

Title: Annual Report to CDNL 2012
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1. General overview of recent major developments

As at end of Mar 2012, NLB's total cumulative library membership stands at 2,068,833, while 34,122,470 people visited the public libraries and the National Library during the same period.

2. The National Library Board Act

The National Library Board Act establishes and incorporates the National Library Board ("NLB") as a statutory board and transfers to it the National Library and all matters connected therewith. The NLB Act also sets out the functions and powers of the NLB. Some of these are as follows:

- To establish and maintain publicly funded libraries and to provide library information services;
- To promote reading and encourage learning through the use of its libraries and services;
- To acquire and maintain a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Singapore and its people;
- To compile and maintain a national union catalogue and a national bibliography;
- To take appropriate measures to obtain, maintain and preserve library materials deposited with NLB under Section 10 (see below);
- To provide for the preservation of order and the prevention of nuisance in its libraries, library buildings and grounds;
- To fix the days and times of admission to its libraries;
- To prescribe the amount of fines that may be levied for the damage, loss or late return of borrowed library materials and for the waiving or refund of such fines;
- To raise funds by all lawful means and to receive gifts and donations, whether on trust or otherwise;
- To establish liaison with overseas library authorities and information providers to secure maximum collaboration of all activities relevant to its functions;
- To advise the Government on national needs and policies in respect of matters relating to publicly funded libraries and library information services in Singapore.

Section 10: Deposit of Library Materials

The publisher of every library material published in Singapore shall, at the publisher's own expense and within 4 weeks after the date of publication, deposit two copies (except as otherwise provided by regulations) of that library material with the NLB at such place as the NLB may determine.

3. Key facts and figures

As at Mar 2012(FY11): NLB's legal deposit collection was 984,452. As of Mar 2012, of 133 databases subscribed, 98 databases are enabled for offsite access nationwide.

Data for NLB (comprising the National Library, 21 public libraries and 3 regional libraries):
Total number of NLB staff (professionals and paraprofessionals): 952 (as at Mar 2012)
Total operating expenditure: \$231.37m.m (as at Mar 2012)
Loans: 37,388,838 (as at Mar 2012)
Total library collection (books, serials, special materials): 8,669,466 (as at Mar 2012)

4. New developments in creating and building collections.

NewspaperSG <<http://newspapers.nl.sg>>

As of Mar 2012, there are 26 newspaper titles available on NewspaperSG, NLB's online archive of newspapers. Vernacular newspapers in the four official languages have been digitised and made available on NewspaperSG since August 2011. This service can be accessed in the libraries as well as remotely and is viewable on the smart phones and tablets. Users can also save article citations to their personal spaces on NLB's myLibrary Facebook application.

MusicSG <<http://musicsg.pl.sg>>

MusicSG (<http://musicsg.pl.sg>) is Singapore's first non-profit digital archive housing a collection of music composed or published by Singaporeans, produced or published in Singapore and music related to Singapore. Launched on 11 Nov 2010, the archive is aimed at raising awareness of Singapore music and providing resources for research and discovery. MusicSG is also part of the nationwide initiative to preserve Singapore's heritage.

Heritage and Donor Collections

Between Apr 2011 and Mar 2012, the National Library's Heritage and Donors' Collection received 41,316 items from supporters and donors. During the year, a total of 36,846 items were processed and catalogued for the NLB libraries.

Notable donations in the year included the following:

- 170 items relating to Singapore's performing arts, including souvenir magazines, programme booklets and ephemera, with the earliest items dating to the 1950s, from Mr Yeo Oi Sang.
- Two albums illustrating the late bacteriologist Dr Wu Lien-Teh's stay in Manchuria and China from 1910 to 1937. His family also donated 100 monographs, some of which were authored by Dr Wu.

On 21 February 2012, NLB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Shanghai Book Company (Pte) Limited. With this MOU, NLB is granted the rights to digitise and preserve the titles published by the Company. The Shanghai Book Company was founded in 1925. It was a major bookseller and publisher in Singapore with branches in Southeast Asia. Together with its subsidiary publishing companies, it published close to 4,000 titles. Many of the textbooks, first published in 1948, were used throughout Singapore and Southeast Asia until the 1970s.

The digitisation of books, especially rare and out-of-print titles, enables NLB to preserve our literary heritage for posterity and research. Local and international users as well as future generations will have access to these publications via NLB's BookSG website.

Digital library

As of Mar 2012, NLB's eResources include 145 databases, 3,036 titles of eMagazines, over 2.3 million eBooks, more than 1,700 titles of eNewspapers in 48 languages, more than 210,000 images, more than 992,000 music tracks and more than 13,100 issues of eComics. Also available are digitized rare materials, digitized newspapers, content/services created by NLB such as *Singapore Infopedia* (<http://infopedia.nl.sg>), *BiblioAsia* - a news journal to promote collection services and programmes of the new National Library, bibliographies, virtual exhibitions and Web

Archive Singapore, a rich collection of Singapore-related online contents that showcase various facets of Singapore life (<http://was.nl.sg>). NLB eResources are publicly accessible at <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/index.aspx>.

Digital user visits : 8,855,870 (as at Mar 2012)
Electronic retrievals : 52,777,185 (as at Mar 2012)

5. New developments in improving access to collections

WorldCat.org

The Singapore Integrated Library Automation Services (SILAS) was set up to promote cooperative online cataloguing services among its 50 member libraries. As of last year, member libraries have linked their library catalogues to Worldcat.org, a public catalogue of the largest bibliographic database in the world.

NLB SearchPlus

NLB SearchPlus is a sophisticated information discovery system that enables library users to search all of NLB's catalogues for resources in various forms. In July 2010, the NLB SearchPlus system was installed at 26 public stations at all libraries.

ReadOn

ReadOn is a new title-recommending website that enables library patrons to search for new arrivals as well as related titles that have been searched by other patrons. Launched in July 2010, ReadOn includes book covers, annotations, librarians' recommendations as well as similar titles that other library patrons have borrowed.

Library in Your Pocket

Several new features were added to the Library in Your Pocket application for both iPhones and Android smartphones. With the addition of these features, the average monthly visitors via mobile platforms increased from 3,000 to 33,000 over the past year.

Open Data and Web Services

NLB has embarked on an initiative to provide digital platforms for external organisations to access and integrate NLB content and services into their applications for mobile and tablet devices.

6. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

79th IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2013

Singapore won the bid to host the 79th IFLA WLIC 2013 in Singapore in a bid jointly submitted by National Library Board (NLB) and the Library Association of Singapore (LAS). The result was officially announced by Ms Ellen Tise, IFLA President during the closing session of IFLA WLIC 2012 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. IFLA WLIC 2013 will take place in Singapore for the first time from 17–23 August 2013, with the congress theme: "Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities".

Re-appointment of NLB as IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania from 1 Jan 2012 to 31 Dec 2016

IFLA, represented by Jennefer Nicholson, Secretary General, renewed the Joint Collaboration Agreement between IFLA and NLB, re-appointing NLB as IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania for a further five years from 1 Jan 2012 to 31 Dec 2016 during her visit to Singapore on 18 Jan 2012. The agreement was first signed in Jan 2006.

ArtsCultureSG

Initiated by Singapore's Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts under its Arts and Culture Strategic Review initiatives beginning in mid-2011, ArtsCultureSG will be a national one-stop online platform for the arts, aggregating content and activities related to the arts and cultural scene in Singapore and serve as a "perpetual online bank of arts and cultural experiences" for

users visiting the website. The National Library Board (NLB) has been appointed to lead a multi-agency collaborative effort in building this portal over a period of five years.

Singapore Memory Project

The Singapore Memory Project (SMP) is a national initiative to collect, preserve and provide access to Singapore's knowledge assets. It aims to build a national collection of content in diverse formats, preserve them in digital form, and make them available for discovery and research. SMP endeavours to collect both institutional content as well as memories from members of the public to cultivate a culture of remembering among Singaporeans. Launched in 2011, more than 400,000 personal memories have been pledged and collected thus far with more than 120 partners (both private and public) coming on board.

The Singaporememory.sg website, launched early this year, enables every Singaporean to have their own personal memory account, where they can deposit their stories in a variety of formats. In addition, an iPhone app was created in May to allow individuals with smart phones to contribute text, videos and photos. Besides these, the Singapore Memory Project is also leveraging on social media channels to engage Singaporeans of all ages and walks of life to document their personal memories.

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