



What Is Our Future ? National Libraries In 2040

27th General Conference
21 February 2019
Singapore

Country Report

[Period Coverage: 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018]

Name of Country	: Singapore
Name of Library	: National Library Board (NLB)
Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director	: Tan Huism (Director, National Library)
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	i. \$4.94m ii. NA
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	i. 90.67 ii. 27
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i. 343,488 ii. 1,425,940 (as of Oct-18)
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	As of Nov-18: i. 1,239,616 ii. 5,119,909
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	1,277

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services

2.1 Amendments to the National Library Board Act

NLB has been working to amend the NLB Act to extend the Legal Deposit collection scope of physical materials to digital and internet materials. On 9 July 2018, the amendment bill was passed at the Singapore Parliament. This was an important milestone as the changes will enable the National Library, Singapore (NL) to enrich its national collection with digital materials and create a lasting legacy for future generations of Singaporeans. The changes are slated to take effect in early 2019.

To commemorate the passing of these updates to the NLB Act, NL organised a two-day festival to create greater public appreciation for our published heritage. The event showcased old and out-of-print books and magazines from the legal deposit collection based on the themes of fashion, entertainment, food and childhood memories. There were also performances by a local theatre company, talks by prominent Singaporean blogger mrbrown and Singapore Literature Prize winner Associate Professor Tan Chee Lay.



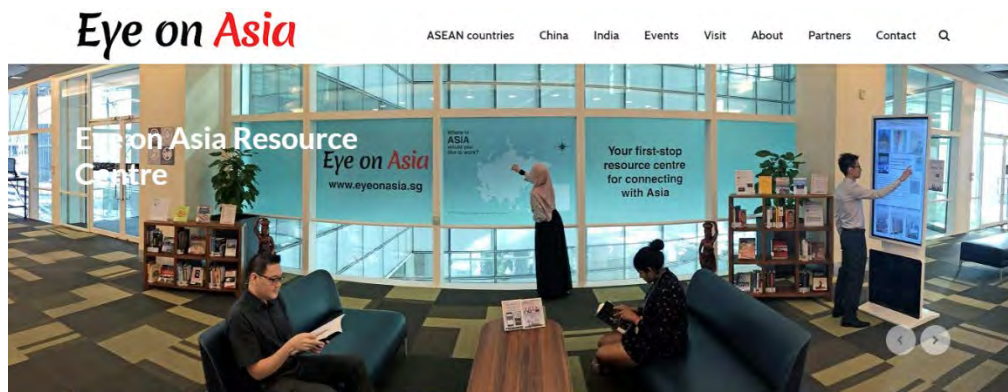
Members of the public and publishers at the event



Elderly guests from nearby communities having fun at the "Instagram-worthy" photo booth

2.2 New Services

2.2.1 Eye on Asia



Eye on Asia (www.eyeonasia.sg) is an online resource for everyone, including young Singaporeans who wish to find out more about the region and explore international opportunities abroad. Focusing on ASEAN countries, China and India including emerging cities, the portal provides a broad overview of useful resources to help users be more aware of development in these countries as Singapore gears itself for the future economy.

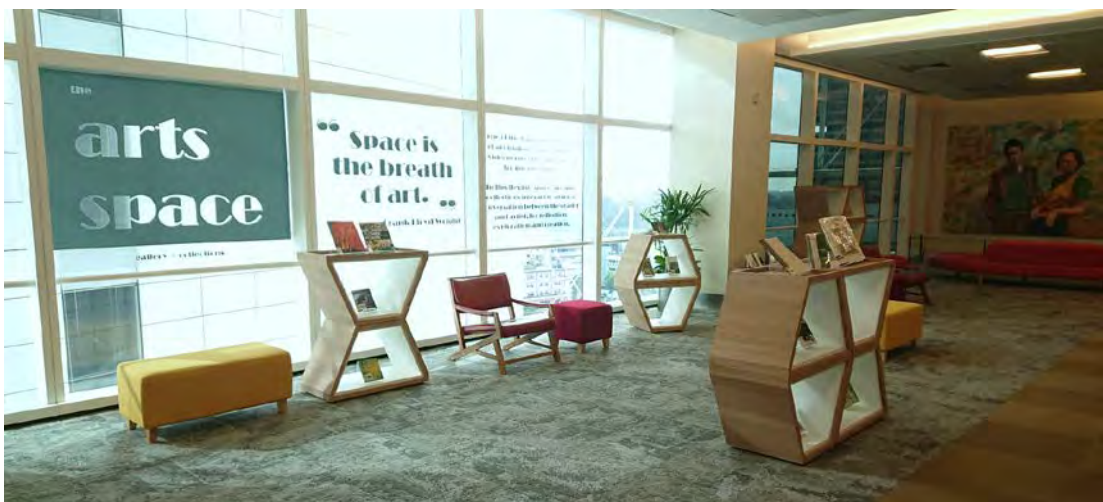
Launched on 10 February 2018, the portal is a collaborative effort by the National Library Singapore with partners such as the Enterprise Singapore, Business China Singapore, International Trading Institute at Singapore Management University, Nanyang Business School, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Overseas SG Ltd, Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore University of Social Sciences, Temasek Polytechnic, Yale-NUS College and Youth Corps Singapore.

Besides the portal, there is also resource centre at Level 7 of the National Library Building to access books and digital resources specially selected by the librarians. Monthly programmes are also organised with partners to gain insights from entrepreneurs and people who have lived and worked abroad.

2.2.2 The Arts Space

In April 2018, NL refreshed its Level 8 reading room, which houses the arts collection. Inspired by the painting, "The Couple", of Singapore's founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew and his wife, and donated by acclaimed Singapore artist Tan Swie Hian, NL set out to create a multi-purpose space, both physical and virtual, collaborative and contemplative, that could function as a cosy reading corner as well as a space for displays and exhibitions.

The refresh provided an opportunity to forge collaborations with partners particularly arts institutions in the arts and culture district for them to curate a season of artworks as well as have joint events to cross-promote the NL's rich resources from books and magazines to photographs, exhibition catalogues and arts ephemera.



Highlights of New Collection

2.2.3 Rare Materials Collection



VOC agreement with the Sultan of Banten and others

3 March 1691 & 24 July 1691

Written in Dutch with parallel text in Javanese and Jawi, this agreement is a highly valuable and important primary document related to maritime trade in the Malay Archipelago. It carries the signatures of 5 VOC generals including the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, and 15 Banten officials.

Personal photographs and papers relating to Frederick Schulte's service during World War II in Malaya and India [1940-1993]



This collection belonged to Frederick North Schulte who served with the Australian Imperial Force 2/10 Field Regiment. A quarter of the 270 photographs in the collection relate to his time in Malaya and Singapore and includes photographs of the Officer Cadet Training Unit here.

17 original letters and documents by the Sultan of Sulu and the Spanish governor Joló, Zamboanga and Pilas Island, 1856



The documents provide information about piracy in the Malay Archipelago and the rescue of Dutch survivors of a shipwreck. They also detail trade and commercial activities such as those about Chinese merchants who have been supplying arms to the Sultanates to fight the Spanish.

2.2.4 Donors' Collection

Singapore Chin Kang Huay Kuan

Founded in 1918, the Singapore Chin Kang Huay Kuan donated 633 heritage materials containing meeting minutes, correspondence, immigration papers, personal identification documents as well as documents relating to the Chin Kang School. These materials help to enhance the understanding of the Chinese diaspora and the role of Chinese clan associations in the welfare, education and cultural development of the Chinese community in Singapore's early years.



Record of Major Events & Synopses of Affairs and Minutes of Meetings

Chin Kang Huay Kuan, 1945 & 1946

Mr Lim Shao Bin

A private collector and researcher, Mr Lim has been regularly donating materials relating to World War II in Singapore and the region to NL. He donated a total of 251 items in 2018 comprising:

- primary documents on Japanese pre-war activities in Singapore and the Dutch East Indies dating from the early 1900s
- historical postcards featuring street scenes, trades, and the people of early 20th century Singapore and Malaya
- albums containing photographic prints of places and events in Singapore taken by Mr Lim between late 2000s to 2010s.



馬來半島案内 (Marai hantō annai)

Nan'yō Benran Hensanjo, 1910

Dr Badrol Hisham bin Ahmad Noor

Dr Badrol Hisham is an Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University; and his areas of research covers political history and religio-political movements of Southeast Asia. In October 2018, Dr Badrol Hisham donated eight publications, totalling 19 volumes. Seven titles are early European travel accounts of Southeast Asia, published between the 17th to the 19th centuries, while the eighth work is a bound volume containing two 20th century Singapore imprints, Sejarah Melayu and Hikayat Abdullah.



Nouveau Voyage Autour du Monde

Amsterdam: Veuve de Paul Marre, 1717.

2.3 “Selling Dreams: Early Advertising in Singapore” Exhibition

NL curated a special exhibition on early print advertisements found in newspapers, publications and ephemera in our collection. Modelled after a department store, the “Selling Dreams: Early Advertising in Singapore” exhibition features a myriad of advertisements of various goods and services from the 1830s to 1960s. The exhibition explores the dreams behind the advertisements and how they have changed over time. Apart from original artefacts and reproductions, the exhibition also features multimedia interactive exhibits to engage the younger audience. A series of public programmes comprising guided tours, talks and family workshops were held in conjunction with the exhibition.

Officially opened on 19 July 2018 by Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information & Culture, Community and Youth, the exhibition was also accompanied by the publication “Between the Lines: Early Print Advertising in Singapore, 1830s – 1960s”, written by the staff members from NL.

The exhibition will run till 24 February 2019.



Opening ceremony of the “Selling Dreams: Early Advertising in Singapore” exhibition

2.4 Programmes and Outreach

2.4.1 Signature Programmes

Four Conversations

Four Conversations features drivers of change who re-think the conventional systems and chart new paths of interacting with the world. 2018's theme was: "Enabling through innovation as a 21st century mindset".



A Librarian's World

Started in 2016, the monthly series promote librarians as thought leaders with their sharing on NL's collections and their significance.



Histories

Started in August 2018, this series highlights research on historical and related matters in Singapore and Southeast Asia, creating an appreciation of the role of humanities and social science research in contemporary society.



Education in the City

A quarterly series that presents perspectives from researchers with experience in Singapore schools, providing parents and educators with a greater understanding of education issues.



The Arts Space series

A monthly programme series where speakers from the local arts scene are invited to share their works in conjunction with The Arts Space to showcase NL's Arts collection.



2.4.2 National Information Literacy Programme (S.U.R.E.)

The S.U.R.E. (Source, Understand, Research, Evaluate) programme promotes information literacy and raises awareness of the dangers of fake news and how to recognise it. In 2018, the programme focused on deepening the engagement with different audiences through working with key organisations which includes the

National Trades Union Congress, People's Association and Civil Service College. Interactive activities such as games and quizzes were used to facilitate learning at the talks and workshops. School competitions to nurture research skills and critical thinking, such as Prove It! contest and Historical Scene Investigation challenge were also organised.



2.5 Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation

NLB has achieved the Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation (SQASC) in October 2018. The SQASC recognizes NLB's continued pursuit of excellence, not only in innovating for customers and providing excellence service, but also in the systems and processes in place for developing staff capability, the leadership and strategy plans, and how knowledge is managed in NLB. The SQASC is the highest accolade for business excellence in Singapore and by achieving it, it reflects that NLB has met the highest standards of innovation and service excellence in all the aspects of the Business Excellence framework. The National Library and colleagues from the other NLB divisions came together with the single goal to showcase NLB's excellent achievements in the categories in the Business Excellence framework.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country

3.1 National Union Catalogue

The National Union Catalogue (NUC) is a comprehensive record of the collective holdings of publicly funded libraries in Singapore and is a useful tool for resource-sharing locally and internationally. To date, 13 libraries have their catalogues opened to the public via the NUC.

3.2 Council of Chief Librarians

NL is part of the Council of Chief Librarians, a committee of library directors (i.e. from institutes of higher learning, government and private organisations), and the President of the Library Association of Singapore. The Council meets every quarter to share best practices, collaborate and build up the library profession and the library community in Singapore. There are 17 members in the Council as of 2018.

3.3 Collaboration with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)

The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), Singapore's pioneer arts institution established in 1938, was engaged by NL to explore collaborative projects to jointly promote and build Singapore arts heritage. The collaboration was initiated with NL providing an avenue through its recently launched Arts Space for NAFA to mount student exhibitions and installations. The project not only helped in cultivating art appreciation by the public, but also serves as a platform to support student creativity. Two installations tied to existing themes put up by NL have been mounted in 2018 with a third planned for February 2019.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries

4.1 National Library of New Zealand Peer Review

The National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) was invited to conduct an onsite peer review of the NL's legal deposit processes from 3 – 6 September 2018.

The review panel comprised of four staff from NLNZ who assessed the following areas:

- Collection and processing of legal deposit materials
- Physical and digital preservation strategies
- Harvesting and web archiving strategies
- Promotion and access strategies

The peer review report was received in December 2018 and NL will be reviewing NLNZ's recommendations for implementations in 2019.



From left: Wai Yin Pryke (Director National Library, Singapore), Linda Hall (Team Leader Collection Development Legal Deposit, NLNZ), Jessica Moran (Digital Collection Services Team Leader, NLNZ), Steve Knight (Programme Director Preservation Research, NLNZ), Rachel Esson (Director Content Services, NLNZ), Tay Ai Cheng (Deputy Chief Executive, NLB)



Participants at the peer review

4.2 ASEAN Digital Library

The ASEAN Digital Library (ADL), a project partly sponsored by ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information, is a platform that provides users with a seamless way to search for and to gain access to the wealth of digital materials held by the National Libraries in ASEAN. The website (www.aseanlibrary.org) is managed by NL and there are over 80,000 records to-date.