and Literature Bureau Library has drafting for the future of The National Library Act. The National Library will have its main tasks which are to collect, provide and preserve the publication including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Brunei and Bruneian people.

**b) Legal Deposit Act**

Since The National Library does still not exist in Negara Brunei Darussalam, The Legal Deposit Act in Negara Brunei Darussalam which is also known as The Preservation of Book Act is under the controlled of The Museum Department. The Language and Literature Bureau Library is only the responsible agency for the collecting publications published in Brunei Darussalam through the application of The International Standard Book Number [ISBN] in which every publisher who apply for the ISBN should surrender 2 books to the Language and Literature Bureau Library.

**3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES**

**a) Staffs**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library as of December 2013 has 168 staff of which 15 are professional staff and 143 are support staff.

**b) Library Memberships**

Library memberships are free and divided into 3 categories:

- i. children (below 12 years old),
- ii. young people (12 to 21 years old)
- iii. adults (21 years old above).

Registered members up to December 2013 are 116,310

**c) Visitors**

Visitors to the LLB Library in four districts recorded by the Library statistic from January until December 2013 are 164,198, of which 73,796 are adults, 28,862 are young people and 61,540 are children.

The total number of materials loan by users were 3,892,533. The Total operating budget for purchasing of books and reading materials for the Financial Year 2012-2013 were Brunei Ringgit \$ 450,000.00.

**d) Loan by LLB Library Members**

The total number of materials loan by LLB Library users from January – December 2013 were **164,198**

**e) LLB Library Budget**

The Total operating budget for purchasing of books and reading materials for the Financial Year 2012-2013 were Brunei Ringgit \$ 470,000.00.

#### **4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS**

One of the roles of the Language and Literature Bureau Library is to develop and maintain the national collection in order to be accessible anytime and anywhere. Most of the digitization projects are ongoing projects and priority is given to Bruneiana resources which include resources that have newspaper articles values, in-house collection, malay manuscripts, conference and newspaper articles related to the Negara Brunei Darussalam.

##### **a) Collections**

Up to December 2013 the total collection of the Library has reached 693,672 volumes of books and periodicals holding of 3,320 titles. While for non-book materials up to 4,423 titles such as CD-ROM, DVD-ROM including audio visual materials.

The Bruneiana collection is heavily used by users where it's collection has now reach up to 45,000 volumes comprises of books, journals, magazines, Annual Reports, government publication, etc.

##### **b) Depository collections**

In 2013, the LLB Library acquire 124 of books through the application of ISBN in which every publisher who apply for the ISBN should surrender 2 books to the Language and Literature Bureau Library.

##### **c) Gift and Exchange**

Through gift and exchange the LLB Library receive 651 titles and 9342 volumes from Brunei, 379 titles and 433 volumes from overseas and 872 titles and 3569 monograph

#### **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library has a plan to cooperate with all the government and non-government agencies to join the project of creating a central bibliography database as a Union Catalog for extending network of resource sharing amongst various agencies throughout the country.

#### **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS**

Through the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan of Negara Brunei Darussalam the sum of Brunei Dollars \$ 10,000.000.00 has been allocated for the E-Government Project for the implementation of E-Library system for the Language and Literature Bureau Library. The Language and Literature Bureau Library will be the leading agency for this E-Library Project which involves 21 ministries and governmental libraries throughout the country. Public access via internet to the LLB Library will soon be made available when the system is fully implemented, it will be further enhance according to the needs of LLB Library. The system will provides resource search facility Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), in addition to creating more efficient services such as book borrowing station, (book-drop) facilities, internet browsing as well as manage the library's collections. The ITS Wescot Technology Company responsible for the providing the supply, design, verifying, commissioning, implementing and maintenance for the system or the period of five years.

#### **7. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

##### **7.1 Setting up Reading Corners at the 5 rural residential areas**

As of 31st December 2013 a total of 5 reading corners have been set up throughout the country at the Long houses and prayer hall with the purpose to become as an agent restructuring that will provide learning and skill support to local communities in areas such as basic skills, family learning and education to the young. The 5 Reading Corners are:

- i. Rumah Panjang Mendaram Besar, Labi Ulu Belait
- ii. Rumah Panjang Kampong Sibut, Temburong
- iii. Rumah Panjang Kampong Amo, Temburong
- iv. Rumah Panjang Lepong Baru Semabat, Temburong
- v. Balai Ibadat Dayang Hajah Aminah Kampong Long Mayan, Tutong

### **7.2 The Best Library Awards 2013**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library has organized the best library award 2013 which are divide into three categories:-

- i. Ministries/Departmental Libraries
- ii. Primary and Secondary Schools
- iii. Library rooms and Reading Corners in Mosques

The prize presentation has been held during the Reading Carnival 2014 by the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports.

### **7.3 The Walkaton and Aerobics Event with Library Comittee**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library and the Administration Committee from the Lambak Kanan Library Branch organised an aerobics and walkathon event as one of the programmes of the Reading Culture Festival 2014. The guest of honour was Permenant Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Also participating were the directors, senior officers, officers and staff of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The event was also participated by the Penghulu of Mukim Berakas B and heads of villages, principals and headmasters. The event aimed to inform the establishment of the Language and Literature Bureau Library to members of the public especially residents of nearby areas. It also aimed to encourage residents, school students and government departments to participate in organising library activities, as well as to instill the culture of reading among library users. Aside from that, the event also served as a medium to foster closer ties between the library staff, students and nearby residents.

Prior to the walk, participants warmed up with a short 30 minute aerobic exercise. The event was to encourage residents, students and members of government departments to take up reading habit and making it a culture.

### **7.4 Reading Promotion Campaign Activities**

In order to promote or instill the reading culture/habits amongst Bruneian community especially to children and young people, reading promotion campaign activities is also held as part of the library services to readers. The campaign stress on the important of reading as a way to gaining knowledge carried out by the Language and Literature Bureau Libraries throughout the country.

The Reading Promotion Programs held by the Library is divided into three main categories namely for children, young people and adult. Children Activities include story telling competitions, coloring contest, reading contest, singing and dancing, indoor games, reading club, visit to Libraries, stamp collecting club, etc. While activities for young people include book discussion, talks, give us a clue, reading campaign, drama, workshop on traditional music etc. The latest activity was Reading with the patient in the hospital at The Pengiran Anak Isteri Hajah Mariam Hospital in Temburong.

### **7.5 Early Literacy Program (BOOK START)**

The program aims to encourage reading since the babies were born in order to give them early exposure to reading material regardless of gender, status, race and religion.

Early literacy is a national program that encourages parents / guardians for infant familiarized herself with reading material from the earliest possible age. Gift packs filled with some reading material provided free of charge to their newborn babies.

A starter pack in the form of a bag filled with several books in Malay and English, especially for young babies can be read by parent to the infant.

### **7.6 Mobile Library Services**

Currently the Language and Literature Bureau Library has provided 5 Mobile Library services that offer services to 64 service points throughout the country. The priority is given to the schools in the rural area.

### **7.7 Bulk Loan Systems**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library also provide the Bulk Loan System in which 100 – 200 books can be borrowed at one time with a loan period of one calendar month. This service is especially provided to the government and non-government agencies, secondary and primary schools.

### **7.8 The Family Loan System**

The Family Loan System is another services provide with the aims to promote reading habits amongst Bruneian community. This service is especially provided to the general public who intend to have family gathering ceremony in which through the ceremony they can read the books borrowed which will be place at a strategic corner. 100 – 200 books can be borrowed for the period of 1 week.

## **8. LIBRARY'S PROGRAMS**

Various efforts have been, are and will be made to empowering the reading culture in the country. The event of Empowering Reading Culture 2014 which was launched on 9 January 2014 at International Convention Centre is one of the efforts in empowering and enhancing reading habit. In this year, there are various of activities are going to be held by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and collaboration with other Ministries, department and private sectors.

The activities are as follows:

- Speed Reading Competition
- Spelling Bee Competition
- Storytelling Competition

- Library Open Day in conjunction with World Book Day
- Recital of Poem Competition
- National Debate Empowering Reading Culture Competition
- Workshop on Enhancing Reading Culture
- Reading Encouragement Motivational Camp
- Reading Culture Carnival
- Story Group Competition
- Forum on Empowering Youth Reading Culture
- Reading Campaign In Hospital / Business Centre
- Motivation Guidance Exams for youngsters and children
- Term School Holiday Activities

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The National Vision known as Brunei Vision 2035 aims to make Brunei Darussalam known throughout the whole world as a nation that have educated and highly skilled people by 2035. It is the aims and objective of the Language and Literature Bureau Library to help the nation to realize this dream and vision by enhancing reading activity in the country through empowering reading culture especially to children and young people.

The Library will always try to attract and encourage the general public to come and use library facilities and services. Language and Literature Bureau Library always make an effort at empowering reading culture by having or organizing a lot of activities especially during school holidays. Such activities and projects that to be held could fulfill the National Vision 2035 and enhancing reading activity in the country.

By having better library and services, it can provide awareness to the public about the importance of books, reading and role of libraries institution. With abundantly of reading activity, is able to create knowledgeable community, informed and educated which will contribute to national development.