

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : Malaysia
Name of Library : National Library of Malaysia
Name of Chief Executive : Dr Haji Wan Ali Bin Wan Mamat

1. Introduction

This Report provides highlights of events and happenings in the National Library of Malaysia (NLM) in 2004/2005.

The NLM has since 4th May 2005 been put under the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage. It was formerly under the Ministry of Education.

2. Personnel

On 20th January 2005, Dato' Zawiyah bt Baba, the Director-General of the National Library of Malaysia (NLM), retired and the post of Director-General was officially filled by Dr Haji Wan Ali bin Wan Mamat, the then Deputy Director-General of the NLM, on 1st April 2005.

3. Digital Initiatives

3.1. 'Yang di-Pertuan Agong' Portal

The creation of the portal Yang di-Pertuan Agong (<http://www.malaysianmonarchy.org.my>) was mooted from the realisation that although the Malaysian Monarchy System has a unique history, such information that is readily available for the people is very limited. The portal provides a platform for a virtual royal connection between the People or Subjects and His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The portal was launched by His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on 15th June 2004.

3.2. I-Baca

The I-Baca database is a source of information for reading promotion programmes and activities organized and carried out by the NLM, the State Public Libraries and other related institutions. It also provides a year-long calendar of activities of the NLM and the State Public Libraries, an interactive corner which offers a forum for the public to render their feedback, and games to enjoy. Frequently asked questions and a photo gallery are also included as well as a site map and a guest book. Hyperlinks to more invaluable information about the NLM are furnished for surfers. It was launched during the National Reading Month 2004.

3.3 Community Information Service

The I-Komuniti website is provide in line with the National Library's role to disseminate information through its various activities and services to the communities. The website was officially launched on 17th January 2005 by the then Director-General, Dato' Zawiyah bt Baba.

3.4 All state libraries have some form of digitised collection such as collection on state monarchies, local histories, special collections and newspapers cuttings. The Sarawak State Library is the most active among the state libraries. These projects were funded from grants from the Federal Government.

4. Reading Promotion

4.1. The National Reading Month and the National Summit/Storytelling Congress

The National Reading Month 2004 was carried out through the month of July and the highlight of the Reading Month was the launching of the National Reading Summit/Storytelling Congress on 2nd July 2005 which attracted 226 participants from various communities nationwide. The

Congress saw the involvement of local and foreign professional storytellers in sharing their experiences with the children in select venues as bookshops and the National Library itself. The theme for this year's Reading Month is '**Reading is Mind Enriching for the Family**'.

In 2004, the National Reading Campaign has been given a new incentive by the collaborative efforts of five ministries namely, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, and Ministry of Information.

4.2. The National Library of Malaysia Book Award 2004

This book award was to recognize the contributions of Malaysian writers and book publishers to the book industry. In 2004, awards were given to Malay titles published in 2002 in 2 categories, i.e. Best Book in the Adult category and Best Book in the Youth/Children's category. The award will be given once in 2 years in conjunction with the National Campaign held every July. In 2004, only consolation prizes were given to 3 writers in the adult category while 1 consolation prize was given to one writer in the children's category.

5. Regional and International Programmes

5.1. Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme 2004

In 2004, the NLM celebrated its 20th year of participating in the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme on 8th October 2004. Eight foreign participants attended the Library Visits/Attachment programme while 10 participants attended the Basic Course for Library Assistants. The two courses were conducted concurrently from 6th-25th September 2004.

5.2. Congress of the South East Asian Librarians (CONSAL)

The 13th Congress of the South East Asian Librarians (CONSAL), 2nd Executive Board Meeting was held on 23rd May 2004 where Directors of National Libraries from Southeast Asian countries gathered to discuss matters relating to issues such as the Constitution of the Congress.

5.3. Regional Workshop on the Preservation of digital Heritage in Asia Oceania

This workshop was held on 6th – 11th December 2004 with the cooperation of UNESCO and was attended by 22 foreign and local participants. The workshop was to create awareness and understanding with regards to the concepts and importance of conservation and preservation of materials in digital format.

5.4. Conference of Directors of National Libraries from Developing Countries (CDNLAO) and Workshop on Leadership Development for Directors of National Libraries in Developing Countries

The National Library of Malaysia will be hosting 2005 CDNLAO on 24th May 2005 and this will be followed by Workshop on Leadership Development for Directors of National Libraries in Developing Countries from 24th – 28th May 2005. The Workshop will be attended by participants from developing countries in Asia and Oceania.

6. Publications

6.1. A total of 19 titles were published, comprising of 8 bibliographies, 4 monographs and 7 serials.

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