

NEWS

THE LIBRARY IN NOVEMBER.....

By Wan Wee Pin, Manager, Strategic Programming Office, National Library

REMEMBER REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER
GUNPOWDER, TREASON AND PLOT.
I KNOW OF NO REASON WHY GUNPOWDER, TREASON
SHOULD EVER BE FORGOT...
– GUY FAWKES NIGHT

These lines of poetry were made famous in the movie “V for Vendetta” but at the National Library, we are planning fireworks of a different kind come this November. Besides celebrating the second anniversary of the National Library at Victoria Street, the entire month is also devoted to programmes, events and exhibitions that span the entire library system. Just like what is mentioned in the poem, we want the public to think of the library when they think of the month of November.

Essentially the programme line-up Think Library is divided into three main festive blocks – Singapore Library Week, Heritage at National Library and the Asian Children’s Festival. Each block will have a whole gamut of exciting activities and events that will appeal to a different age group.

THINK OF NOW

Singapore Library Week is a celebration of the institution of the library and what it means. This week long campaign celebrates all that is good about libraries and the National Library Board (NLB) is proud to be a key partner in this initiative.

As part of our contribution, we will be organising a Youth Seminar at the Plaza revolving around the theme “Dream Big”. Two Dream Walls will be set up at the Plaza and at library@orchard to allow teenagers and teenagers-at-heart to pen their thoughts and dreams.

As part of the celebration for Singapore Library Week, the National Library is also celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Raffles National Library Ordinance that marked the beginning of free public library services. In commemoration, the National Library will be publishing a photo book that traces the growth and development of libraries in Singapore. You may even get to see photos never before shown publicly!

THINK OF THE PAST

The Heritage Road Show is here again! After last year’s very successful event, the National Library is once again bringing the Road Show back on track only this time there is going

to be a twist. As part of the new online services that NLB is constantly trying to improve, we will be launching the new e-Deposit online service at this year’s road show. Members of the public will now be able to donate digitised version of old photos online or take a photo of their valuables and send that in instead. This is NLB’s way of helping the public make a contribution towards the building of a consolidated National Memory.

Besides the Road Show, another prominent highlight is the consolidated exhibition experience that one will encounter when one visits the National Library. In line with the theme, there will be heritage-related exhibitions on at all the Promenades from Level 7 onwards, culminating in the *KaalaChakra* (Wheel of Time) showcase on Level 10, which is about the early Indian influences in Southeast Asia in the areas of culture, history and society.

THINK OF THE FUTURE

When one looks forward, one cannot help but think of children and the promise and potential they possess. This year’s Asian Children’s Festival celebrates those exact same qualities; this year we are bringing all the programmes back to the kids. While there are ever-popular staples like the *SMRT Read & Ride* programme as well as storytelling sessions at the public libraries, we are also breaking new grounds.

For the very first time, we will be staging a kid’s version of Woodstock called *Woodies at the Plaza* where children will be invited to perform for their peers. There will be a mixture of the old (classical) and the new (rock? rap?) as we bring forth Singapore’s very first major concert devoted entirely to the children!

These are just some of the highlights out of many that will be taking place at the National Library and public libraries this coming November. With so much colour, passion and high energy being generated, Guy Fawkes will be forgiven for thinking that his legacy has finally been fulfilled!

KAALACHAKRA (WHEEL OF TIME) EXHIBITION ON THE EARLY INDIAN INFLUENCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

By Pushpalatha Naidu, Senior Executive, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, National Library

Aligning with the National Library Board's mission to promote a knowledgeable and engaged society, this exhibition aims at acknowledging the historical past of the Indians with a Singaporean identity rooted in our multicultural heritage. This initiative is the third in a series of exhibitions after the *Zheng He and Maritime Asia* exhibition and *Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts* exhibition. Entitled *KaalaChakra*, it will focus on the cultural and religious influences as well as early trade related incursions from South India to Southeast Asia and vice versa up to the 13th century AD.

The exhibition covers commercial activities; the administrative and legal framework; the system of writing; vocabulary used in the local languages; early libraries; artistic formulas; cosmogonic myths; the lunar-solar calendar, and the great epic themes of the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas. More importantly, it traces the influence of the Sanskrit and Tamil languages in this region and the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism. The beginning of the 1,000th anniversary of the Tamil king Rajendra Chola's naval expeditions in Southeast Asia will also be celebrated at the National Library via *KaalaChakra* from 17 November 2007 for a period of six months.



Medieval period ship

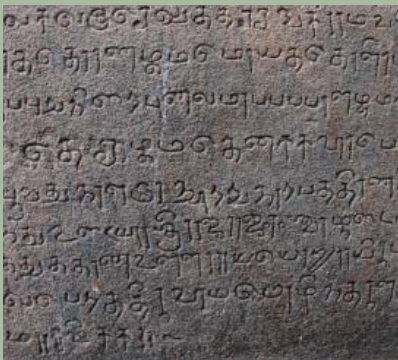
KaalaChakra will be jointly organised with several international stakeholders such as museums, libraries and universities, which provided exhibits such as artifacts, archaeological and inscriptional evidences, classical literatures and rare reference materials in various Southeast Asian languages. The exhibition will be supported by a 3-day conference from 21 to 23 November 2007. The conference, jointly organised by the National Library Board, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Institute of South Asian Studies and the Asia Research Institute, will be attended by local and international historians and researchers. Cultural programmes and literary activities on Indian themes will also be in store for participation by community organisations and the general public.



Indianised image of Avalokiteswara

MEDIEVAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN EARLY SOUTHEAST ASIA

About 500 BC, prior to embarking on overseas relationships, trade was actively carried out amongst ancient settlements. During the 1st century BC to 5th century AD, early trade relations between the indigenous people and Indians were intensified. During this period, maritime voyages and trade were the most influential factors in strengthening the cultural, political and economic relationships of the Indians with Southeast Asia. Traders, explorers and craftsmen were accompanied by Brahman and Buddhist priests and teachers, who brought with them the civilising influence of Indian cultural and spiritual life. They implanted them in these new lands by introducing the art of writing and the classical Sanskrit language and literature, including their own vernacular languages, to enrich the vocabularies of Southeast Asia.



Tanjore Temple Tamil inscription describing Rajendra Chola's naval expeditions to Southeast Asia

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN EARLY SOUTHEAST ASIA

Archaeological evidences indicate that Indian cultural influence was rapidly increasing during the 5th to 7th centuries AD. Indian ideas influenced systems of political administration, culminating in a king who was governed by Indian codes of royal conduct. During the 7th to 13th centuries AD, the Southeast Asian people effectively absorbed Indian civilisation. This important cultural foundation enriched the development of social organisations and reformation to hierarchical societies in Southeast Asia.

Archaeological and inscriptional evidences testify to the close relationship between the South Indian kings and the Southeast Asian kings. The South Indian Chola navigation mode was popular with the medieval seafarers as it was said to have given protection to all trade vessels that plied between the east and west. The *KaalaChakra* exhibition will showcase some of the various ports-of-call during the medieval period and highlight the political influences, which contributed to state formations in Southeast Asia.

SCRIPTS OF EARLY SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Indian script was the basis for most of the writing systems of Southeast Asia, including Mon, Burmese, Thai, Khmer,



Yoni*

Cham, Javanese, and Balinese. Alphabets of Southeast Asia originated in South India, with the influence of the script of the Pallavas predominating.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND INSCRIPTIONAL EVIDENCES OF EARLY SOUTHEAST ASIA

Stone inscriptions written in Tamil and found in Southeast Asia, mainly in Indonesia, Thailand and China reveal the organised activities of Tamil merchant guilds, which were mainly non-political. Evidence of this kind gives a picture of the spread of Indian trade throughout Southeast Asia and the establishment of Tamil settlements in several areas.

A small piece of pottery dated 2nd century AD, with early Tamil letters, which was found in Phu Khao Thong in Thailand, will be on display at the exhibition. A replica of the 'Perum Pathan Kal' with Tamil Brahmi Inscription (3rd or 4th century AD, found in Krabi, Thailand), which hints of the migration and settlement of a Tamil goldsmith in southern Thailand, will also be showcased at the exhibition. The 1088 AD Lobo Tuwa Tamil inscription found on the west coast of Sumatra tells the story of the musk trade in Southeast Asia. Similarly, the Desa Neusu (13 AD) Tamil inscription in the Banda Aceh Museum provides an interesting insight into the important period in the economic history of the region. These inscriptions and other artifacts from many parts of Southeast Asia will be of special interest to researchers, historians and most importantly to the public of multicultural Singapore.

Members of the public are invited to view the *KaalaChakra* exhibition at the Exhibition Gallery, Level 10, National Library, Victoria Street.

*Early Indians had a high regard for the creation process. Birth was viewed as an incomprehensible miracle and the organs that facilitate it became divine. Linga (the male organ that facilitates reproduction) worship was an integral part of early Indian religious beliefs. Considering women as the power of the world, Yoni worship also became equally dominant. These native and religious beliefs of early India were attractive to the indigenous people of Southeast Asia.

NATIONAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES 3.5 MILLION VISITORS

By Low Kwee Fah, Deputy Director, National Library Marketing and Group Services, National Library

The National Library - a knowledge icon in the heart of Singapore's civic, cultural and arts district has attracted more than 3.5 million visitors over the last two years. It doesn't matter who you are, this landmark library provides an open, barrier-free environment for people of different ages and abilities. It is no wonder the National Library clinched the Universal Design Award for Institutional Building presented by the Building and Construction Authority in May this year. As the place where our unique history and multi-cultural heritage is captured, preserved and celebrated, the National Library wants to share its rich heritage - past, present and future, with visitors.

A National Library trail will be introduced to visitors in November to highlight our interesting history, unique features that contributed to the building's accolades and stories of our heritage. To give our readers a sneak preview of the trail, here are some cool features that may interest you:

- 100 metre atrium: Acts as a stack to naturally ventilate the open plaza.
- Window blinds: Automatically unroll to shield the daylight glare from afternoon sun.
- Escalators activated by motion sensors: The escalators automatically stop when there is no human traffic over approximately three minutes.
- 14 gardens and vegetation: Comprising 145 plant species, the gardens make up 35% of total site area, which help to lower the temperature.
- Red brick wall: 5,000 red bricks of the former library now make up the wall of the bamboo garden at the Central Lending Library at Basement 1.
- St Andrew's Cross: This insignia was moved here from the former National Library at Stamford Road – a site used to be occupied by the St Andrew's School. Some believe that the four symbols represent knowledge from the four corners of the world.
- Lee Kong Chian Reference Library: The crown jewel of the National Library, the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCR) offers onsite reference and information services to researchers, professionals and the general public. Level 11 features an impressive three-storey book wall, with supergraphics that change colours at intervals. The LKCR is named after the late Dr Lee Kong Chian, founder of the Lee Foundation, which donated S\$60 million to the library. The late Dr Lee's bust is located beside the Information Counter at Level 11.
- Study Lounge: A tranquil area for quiet reading and self-study.

So, the next time when you visit the National Library, do check out the above and more!



Red brick wall at the Central Lending Library



Bust of Dr Lee Kong Chian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 11



The garden courtyard at Level 5



100 metre atrium



St Andrew's Cross

PLUGGING INTO THE BUSINESS WORLD: NLB AND PARTNERS LAUNCH NEW INFORMATION SERVICE TO HELP SMES BUILD AND GROW THEIR BUSINESS

By Leslie Koh, Senior Manager, Publishing and Research Services, National Library

The National Library Board recently launched a new information consultancy service for Singapore-based companies. Together with other government organisations and private-sector partners, it has started a new service that promises to help local firms leverage on market information to become more competitive in the global economy.

Targeted at small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), the EnterpriseOne Business Information Services (EBIS) aims to equip them with information skills as well as updated industry information, to assist them in making the right decisions to grow their businesses successfully.

The multi-agency initiative, which is led by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), includes the National Library Board (NLB), SPRING Singapore and International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, is part of a larger effort to empower enterprises in Singapore to become more knowledge-enabled, innovative and information savvy.

At the heart of EBIS is a suite of business information services that include industry updates, research reports, focused industry workshops and access to business information resources. Companies can tap on a team of dedicated Info-consultants from the National Library, who will help them navigate the library's huge knowledge repository and also help equip them with information retrieval and acquisition skills.

Launched on 2 August 2007 at the National Library, the service aims to reach out to some 12,000 Singapore-based enterprises.

The NLB's role in EBIS extends beyond providing domain expertise and information retrieval training. At stake is the survival and growth of some 150,000 SMEs in Singapore, which together account for 45 percent of the country's gross domestic product and employ almost two-thirds of the workforce.



Chief Executives of the four partners and guest of honour. (From left) SPRING Singapore CE Mr Loh Khum Yuen, IE Singapore CE Mr Chong Lit Cheong, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Lee Yi Shyan, NLB CE Dr N Varaprasad and SBF Chairman Mr Stephen Lee

Two surveys conducted in 2005, one by SBF and the other jointly by NLB and SPRING Singapore showed that smaller companies, with their limited resources, often lack access to business information and competitive intelligence, which are increasingly essential for making the right business decisions in today's fast-moving, interlinked economy. At the same time, existing market research service providers are also unable to accommodate the diverse needs of SMEs. The result: smaller companies often lose out to the bigger players.

At the launch, Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation, the lead agency in the project, Mr Stephen Lee said, "For companies that aspire to thrive and prosper in a globalised economy, it is imperative that their decision making is guided by timely and accurate business information and market intelligence."

By targeting SMEs, the new service aims to bridge this gap. The suite of services provided by EBIS include:

- Information consulting services that help companies find the business information they need and help them conduct



Bringing light to SMEs: Chief Executives of the four partners launch EBIS together with guest of honour Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Lee Yi Shyan (extreme right). (From left) SBF Chairman Mr Stephen Lee, SPRING Singapore CE Mr Loh Khum Yuen, IE Singapore CE Mr Chong Lit Cheong and NLB CE Dr N Varaprasad



Industry reports prepared by NLB researchers for EBIS members

systematic evaluations of their business information needs.

- Industry research reports and regular industry updates that give enterprises useful overviews of specific industries as well as the latest news and updates.
- Industry workshops and seminars that will equip enterprises with the knowledge to understand global shifts and capitalise on emerging trends.

The involvement of NLB in this service represents yet another move by the library to make itself relevant to the needs of the modern economy, and also its success in being plugged into today's changing world.



Minister of State for Trade and Industry Mr Lee Yi Shyan and NLB CE Dr Varapasad explore the search and browse software that was set up to help SMEs gain better access to information to help in their business planning



Guests get a close-up look at the facilities and information available to SMEs at the EBIS @ NLB centre

Said Dr N Varapasad, Chief Executive of NLB, "Having up-to-date and credible business information often is the tipping point in the success of businesses in today's knowledge economy. We hope that our research capabilities and extensive print and electronic business-related resources will enable local SMEs to take on the world."

More information on EBIS can be found at www.ebis.sg or call 6332 3255.

EBIS @ NLB
100 Victoria Street
#07-02
National Library Building
Singapore 188064

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD AND S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FORM A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN TERRORISM INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION ARCHIVAL

The National Library Board (NLB) and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 12 September 2007 to formulate a strategic partnership to preserve, archive and make accessible rare print and non-print information on international political violence and terrorism.

This collaboration, which includes joint efforts in public education initiatives on terrorism informatics and an exchange programme to train terrorism analysts in NLB, will combine the resources of both NLB and RSIS for more effective research and development in terrorism informatics, an important field of knowledge in today's uncertain and tumultuous times. Government bodies, researchers and relevant organisations will find such information more accessible, which is in line with NLB's L2010 vision of facilitating the sharing of knowledge and information.

NLB's know-how in the preservation and archival of materials gathered by RSIS' International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) would provide for proper care and storage and thereby, prolong the availability and accessibility of these materials.



Dr N Varapasad and Ambassador Barry Desker seal the agreement with a handshake

As part of the collaboration, NLB will provide public access to non-sensitive or de-sensitised information on political violence and terrorism in either print or electronic format through its libraries and digital channels. The information to be made available will contain information such as the dates of occurrences of political violence and acts of terrorism.

NLB and RSIS will also work together to educate the public by staging exhibitions and talks in NLB's libraries in the event of or in the context of an act or acts of political violence or terrorism. Talks may also be held for selected groups such as researchers, educationists, policy makers, executives, defence scholars and national security personnel on a need-to-have basis.

PAST "TIMES" MOVE INTO THE FUTURE

By Ian Bain, Senior Manager, Digital Resources and Services, National Library Board



Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive of NLB and Mr Alan Chan, Chief Executive Officer of SPH signing the agreement

Newspapers have come a long way since their putative beginnings in Rome with *Acta Diurna*, appearing around 59 BC, which is generally considered the earliest recorded "newspaper". The point, just like our newspapers, was to let the people know about important social and political happenings and they were posted on walls in public places (such as baths) in the major cities. The Romans used large white boards whereas in 8th century China, the first newspapers appeared as hand-written newsheets in Beijing. But of course the real catalyst for the newspaper was the invention of the printing press invented by Johann Gutenberg in 1447. Since then the evolution of the news has been swift. The first modern newspapers came out of Europe in countries such as Germany ("*Relation*" in 1605), France ("*Gazette*" in 1631), Belgium ("*Nieuwe Tijdingen*" in 1616) and England ("*London Gazette*"). These tended to look outside of their country of origin for uncomplimentary events to highlight. The shift in focus to more local news is reckoned to have begun at the end of the 18th century.

Between 1890 to 1920, the "golden age" of print media was born, spawning the first media barons - William Randolph Hearst, Joseph Pulitzer, and Lord Northcliffe who built huge publishing empires in a mode that Rupert Murdoch would relate to today. Over the years they have had to respond to the threat posed by radio and television, and, on the whole have survived, giving rise to the titillating tabloids and full colour in the process.

The shift from "hot metal" to new technology was the beginning of the digital age. Since then the challenges of the Internet have presented different challenges to traditional newspaper media. Their response has been to move house to the WWW - there are now thousands of newspapers with their own websites offering public or premium content. But it seems that people still can't resist the touch, feel and smell of newsprint since estimates say that one billion people in the world read a newspaper every day!

Singapore has had its own newspaper, the *Singapore Chronicle*, since 1824 (the first Chinese newspaper was in 1881) and it was to bring this into a modern focus that the National Library

Board (NLB) and the Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) recently signed a landmark agreement on 31 July 2007, which enabled NLB to digitise "*The Straits Times*" way back to its beginnings. When it comes on stream at the end of 2008, a little bit more of the history and evolution of Singapore as a country will be readily accessible through the Internet. For the purpose of the signing event, NLB gave a "sneak preview" of what goodies are in store by featuring an issue from 1845 and one from 1981.

The 19 August 1845 issue had many fascinating insights into Singapore life way-back-then including: a census dated July 1845; an alarming story of a child drowning in a pail; a story from the Irish press involving a magistrate and a dispute regarding a cow; an account of shipping arriving in Singapore referring to barques, schooners, corvettes and brigs; a description of "a patent machine for the manufacture of teeth, gums and palates" and the published "will of a millionaire" bequeathing to each of the deceased's eight sons the sum of 40,000 British Pounds.

Fast forward to 3 January, 1981 which brought us firmly into the crisis mode of modern life with the Iran hostage crisis and the then startling statistic of 1,787 murders in New York City. Locally speaking, a two-day blackout at Clementi, the roundup of 80 youths at Jurong (pointing out that Jurong had 11 murders in the previous year) and an outbreak of tyre puncturing in Paya Lebar grab the headlines. "Across the Causeway" speaks of flash floods in Seremban; rampant beef smuggling in Penang allied to Volkswagen smuggling in Johore; the shortage of blue collar workers despite high wage offers, and a mysterious escape from "death row" of a notorious gunman. What is startling is the exponential increase in advertisements and overseas news. In 1981 there were well over a hundred advertisements (classified and commercial) compared to 1845 when there was a modest dozen of both.

So we look forward to the end of next year when the full glory of the archive will be made available to the public at NLB libraries for individual research and reference purposes from the second half of 2008.

PRESERVING YOUR SCHOOL'S PUBLISHED HERITAGE: A DIALOGUE SESSION WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

By Wong Wai Quen, Executive, Corporate Communications, National Library Board

On 20 July 2007, the National Library held the first in a series of informal dialogue sessions with schools on the value of preserving their school's published heritage. This is part of the ongoing efforts of the National Library to raise the awareness of publishers in Singapore of the "Legal Deposit" requirement to deposit two copies of their published works with the National Library as a means to preserving Singapore's publishing heritage. This legal requirement not only safeguards the publishing heritage of Singapore but ensures that current and future generations of Singaporeans will have access to records of their shared history, memories and a sense of national identity.

The "Legal Deposit" is a statutory function of the National Library through which it collects and preserves the works of Singapore writers, publishers and producers that are of important national heritage value. It has operated for many years under different titles, starting as the "Printers and Publishers Ordinance", then the "Printers and Publishers Act" before it became the current "NLB Act of 1995 – Section II, Clause 10" which the National Library is also currently revising to cover the increase in electronic and online publications.

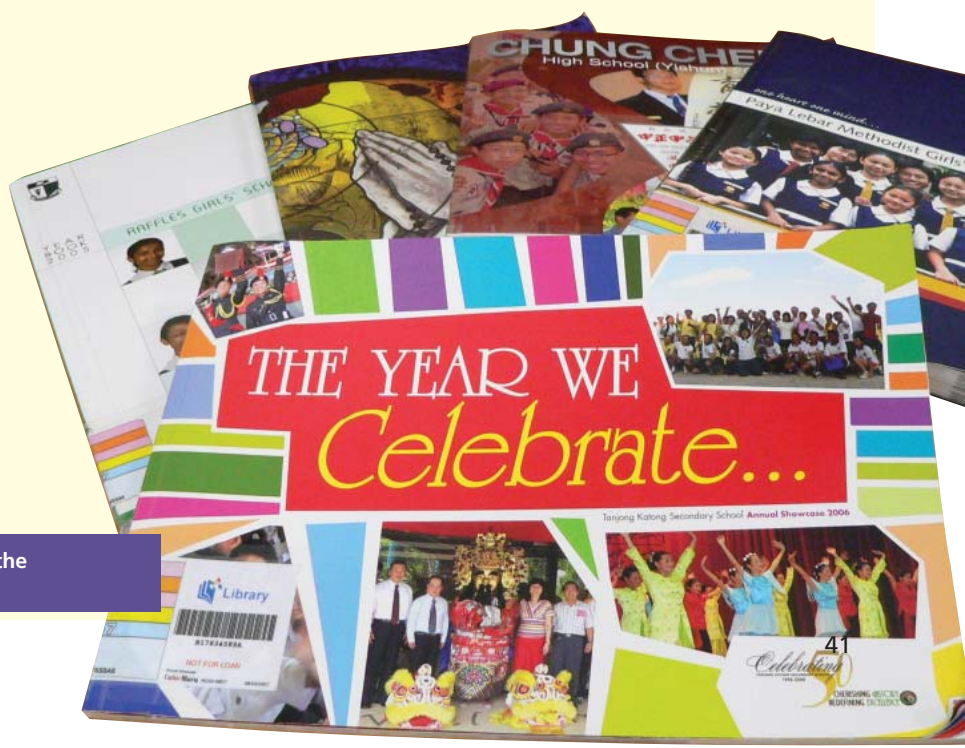
Over the years, published works collected from various sources such as commercial publishers, organisations like societies, clubs, and clan associations, religious bodies and many academic institutions, comprised printed materials such as books, periodicals, annual reports, school magazines, pamphlets, maps, charts, posters, and music scores. Non-print materials collected include films, tapes, cassettes, discs, and those in electronic and digital formats.

Training materials for staff, private and confidential works, legal documents, artifacts like pens, bookmarks, special day badges and so on are, however, not normally collected under the purview of "Legal Deposit".

The larger commercial publishers in Singapore have been consistently depositing their publications with the National Library contributing to the current "Legal Deposit" collection of about 900,000 items. However, there remain gaps to be filled especially by non-commercial publishers such as schools, which are important publishers of newsletters, school magazines, yearbooks, project publications, and more. The National Library hopes that through these informal dialogue sessions, many more schools will proactively come forth with their publications so that these could be preserved.

To encourage smaller publishers like schools to deposit their published works, the National Library announced in April 2006 that materials can now be conveniently deposited at all the local public libraries. Larger publishers will however continue to deposit their published works at the Legal Deposit Unit at the Library Supply Centre in Changi as they publish many titles and regularly.

Beside the Legal Deposit function, the National Library also provides a range of services for publishers, including serving as the national agency or centre for the provision of ISBN (International Standard Book Number), ISSN (International Standard Serial Number), CIP (Cataloguing-In-Publication) as well as the publication of the SNB (Singapore National Bibliography), a record of Singapore's publishing output.



A selection of school magazines available at the National Library

UNVEILING THE COLLABORATIVE REFERENCE NETWORK SERVICES (CRNS) PHASE ONE

By Ivy Lee, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, National Library



NLB colleagues try out CRNS at the exhibition booth

It was a happy occasion for many people as a major project of the National Library Board (NLB) involving multiple departments is finally ready to be unveiled after two years of dedicated teamwork in brainstorming, planning, designing, testing and evaluating.

The project's name is Collaborative Reference Network Services, or CRNS for short. CRNS is the first project to be launched under the Library 2010 vision (NLB's knowledge framework for Singapore). CRNS was unveiled to over 100 NLB colleagues on 18 July 2007 with presentations by NLB's Chief Executive, Dr N Varaprasad and Director of the National Library, Ms Ngian Lek Choh, followed by a live demonstration of CRNS by reference librarians from the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCRIL).

Dr Varaprasad set the stage by providing an outline of the L2010 strategies, and how the various projects would come together to help NLB achieve its vision. In his usual affable style, Dr Varaprasad shared with colleagues the three-pronged framework for Singapore, which is to:

- Deepen our knowledge base by building knowledge expertise.
- Broaden our information reach by making information accessible.
- Share our knowledge by fostering collaboration.

With the big picture in focus, Ms Ngian then shared with colleagues on how CRNS would contribute to the three-pronged framework. By leveraging technology and tapping on

the collective wisdom of our people, CRNS would enable NLB to increase its research capacity and meet customers' needs in a changing consumer lifestyle.

The final portion of the project launch consisted of a live demonstration by LKCRIL reference librarians. This demonstration helped to improve colleagues' understanding of CRNS by showing how the concept is applied real time to help librarians enhance and deliver seamless reference services to customers, wherever they are. Presenters Mr Yit Chin Chuan and Ms Ivy Lee took a sample question from the audience that was sent to the library's reference email via Short Message Services (SMS) on their handphones and demonstrated how this enquiry would be answered using CRNS.

The basic facilities of CRNS include a Staff Input Template that allows librarians to conveniently search, add and compile resources and send to customers directly on their handphones or emails. It also includes a Network of Specialists platform that allows librarians to post difficult reference enquiries to knowledge communities where contributions are sought to enhance the quality of the answers to customers.

CRNS Phase One is currently used by LKCRIL reference librarians to handle reference enquiries. Meanwhile, the project team continues to develop Phase Two with enhanced features and streamlined workflows.

For more information on CRNS, please email crns@nlb.gov.sg.

OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATIVE REFERENCE NETWORK SERVICES:

- To increase NLB's research capacity and facilitate creation of research output.
- To re-design information services to meet changes in consumer lifestyles and advancing technology.
- To empower users with a seamless access to content and knowledge communities.
- To leverage on a collaborative platform, where patrons can tap on the collective wisdom of a network of knowledge workers and resources, using social networking tools such as email, blogs and wikis.

Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship Series: Research Fellows 2007

The Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship welcomes two new Research Fellows, Mr Prasani Weerawardane (Sri Lanka) and Ms Daw Win (Myanmar). Mr Prasani was awarded his Fellowship by Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director of the National Library on 13 July 2007. Ms Daw Win received her Fellowship from Mr Beh Chew Leng, Senior Director, Library and Professional Services, National Library Board on 17 August 2007.

Mr Prasani Weerawardane has a Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology) from the Institute of Archaeology, University of College London and a Certificate in English Language teaching from the University of Cambridge. Mr Prasani's research is on "Exploration of trade and cultural linkages between India and Southeast Asia in the centuries 1-7 AD, with an emphasis on the influence of Buddhist centres in India in the propagation of Buddhism in Southeast Asia".

Ms Daw Win has a Bachelor of Arts (English) from Yangon University, a Diploma in Japanese from the Yangon Institute of Foreign Language and a Master of Arts (History) from Wuhan University, People's Republic of China. Ms Daw's research is on "Leading personalities of the overseas Chinese community in Yangon and their links with Penang and Singapore in the 20th century".

The National Library, Singapore welcomes talented scholars and researchers to use our resources and services, and to collaborate with us on joint research projects to create new knowledge. The Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship is open to both local and foreign applicants, who should preferably have an established record of achievement in their chosen field of research and the potential to excel further.

For information about the Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship, please contact Dr Narinder Kaur, Assistant Director, Publishing and Research Services, National Library.

Tel: 6332 3348
Fax: 6333 7990
Email: LKCRF@nlb.gov.sg



Mr Prasani Weerawardane receiving his Fellowship from Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director, National Library



Ms Daw Win receiving her Fellowship from Mr Beh Chew Leng, Senior Director, Library and Professional Services, National Library Board