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06

A-Z Guide to the National Library

Get to know the new library with this handy guide.

12

Continuities and Changes

Read about Singapore's history as a Port-city

18

Gems in the Library

Explore the Rare Materials Collection



National Library Board
Singapore



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Chief Executive's Message

November 12, 2005 marks a major milestone in the learning journey of Singapore in its 40th year as a nation. The National Library Board is pleased to announce that the new National Library building will be officially opened by the President of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan. I would like to thank all Singaporeans for their patience and support during the period of construction. You are the reason for us to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

We have entered into a new phase of global competition. Economies have progressively become knowledge-based, with knowledge and services replacing capital and commodities as the main drivers of economic growth. The knowledge-based economy, together with new info-communications technologies heralds the death of distance and separation. It has created an on-demand and "Inform-me" culture where information needs to be made affordable and available. With that, patrons now want us to help them find and validate information from disparate sources. Successful economies of the future will be determined by 'Knowmatics' or 'Knowledge Science' and 'Knowledge Technology'. They provide the tools for the effective processing and application of knowledge for the common man and the experts alike.

The National Library will support Singapore's aspiration to become the global brain reserve of the twenty-first century. As a premier information institution and a national knowledge manager, we have repositioned ourselves to support research and development. We will function as a gateway to knowledge experts and resources. We will also coordinate resource sharing between research institutions and build-up strengths in areas that power the competitiveness of Singapore's economy. The National Library recognises its role in

aggregating Singapore's knowledge assets and we will continue to ensure easy access to them. We will make it possible to bring all the knowledge spread across domains or disciplines into a single or unified system of conglomerated or embedded system so that the average Singaporean can attain expertise in several domains within a short span of time. Whilst we facilitate knowledge creation, we need to simultaneously equip Singaporeans with the necessary skills to make productive use of knowledge. Encouraging life-long literacy and self-improvement would be a major initiative of the National Library in going forward.

This library will be home to an outstanding Asian and Southeast Asian collection network, the largest of any in Asia. The National Library will be a dynamic, resource-rich, downtown destination – an essential gathering place that inspires learning, invites interaction, collaboration and improves access to knowledge for everyone. A public-private partnership will ensure the excellence and financial viability of the National Library and its services.

Finally, we would like to encourage you to continue learning and exploring, for Knowledge ignites Imagination, and with imagination, we create endless Possibility.

N Varaprasad (Dr)
Chief Executive
National Library Board, Singapore

Director's Column



It has been more than three months since the National Library reopened its doors and your response to the new library has been very encouraging indeed. With our wide variety of exhibitions and collections, a record breaking of 150,000 library users like yourself visited us. In the first two weeks, the daily number of visits averaged 7,000 on a weekday, and 9,000 on a weekend.

As much as we welcome the flood of visitors and reading enthusiasts, we have enjoyed and appreciated your feedback and suggestions. Many of you have complimented us on the extensive selection of materials and the excellent service given by the staff. For that, we thank you and we want to say it has been a real pleasure serving you. Your compliments, feedback and suggestions will spur us on to new and greater heights in providing for your needs. The National Library will continue to build on our collections and services so as to enrich your library experience.

Meanwhile, do take note in your diaries a very special date – our official opening on 12 November 2005. In conjunction with this momentous event, the National Library Board is organising a major library conference from 13 to 15 November 2005 on the theme "Celebrating Knowledge: The Power and Potential". Join us in celebrating knowledge with international librarians and knowledge experts, who will gather to discuss topics of common interests. This knowledge-sharing opportunity will allow participants to learn from each other and bring home with them a wealth of information and experience. We are privileged to have Paul Saffo, Director of the Institute for the Future, to shed light on the future of the library. Joining him is Dr Susan Whitfield, who will speak on the International Dunhuang Project, a collaborative international digitisation project between the British Library, the National Library of China and a few other libraries. Dr Whitfield has also kindly agreed to speak to the public on Sunday, 13 November, 2005. Please look out

for the details of this interesting talk, and sign up for it.

In this quarter, the National Library will also be launching two exhibitions to mark its official opening. As the nation's National Library, we want to promote the love for reading and writing. Therefore, in the *Singapore Literary Pioneers* Gallery, we celebrate the lives and times of our early literary pioneers where the likes of Prof Edwin Thumboo, Mr Muhammad Ariff Ahmad, Mr P Krishnan and Yao Zi will be featured. Through this insightful exhibition, we hope to encourage budding writers to pen their thoughts and words. In another exhibition, *From Books to Bytes*, we chronicle the story of how the National Library has evolved and grown over the years. Come and join us as we take a walk down the memory lane of the National Library.

Speaking of memory lanes, Dr Derek Heng from the History Department at the National University of Singapore will share on the story of Singapore's port in this issue of BiblioAsia. Read about the little-known activities and the role of the port in early Singapore. Also, a special feature on the Rare Materials Collection will present to you the treasure trove of historical books, journals and manuscripts found in the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. Explore the new National Library with our in-depth layout of the building and catch a glimpse of our Lee Kong Chian Reference Librarians through a special montage of pictures. In addition, familiarise yourself with our reference and audio-visual services at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library by reading the detailed write-ups. Finally, enjoy the book reviews and our forthcoming events and programmes.

We look forward to seeing you at the library, and happy reading!

Ms Ngian Lek Choh
Director
National Library

Your Say...

On the Zheng He & Maritime Asia Exhibition

"The free booklet and bookmark are very beautifully presented as souvenirs. However, I found the recorded music being played rather off-putting especially when there are other 'talking' exhibits. Otherwise, this exhibition is really good!"

Mrs J Popp Claremont, Western Australia

On Staff

Mr Alex Ong deserved my hearty compliments. Because of the relevant information provided, I managed to trace a press report, published in *Nanyang Siang Pau*, on the then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's visit to the Lim Tai See Gong temple on 16 June 1963 during his constituency tour in Ulu Pandan carried. That was 42 years ago. Now that the new Library is opening soon, I look forward to visiting your staff in the Reference section to thank them personally.

*Mr Ong Chuan Kim...
For Eng Ann Alexander Ong*

I would like to thank the wonderful lady from the Reference Library who helped me identify literally all possible sources of parliamentary speeches. She was incredibly resourceful and even knew about those archived online by Parliament House. My boss was very pleased with the Legal Workbench hosted by Lawnet and I will be one of the first in line to visit the new National Library when it opens next week.

*Ms Cheng Yew Kuann...
For Yashodha Devi Nadarajan*

I wish there were more staff like this young lady who left an impression of courtesy, care, diligence and helpfulness, not to forget knowledgeable. Employ more staff of her nature.

*Mr Kashmir Singh...
For Celestine Carissa Yu Li*

He is a good customer service staff and a good listener. A staff with patience and good attitude. Keep up the good work.

*Ms Loo Hoe Ann...
For Anwar Hadi Ramli*

Thanks so much for the two articles as well as the references that you emailed me after my visit to the library. Thanks for the efforts in helping me retrieve the articles.

*Mr James...
For Seow Leng Ang*

Thank you for your great effort. The information has been very useful indeed!

*Mr Dan Lee...
For Haslinda Md Yusof*

Ms Yeo is very helpful and courteous. Excellent service. She helped me to retrieve the information that I needed.

*Ms Ng Lee Cheng...
For Alicia Kay Ling Yeo*

Thank you for your help when I was searching for information on any possible auroral sightings in Singapore in August/September 1859. This is useful information for our research. I very much appreciated your assistance.

*Dr J. E. Humble...
For Bonny Muliani Tan*

Yes, I am very satisfied with the service! Ms Gao is highly professional and very competent in her duties. She has guided me quickly to the location of the books and information I was looking for. I have saved a lot of my precious time getting what I wanted. I am also very glad that she is able to help me locate further information, which were not available at the reference books, from the database. Many thanks, Ms Gao!

*Mr Koh Guan Keng...
For Vicky Xiaohang Gao*

Thank you so much! The information that you have provided me is very useful for my presentation. 2 Thumbs UP!!

*Ms Suzanna Lim R...
For Leng Leng Pek, Sara*

We would like to hear from you! Please email your feedback, suggestions and compliments to:

Quality Service Manager (QSM)
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Fax: +65 6332 3611
Email: qsm@nlb.gov.sg

A-Z - Guide to the new National Library

A spanking new tower bordered on three sides by busy roads, the National Library Board's (NLB) new headquarters at Victoria Street looms large amid the backpacker hostels, Housing Board blocks and the two-century-old buildings of North Bridge Road.

Staring up its 16 floors of glass walls, bespectacled bookworms would bestumped - whither the scholarly dust, the bookish stuffiness?

The slick, state-of-the-art facade of the headquarters is a sure sign that some change is afoot at the National Library, a much-loved institution in a country which has a literacy rate of 94 per cent.

This bumper guide – including tips – will tell you what to look out for in the new National Library.

Atmosphere

Nix your images of stuffy libraries where absent-minded academics pore over small print. On all seven storeys of its reference library, there is mood lighting which – get this – changes colour from red to green to blue to cyan and magenta – every 15 minutes. Open-air gardens scattered all over the buildings are also lit by romantic warm light. But no hanky-panky, please.



Blockbuster

This building has a \$203 million price tag, including interior design. That is about a third of what it cost to build the \$600 million Esplanade.



Command centre

No idle chit-chats around the water cooler at this new hub of knowledge. NLB's head honchos have their offices on Level 14 of the building.

Freebies

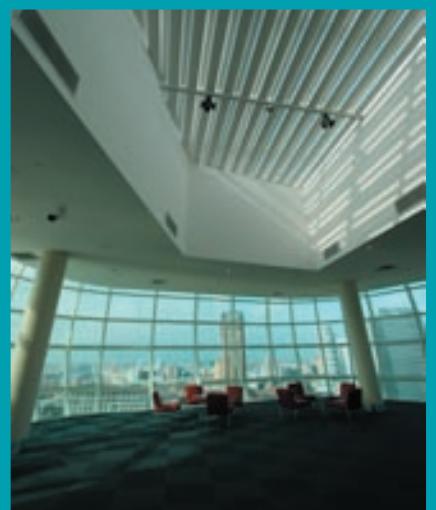
NLB organises free talks and programmes for the public regularly. All in the name of enticing bookworms to drop by more often.

Green

There are 14 gardens in this building, where lush foliage covers a third of its total area. You can curl up in one of its two huge Zen gardens at Levels 5 and 10 and sink your teeth into that great read you just borrowed. Everything here is so eco-friendly that the Building and Construction Authority has awarded the NLB top green honours: the Platinum Award for the Green Mark Scheme.

Happening

If you thought the slick and classy library@esplanade and library@orchard were hip, you have not seen nothing yet. Swap literary gossip with a friend over coffee at Hans cafe. Or just cool your heels while waiting for a poetry recital or mini-concert to begin at one of the many exhibition venues. Plus, there is the gorgeous rooftop Pod, a glass bubble with a 360-degree view. On a clear day, look southwards and you will see Indonesia.



Intergalactic

Wander about the massive, pristine-white structures at the events plaza on the ground floor and feel like an extra in a Star Wars installment. A far cry, certainly, from its red-brick predecessor at Stamford Road which was, sadly, demolished last March after 44 years.

Jumbo

Space, space everywhere. This new 58,000 sq m head-quarters is five times the size of the old one at Stamford Road, or the size of about 600 four-room HDB flats.



K-shaped

If you were flying by in a helicopter, you would see that this building is actually K-shaped from the top - thanks to two main blocks connected by covered walkways. The larger library block houses the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. The curved second block, which houses the gardens and commercial tenants, forms the arc of the 'K'.

Look-see

If this guide has whetted your appetite for more, surf www.nlb.gov.sg for a virtual preview of the building at Virtual Flythrough, created by Singapore Polytechnic students.

My precious

Dubbed NLB's crown jewel, the seven-storey Lee Kong Chian Reference Library - spanning from Level 7 to Level 13 - is a treasure trove of 500,000 items ranging from country market reports to ultra-rare books on Malayan flora from the 19th century.

Nostalgia

The St Andrew's Cross was literally ripped from the Stamford Road library entrance and recast in the new plaza on the side facing Victoria Street.

O Captain, My Captain

Ahoy! Sail the South Seas with China's Admiral Zheng He, the gallant Muslim maritime hero, on the 600th anniversary of his maiden voyage to these parts. NLB's *Zheng He and Maritime Asia Exhibition* on Level 10 will showcase his contributions to economy, religion and technology in the region from August 2005 to February 2006.

Posters

Remember those 'Small Family, Happy Family', 'Be a Gracious Singaporean' and anti-spitting government posters of yore? These retro slogans are all on display in its Singapore and South-east Asian collections for you to better understand public policy changes over the years (or just for a giggle). The collection includes political manifestoes, videos of past political rallies and records of election results.

Quiet alarms

On top of the screaming ones, that is. There are strobe-lighting fire alarms for readers who are deaf, thanks to the input of seven focus groups which suggested that NLB should install them. Vox populi rules – on this count.

Recycle

In its basement nestled amid bamboo trees is a 5,000-brick wall built from the remnants of the old Stamford Road library. Companies can buy a piece of history by commissioning sculptures from other salvaged bricks. Those with cash to spare can also bag a commemorative bookmark and a chunk of the Stamford Road HQ brick for \$10 each, which goes to charity. Click on www.comchest.org.sg

Sunscreen

Giant intelligent window blinds scroll down automatically when the sun is low enough in the sky to sneak past the fixed shades, usually around 4.30pm. The building's lights also switch off automatically whenever there is enough daylight for one to read without squinting.



Triple joy

Talk about a study to die for. At Level 11, there is a triple volume library floor with a book wall almost 6m high housing the Singapore and South-east Asian collections.

Underground

You can now get your reading fix at the Central Lending Library in the basement, where 134,000 books, ranging from the arts to business management, are yours for the picking. Remember to check out its collection of award-winning literature in all four languages.

Vertigo

Stand at the Pod's edge on Level 16 and peer down a dizzying height of 102.8m to road level. Aiiiee! Even the toilets have this killer view — they have glass walls so you can scan the horizon. But you will get to do so by invitation only.

Wired

Check out NLB's enlarged Digital Library at www.nlb.gov.sg for digitised rare material. Coming soon: An expanded list of more than 70 online databases, such as the Bibliography of Asian Studies, Factiva and NLB-owned Singapore Infopedia, which tells you all about the nation's roots. Log on at the NLB's computer terminals for 3 cents a minute or bring your laptop and surf wirelessly for free.

X-treme shelving

There is a total of 15km of bookshelves in this building, which is roughly the length of the Central Expressway (15.5km).

Yesteryear

Reading in Singapore goes back a long way, if you go by the exhibition of library heritage from the 1800s, *From Books to Bytes*, on Level 5.

Zephyr

Hang on to your hats - its ground floor plaza is designed to be a wind trap, channelling air between the building's two blocks so that it is replete with zephyrs, or gentle breezes.

Adapted from *The Straits Times*, July 2, 2005

Library's new home

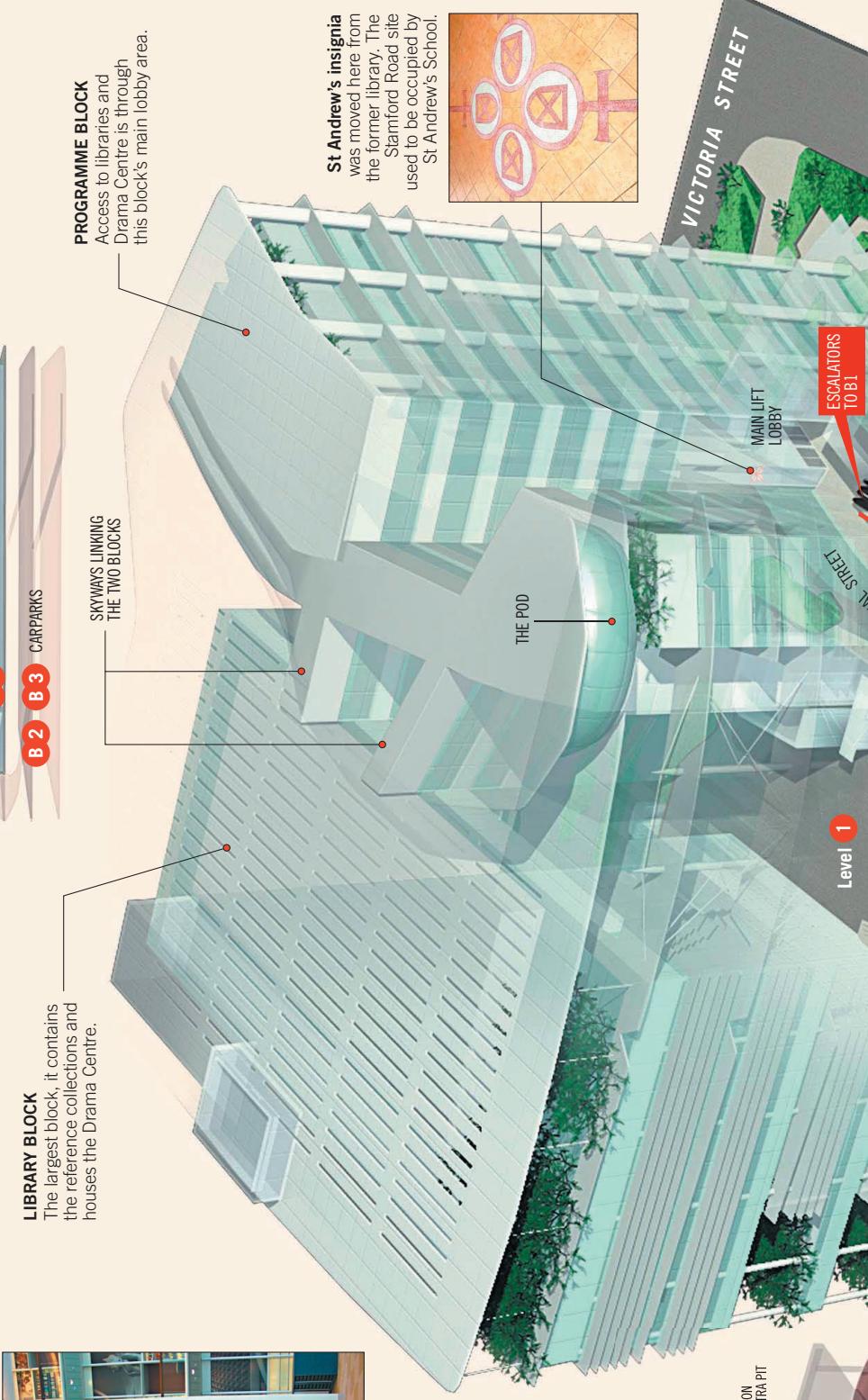
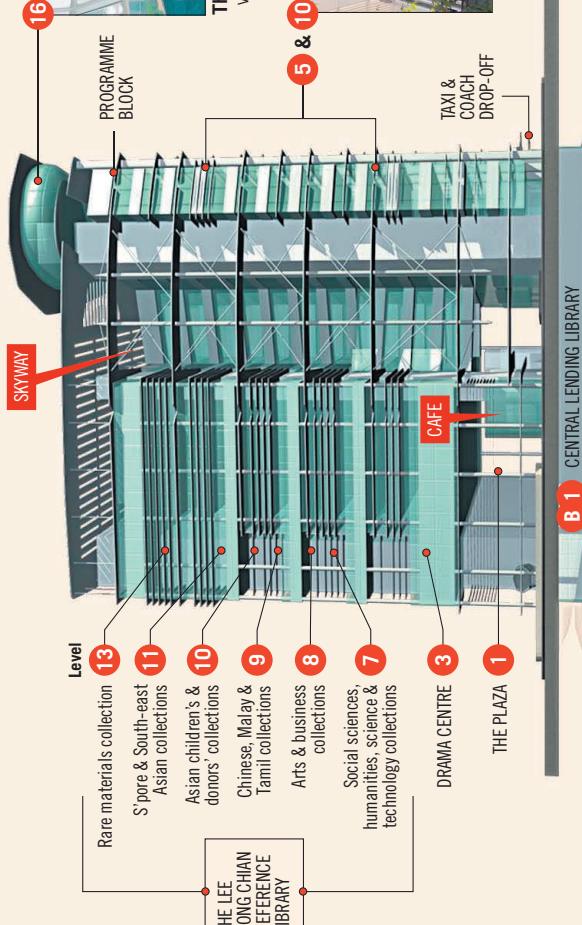
It is five times larger than the old one and houses a comprehensive range of collections, facilities and services. And more importantly, this civic institution will be "a place for the people".

» The Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

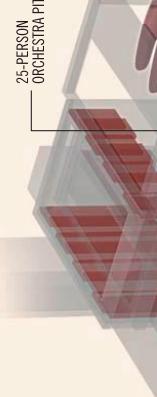


The seven floors contain a start-up collection of 500,000 reference books, twice the number in the old library. Levels 11 to 13 feature an impressive three-storey high book wall, with photo walls (top) that change colour at intervals. It is named after the late Dr Lee Kong Chian, founder of the Lee Foundation, which donated \$60 million to the library.

Levels 7 to 13



» The National Arts Council's Drama Centre



Five thousand bricks from the former library make up this wall in the open-air garden, just outside the library.

THE PLAZA

- MIDDLE ROAD
- TAXI & COACH DROP-OFF
- RECEPTION
- ENTRANCE
- BOOK-DROP ZONE
- OUTDOOR DINING AREA
- STAGE
- CAFE
- INTERNAL STREET
- VISITORS' BRIEFING ROOM
- MAIN LOBBY
- INTERIOR STAIRCASE
- CIRCLE 2 (118 SEATS)
- CIRCLE 1 (144)
- MAIN STALLS (353)
- Air-con vents under each seat.

» Street-level Plaza

The breezy, wide open ground floor is the focal point of the library's public areas, featuring an elevated stage for public performances and exhibitions. It will also have a cafe, dining area and a book-drop zone. An internal street cuts across the Plaza and separates the two blocks of the library. The area is open to the public at all times.

Levels 1 to 6

» The Central Lending Library

This public lending library caters to a broad user group. It has about 134,000 books for loan, of which about half are English fiction books. This is the biggest fiction collection among all the public libraries here. The floor space is more than six times larger than the former library.

Level B1

GARDENS

A smart, green, windy building

- » Building orientated away from the sun's east-west path.
- » Atrium spaces and other spaces draw wind in, creating natural ventilation.
- » 14 gardens with vegetation forming 35% of total site area help lower the temperature.
- » Rain sensors shut off sprinklers when there's enough water supply for the roof-top gardens.
- » Light sensors dim or switch off lights when there's enough natural light entering the Library.
- » Motion sensors activate escalators.
- » Automatic blinds work to reduce glare and heat from the sun.

KEY FIGURES

- » 59,000 sq m
- » 102.8m tall
- » 16 storeys
- » 3 basement levels

Bras Basah Complex

Queen Street

Victoria Street

Middle Road

National Library

North Bridge Road

Parco Lewis Junction

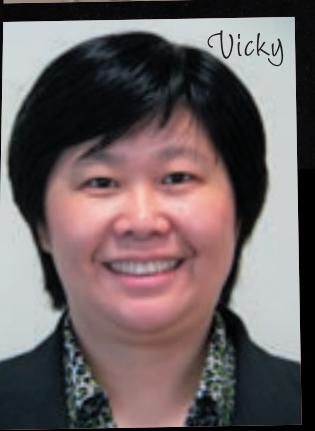
Bugis station

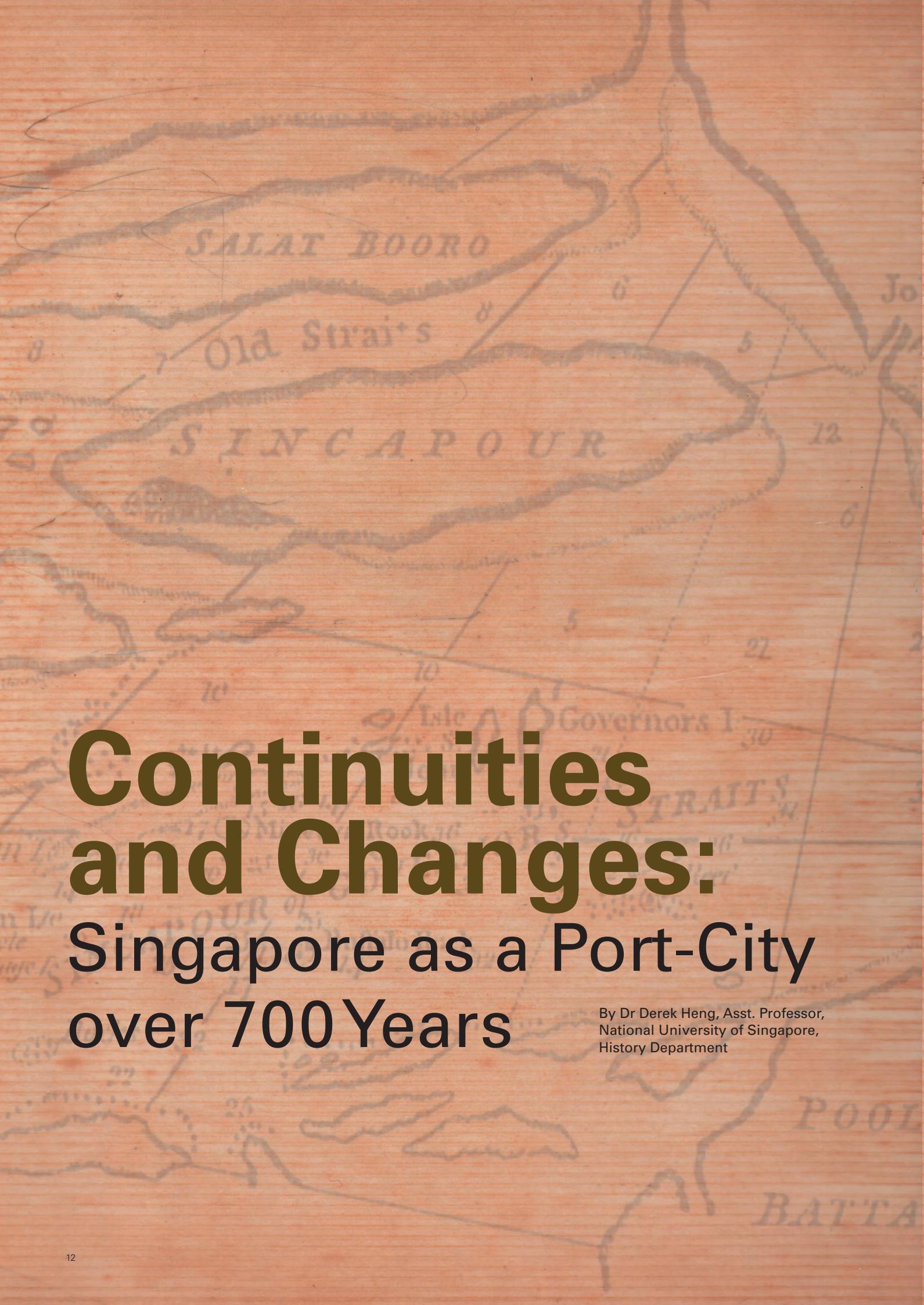
Hotel Inter-Continental

Source: THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Our Reference Librarians







Continuities and Changes: Singapore as a Port-City over 700 Years

By Dr Derek Heng, Asst. Professor,
National University of Singapore,
History Department

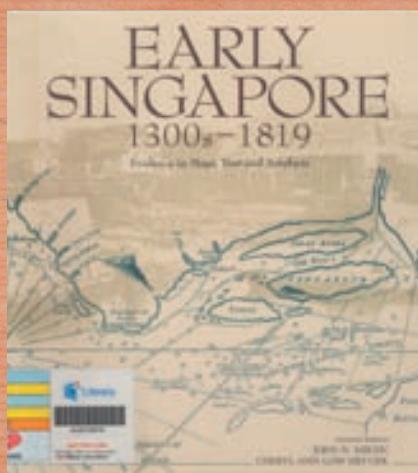
Situated at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, the waters around Singapore have, as early as the 14th century AD, been recognised by maritime navigators as strategic in international navigation, marking the access point between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. The key factor that underpinned this strategic significance was the development of a direct Indian Ocean-South China Sea trade, linking the economies of the West, the Indian Ocean littoral and the South China Sea.

Less known, however, is Singapore's long historical legacy as a port. Although the history of Singapore in the 19th and 20th centuries, first as a colonial port-city and then as an independent state that has managed to maintain its position as one of the busiest ports in the world, is well represented by a significant amount of literature, its historical legacy as a port prior to the 19th century has not been sufficiently explored.

Singapore's port functions, especially those of the last two centuries, had largely been generalised into those of an entrepot and staple port servicing the Malay Peninsula hinterland, when in fact, the port played a myriad of roles that were quite different from these. These roles have also remained fairly consistent despite the evolving nature of the regional and international forces that had swept through Singapore over the course of more than seven hundred years. What were they, and how did they define Singapore as a port in the longue durée of history?

Singapore as an Indigenous Port before 1819

Some time in the late 13th century, an autonomous settlement was established on the north bank of the Singapore River. Known as Singapore, the settlement depended almost entirely on external sources for both its wealth and provisions. It was the only port in the Southern Malacca Straits region, and serviced ships and traders peddling in the region. It competed against rival



For further reading on Singapore before 1819, *Early Singapore 1300s – 1819* is an excellent source of material.

All Rights Reserved, Singapore History Museum, 2004.

ports along the Malacca Straits coast, such as Palembang, Jambi, Tamiang, Kota Cina, South Kedah, Lambri and Semudra, for a slice of the maritime trade pie.

Singapore's port functions were two-fold. Firstly, by making available several products that were in demand by the international markets, it attracted foreign traders to its port. According to the *Daoyi Zhilue Jiaoshi*, a Chinese account of



The *Daoyi Zhilue Jiaoshi* also provides a list of ports that functioned during the late 13th and 14th centuries in the Malacca Straits region.

All Rights Reserved, Zhonghua Shu Ju, 1981.

the ports in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean littoral, written by the Chinese trader Wang Dayuan some time in the mid-14th century, these were namely top quality hornbill casques, middle quality lakewood and cotton. The niche market was successfully established as these products, which were commonly found at other Southeast Asian ports, were unique in terms of their quality.

Secondly, it established itself as the gateway into the international and regional economic system for its immediate peripheral region. The immediate region, particularly South Johor and the Riau Archipelago, was a catchment area for Singapore's export products. In return, Singapore was the key source of foreign products to this region. Singapore was at the apex of this relationship, exerting a significant economic influence over the immediate region. This is substantiated by archaeological artifacts such as ceramics and glassware recovered from the Riau Archipelago.

During this period, Singapore played only a minor role as a transhipment hub in international trade. Only one transhipment product was known to have been made available for export by Singapore – cotton – which could have originated either from Java or India.

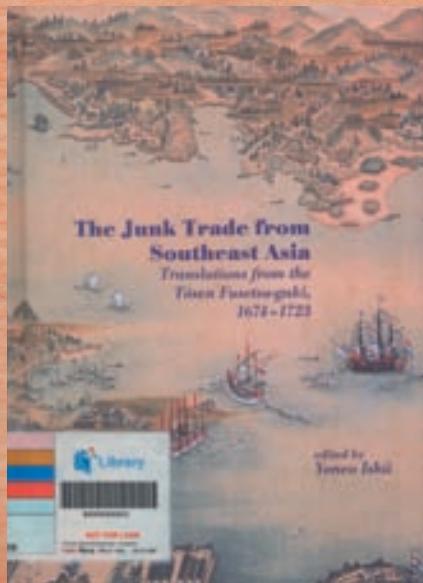
By the 15th century, Singapore had declined as an international trading port in the face of the ascendance of the Malacca Sultanate. However, evidence revealed that international trade continued to be conducted on the island. A map of Singapore, drawn by the Portuguese Mathematician Manuel Godinho d'Eredia, shows the location of a sharbandar's office (the office of the Malay official responsible for international trade). Shards of Thai ceramics of the 15th century, and late 16th or early 17th century Chinese blue and white porcelain shards, were also recovered at the Singapore River and Kallang River.

Besides trading internationally, Singapore also provided other

ports in the region with indigenous products that were demanded by the international markets.

Blackwood (a generic term used by Europeans to indicate rosewood timber) was exported by Singapore to Malacca, which was in turn purchased by Chinese traders and shipped to China for use by the furniture-making industry.

Pre-1819 Singapore's role as an international trading port, which lasted for more than three hundred years since the late 13th century, came to an abrupt end in the early 17th century, when the island's main settlement and its port was destroyed by a punitive force from Aceh. There after, Singapore was devoid of any significant settlement or port until 1819, when Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles founded Singapore and re-established an international port on the island.



The *Junk Trade of Southeast Asia* includes translations of Japanese source materials of trade between China and Southeast Asia in the 17th and early 18th century. The book consist mainly of letters by Chinese junk captains visiting various ports in Southeast Asia.

All Rights Reserved, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1998.

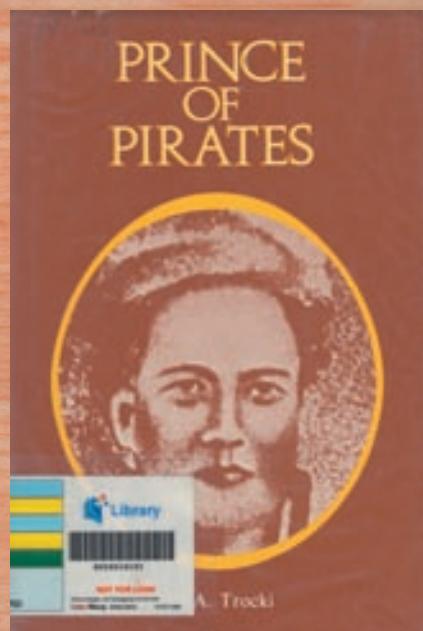
Singapore as a Colonial Port-city (1819 to 1963)

Upon creating a strategic presence in Singapore, one of the first issues that Raffles dealt with was the establishment of a commercial port on the island. Identifying the Singapore River basin as the nascent location of international trade, Raffles was keen to attract both Asian and European traders to the new port. Land along the riverbanks, particularly along the south banks of the river, was reclaimed where necessarily, and allotted to Chinese and English country traders to encourage these capitalists to establish a stake in the newly founded port-settlement. While the Chinese traders, because of their frequent commercial interactions with Southeast Asian traders through the course of the year, set up their trading houses along the lower reaches of the Singapore River, the English country traders, who depended on the annual arrival of trade from India for their livelihood, set up their warehouses along the upper reaches of the river.

The nature of Singapore's port trade, at least up until the late 19th century, was very much the same as that of coastal Southeast Asia. The port relied on three main networks of trade that were existent in Southeast Asia during that time for its economic viability: 1) the Chinese network, which linked Southeast Asia with the southern Chinese coastal ports of Guangdong and Fujian; 2) the Southeast Asian network, which linked the islands of the Indonesian Archipelago; and 3) the European and Indian Ocean network, which linked Singapore to the markets of Europe and the Indian Ocean littoral. These networks complemented each other, positioning Singapore as the transshipment point of the regional and international trade. By the 1830s, Singapore had overtaken Batavia (present-day Jakarta) as the Maritime Southeast Asian centre of Chinese junk trade, even as it very quickly became the key centre of English country trade in Southeast Asia. These developments

were supported by the growth of Southeast Asian shipping in Singapore. Southeast Asian traders preferred the free port of Singapore to the cumbersome restrictions that were imposed by the authorities of the other major international ports of the region.

Singapore also served as the regional economic gateway for the immediate region. By the 1830s, Singapore supplanted Tanjung Pinang to become the export gateway for the gambier and pepper industry of the Riau-Lingga Archipelago, and by the 1840s, of South Johor as well. Singapore also became the centre of the Teochew trade in marine produce and rice. The range of products that were made available for export was limited but unique, mirroring the state of affairs in the late 13th to early 17th centuries.

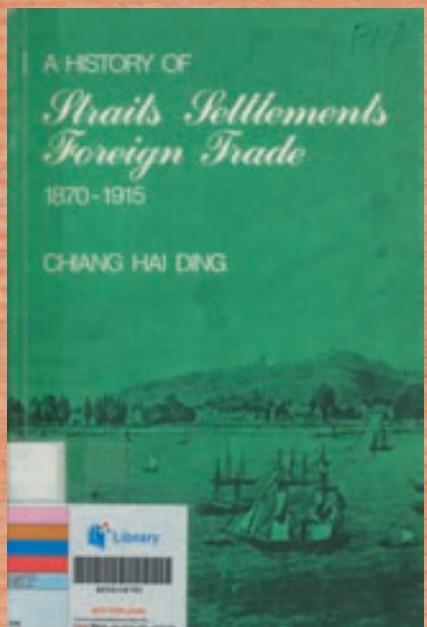


Prince of Pirates discusses, in detail, the gambier and pepper trade in the Straits Settlement.

All Rights Reserved, Singapore University Press, 1979.

As the volume of Singapore's maritime trade increased through the course of the 19th century, Singapore also began to develop additional port functions. Singapore's

position as an increasingly important trading port in Southeast Asia, coupled with its strategic location, enabled it to develop into a vital nodal point in the network of Asian and international shipping. Sailing vessels, and in the mid-19th century, steam vessels, used Singapore as a key port-of-call in their passage along the Asian sea routes. Thus, from the 1840s onwards, Singapore became an important coaling station for the steam shipping networks that were beginning to develop.



A History of Straits Settlements Foreign Trade 1870 – 1915 offers an insight into the growth of Straits Settlements foreign trade during that period, and discusses the changes in its regional distribution.

All Rights Reserved, National Museum, Singapore and Dr Chiang Hai Ding, 1978.

Towards the late 19th century, Singapore as a port developed another important economic function – that of a staple port servicing a geographical hinterland. Following the instituting of the British Forward Movement in the Malay Peninsula in late 19th century, Singapore became the administrative capital of British Malaya. The Malay

Peninsula began to be systematically exploited for its natural resources, and Singapore, because of its role as a nodal point in the regional and international shipping networks, was developed to be the staple port and international export gateway of the Malayan hinterland. Transportation networks, both roads and railways, were developed to transport primary products, such as tin, rubber and crude oil, from different parts of the Malay Peninsula to Singapore to be processed into staple products, and then shipped to Britain and other international markets. This role, which was never played by any of the previous ports of Singapore, quickly became the most important one that came to characterise the port of Singapore during the colonial period.

Back to Our Roots: Singapore as an Indigenous Port Once Again (1963 –)

In 1963, Singapore merged with Malaysia, ending approximately one hundred and fifty years of British colonial rule in Singapore. Although Singapore remained part of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore was no longer its administrative or economic capital. In addition, the processing of raw materials extracted in the Malay Peninsula, which was a vital aspect of Singapore's colonial port function, was severely curtailed by the absence of a common market between Singapore and the Malay Peninsula states. Singapore once again became a port-city devoid of a geographical hinterland.

Today, Singapore continues to function as an important nodal point in the network of regional and international shipping. In an age of shipping conglomerates with international networks, however, Singapore is no longer a crucial port-of-call. Neighbouring regions could, and have established, comparable ports-of-call. Singapore therefore has had to compete, as it did historically, against other ports in the region to attract trade and shipping to call at its port. This

has been done by making a range of products available for export to attract trade to the island. While Singapore does not possess any indigenous natural resources or products that are demanded by the international markets, the global consumer economy and globalisation have enabled Singapore to develop an export-oriented economy that is based on value-added manufacturing.

Devoid of a geographical hinterland since 1963, Singapore has successfully co-opted the regional and global markets as its virtual economic hinterland, successfully obtaining the raw or partially manufactured products needed for its value-added processing activities from these economies, and exporting the value-added products back into them through market access agreements such as the World Trade Organization directives and Free Trade Agreements. These manufacturing activities are not supported by domestic demand, but by external markets. The port acts as the gateway through which goods flow into the international markets. More recently, it has progressed to include activities such as the provision of financial and legal services as well as research and development, facilitating the already well-established port-related services conducted in Singapore.

The success of Singapore's economic activities has led it to expand its economic space over time. Presently, Singapore has managed to build up an enlarged economic sphere along the lines of the Extended Metropolitan Region. In this structure, Singapore is the centre of an integrated system of economic activities. The centre serves as the gateway to the international economy, and where there is the highest concentration of human and money capital. The peripheral region, namely Johor and the Riau Archipelago, supports Singapore by providing completed products that can be made available for export via the port of Singapore. This relationship mirrors that of the late 13th to early 17th centuries when Singapore was a classical Malacca

Straits region port-settlement, and in the 19th and 20th centuries when Singapore was a colonial port-city.

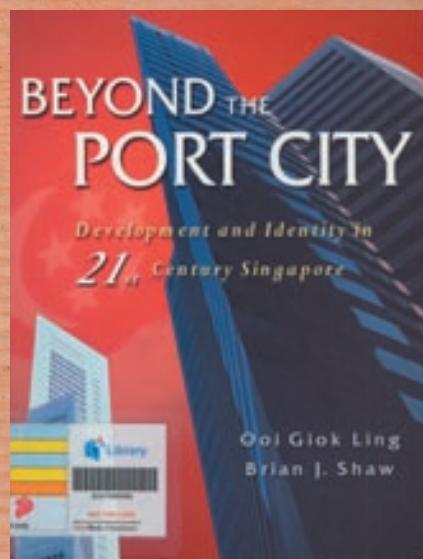
Singapore as a Port Through the Ages

It is evident from the overview of Singapore's history as a port over the last seven hundred years that the phases of Singapore as a port were highly similar to each other. The roles they played and the functions that they performed to keep the settlements economically viable – roles and functions that transcend the course of time.

This is due, almost entirely, to the similarities in the external circumstances Singapore has had to face over the years. The absence of a geographical hinterland, and the absence of a land-based society, had compelled Singapore, in the past, to develop key characteristics that would enable it to surmount the constraints imposed on the viability of its ports. These characteristics

include the making of unique products available for export through its port, building the port to be a maritime gateway of the immediate peripheral regions around Singapore, and attracting passing mercantile shipping to call at the port.

In the process, Singapore has changed the concept of "hinterland" to complement the unique characteristics of its ports - from that of a geographical land mass providing the urban centre and maritime gateway to the external world with natural resources that may be demanded by external markets, to a virtual economic hinterland based on market access for the procurement of raw materials and the export of value-added products. Particularly in the present-day context, Singapore as a port is no longer merely an outlet of a larger economic entity, as it was between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, but a port-city that is integrated into, and dependent upon, the economic nexus of the regional and international economic world.



Beyond the Port City takes a look at modern Singapore, tracing its beginnings as a colonial port and its growth today, particularly as a social structure made up of immigrants brought in by the port.

All Rights Reserved, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004.

Further Reading:

1. *Pre-modern Commerce and Society in Southern Asia: An Inaugural Lecture Delivered at the University of Malaya on December 21* by Sinnappah

Arasaratnam. Publisher: University of Malaya, 1972. [RSING 382.095 ARA] A slim volume based on the inaugural lecture at the University. It reviews trade between South and Southeast Asia between the 17th and 18th century and its relation with incoming European trade.

2. *A Study of Ancient Times in the Malay Peninsula and the Straits of Malacca and Notes on Ancient Times in Malaya* by Roland St. John Braddell. Publisher: Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1989. [RSING 959.01 BRA]

Reprints from the MBRAS by Braddell on Malaya's early maritime

histories. The articles include reprints of ancient maps and detailed analysis of routes from China and India.

3. *Maritime Trade and State Development in Early Southeast Asia* by Kenneth R. Hall. Publisher: University of Hawaii Press, 1985. [RSING/R 382.0959 HAL]

An attempt to look at early trade and the development of Southeast Asia as a whole. It begins with a conceptual evaluation of statecraft and trade in Southeast Asia, then elaborates further on the influence of Southern China on the northern Southeast Asian coastal states, with the rest of the book studying the influence of Srivijaya and Majapahit kingdoms on the

political development of the Southeast Asian states.

4. *Archaeological Research on the "Forbidden Hill" of Singapore: Excavations at Fort Canning, 1984* by John N. Miksic. Publisher: National Museum, 1985. [RSING 959.57 MIK]

Describes the archeological finds at Fort Canning which reveal details of the influence of early Hindu Kingdoms on Temasek.

5. *Maritime Southeast Asia to 1500* by Lynda Shaffer. Publisher: M. E. Sharpe, 1996. [RSING 959.01 SHA]

An introductory overview of the early maritime experiences in Southeast Asia including the influences from first century Funan and the Srivijaya and Majapahit kingdoms in pre-colonial times.

Gems in the Library: The Rare Materials Collections at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

By Makeswary Periasamy, Senior Reference Librarian,
Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

Background

The Rare Materials Collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCRL) is a prime collection that reflects Singapore's literary and social heritage and contains valuable historical research materials on Singapore and Southeast Asia. Through these rare titles, we are offered a glimpse of the history of an island that is home to people of many races, persevering to make a living and to forge an identity. We also get a view of the scenes and landscapes of historical Singapore.

Most of the titles in the collection were passed down from our earlier libraries, the Singapore Library and the Raffles Library. Some were purchased directly from antiquarian bookshops or acquired through donations.

Scope

Currently the collection numbers about 5,000 items. Majority of the titles are 19th and early 20th century publications and were issued by Singapore's earliest printing presses. Mission presses feature prominently as many Christian missionaries arrived at the thriving British trading post together with traders, administrators and other immigrant settlers. The "Mission Press" and the "Methodist Publishing House" imprints appear not only in religious literature but also in secular publications of the pioneer period such as almanacs, newspapers and school textbooks.

The collection comprises Jawi manuscripts, Malay and Southeast Asian dictionaries, travel accounts (both serious & anecdotal) of the Malay Archipelago and Southeast Asia, Chinese classics and romances translated into Baba Malay, almanacs, directories, academic journals and maps.



The Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia, edited by J.R. Logan, 1847–1855 is the first scientific journal published in Singapore with valuable information for research on the region.



Pages from *The Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*. All Rights Reserved. J. R. Logan, 1847 – 1855.

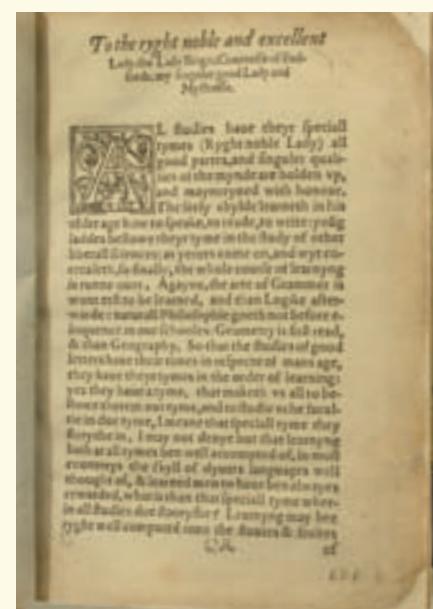
Definition of Rare

Usually a book achieves some degree of rarity based on its demand being greater than its supply. However such a broad definition can be very subjective. What constitutes a rare book is essentially the intrinsic importance of the book itself. In the context of Singapore, a rare book is one that is published in Singapore or the Straits Settlements before World War II. It has intrinsic value and is unique as most pre-1945 materials published in Singapore or the Straits Settlements have few extant copies. Books are also treated as rare if they are published in other

countries before 1900, and contain information (the people, their languages, customs, lifestyles, etc.) on Singapore and the region, particularly those countries that have historical/cultural links.

Some Rare Titles...

The oldest book held by the collection is a travel account, *The History of Trauayle in the West and East Indies, and Other Countreys Lying Eyher Way, Towards the Fruitful and Ryche Moluccaes*, that makes several references to this region, then known as the East Indies. Published in London in 1577, it was noted as the first comprehensive travel account of Asia to be published in English. Some sources mention it is one of the earliest travel narratives in English.



Pages from *The History of Trauayle in the West and East Indies, and Other Countreys Lying Eyher Way, Towards the Fruitful and Ryche Moluccaes*. All Rights Reserved, R. Iugge, 1577.



Scene of Raffles Square in the 1920s from *Sunny Singapore*. All Rights Reserved, Kelly & Walsh, [192-].

The collection also contains titles, which depict the old scenes and landscapes of Singapore. Published in the 1920s in Singapore, the book *Sunny Singapore* illustrates the scenery and images of Singapore, which are now non-existent. The book is testimony to the changes and developments that Singapore has gone through.

One fascinating book is *The Golden Chersonese and the Way Thither*, written by the famous woman traveller of that time, Isabella Bird. Published in 1883, it contains her descriptions and observations of the places she visited, which included the Far East and the Malay Peninsula, including Singapore. The book is a compilation of letters she wrote to her sister, and describes amongst others, local manners and customs and the flora and fauna of the places she visited as well as the growth of Singapore.



"The Author's First Ride in Perak" from the book *The Golden Chersonese and the Way Thither*. All Rights Reserved, Murray, 1883.

Another interesting title is *Cermin Mata*, a Malay journal compiled by Benjamin Peach Keaseberry, a missionary from 1859. Containing a mixture of Christian tracts, general knowledge and original writings of Munshi Abdullah, it is one of the first Malay journals to be published in Singapore.



First issue of *Cermin Mata Bagi Segala Orang yang Menuntut Pengetahuan*. All Rights Reserved, Singapura, 1859.

An important source of Singapore's early history is the *Hikayat Abdullah*, the lithographed autobiography of Munshi Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir. It was written in Jawi, between 1840 and 1843, and published in 1849. Munshi Abdullah was the interpreter and scribe to Singapore's founder, Sir Stamford Raffles. Abdullah wrote about the events of his life relating to the activities in Singapore, which was slowly transforming from a sleepy fishing village into a major centre of world trade. He also described prominent British personalities and offered his observations on political and cultural events of that time. He is considered to be the father of modern Malay literature.



Frontispiece of *Hikayat Abdullah*. All Rights Reserved, Mission Press, 1849.

Chrita dahulu-kala is a series of Peranakan literature written for the Peranakan Chinese. The first series was published in 1890s. They are actually old Chinese classics translated into Baba Malay and well illustrated with the characters from the Chinese classics.

The directory entitled *Singapore Almanack and Directory* is an excellent source of references if research is being done on past residents of Singapore. First published in 1846 and popularly called the *Straits Directory*, this is the earliest Singapore directory. It lists the names and addresses of residents on the island as well as their professions. It also includes brief information on Singapore.



Pages from the *Singapore Almanack and Directory*. All Rights Reserved, Straits Times Press, 1846-69.

In addition, newspapers published during the times of the Straits Settlements can also provide insight into life in historical Singapore. The *Singapore Free Press* was the settlement's second paper, published in competition with the existing tabloid,

the *Singapore Chronicle*. Whilst the latter faced demise by 1837, the *Singapore Free Press* survived into the next century. Its genesis marked the end of the “Gagging Act” – a censorship rule that required that publications be reviewed so that all criticism against the East India Company or the British Government could be removed prior to publishing. Thus the paper’s name symbolised the newfound press freedom in the Settlements.

Donated by Mr Raymond Wurtzburg to the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library – through Mrs Yvonne Wurtzburg – the 8 October 1935 *Singapore Free Press* edition is a commemorative centenary publication. Its value is not only that it reviews the history of the past 100 years of the newspaper and of Singapore, but that it also gives insights into the life and activities in pre-war Singapore as vividly depicted in the advertisements. Divided into five sections, the commemorative issue includes a historical overview of the Straits Settlements Police, the Harbour and companies such as Cold Storage. Aspects and personalities in the local communities are also described, with photographs of buildings, people and places illustrating the colonial times of Singapore.



Pages from the *Singapore Free Press*. All Rights Reserved, Singapore Free Press, 1935

Care and Storage

Due to preservation purposes, all titles in the Rare Materials Collection are microfilmed and some digitised. Originals are no longer handled, as frequent handling will hasten their wear and tear. If the materials are ever handled for maintenance purposes, it is done so with gloved hands.



Gloves are used when handling Rare Materials

The rare materials are kept in a special climate controlled room with a stable temperature of 18° Celsius, a relative humidity of 50% and reduced light intensity. To further protect the rare materials from environmental deterioration, the books are placed in archival boxes while maps are encapsulated. Proper and stable environmental conditions are necessary to prolong the shelf life of rare materials.



Rare Books in Archival Boxes

Access

Titles in the Rare Materials Collection are listed as “RRARE” in the library’s online catalogue. For these materials, only the surrogate microfilm copy or the digital copy is to be consulted. All microfilms

are housed at the Singapore and Southeast Asia Collections, which is at Level 11 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. The digitised versions of the rare books are available on *Singapore Pages*, which is accessible via the National Library Board’s Digital Library (www.nlb.gov.sg). In the event the physical copy is required to be consulted for research purposes, permission may be granted on a need basis by writing to the Deputy Director, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library.

Conclusion

The Rare Materials Collection is a historical collection that reveals much of how Singapore, after its founding, grew into a leading port and its development from a colony to a sovereign nation. Researching into this wealth of information should help our generation to better appreciate their heritage and understand the present state of being.



Picture of Newton Railway Station from *Souvenir of Singapore: A Descriptive and Illustrated Guide Book of Singapore*. All Rights Reserved, The Straits Times Press, 1905.



Advertisement page from *Souvenir of Singapore: A Descriptive and Illustrated Guide Book of Singapore*. All Rights Reserved, The Straits Times Press, 1905.

李光前参考图书馆的中文馆藏与服务

By Vicky Gao, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library



国家图书馆新馆



史丹福路的国家图书馆

1957年8月16日由李光前先生奠基。1960年11月12日正式向公众开放，1963年，李光前先生捐赠1万新元给国家图书馆用来购置3,817本中文、马来文及淡米尔文书籍。1998年，国家参考图书馆成立。2003年9月，李光前先生创办的李氏基金再次捐赠6千万新元资助位于维多利亚街新馆的建设，为了感谢李光前先生的慷慨捐款和纪念这位热心教育的先贤，国家参考图书馆于2004年4月1日命名为“李光前参考图书馆”。

李光前参考图书馆设在新馆的7楼至13楼，收藏英文、中文、马来文、淡米尔文语种的参考资料，它的馆藏分布如下：

新的里程碑

坐落于维多利亚街100号的国家图书馆新馆于2005年7月开始对外开放，新馆由中央借阅图书馆和李光前参考图书馆组成，这个耗资2亿多新元，高16层楼，面积约5万8000平方米，总藏书量超过60万本的新馆以崭新的风貌，先进的理念为读者提供一个集借阅、参考咨询、学术研究、专题展览和文化娱乐为一体的多功能文化场所，揭开了新加坡国家图书馆事业发展的新篇章。

从1960年位于史丹福路的国家图书馆揭幕到今天新馆的落成，国家图书馆历经四十五年来不断地发展与变革、探索与创新，从传统走向现代。今天，在新加坡逐渐全球化和迈向知识经济的时刻，新馆的正式启用对推动全民终身学习，提升国民的竞争力，具有深远的意义。它的建成和使用不仅是新加坡图书馆事业发展史上一个重要的里程碑，也为新加坡增添了一个新的文化地标。

关于李光前参考图书馆

新加坡图书馆的历史最早可以追溯到1823年坐落于新加坡书院内的学校图书馆，这所学校由新加坡首任总督莱佛士爵士1823年创办，1868年为纪念莱佛士爵士而更名为莱佛士书院。1844年，该学校图书馆被命名为新加坡图书馆。1874年，殖民地政府接管了新加坡图书馆和博物馆并将之改名为莱佛士图书馆与博物馆，1887年10月12日，新的莱佛士图书馆与博物馆建筑(现在新加坡历史博物馆所在地)正式开放，莱佛士图书馆与博物馆同在一个屋檐下，楼上是博物馆，楼下是图书馆，图书馆的藏书包括私人藏书和由政府拨款购置的图书，大部分为英文，小部分为法文，当时，新马两地的图书馆以新加坡的莱佛士图书馆为最大。

1951年，莱佛士图书馆成立参考部，收藏约937册有关马来亚地区的资料。战后，李光前先生向政府提议建筑新国家图书馆，并自愿捐巨资支持建筑新馆，但附带两个条件，即须购买东方文字的图书，包括马来文、华文、印度文等，同时取消征收年捐制度，使人民免费借阅图书。

1953年，李光前先生捐出37万5千新元，资助筹建史丹福路的新国家图书馆。该新馆在



| 楼层 | 馆藏类别(语种) |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 7楼 | 社会、人文科学、自然科学与技术馆藏(英文) |
| 8楼 | 艺术与商贸馆藏(英文) |
| 9楼 | 中文、马来文、淡米尔文馆藏(中文、马来文、淡米尔文) |
| 10楼 | 亚洲儿童和捐赠资料馆藏(英文、中文、马来文、淡米尔文) |
| 捐赠资料馆藏包括陈育森先生1964年7月捐赠的“椰荫馆”个人收藏，包括有关东南亚历史的1万册图书和期刊，陈瑞献先生捐赠的6千5百册的私人藏书、创作手稿、及艺术珍藏品。 | |
| 亚洲儿童藏书共收藏了2万册书籍。该馆藏始于1960年代，是有关亚洲儿童主题的参考文献资源。 | |
| 11楼 | 新加坡与东南亚资料馆藏(英文、中文、马来文、淡米尔文) |
| 12至 13楼 | 闭架馆藏与善本收藏(以英文为主) |



九楼中文、马来文、淡米尔文馆藏

到九楼走一趟，您会感受到多元文化的氛围。新馆的第九层专门收藏中文、马来文及淡米尔文资料，其中中文藏书占百分之七十以上。馆藏内容涵盖人文科学、社会科学、自然科学与技术、语言、教育、商贸及艺术等领域。中文、马来文、淡米尔文馆藏的设立有助于在中西交融的新加坡，推广传统文化和价值观，在全球化经济时代，满足读者对各类母语参考研究资料的需求。

行业年鉴、行业报告、企业名录等，也引进了网络版数据库，如中国资讯行(ChinaInfoBank)、商业新闻信息库(Factiva.com)和国际康帕斯企业名录(Kompass International)，据新加坡国际企业发展局的数据显示，2004年新中双边贸易额为533亿新元，中国已经成为新加坡重要的贸易伙伴，加强中国经贸资料的收藏，将为人们从各个层面研究中国国情提供参考资料，也为新加坡企业投资中国提供即时的商业资讯。

九楼中文馆藏特色

第九层中文馆藏集合了以“中国料”、“医药保健”、“艺术”和“海外华人”等主题为特色的中文馆藏。读者在这里可以领略到源远流长的中国历史、博大精深的传统文化、古老而神奇的中医药、奥妙无穷的现代科技、令人低徊吟咏的经典文学作品和独特风格的东西方艺术。希望通过以下介绍，能让您对九楼中文馆藏特征有深一层的了解。

中国资料

主要特色是收藏最新的中国经贸资料，如中国中央级年鉴、省级年鉴、重要城市年鉴、

中国通识

主要特色是收集有关中国的历史、文化和社会等方面的书籍，协助国人了解中国悠久的历史、当代中国社会的潮流和当今中国人的世界观。2005年8月26日，中国驻新加坡大使代表中国文化部向新加坡国家图书馆赠送100种共400多册中文图书，包括《古今图书集成》、《资治通鉴》、《十三经注疏》、《中国戏曲剧种》、《中国文学大辞典》、《中国古代小说百科全书》等中国文化和文学方面的名著，作为中华人民共和国驻新加坡大使馆对新加坡国家图书馆新馆落成的贺礼，这些书籍将收藏在九楼，丰富中国通识主题的馆藏。

医药保健

传统的中医药历史悠久，对繁衍生命，抗御疾病，保障人类健康起着重要的作用。随着中医药在治疗、教育和研究方面迈向系统化和制度化，中医药越来越受到欢迎和重视。为了配合未来医学发展的需求，医药保健专题精选一千多本华文中医药书籍为新加坡在中医药领域的研究、发展和应用提供参考资料。

艺术

2000年3月，新加坡新闻、通讯及艺术部(MICA)制订了新世纪文化发展战略《文艺复兴城市》，提出新加坡将发展成为一个充满动感与魅力的世界级艺术城市，为迈向二十一世纪的新加坡制定了未来文化艺术发展方向。为了配合这个跨世纪的艺术发展远景，推动艺术在新加坡的传播、普及和发展，满足人们对艺术的兴趣和追求，中文馆藏加强了对艺术资料的收藏，读者可以在城市景观、建筑、雕塑、园林、美术、绘画、书法、摄影、传统艺术等领域了解到东西方艺术的形态和魅力，异同及特色，吸取东西方艺术的精华，不断地创造和创新，让艺术在新加坡焕发出新的活力。

海外华人

收集中、港、台以外的华人与华侨文献资料，以东南亚的华人为重点，也酌量包括了其它地区与国家的华人文献资料。加强海外华人领域的收藏，将有助于读者了解海外华人的历史、发展和现状，拉近全球华人的距离，推动海外华人课题的研究。中文参考服务。

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电子邮件: ref@nlb.gov.sg

邮寄地址: National Library Board, 100 Victoria Street #07-01, Singapore 188064

另外，李光前参考图书馆也与上海图书馆合作，提供网上联合咨询服务，解答有关中国商贸、经济、科技、艺术、文学、历史、哲学、教育、旅游等方面咨询。读者若以中文提问，请以附件形式(Word attachments)发送到ref@nlb.gov.sg

The Library Online

By Wong Tack Wai, Senior Manager, Digital Library Services

The revamped National Library Board's Digital Library (NLB DL) at www.nlb.gov.sg was soft launched on 22 July 2005, the same day that the new National Library Building was opened to the public. NLB DL complements the strengths of the physical collections with its online and digital resources.

Previously, library users had to access separate web portals to search for corporate information and carry out library transactions. Now, there is one seamless interface for all their information needs. The revamped website is more user-friendly and provides a wider plethora of electronic resources for the information seeker. These include a greater selection of unpublished local works, digitised rare materials on Singapore content, as well as an expanded list of databases.

This development of hosting both corporate information and digital library can also be found at the British Library's website (www.bl.uk) as well as the National Library of Australia's (www.nla.gov.au) website.

Ease Of Navigation

At the home page, the top horizontal navigation facilitates easy access to different areas of interest, such as "About NLB", "Catalogue", "Public Libraries", "Reference Libraries", "National Library", "Services", and "News and Events".

The left vertical navigation bar is context sensitive and the links will change as the user navigates through the site to reveal related links.

The following examples highlight some of the contents that can be found in various parts of NLB DL.

Home

The Home page of NLB DL gives an update on the latest happenings both in the physical library as well as the digital library. Together with the "What's New" and "New Arrivals" on the right of the webpage, the attractive banners in the centre are designed to capture users' attention. For example, when the *Zheng He Exhibition* was launched on 13 Aug 2005, a banner was put up to raise awareness of, and also to guide the user to the online *Zheng He Virtual Exhibition*.



About NLB

The highlight here is the Library 2010 Report, which sets out the National Library Board's strategic direction for the next 5 years.

In this next phase of our development, the National Library Board aims "to bring the world's knowledge to Singapore to create a positive social and economic impact". The Library 2010 Report addresses the key challenges for the Singapore society and economy, and provides a strategic response. Read all about it at www.nlb.gov.sg/L2010/L2010.pdf

Public Libraries

If you think that all public libraries do is to open their doors for library patrons to borrow materials, you will be amazed to learn a lot more about public library services in this section. As you navigate through the links, you will encounter a whole slew of activities and programmes tailored to suit the needs of library patrons from all ages with various interests. The links contained in the section will give you a clue to what you can learn about public libraries. The links are:

- Advisory & Enquiry
- Library Enrichment Activities
- Outreach Activities
- Storytelling
- Verging All Teens
- Reading Groups
- Programmes
- Community Partnership & Outreach

For the details, go online and start surfing!

The screenshot shows the NLB website's main menu and several promotional banners. The menu includes Home, About NLB, Visit Us, Catalogue, Public Libraries, Reference Libraries, Services, and News & Events. Promotional banners include one for the Zheng He Virtual exhibition and another for the National Library building. The Singapore Government logo is visible in the top right corner.



Reference Libraries

EXPLORE THESE COLLECTIONS



ARTS



DONORS'



ASIAN CHILDREN'S



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



BUSINESS

SINGAPORE &
SOUTHEAST ASIACHINESE, MALAY
& TAMILSOCIAL SCIENCES
& HUMANITIES

The Reference Libraries section is a treasure trove of information! The navigation bar as shown above lists and describes the various collection held at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library.

Within the Singapore and Southeast Asia section, unpublished artistic works can be found in *NORA* (NLB Online Repository for Artistic Works) and digitised collections of rare materials in *Singapore Pages*. Information on other interesting collections such as the Gibson-Hill Collection and the Rare Materials Collection can be accessed from the left vertical navigation bar as shown below.

Also in this Section

- Ephemera
- Gibson-Hill
- Map
- Microfilm
- Raffles Library
- Rare Materials

Highlights

- NORA
- Singapore Pages
- Tan Swie Hian
- Ya Yin Kwan

If you are looking for reliable and authoritative information, do access the many databases that the National Library Board has subscribed for public consumption. These databases are provided by Grolier, EBSCOhost, Factiva, and xreferplus, just to name a few. In all, there are 78 databases for library patrons to search for information. To make it convenient for our customers, these databases are group by subject as shown.

The NLB DL is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. New contents, features and services are constantly added to the site. Be you a child, a student, a concerned parent, an educator, an avid reader, or a researcher, there will definitely be some useful information you can take away from NLB DL. The user-friendly interface will make your visit to NLB DL informative, interesting and worthwhile. Go ahead and start exploring www.nlb.gov.sg today!



Also in this Section

- About Us
- Our History
- The Building
- Our Facilities
- Visit Us
- Contact Us
- Guided Tour
- News Journal

Databases

- Browse By Subject
- Browse By Title

Services

- Enquiry
- Research Services
- Closed-Access Materials
- A Repository Used Reference Materials
- Microfilm
- Document Delivery
- Interlibrary Loan
- Audio-Visual & Multimedia

News & Events

- Current

Databases: Browse by Subject

Available Online
Access from any location

Fee Based
Subscription-based databases

Login Required
NLB Digital Library members only

Available at All Libraries:
Access this database at all library branches

Available at Selected Libraries:
Access this database at selected library locations

Java Plug-in required

- Arts
- Business, Finance, Industry
- Chinese, Malay, Tang
- Computers and Information Technology
- Education
- Health and Medicine
- History
- Language and Literature
- Law and Government
- News
- Philosophy, Psychology and Religion
- Reference
- Science and Technology
- Singapore and Southeast Asia
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Sports, Recreation and Travel

Programmes @ the Library

Knowledge – The New Currency of the Future

A noun that seems so nebulous that it defies definition and yet it is the holy grail of all who seek the riches that come with its possession. If the temple is the architectural icon for religion, then it can be said that the library is its equivalent for knowledge.

So what exactly is knowledge? Is it a mere bunch of facts and figures? Or is it the understanding of these numerical codes that enables one to unlock the hidden recesses of our minds? No one knows what knowledge really is. Yet, to know something (or not know anything) amounts to knowledge in its fundamental terms.

In the month of November, the National Library will attempt to shed some light on what exactly constitutes knowledge. We will not be bringing in any linguist to give a dissertation on what knowledge as a term consist of; instead we will be dwelling into the different dimensions of the protection, exchange and collection of knowledge.

In conjunction with the *Celebrating Knowledge: The Power and Potential* conference which will be held at the InterContinental Hotel from 13 to 15 November, we will be inviting several of the luminaries to the library to give their views and opinions about what exactly they understand by the term "knowledge".

To further the exchange of views and ideas across cultures, world-renowned Professor Anthony Yu from Chicago University made such an attempt when he translated the Chinese classic *Journey to the West* for a vastly different audience. He has always been at the forefront of cross-cultural studies and he will be giving a talk at our premises on 10 November on the topic of *The Historical and Comparative Study of Religion in a Chinese Context*. This talk is especially timely in the light of the revived practice of religion in China and diaspora communities, and the escalating study of religion in the Chinese academy itself.

The attempt to gain knowledge of the past is also a journey into the world of the dead

The past is a treasure trove of knowledge awaiting our efforts to dig deeper and rediscover what our ancestors may have left behind for us. This is an effort that has been championed by Dr Susan Whitfield, a historian of Tang China and the Silk Road as well as a director with the British Library.

In 1994, she started the International Dunhuang Project (IDP), a collaboration to make manuscripts, artifacts, textiles and paintings from the eastern Silk Road and dispersed in library and museum collections worldwide fully accessible on multilingual websites. Her efforts have opened up a whole new world of knowledge for us to explore.

Come and listen as she shares, on 13 November, her experiences as well as the motivations and purpose of the project in the pursuit and preservation of "new" knowledge at the National Library.

Finally, in the new millennium, it has been said that knowledge is the new currency and the one who hoards knowledge is the one who would be king. Do you then know about the protection of knowledge and the implications and issues that come with these practices?

Mr Tan Loke Khoon is an expert in this area with Baker & McKenzie and he has recently published a book entitled *Pirates in the Middle Kingdom: The Art of the Trademark War*. He will be in Singapore on a short visit and will be touching upon this increasingly important and relevant topic.

These are just some highlights of the programmes, which have been lined-up in the month of November, that will attempt to put some kind of framework to what is still essentially a hazy concept.

As you participate and listen to some of these speakers, you will begin to wonder if you have understood and gained a little more. And if you do, is that considered becoming more knowledgeable?

For more information, please log onto www.nlb.gov.sg for the details about timing and venues of these programmes.

The Historical and Comparative Study of Religion in a Chinese Context

Professor Anthony C. Yu

Date : Thursday, November 10, 2005
Time : 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Venue: Level 5 - Imagination and Possibility Rooms

Admission is free but registration required. Please email aspi@nlb.gov.sg or call +65 6332 1828

Unearthing Treasures of the Silk Road: The International Dunhuang Project

Dr Susan Whitfield, Director of The International Dunhuang Project

Date : Sunday, November 13, 2005
Time : 3.00pm - 5.00pm
Venue: Level 5 – Imagination and Possibility Rooms

Admission is free

Pirates of the Middle Kingdom: The Art of Trademark War

Mr. Tan Loke Khoon, Partner, Baker & McKenzie HK/ China

Date : Saturday, November 19, 2005
Time : 3.00pm - 6.00pm
Venue: Level 16 - The Pod

Admission is free but registration required. Please email aspi@nlb.gov.sg or damien_wang@nlb.gov.sg or call +65 6332 1828 / +65 6332 1814

Design – More Than Just Graphics and Prints

Design is a recognition of the relation between various things, various elements in the creative flux. You can't invent a design. You recognize it, in the fourth dimension. That is, with your blood and your bones, as well as with your eyes. – D. H. Lawrence

We have heard so much about the new economy and the new reality that we now live amongst. And in this new reality, design as a concept and as an industry has been identified as one of the new wave of developments that is sweeping away old structures and mindsets. No longer just a question of prints and lines, design as the new catchphrase encompasses so much more.

It is for these reasons and a whole lot more that the National Library is devoting the entire month of December to the subject of design. As usual, the entire breadth of this topic will be presented so as to give a more comprehensive and well-rounded understanding of the possibilities of what design can bring.

One of the foremost efforts in educating our young in this area is the setting up of the new Singapore Arts School. As their opening salvo, they will be launching an exhibition at the Promenade using the theme *How Singapore's Award Winning Architecture Firms Use Physical Space and Architecture to Support Learning and Creativity*.

They will also provide assorted programmes like workshops for architects, educators and children that will educate the public towards what is meant by design and the various other strands that can come from this vast and rich topic.

In conjunction with the promotion of design to the youth, the National Library will also be showcasing the *Young Asian Designers Award 2005* exhibition as part of the programme line-up for the Singapore Design Festival. See what some of the brightest young minds of Asia have to offer as you look at the award winning works and concepts that have been created from their fertile minds.

Lest the impression sets in that design pertains to just art and graphics, the National Library is also working with our partner, the Institute of Engineering Singapore, to come up with a series of activities to highlight the various aspects of industrial design. The use of design in engineering will be showcased at a fair while tours to local

engineering showpieces will be conducted for participants.

The National Library is also attempting to bring a part of the World Expo held in Aichi, Japan to Singapore through an exhibition known as *Library of 2005 Memories*. The exhibition consists of more than 2000 stories that are manifested in a fascinating three-dimensional display. Singaporeans will get a chance to look at a piece of installation work that has wowed visitors from all around Japan as well as overseas.

With such a full and packed line-up, December promises to be an exciting one. For the initiated, this is a time to fully explore and develop your interest; for the amateur or those hearing about design for the first time, this is an excellent opportunity to know, in a greater depth, the possibilities and wonders that this subject has to offer both professionally as well as personally.

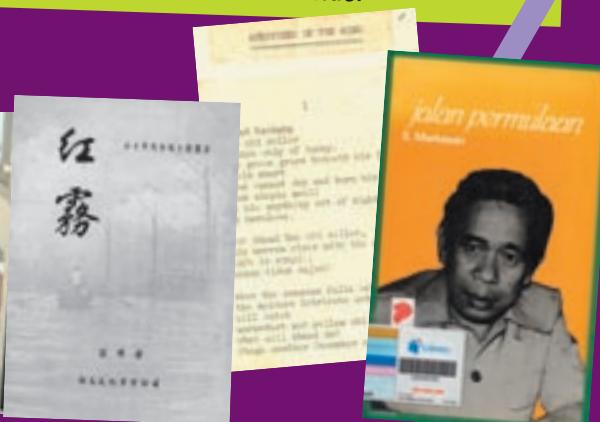
For more information, please log on to www.nlb.gov.sg for the details about time and venue.

Singapore Literary Pioneers Gallery

By Eunice Low, Manager, Heritage & Asia

As part of the efforts to preserve the nation's literary heritage, the National Library Board is launching the *Singapore Literary Pioneers Gallery* at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library in the new National Library building. This project seeks to create a greater awareness of Singapore literature amongst the library's users and to give recognition to these writers. It will also aid in developing the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library's rich repository of local heritage collection, both physical and digital.

A permanent exhibition area of 180 sq m, the gallery occupies the concourse area of Level 11 (Singapore and Southeast Collections) of the Lee Kong Chian includes print, digital and interactive multimedia facilities, features literary pioneers including Professor Edwin Thumboo, Mr Lim Thean Soo, Miao Xiu, Mr Se Ve Shanmugam and Mr Suratman Markasan.

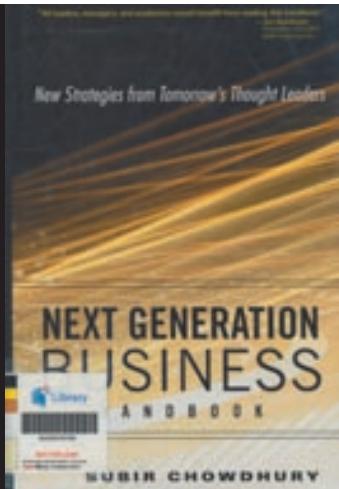


Showcasing special collections of the literary pioneers, the items on display include books, letters, photographs and portraits of the writers, personal items related to writing and authorship such as pens, typewriters and notepads, the original manuscripts of their works, calligraphic works, literary awards and trophies. Copies of the writers' works are also available digitally for visitors to browse through or for research. In addition, a gallery guide has been produced to assist visitors and researchers.

The National Library Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the different agencies such as the National Arts Council (NAC) and the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), as well as literary associations, industry partners, writers and individuals for their assistance, views and support for this gallery.

It is our hope that through this gallery, all library patrons will be better acquainted with our writers and even perhaps, be inspired into joining their ranks as literary artists!

Book



Next Generation Business Handbook: New Strategies from Tomorrow's Thought Leaders by Subir Chowdhury

Publisher: Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, c2004. Call No.: RBUS 658 CHO

This handbook offers the best thoughts and business strategies of renowned next-generation thinkers from the top 25 global business schools. They believe that to stay ahead in today's rapidly changing business environment, successful business leaders must forecast the future and efficiently employ new concepts and methods to drive their competitive edge.

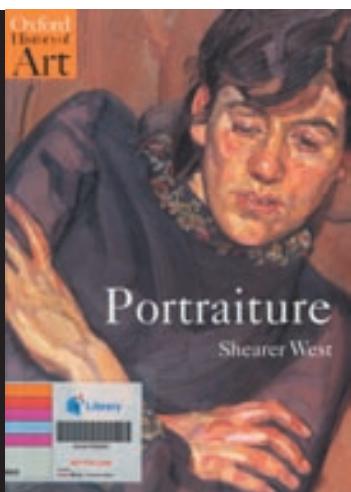
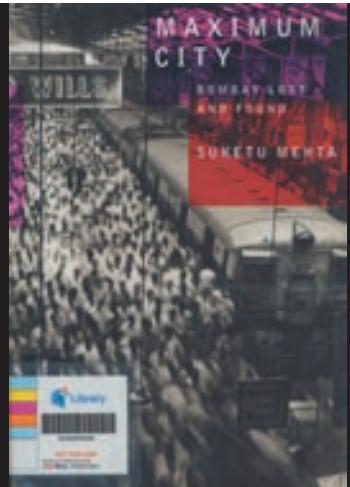
Using the New Generation Business (NGB) Model of Subir Chowdhury, a top business thinker and author, this book examines six key areas of business, such as leadership, strategy, customer management, entrepreneurship, people management and networked business. It serves as a valuable tool for managers, consultants and researchers to address emerging global leadership, cultures and people.

Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found by Suketu Mehta

Publisher: New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. Call no.: R 954.79205 MEH

Suketu Mehta tries to recapture the memories of the Bombay of his youth after migrating to the US, only to find that the place he knew has changed beyond recognition. He takes the reader into the violent world of the Muslim and Hindu gangs as he investigates the tragic 1993 Mumbai bombings.

Written with the combined flair of a journalist's observatory skills and a novelist's empathy for each subject, Mehta's encounters with a super-cop, Bombay's "Godfather", a bar dancer, a cross-dresser, Bollywood stars and struggling actors, are all transformed into unforgettable real-life stories that are at times comical but mostly bitter-sweet.



Portraiture by Shearer West.

Publisher: Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. Call number: RART 704.942 WES

Portraiture is an accessible and concise treatment of the history and influence of the portrait, which invites readers to delve further into this genre of painting.

The book explores the history of the portrait in Western art from ancient to modern times. Ranging from iconic representations of the powerful to group portraits in everyday settings, the author draws commonalities of meaning in the relationship of portraiture to society and self-image of subjects, observers and artists. Chapters on portraits in different life stages, from children to old age, as well as issues of gender in both the subject and the artist are explored. Lastly, the author gives an introduction to the complex arena of self-portraiture and its journey into modernist and contemporary art.

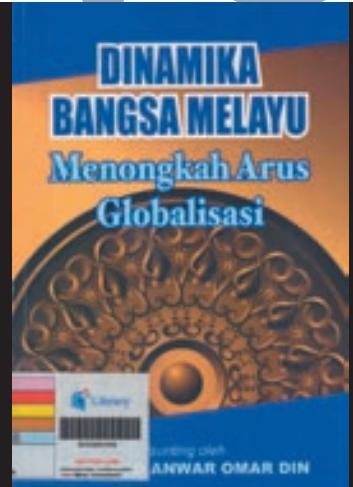
Reviews

Dinamika Bangsa Melayu: Menongkah Arus Globalisasi by Mohamed Anwar Omar Din

Publisher: Bangi, Selangor: Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Call No.: R 899.89928 DIN

Buku ini mengupas persoalan kecergasan atau kedinamikan bangsa Melayu dalam menghadapi cabaran dan tuntutan era globalisasi kurun ke 21. Ia merupakan himpunan makalah terpilih oleh tokoh-tokoh berwibawa dalam bidang masing-masing yang dibentangkan di Seminar Peradaban Melayu: Menjana Abad Ke-21 anjuran Jabatan Persuratan Melayu, Fakulti Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, dengan kerjasama Berita Harian (Malaysia), pada 19 Februari 1997.

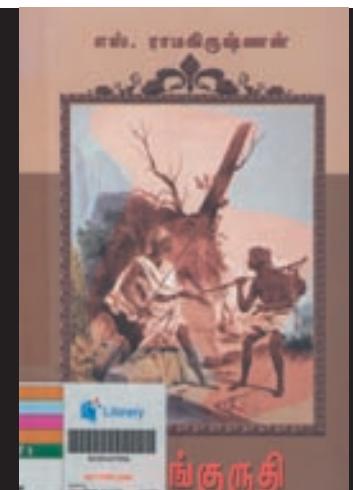
Sesuai sebagai bahan rujukan untuk semua lapisan masyarakat yang ingin memahami serta mentelaah tentang kedinamikan bangsa Melayu. Walaupun lebih berbentuk ilmiah, Dinamika Bangsa Melayu – Menongkah Arus Globalisasi boleh dianggap sumbangan awalan untuk meneruskan kajian secara lebih mendalam lagi berkaitan isu-isu teras dalam dinamika bangsa Melayu.



CEI中国行业发展报告 (2004) by 国家信息中心中国经济信息网

Publisher: 中国经济出版社, 2005 Location: 李光前参考图书馆九楼“中国资料”馆藏

《CEI中国行业发展报告》是系列丛书,由中国国家信息中心联合中国国家各部委、行业协会和资深专家合作写成,是目前中国最权威的行业研究报告。本馆购买了医药业、饮料业、纺织业、房地产业、建筑业、物流业、交通运输业、旅游业、零售业、银行业、汽车制造业、传媒业、电信运营业、保险业、煤炭业、港口业、电子信息业、化学纤维业、图书出版发行业的发展报告。由于中国行业经济的运行会受到政府的宏观调控和改革措施所影响,这套丛书对投资者掌握行业信息,研究行业发展趋势,准确判断调控和改革的方向和重点,从中发掘投资机遇,回避政策风险具有一定的参考价值。

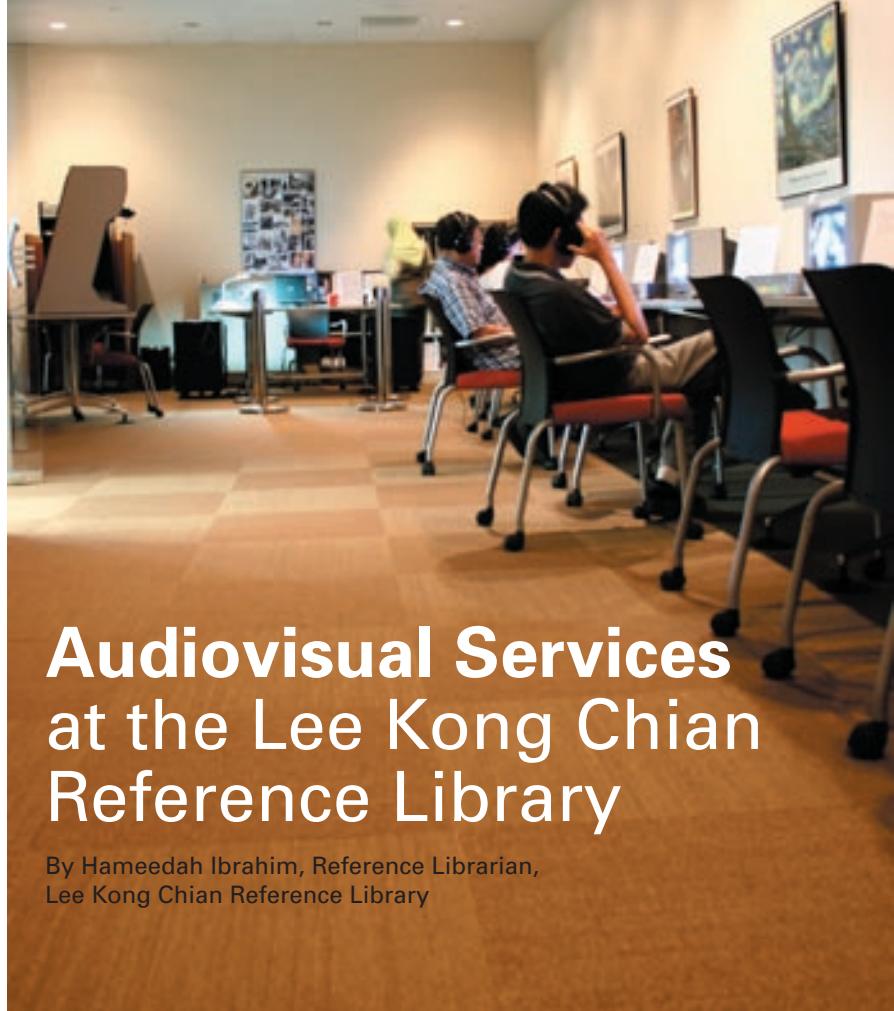


நெடுஞ்சூருதி by எஸ். ராமகிருஷ்ணன்

Publisher: உயிர்மை பதிப்பகம் Call No.: R 894.811371 RAM அல்லது RAM

2003 ஆம் ஆண்டின் சிறந்த தமிழ் நாவலாகத் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்ட நெடுஞ்சூருதி, வேம்பலை என்ற புனைவான் கிராமத்தில் வாழும் வேம்பர்கள் என்ற மனிதர்களையும் அவர்களது மூர்க்கமான வாழ்க்கைப் போராட்டத்தையும் சொல்கிறது. ஒரு கதாநாயகன், கதாநாயகி, அவர்களைச் சுற்றிய கதை என்ற வழக்கமான முறையை விடுத்து வேம்பலை கிராமத்தில் உள்ள அனைவரது வாழ்க்கைப் போராட்டத்தையும் சித்தரிக்கிறது இந்நாவல்.

திருட்டையேத் தங்கள் தொழிலாகக் கொண்ட வேம்பர்கள், வெள்ளையர்களின் ஆட்சியில் ஒடுக்கப்பட்டதால் பலர் வேறு தொழில்களுக்கு மாறினர். ஆனால் வறுமையின் கோரப்பிடியிலிருந்து அவர்களால் மீளமுடியவில்லை. வெயிலின் உக்கிரம் அவர்களை மேலும் வாட்டுகிறது. இந்தப் பின்னணியில் அந்த ஊரின் ஒவ்வொரு வீட்டிலும் நடக்கும் போராட்டங்கள், துக்கங்கள், சிறு இன்பங்கள், ஏமாற்றங்கள், என்று அனைத்தையும் யதார்த்தமாக விவரித்து அவர்களின் வாழ்க்கையை நம் கண்முன்னே ஆசிரியர் கொண்டுவருகிறார்.



Audiovisual Services at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

By Hameedah Ibrahim, Reference Librarian,
Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

Background

The fields of library and information science are changing and growing rapidly especially in the past thirty years. Technological advancement has created a new wave of audiovisual products in the market such as videocassette discs (VCDs) and digital video discs (DVDs).

Started in 1983 when the Arts Resource Centre was set up at the Reference Services Division, National Library, the Audiovisual Collection in the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library has grown to about 20,000 items in the four official languages. It has become an important research resource that complements the print collections to meet the informational and reference needs of library patrons.

Materials in the Audiovisual Collection are available for browsing at the Singapore and Southeast Asian

Collections on Level 11. Library patrons may use any of the 10 dedicated stations in the Audiovisual Room on a first come first served basis. The Audiovisual Service is available from 10.00 am to 9.00 pm daily except public holidays.

Service Provided

The service is categorised into: Heritage Audiovisual Service, Audiovisual for Learning and Training and Audiovisual Service On-demand. A wide and diverse range of audiovisual materials such as videotapes, compact discs, VCDs, DVDs, laserdiscs, audiocassettes, slides and long players records (LPs) are available. Library patrons with a strong interest in Singapore, heritage, current affairs, visual arts documentaries, business, management, history, language and social science should definitely make use of the collection.

Library patrons may choose to browse the open shelves or check the online catalogue to select the title they want. Thereafter, they may seek the help of trained Library Assistants at the Audio Room who will assign them a station for viewing or listening. However, some audiovisual materials such as audiocassettes for language learning, slides for historical topics and LPs for classical music are housed in the Repository Used Collection and may be reserved at the Information Counter at a nominal fee of \$1.55 per item.

Challenges and Opportunities

In order to meet the challenges and service standards in providing greater choice of format, the Lee Kong Chian Reference will:

- continuously acknowledge and respond to customer demands in addition to closely monitoring customer preferences, trends in technology and publishing, and
- review the collection development policy regularly to respond to a new and continuously changing information services marketplace.

Conclusion

In today's digital information age, where a greater choice of format competes with content diversity, the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library will continue to balance the needs of its library patrons against content selection and development. To avoid sacrificing the quality and depth of the collection, the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library will be acutely aware of customer needs, be sure that the library has a clear and fiscally realistic focus of purpose and cooperate with other community libraries to share resources. At the same time it will focus on safeguarding the available materials and intellectual contents for future use.



So, visit the Audiovisual Room today for an enriching and fulfilling experience.

Just Ask!

By Wan Wee Pin, Acting Manager,
INVENT

Singapore has been in the throes of a burgeoning new beginning for the last few years with words like "innovation", "re-training" and "creativity" being bandied around almost on a monthly basis through all stratum of society. Many seem totally caught up with the need to see things with new eyes or to think out of the box as they chase the latest fad theory or thinking.

However, they fail to realise that the elixir they are looking for is just right in front of them if only they pay a little attention? How do you to get people to think differently? You get them to ask questions. It's that simple. More than just a quest for answers, the act of asking a question enforces a change physiologically and mentally because it is a reflection of one's desire to know more and one's admittance of one's inadequacies.

The latter is crucial; only until we are able to admit we do not know something, will we be able to get on the path of finding the answer. If we know it all, what else is there to intrigue and stimulate our curiosity? Human progress and growth cannot be possible without the desire to search for alternatives or to discover the new. With no curiosity, the human race will cease to exist.

For a long time, we always claim that Singaporean students do not like or do not want to ask questions; they are too quiet and keep their views to themselves. Check ourselves this instance and ponder: Do we ask questions? Do we try to find out more?



A story relates that a group of teachers, wanting to find the impetus to get their students to ask questions, went to Japan for a study trip. However, when they were there, not a single one of them asked their Japanese hosts any questions!

That is the basic premise of the new campaign that the National Library Board (NLB) is introducing. A multifaceted campaign, *Just Ask* aims to educate, cultivate and encourage library patrons to ask any questions they may have and to inculcate in them a questioning mind and culture.

Just Ask has three major components: Skills, Services and Content

Over the next six months, patrons will be exposed to workshops and programmes that will teach them how to ask questions and how to find the answers for themselves. The skills they learn will equip them to deal with questions and questioning techniques throughout their lifetime.

NLB will also be introducing new research and enquiry services that will allow participants who have questions to easily gain access to the answers through different mediums. The newest kid on the block will be the SMS Reference Service where patrons can merely punch a few buttons to send in their questions.

Finally, NLB will be showcasing the databases and resources that we possess. For a start, we will be targeting the three sectors of *Business, Arts and Education* and show how we can become a valuable information support system for these professionals.

To raise the profile of the campaign and to spread the need to ask questions, *Just Ask* has also created what we call *Just Ask Ambassadors*. Our line-up of interesting Ambassadors includes the likes of Dr Waffles Wu, cartoonist Colin Goh, Dr William Tan and the NUS Everest team.

Look out in the coming months ahead for many related activities, promotions and workshops all geared towards getting people to ask more questions and to develop a more innate enquiring character.

We are not trying to "evangelise" but simply reminding everyone of the truth they may have forgotten; to get them to reflect, dramatise and grossly magnify what we already hold true. If the *Just Ask* campaign can plant the seed of a questioning culture amongst the people, we would have succeeded, for the real quest for knowledge begins not with information but with inquisitiveness.

For more details of the series of activities related to Just Ask, visit our website www.nlb.gov.sg or pick up a brochure at a library near you.

Publishing & Research Services

By Veronica Chee, Senior Librarian, and Sharon Foo, Senior Executive, Publishing & Research Services

Knowledge is the new currency of the future. Whether for policy-making, research initiatives or business decisions, knowledge is about accessibility, speed, relevance and interaction.

The National Library Board's Publishing & Research Services Division (PRS) provides professional research services to meet the needs of the industry and the community. PRS is the research and knowledge gateway to a wide range of subject areas focusing on creative media, health and defence, education and employment, and library leadership.

The main objectives of its publishing initiatives are
1. to publish and archive important research and writings in the library and information field
2. to capture knowledge and expertise within the National Library and providing an avenue for the sharing and distribution of such knowledge and expertise.

Services

• Research Support/Consultancy

A dedicated enquiry service for corporate clients aimed at providing information search and retrieval assistance services. Our assigned researcher/s are able to provide information support for corporate initiatives and planning exercises.

• Industry Digests

Track the latest trends and updates that are relevant to corporate decision-makers and industry specialists.

• Industry Trend Alerts

A summary of new developments in specific subject areas related to an organisation's needs. It tracks the latest developments across a broad range of subjects for any industry. Delivered at scheduled intervals, these updates provide information that is current and timely. Each Alert consists of 20-25 annotated citations.

• Media Monitoring

Tracking of relevant newspapers and broadcast media (print and online) to retrieve articles and web pages that report on any organisation's activities.

• Research Reports

Customised reports written with analysis on a specific topic and may

include the use of tools such as SWOT, Scenario Planning, Value Innovation and Balance Scorecard. They comprise trends, statistics, charts, graphs and news-sources that are presented in a concise manner for decision-making.

• Document Delivery Service

Hard copies of the articles listed in the Industry Digests, Industry Trend Alerts and Research Reports will be supplied if these are not available online. NLB will make arrangements to purchase, upon request, articles from the relevant libraries, including overseas libraries such as the British Library.

• Publishing

All National Library publications will deal with the professional content, capabilities and functions of the National Library. Our focus is on Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asian content in three key areas:

National and Heritage Collection

To showcase and undertake research on the National Library's rare, donor, historical and other special collections.

Library Science and Publishing

To advance knowledge on library science, librarianship and steer future directions of libraries through case studies and thought leadership publishing.

Co-publishing

To collaboratively work on commercially viable publications that will position Singapore as a research services hub for Asia.

Resources

PRS' research librarians and specialists will make use of a rich array of library resources available, both print and non-print, to provide the most relevant and authoritative information:

- More than 600,00 items in the National Library's collections on various subjects and disciplines focusing on Singapore and Southeast Asia, including the donors' and rare materials collections. Items comprise books, journals, manuscripts, newspapers, audio-visual materials, microfilms, maps, posters and ephemera.
- More than 70 online databases and electronic journals available through the NLB Digital Library at www.nlb.gov.sg. Highlights of databases include ProQuest,

EBSCOhost, Euromonitor, Global Market Information Database, Factiva, Global Insight - World Markets Research Centre, SourceOECD and Emerald Intelligence.

• The collections and resources of NLB's MOU partners, which include the British Library, National Library of China, Shanghai Library and National Library of Australia.

Benefits

• We will collect, verify, analyse, evaluate and package the most relevant and authoritative information based on the client's requirements, saving time and effort in sourcing, integrating and monitoring contents from different sources.

• We will offer enhanced search skills, subject knowledge and access to the latest information from NLB's rich collection of resources.

• We will do an environmental audit of the client's research topic and recommend suitable sources of information to be used, thus ensuring that the outcomes of the research project are met. We will engage in several rounds of consultation and discussion before, and during the course of the project to ensure professional service is rendered.

• We will present information in a user-friendly manner, i.e. using statistics, tables, charts and graphs. News announcements, trends updates and industry developments are presented in a concise manner for easy reading.

Costs

- Research Support/Consultancy - \$67 per hour or \$1,700 for 3 days
- Industry Digests - \$1,200 per unit
- Industry Trend Alerts - \$1,500 per unit
- Media Monitoring - \$1,500 per unit
- Research Reports - \$5,700 onwards for each or a bundle of 4 reports at \$5,700 each
- Document Delivery Service - \$1,000 deposit

Contact

Publishing & Research Services

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