

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF SINGAPORE COUNTRY REPORT

Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) Annual Meeting 2015

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 LLiBrary at Lifelong Learning Institute

NLB and the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) collaborated to establish The LLiBrary, Singapore's first Continuing Education & Training (CET) library, located at the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI). The LLiBrary was open to the public since 18 September 2014, and was officially open on 28 November 2014.



CET-Centric Collection. The LLiBrary has a curated collection with a CET focus. It currently features 11,000 non-fiction books, 30 periodical titles and more than 250 audio-visual materials, covering topics such as career advancement, vocational guidance and the upgrading of skills. The LLiBrary will strengthen LLI's role as a key resource for working adults, and serve as a focal point for partners to collaborate and innovate to elevate CET.

Self-Service & Self-Directed Learning Concept. The LLiBrary works on a self-help concept where users can borrow materials via the self-borrowing machines and the NLB Mobile app, or make use of the library ekiosks and catalogues available. In addition, users can conveniently access NLB's wide-range of electronic resources from a variety of e-platforms such as Quickreads, eReads, eMagazines, eNewspapers stations. The opening hours are from 10am to 10pm, Monday to Saturday. After 6pm, NLB members will scan their NRIC/FIN or NLB cards to access the library.

Integration with Public Libraries. The LLiBrary is seamlessly integrated with the NLB's network of public libraries. Using the NLB Catalogue library members can reserve materials from The LLiBrary and collect them at other public libraries (except library@chinatown), and vice versa. Similarly materials borrowed from The LLiBrary can be returned at other public libraries, and vice versa.

Innovative & Inspiring Spaces. Besides finding the resources needed for self and career development, visitors of the LLiBrary will find inspiration in this space. The design of library spaces – from the ascending bookshelves to the loft-like seating or even the cocoon designs – provides users areas they can use for contemplation, conversation and collaboration.

1.2 National Library Prominent Speaker Series

A new programming series - NL Prominent Speaker Series, was started in 2014 to bring in notable speakers across different fields. This is part of the National Library's direction to be a premier public knowledge institution to support the nation's and citizens' knowledge aspirations. One of the most notable speakers was Mr Nassim Taleb – the author of Black Swan and his recent book Anti-Fragile.

Since the launch of the Prominent Speaker's Series in March 2014, all the sessions by the following speakers had very positive turnouts :

- Lynne Brindley (former British Library CEO);
- Nicolas Barker (Author and Renowned Book Collector);
- John van Wyhe (NUS Researcher and Expert on Darwin);
- Siew Hock Meng (Major Singaporean Artist);
- Dayne Cowan (Director of Film VFX at VHQ Post and has worked on blockbusters such as Batman Begins, 10,000 BC, The Bourne Ultimatum and Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix);
- Nassim Nicholas Taleb (Author of The Black Swan, Antifragile, Fooled by Randomness and The Bed of Procrustes);
- Dr David Parry (Soil Scientist, Environmental Development Consultant and Curator);

- Pete Overy (Managing Director, IDEO); and
- Prof Leo Suryadinata (Visiting Senior Fellow at Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and adjunct professor at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies).

All these talks were shared in social media through photos and videos (including interview sessions) to spread the awareness of our programmes. Speakers were also asked to contribute content in the form of articles which will be featured in the National Library's BiblioAsia journal.



1.3 George Lyndon Hicks Fellowship for Southeast Asian Collections

In June 2014, Mr George Hicks agreed to sponsor a Fellowship Programme that aims to enhance the National Library's Singapore and Southeast Asian special collections and to raise the research standards of librarians through mentorship by the Fellows. The Fellowship is targeted to commence in FY2015, subject to the availability of the Fellows. Up to three Fellows will be awarded every year.

1.4 National Info-Literacy Programme (NILP)

The SURE campaign under the National Information Literacy Programme (NILP) aims to promote the awareness of good IL practices among the general public through physical engagement such as conducting IL training for students, teachers and parents and organizing outreach events such as talks and panel discussions. The campaign also engages online users through SURE Facebook. Regular IL-related resources are also produced and made accessible on the website. As of 30 June 2015, there are 3,323,333 physical and digital interactions since April 2012.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

2.1 Review of 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. Currently, NLB's Legal Deposit function is limited to the collection of print and audio-visual materials. NLB is reviewing the Bill to expand this function to include digital and web resources as well, so as to enhance its relevance in the digital age.

2.2 Special Libraries

The National Library currently provides professional library services to manage a total of 12 Special Libraries for government agencies, such as Parliament, Supreme Court and State Courts.

2.3 Research Services

The National Library provides professional and customised research services to government ministries and statutory boards. The National Library's team of researchers report on latest market trends and new developments in topical areas of interest to the organisation. The team currently provides customised research services to 8 government agencies, including Ministry of Communications and Information, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

	NL Indicators	As at 30 Jun 2015
1	Size of Singapore Collection (physical)	427,787
2	Size of Singapore Collection (digital)	918,498
3	Number of Libraries connected by National Union Catalogue	48

	NL Indicators	1 Jul 2014 to 30 Jun 2015
1	Number of e-retrievals of Singapore content	23,388,107
2	Total Participation for NL Exhibitions and Programmes	1,656,700
3	Compliment to Complaint Ratio	112 compliments: 1 complaint

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING, BUILDING & MANAGING COLLECTIONS

4.1 Singapore Memory Project (SMP)

There has been an increasing emphasis to create a sense of identity and nationhood among residents of Singapore. Singapore's maturity as a city-state in the global context has also given rise to a need in ensuring that the Singapore Story is collected, preserved and discovered to prevent the permanent loss of the nation's heritage and roots. The Singapore Memory Project (SMP), started in 2011, is a whole-of-nation movement which aims to capture and document memories related to Singapore from individuals, organizations and communities. In particular, SMP aims to collect memories of first and second-generation Singaporeans before their experiences are permanently lost. At present, a total of 6,487 quality memories have been collected and documented.

4.1.1 Digital Engagement

Total Size of Digital Community (as at 30 Jun 2015)	
Facebook Fans, Twitter Followers, Instagram Followers, Pinterest Followers, ISSUU Followers, YouTube subscribers	6,283,997
Total Reach of SMP's Digital Outreach (as at 30 Jun 2015)	
	170,326,343

The online community continues to grow with more fans contributing their memories through sharing, messaging and commenting on our channels, generating an avalanche of submissions to the project. Those memories about Singapore are often triggered by the content that SMP has gathered, researched and posted on the page. As SMP's Facebook page leads an online community of more than 200,000 fans, the project is currently maximising our engagement beyond Facebook. Viral content created for other social media accounts (Twitter, Instagram, YouTube) has garnered an increasing number of followers and interactions with the respective communities.

4.1.2 SMP Initiatives in 2015

In 2015, SMP gears up to showcase a whole slew of exhibitions and initiatives in celebration of Singapore 50 (SG50).

a. Past Forward

The *Past Forward* Showcase exhibits 72 irememberSG Fund projects that capture moments and memories of Singapore from the ground up. The irememberSG Fund initiative encourages and empowers individuals and organisations to develop content and projects that will collect, interpret, contextualise and showcase Singapore memories leading up to SG50. As part of the launch in March 2015, we revealed 20 projects that span across publications and literary arts, design and play, film and animation, and documentation and community collection. They include

documentaries on farming families and the lives of Singapore's islanders in the early years; animation videos using old photographs; and a recreation of iconic Singapore memories with LEGO bricks. The entire slew of activities will unfold from the months of April till August 2015, with all 72 projects showcased in various formats at the National Library Building.

b. Rewind/Remind Film Festival

The Singapore Memory Project (SMP) continues to unveil memories of the Singaporean way of life with the launch of 'Rewind/Remind' – its first ever film festival. Spanning across the months of May to June 2015, the film festival will be premiering short films produced by the recipients of SMP's irememberSG Fund, as well as the latest movie entitled *Old Friends* by renowned Singapore director Royston Tan. 'Rewind/Remind' features 11 films showcasing personal accounts and narratives of Singaporeans, as interpreted by local filmmakers. These films celebrate Singapore's heritage and diverse cultures, revealing lesser known aspects of our history.

The highlight of 'Rewind/Remind' will be *Old Friends*, the final instalment of Royston Tan's trilogy that documents the Singaporean way of life and culture. Commissioned by the SMP, *Old Friends* centres on Singaporeans' collective memories of the authentic flavours of our traditional cuisine. *Centrepont Kids* by irememberSG Fund recipient Wee Li Lin is another film which will bring back memories. The Centrepont mall of the 1980s used to be a popular hangout for the 'Centrepont Kids'. In this film, Wee chronicles a nerdy teenage girl's initiation into this group. *The Violin*, by irememberSG Fund recipient Ervin Han, showcases the history and tumultuous transformation of our nation through the metaphor of a musical instrument passed down from one generation to another. The fourth film, *Kway Chap* by Sun Koh, traces her familial roots through the dish and her brother's decision to continue with the family business.

Following the launch of 'Rewind/Remind' on 23 May 2015, members of the public enjoyed all 11 films at 12 free film screenings at five public libraries throughout the months of June and July 2015. Estimated attendance for the screenings stands at more than 2,500, with an additional 5 sessions staged to cope with high demand.

c. The Greatest Gift of a Generation: Life Stories

SMP continues to build upon the 'Greatest Gift of a Generation' (GGoG) campaign in October 2014 with the *Life Stories* exhibition in 2015. This exhibition is a refresh of the Hands satellite exhibition from 2013, and opened at Woodlands Regional Library on 31 May 15. It will run for one year, ending on 31 May 2016. The exhibition features the stories and photographic portraits of 39 people born before Singapore's independence. Their stories surround their times of personal hardship or struggle, and celebrate their spirit of perseverance and survival. Portrait photography for this exhibition was conducted through collaboration with Nanyang Technological University's School of Art, Design and Media. 9 photography major students undertook the photography for each of the interviewees, adding a meaningful layer of visual storytelling to the exhibition.

Alongside the photography exhibition, the project also released a series of 12 videos, featuring the seniors' untold stories as they are interviewed by the younger generation. The videos, which are shared on SMP's social media platforms, achieved 1,199,202 views as of 30 Jun 2015. Through this campaign, the SMP hopes to expand its collection of memories from the seniors by encouraging more young Singaporeans to engage in an intergenerational conversation with the seniors.

d. Remembering Singapore's Founding Prime Minister

In honour of the memory of our late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the National Library held an exhibition "Remembering Mr Lee and His Words", featuring the key milestones of Mr Lee's public life, alongside some of his inspiring quotes. A special book display, "Book Gallery on Mr Lee", was presented in the reading room, featuring a curated collection of books, publications and online resources about the late elder statesman.

Members of the public could pay their tributes at memory collection booths across our public libraries from 25 March to 22 April 2015, as well as on our Singapore Memory Project portal under the irememberLeeKuanYew collection. To date, more than 65,000 tributes collected have been digitised and archived on the portal with the assistance of more than 50 volunteers, and the work is expect to continue till the end of 2015.

4.2 Heritage & Donors' Collections

Acquisition of Asia centric content is one of the key deliverables outlined in the Library L2010 Report, namely "to develop NLB as a first stop for Asian content and collection services – the gateway for knowledge on Asia". National Library of Singapore (NLS) acquires new and notable works related to Asia centric content through purchase, donation and gifts. In the past seven years, it has attracted 175 donors and received more than 90,000 items.

Notable donations in 2014 include Associate Professor Farish Ahmad-Noor's donation of 60 publications, of which half are rare works. These include 16th to 19th century imprints on Portugese and Dutch explorations of Southeast Asia, and an illuminated 1870 Quran published in Singapore. Mr Koh Seow Chuan's latest donation comprises Eu Tong Seng documents, philatelic publications and three rare maps produced in the 18th and 19th centuries. Mr George Hicks latest donation comprises three rare works on Indonesia and China published in the 18th and 19th centuries, including the largest and most detailed atlas of Indonesia when it was published in 1880s.

The following are some important acquisitions with significant heritage value :

The Singapore Herald - Vol. I
No. 1, April 11th 1939
Through Vol. 2 No. 14, April
27th, 1940 (Nearly Complete
Run of 296 Issues Bound in
Three Large Volumes).



Published by Singapore
Herald, Singapore, 1939.

The Singapore Herald was a Japanese-owned English language newspaper published in Singapore before World War II. It was an evening English daily and the editor was Bill Hosakawa, a young Japanese journalist educated in the United States while the sub-editor was an Englishman.

The publisher of the Herald was a Japanese businessman, Shohei Nagao who was already publishing the Singapore Nippo (the daily edition in Chinese and the weekly edition in English).

Although derided by some as a propaganda tool of the Japanese being used to propagate anti-British sentiments, the paper was defended by its proponents as disseminating "Japanese cultural ambitions in this part of the world". It was intended for the English-speaking locals of Singapore. The paper tried to promote itself as a concise and complete newspaper with coverage of world news as well as news about Singapore and Malaya within its eight pages.

**Raffles (Sir Thomas
Stamford Bingley)**

Autograph Manuscript

Letter - regarding the
settlement of his brother-in-
law's [Quintin Dick Thompson,
1785-1809] estate upon his
wife, Mary Ann Raffles (1789-
1837; younger sister to
Thomas Raffles).



Prince of Wales Island
[Penang], 1809.

The letter concerns the settlement of Raffles' deceased brother-in-law, Quintin Dick Thompson's estate to Raffles' younger sister, Mary Ann Raffles. It was written by Raffles in August 1809 from Penang to probably the executor of the estate, who is not named in the letter. Thompson married Mary Ann Raffles in 1805. He died on 29 June 1809 and was buried at Northam Road Cemetery, George Town, Penang, Malaysia. A handwritten transcript copy of Thompson's tombstone inscriptions has

been provided by the vendor to accompany the letter.

A Composite Hydrographic Atlas

London: James Horsburgh,
[circa 1826-28]



Captain James Horsburgh (1762-1836) was a Scottish hydrographer and chart-maker who worked for the British East India Company (EIC). In the late eighteenth century, Horsburgh began charting the sea routes around Singapore, which he compiled in a detailed sailing directory for the region. This atlas comprises 27 engraved maps by John Bateman and James Walker, which includes inset plans and coastal profiles. The maps, produced in the early 19th century were engraved based on Horsburgh's navigational surveys, which were for navigating the seas in Southeast Asia and Asia.

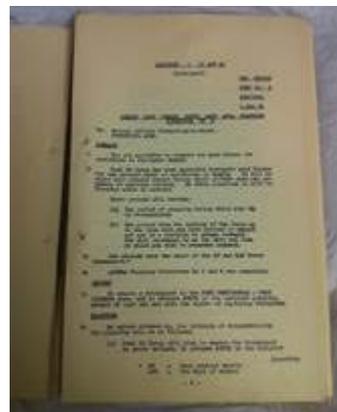
The atlas has an interesting provenance; it was owned by Josiah Sturgis who was involved in the fur trade between America and China in the first half of the 1800s. The ownership inscription dated 1828, Canton can be found on the atlas itself.

Horsburgh's navigational charts showed the waterways around Southeast Asia and Asia in such detail that they were referred to for safe passage by Sturgis while sailing from America to China via, Africa, India and Southeast Asia. The atlas contains two detailed charts of the Malacca Strait and the Singapore Strait, highlighting the significance played by these water channels in the East-West trade during the 19th century and earlier.

DEMPSEY, Sir Miles

Personal operational diary on the reoccupation of Singapore and Malaya by Sir Miles Dempsey

8 - 17 August 1945; 27 September 1945 - 21 April 1946



This diary was maintained by General Sir Miles Dempsey who was Commander-in-Chief of Allied Land Forces South East Asia (ALFSEA), and the general commanding the 14th Army for the reoccupation of Singapore and Malaya. Dempsey's Diary runs from 8 to 17 August 1945 and from 27 September 1945 till 21 April 1946.

General Dempsey recorded his personal observations of the post-war political situation in Malaya, Singapore, Penang, Java, Vietnam and Burma. As a primary source, the diary serves as an important source of historical information on post-war Singapore and Malaya.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

5.1 Digital Content on Singapore

NLS has been providing online content since 2005, e.g. Infopedia, an online encyclopaedia on Singapore, as part of the digital content strategy to serve as a one-stop digital library for information about Singapore and the region. Other online content were subsequently introduced to facilitate access and discovery of Singapore's heritage. They include NewspaperSG, HistorySG and MusicSG.

	No. of Visits	Pages Viewed	No. of Pages per Visit
Total	1,830,401	3,757,050	2.05

Above: Infopedia usage from 1 Jul 2014 to 30 Jun 2015

Singapore Infopedia^[1] is an electronic encyclopaedia covering Singapore's heritage, events, organisations, personalities and more. Topics range from the arts, places and culture to economy, politics and government. There are currently about 1,900 published Infopedia articles in the database. In terms of usage, Singapore Infopedia was ranked second in terms of usage after NewspaperSG.

	No. of Visits	Pages Viewed	No. of Pages per Visit
Total	183,948	397,313	2.16

Above: HistorySG usage from 1 Jul 2014 to 30 Jun 2015

HistorySG^[2] was launched on 28 May 2014, and the portal serves as a guide to events that have unfolded in Singapore's history since 1299 to the present. It highlights past and current events of national significance that have influenced the political, economic, social and cultural development of Singapore in five major time periods. Each event consists of a short write-up with links to related content, such as photographs, videos, audio clips, and newspaper articles from NLB and its partner agencies and institutions. There are currently over 475 published articles in the database.

^[1] <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia>

^[2] <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/history>

	No. of Visits	Pages Viewed	No. of Pages per Visit
Total	2,010,924	12,925,711	6.43

Above: NewspaperSG usage from 1 Jul 2014 to 30 Jun 2015

NewspaperSG^[3] provides access to digital copies of full-text, archived Singapore newspapers dating back to 1831. Since its inception in 2010, NewspaperSG has provided researchers and users with the ease of search using the keyword searches via the multimedia stations at the libraries, home or mobile devices. All digitised newspaper articles from the Straits Times dating from 1845 to 1989 can be accessed remotely outside the libraries. With more than 20 million newspaper articles published in NewspaperSG, the e-resource enjoys the highest usage amongst all of NLB's e-resources.

	No. of Visits	Pages Viewed	No. of Pages per Visit
Total	103,938	437,869	4.21

Above: MusicSG usage from 1 Jul 2014 to 30 Jun 2015

MusicSG^[4] is Singapore's first digital archive that assembles a collection of music composed or published by Singaporeans, music produced or published in Singapore, and music related to Singapore. It was launched in 2010 and subsequently re-launched on 26 September 2014 after an overhaul of the website. MusicSG aims to raise the awareness of Singapore music, provide resources for research and discovery, and preserve Singapore heritage. Subsequent to its revamp, MusicSG has seen increased visitorship and usage.

5.2 NL Exhibitions & Programmes

NL regularly curates and presents exhibitions that showcase the Library's collections. The exhibition themes revolve around Singapore's history, literary and cultural heritage and the arts. Complementary programmes, public engagement and publications are organised in conjunction with exhibitions to maximise their impact. In 2014, NL presented an exhibition on a Singapore literary pioneer, Poet & Reformist: Khoo Seok Wan. Another major exhibition highlighting NLB's Singapore and Southeast Asian map collection, GeoGraphics: Celebrating Maps and their Stories, was launched in January 2015.

6. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS)

6.1 Digital Windows Project [Former e-Reading and e-Readers for South East Asia Countries]

The project was completed in July 2014. At the Association of the Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) – Japan Library Development Forum "Libraries for Society" in February at Naypyidaw, Myanmar, NLB handed over 40 Nook e-book readers (donated by the US Embassy in Singapore under the Digital Windows initiative) to the Deputy General of Information and Public Relations Department (IRPD), Ministry

^[3] <http://newspapers.nl.sg>

^[4] <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/music>

of Information, U Ye Tint, the Guest of Honour. NLB staff presented a paper at the session and conducted a hands-on training session to the librarians on the use of eReaders. NLB staff also conducted a demonstration on the use of the eReaders for animated storytelling for the participants.

6.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kuala Lumpur Library

The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib and Members of the Advisory Board and officials from the Kuala Lumpur City Hall visited the National Library Board Singapore on 15 April 2014. National Library Board Singapore and Kuala Lumpur City signed a Memorandum of Understanding at a signing Ceremony. The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib accompanied by Members of the Advisory Board and officials from the Kuala Lumpur City Hall visited the National Library Board Singapore, Jurong Regional Library and Library@Chinatown on 15 April 2014.

6.3 ASEAN Digital Library [previously known as National Libraries Asia Pacific (NL-AP) Project]

The ASEAN Digital Library project aims to develop a platform that provides users with a seamless way to search for and to gain access to the wealth of digital materials held by the National Libraries in ASEAN. The target is to roll out the ASEAN Digital Library service in 2016.

6.4 Book Donation to Myanmar Libraries

NLB and the Library Association of Singapore are working with the Myanmar Ministry of Culture, National Library of Myanmar and the Library Association of Myanmar on the donation of 50,000 used books to National Library of Myanmar and Public Libraries. The books will be shipped free, with the kind sponsorship of a Singapore shipping company. This project is one of the projects under the BSLA programme. The shipping of the books will likely to happen in the first half of 2015.

6.5 19th Conference and General Assembly of the South East Asia-Pacific Audio Visual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA 19)

NLB together with the Asian Film Archive will be organising the 19th Conference and General Assembly of the South East Asia-Pacific Audio Visual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA 19) on 22 – 28 April 2015. The theme for the 19th SEAPAVAA Conference is “Advocate, Connect, Engage”, an increasingly important focus amongst archivists.

7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND PUBLISHERS IN YOUR COUNTRY

7.1 Singapore National Bibliography and Legal Deposit

The scope of the Singapore National Bibliography has been widened to encompass the whole of Legal Deposit. The public will be able to deposit, locate and retrieve Legal Deposit materials at the National Library of Singapore via the NLB Catalogue this year. In addition, the Legal Deposit Web will enable publishers to deposit their physical and digital publications easily.

Submitted by:

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